Third Management report

November 2001 - April 2002

Implementation and Networking of large-scale long-term <u>Marine Biodiversity research in Europe</u>

BIOMARE



Contract No: EVR1-CT2000-20002 Proposal No: EVK2-1999-00250

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Website: http://www.biomareweb.org

Project duration: 2 years November 2000 – October 2002

Yerseke, June 2002

Project funded by the European Community under the 5th FW EESD programme



1.1. Objectives of the reporting period

The objectives in the reporting period, November 2001 – April 2002, were:

- 1) to continue the inventories on:
 - Reference Sites and Flagship Habitats
 - Biodiversity indicators
- 2) to have a first Workshop
- 3) to have a second series of Regional Meetings
- 4) to report the inventories on Reference Sites and Biodiversity Indicators in Regional Meetings

1.2. Scientific/Technical progress made in different work packages according to the planned time schedule:

1.2.1. Progress

In November 2001 the first BIOMARE Workshop was held at Palma de Mallorca. The main aim was to report and adjust the first drafts on the selection of Reference sites and Biodiversity Indicators. Many, i.e. more than 190 stations were proposed as reference site. Criteria for the selection of reference sites were adjusted, and it was decided to install a committee of independent researchers to judge on the selection of primary (Intensive) sites.

A protocol for biodiversity indicators was further worked out during the workshop. To refine and develop the set of indicators for marine biodiversity it was decided to organise four ad-hoc working groups, communicating through E-mail.

A full report of the Workshop is attached (see appendix).

In January and February 2002 the additional E-conference on 4 working groups within WP2 was organised. Towards the end the discussion was very vivid with several dedicated contributions.

The meeting for the Mediterranean Region and the North Sea / Baltic Region were organised in parallel in Iraklion, Crete, Greece (March 2002). The meeting for the Atlantic / Arctic Region was organized in Horta, Azores, Portugal (April 2002).

During the Regional Meetings the selection of the independent committee on the 35 Primary Reference sites were evaluated. Major agreement existed on the choices made. For the remaining 150 reference sites it was decided to send a list of evaluation criteria to the proposers and to give them the opportunity for a self-evaluation of their site. Those, whose site had not been chosen as a primary site, and felt treated unfair, could start an appeal procedure.

The protocol on biodiversity indicators was clarified. However, underlying description of procedures still should be added, which is noted as a key-action for the coming period.

A full report of the Regional Meetings is given in appendices.

All BIOMARE members attended the Workshop and Regional meetings organized by the Regional Co-ordinators (members 5-10) in concert with the general co-ordinators (table 1).

Several institutes from the New Associated States (Estonia, Bulgaria) and from areas where gaps in References sites were expected (Portugal, Canaries), were invited to, and joined, the Regional meetings. Their integration in BIOMARE was successful.

A third Steering Committee Meeting was organised in April during the Regional Meeting in Horta, Azores, (see appendix) to discuss the progress, to prepare the actions in the Regional Meeting, and to decide on the second Workshop to be held in Tromsø, northern Norway, at the beginning of September 2002.

The BIOMARE website (http://www.biomareweb.org) has been regularly updated. It includes details of the project objectives, work packages, participants and the first Newsletter. The results on the Links are provided to key marine biodiversity and biodiversity websites. Promotion has been through the website and at BIOMARE regional meetings.

At present over 5000 'hits' have been made on the BIOMARE site.

For WP3 it was decided to develop further 1) databases on researchers and managers on marine biodiversity issues, 2) databases on marine biodiversity datasets, and 3) the dissemination to the managers and public in large through some brochures (flyers)

Table 1. Meetings organised within the BIOMARE Concerted Action

Date	Organiser of meeting	Type of meeting	Target group	Location of meeting
November 2000	NIE (Netherlands Institute of Ecology)	Steering Committee Meeting	Steering committee members	Yerseke, NL
April 2001	IO (Institute of Oceanology)	Regional Meeting	Members of the Arctic/Atlantic and the Baltic/North Sea groups	Sopot, Pl
May 2001	NIE (Netherlands Institute of Ecology), in concert with ESF, EC, UNESCO, and MARS	Euroconference on Marine Biodiversity	All researchers and managers on marine biodiversity	Corinth, Gr
May 2001	IMBC (Institute of Marine Biology Crete)	Regional Meeting	Members of the Mediterranean group	Corinth, Gr
October 2001	IMEDEA	Steering Committee Meeting	Steering committee members	Palma de Mallorca
November 2001	IMEDEA	Workshop	All members	Palma de Mallorca
March 2002	IMBC (Institute of Marine Biology Crete)	Regional Meeting	Members of the Mediterranean and Baltic/North Sea groups	Iraklion, Gr
April 2002	IMAR Department of Oceanography and Fisheries	Steering Committee Meeting	Steering committee members	Horta, Azores
April 2002	IMAR Department of Oceanography and Fisheries	Regional Meeting	Members of the Arctic/Atlantic group	Horta, Azores

The first edition of the BIOMARE Newsletter was published in November 2001. The publication was in hard copy (limited print run) and electronically (pdf format) via the website and BIOMARE mailing list. Copies of the newsletter will be archived on the website.

The following specific international publications on BIOMARE have been made in the reported period:

- Heip, C. & H. Hummel, 2002. Marine biodiversity in Europe. The Parliament Magazine 134: 40.
- Hummel, H, 2001. BIOMARE Implementation and Networking of large-scale long-term Marine Biodiversity research in Europe. Coastline 10: 10-15.

BIOMARE was introduced at some (inter)national meetings (see further Ch. 1.5, table 5).

An overview of the planned and used manpower is given in table 2, of the planned versus the executed and future tasks is given in table 3, and the time schedule in table 4.

1.2.2. Plans for the following months

The Independent Committee will decide on a second selection of Reference Sites (WP1). The final results will be presented at the Regional Meetings of March and April 2002.

Two additional meetings with the general and WP co-ordinators are planned in June and July 2002, in order to evaluate and finalize the results obtained in WP1 (reference sites) and WP2 (biodiversity indicators), and to prepare the workshop in Tromsø.

Newsletter

The second edition of the BIOMARE newsletter will be published in June 2002, and a third in November 2002.

Databases

The BIOMARE database of researchers and scientists interested in marine biodiversity will be further developed. Each member has been contacted and contact details checked for inclusion in the mailing list. The results of the database may be published via the BIOMARE website. Additional researchers and scientists will be encouraged to join the mailing list at meetings and though the newsletter. The expansion of the database is ongoing.

A metadata database of long term large scale marine biodiversity datasets and species inventories will be developed. The results of the database will be further published via the BIOMARE website. Initial result will be presented at the September BIOMARE workshop. This metadata database will be further developed and promoted through the mailing list, website and newsletter.

Collaboration with the MARS network will continue to collate and disseminate information on facilities and equipment of European institutes involved in marine biodiversity research, and options for training (courses) and mobility of students and researchers.

Website

The project website will be further developed to publish project results and dissemination products. This will include the details of long term large-scale marine biodiversity datasets and regional species inventories, results of the bioindicators and flagship and reference site work packages.

The results of a questionnaire developed through the MARS network will be published on the website. The questionnaire outlines the facilities and resources available at institutes in the MARS network for marine biodiversity research and will be further expanded to include additional institutes in the BIOMARE network.

The website will promote BIOMARE meetings, conferences and workshops relating to marine biodiversity, training opportunities for marine biodiversity researchers and employment and research vacancies.

The project will be continued to be promoted through international and national workshops and meetings and through the publication of articles in research journals and newsletters for example the Marine Biological Association newsletter.

Brochure

A brochure publicising the projects aims and objectives and provisional results will be produced. This will be published in the second half of 2001 and be aimed at a broader non-scientific audience.

1.2.3. Manpower

The input of manpower to the BIOMARE Concerted Action was again much higher than planned (table 2). The higher input has been primarily buffered by the input of the many permanent staffmembers and institutes allowing their temporary staff to work for the project.

1.3. Milestones and deliverables obtained (start project 01-11-2000)

The deliverables obtained, and those planned for the coming months, are indicated in table 3.

<u>Table 2. Comparison between planned and used manpower</u> (all efforts are expressed as persondays; 1 year equals 1680 productive hours: 8 hours per day; in the totals the person-months efforts are indicated between brackets; P = input by permanent staff, M = input by additional management).

			First	year			Secon	d year		То	tal
		First ye	half ar		d half ar		t half ar		d half ar		
		Planned manpower	Used manpower	Planned	Used manpower	Planned manpower	Used manpower	Planned manpower	Used manpower	Planned	Realized (May 2002)
Member No. / task											
1. Coordinator	P	12	23	2	55	12	54	9		35 (2)	132
	M	57	57	48	69	60	57	45		210 (12)	183
2. WP Leader	P	8	12	2	3	15	15	10		35 (2)	30
	M	29	29	23.5	29	30	30	22.5		105 (6)	88
3. WP Leader	P	8	15	2	10	15	15	10		35 (2)	40
	M	29	85	23.5	50	30	42	22.5		105 (6)	177
4. WP Leader	P	8	8	2	6	15	15	10		35 (2)	29
	M	29	18	23.5	32	30	10	22.5		105 (6)	60
5. Regional co-ord.	P	8	16	2	9	15	15	10		35 (2)	40
	M	15	16	11.25	16	15	20	11.25		52.5 (3)	52
6. Regional co-ord.	P	8	12	2	20	15	16	10		35 (2)	48
	M	15	15	11.25	22	15	15	11.25		52.5 (3)	52
7. Regional co-ord.	P	8	8	2	30	15	30	10		35 (2)	68
	M	15	17	11.25	15	15	20	11.25		52.5 (3)	52
8. Regional co-ord.	P	8	8	2	55	15	15	10		35 (2)	78
	M	15	15	11.25	30	15	15	11.25		52.5 (3)	60
9. Regional co-ord.	P	8	10	2	5	15	15	10		35 (2)	30
	M	15	20	11.25	10	15	15	11.25		52.5 (3)	45
10. Regional co-ord.	P	8	15	2	10	15	23	10		35 (2)	48
	M	15	15	11.25	0	15	15	11.25		52.5 (3)	30
11. Regular member	P	9	30	0	26	18	10	8		35 (2)	66
12. Regular member	P	9	8	0	0	18	5	8		35 (2)	13
13. Regular member	P	9	10	0	6	18	12	8		35 (2)	28
14. Regular member	P	9	6	0	3	18	41	8		35 (2)	50
15. Regular member	P	9	12	0	0	18	8	8		35 (2)	20
16. Regular member	P	9	10	0	1	18	8	8		35 (2)	19
17. Regular member	P	9	8	0	2	18	20	8		35 (2)	30
18. Regular member	P	9	10	0	12	18	25	8		35 (2)	47
19. Regular member	P	9	8	0	0	18	40	8		35 (2)	48
20. Regular member	P	9	12	0	0	18	5	8		35 (2)	17
21. Regular member	P	9	6	0	0	18	40	8		35 (2)	46
											•
Total Person-Days	P	183	247	20	253	345	427	187		735 (42)	927
	M	234	287	186	273	240	239	180		840 (48)	799

Table 3. List of obtained and planned deliverables in the BIOMARE Concerted Action

Delive rable No	Deliverable title	Delive ry month (draft)	Progress and Status report on milestones and deliverables (01-11-2000 – 01-05-2002)	Planned
<u>WP 1</u>	Reference sites for marine biodiversity			
1.1	Outline of criteria for site selection	(12) 24	Evaluation form and list of criteria for reference sites finalised and accepted	Decision will be communicated at Workshop in Tromsø
1.2	Recommendation on areas suitable as 'reference sites', and institutions responsible to integrate and lead the research.	(12) 24	List and map of accepted reference sites constructed and published at internet (http://www.biomareweb.org).	Final classification will be communicated at Workshop in Tromsø
1.3	Protocol for institutes participating in long-term monitoring of marine biodiversity	(12) 24	First Memorandum of Understanding communicated to proposers of sites	Final protocol will be communicated at Workshop in Tromsø
1.4	Review of available data (species and habitat lists, maps, collections, publications) for sites with background data on biodiversity and ecosystem function in Europe	(12) 24	First metadatabases published at internet (http://www.biomareweb.org).	Input of new contributions to Metadatabases open through the BIOMARE website
1.5	Comparisons of species lists for best studied sites and deduce what they indicate regarding habitat diversity, research efforts	(12) 24	Lists being prepared by WP-leader	Examples of lists will be presented at Workshop in Tromsø
1.6	Criteria for accessibility, and compatibility of data-banks connected to (potential) reference sites	(12) 24	Criteria discussed at Regional Meetings in March/April 2002.	Criteria will be published at internet (http://www.biomareweb.org)
1.7	Critical review of data and identification of gaps in existing data and knowledge	24	Discussed at Regional Meetings in March/April 2002.	To be further discussed at 2 additional co-ordinators meetings in June-July 2002
1.8	Potential role of new methods, e.g. bio-physical modelling approaches and remote sensing techniques	24	Discussed at first Workshop in November 2001 at Palma and Regional Meetings in March/April 2002.	Results to be incorporated in protocols of WP1 and WP2
<u>WP 2</u>	Indicators of marine and coastal biodiversity at a European scale			
2.1	Sets of standardised indicators	(12) 24	Second drafts discussed at Regional Meetings in March/April 2002.	To be further discussed at 2 additional co-ordinators meetings in June-July 2002, and final protocol will be communicated at Workshop in Tromsø
<u>WP 3</u>	Capacity building, dissemination and networking to facilitate marine biodiversity research and integration with socio- economic questions			

3.1	Expanded network of students, researchers and managers on marine biodiversity (including links with members of MARS)	(12) 24	This has been achieved as is ongoing through the development of the BIOMARE contacts database and promotion of the project via the website and newsletters. Additional institutes have been contacted and accepted the invitation to fill-in geographical gaps	This will continue through the duration of the project. A project brochure (flyer) has been produced to facilitate this
3.2	Improved dissemination through a) an internet web-site, including an electronic newsletter, b) reports and publications in scientific and applied journals for specialists and non- specialists	(12) 24	a) The website has been established and the first newsletter has been published electronically and in hard copy. b) Several publications have been produced.	a) The next newsletter will be published in June 2002 b) This will continue through the duration of the project, and a special issue in Helgoland Marine Research is foreseen
3.3	Overview of ongoing research programs, facilities and equipment of European institutes involved in marine biodiversity research	(12) 24	A draft questionnaire, based on information from the MARS network, has been developed	Questionnaire will be send to members in June 2002
3.4	Overview of possibilities for training (courses) and mobility of students and researchers at member institutes, in the field of marine biodiversity (in cooperation with the MARS Network)	(12) 24	A draft questionnaire, based on information from the MARS network, has been developed	Questionnaire will be send to members in June 2002
3.5	Meetings, conferences on marine biodiversity	6, 17 / 13, 22	See overview in table 1	2 additional co-ordinators meetings in June-July 2002, a workshop in Tromsø in September 2002, and a final steering committee meeting in October 2002
3.6	Reviews and checklists on marine biodiversity and reference sites, including a) manuals of the different selected habitats for marine biodiversity research (WP1), b) protocols of agreed methodologies and indicators of marine biodiversity (WP2), c) database of available datasets and associated publications	(12) 24	Drafts have been prepared and are now available via the website	These will be developed following the results of the other work packages and collation of information on long term biodiversity monitoring datasets.
3.7	Protocols on integration of: a) different formats used for databases (incl. those used at reference sites (deliverable 1.6) and those used in other relevant related studies (e.g. for monitoring or species registration)), and b) socio-economic questions, e.g. on the impact of tourism or fisheries on marine biodiversity	(12) 24	Drafts have been prepared	These will be developed following the results of the other work packages and collation of information on long term biodiversity monitoring datasets.

1.4. Deviations from the work plan or /and time schedule and their impact to the project

All activities and meetings were organized and conducted according to the agreed time schedule (table 4).

<u>Table 4. Time-table for the BIOMARE Concerted Action</u>. Dark-grey cells indicate the part that is covered by this Management Report.

	20	00						20	01										2(00	2			
	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O
Steering Committee meetings	S									S								S						S
Inventories by leaders of WP's		i	i	i	i	i	i	i																
Local meetings (m); workshop (W)						M							W				m	m					W	
Draft reports, protocols									r	r	r	r												
Adjusting/completion reports,														r	r	R			r	r	r	r		r
Final implementation/dissemination																								d

1.5. Co-ordination of the information between partners and communication activities

A database of contact details of researchers and scientists involved or interested in marine biodiversity has been established. This builds on the database developed for the European Register of Marine Species and MARS network mailing lists.

A BIOMARE -Newsletter outlining the project aims, methods and progress has been published. An electronic version is available via the website. The newsletter includes articles on regional biodiversity issues and from young biodiversity researchers.

A draft questionnaire requesting information on long term large scale marine biodiversity datasets and regional species inventories has been sent to the regional co-ordinators. Preliminary results were requested for mid October and were presented at the BIOMARE workshop in November 2001. The provisional results are available via the project website. Information collection is ongoing

In Poland an educational TV program (ATE Gdansk), including BIOMARE information, is currently prepared. It will be a major documentary on nature in Poland with the provisional title "Natural history of Poland", and expected to be released in 2003. A popular scientific public event was organised 16th of June in Gdynia (Poland) entitled: Marine Biodiversity in Baltic Sea. Biomare leaflet and posters were presented with a number of thematic presentations. Over 2000 visitors attended during the 6 hours long event. Local radio, TV and press covered the event.

The BIOMARE Concerted Action was communicated at many international meetings (table 5).

Table 5. International meetings at which BIOMARE was introduced.

Date	Organiser of conference	Title of conference	Title of presentation	Location of conference
December		2nd Scientific Picknic	BIOMARE	Gdynia, Poland
2000		(popular-scientific		
		public event with		
		over 2000 visitors)		
March	Institute of Biomedical	25 th anniversary of	Protection and	University of Porto
2001	Sciences	Aquatic Sciences	conservation of	
		Program	biodiversity	
May 2001	European Science	Regional BOOSE	BIOMARE	Gdansk, Poland
	Foundation	(Baltic Operational		
		Oceanography System)		
May 2001	European Science	Polar Region	BIOMARE	Cambridge, UK
	Foundation	Biodivers ity		
May 2001	European Science	Biodiversity of coastal	a) Species information	Corinth, Greece
	Foundation EURESCO	marine ecosystems	systems	
	conference		b) Marine biodiversity:	
			an urgent need of	

			indicators	
June 2001		International	BIOMARE (poster)	Gdansk, Poland
5 and 2 001		Conference on Coastal	Diominiz (poster)	oddinon, r orang
		Ecosystems functioning		
June 2001	University of Kyoto	Diversity International	Aims and procedures of	Shirahama, Japan
	, ,	of the Western Pacific	BIOMARE	
		Area (DIWPA)"		
July 2001	International Polychaete	Seventh International	Testing hypotheses on	Reykjavvk,
	Conference	Polychaete Conference,	polychaete species	Iceland.
		2-6 July 2001,	diversity along the	
		Reykjavvk, Iceland	Mediterranean and the	
			Black Sea: Numbers,	
			patterns, coefficients	
			and environmental	
T 1 2001	7 1 77 1	D	variables associated	
July 2001	London University	Detecting	BIOMARE	London, England
July 2001	CERCI	Environmental Change	Changing Casatal	University of Hyll
July 2001	CERCI	Scarborough Centre for Coastal Studies First	Changing Coastal Margins	University of Hull - Scarborough
		Annual Conference	iviaigins	- Scarborough Campus, UK
August	Siberian division of	INTAS meeting	Assessment of the	Limnological
2001	Russian Academy of	11111 meeting	marine environment	Insitute of Irkutsk,
2001	Sciences		health: use of	Siberia, Russia.
	Berenees		bioindicators (T Perez)	Siberia, Rassia.
October		Polar Regions	BIOMARE	Sopot, Poland
2001		Comparative Research		r .,
November		5th International	Towards Coastal Zone	Kobe, Awaji
2001		Conference on the	Management, and,	Island, Japan
		Environmental	BIOMARE and its role	
		Management of	in disseminating	
		Enclosed Coastal Seas	information on	
			biodiversity	
November		Flamborough Head	BIOMARE	Bridlington, UK
2001		Maritime Forum		
NT 1	D 1/2 M 2 D2 1 2 4	17th DMD C	DIOMARE	TT ' ' C
November	Baltic Marine Biologists	17 th BMB Symposium	BIOMARE	University of Stockholm
2001	Institute of Esternian	(Committee Meeting)	DIOMADE	
December 2001	Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies	10th Meeting of the North-East England	BIOMARE	University of Hull - Scarborough
2001	and Coastai Studies	Marine Group		Campus, UK
February	Census of Marine Life,	1st National workshop	Marine biodiversity	White Point, Nova
2002	Canadian Department of	on Canadian	metrics	Scotia Scotia
2002	Fisheries and Oceans,	Biodiversity	metres	Scotia
	Centre of Marine	,		
	Biodiversity			
April	University of	Arctic Ocean Sciences	Biodiversity in Polish	Groningen,
2002	Groningen	Board Annual meeting	Arctic Programme	Netherlands
April	Akvaplan-niva, Polar	Meeting of the ICES,	Overview of	Tromsø, Norway
2002	Environmental Centre	Benthic Ecology	BIOMARE aims and	
		Working Group	progress	
June 2002	English Nature	Flamborough Head	BIOMARE	University
		Maritime Forum		of Hull,
				Scarborough
			D70174DD	Campus, UK
July 2002	Programme National	Workshop on Marine	BIOMARE	Centre IRD de
	Environnement Côtier	Bioindicators		Noumea, Nouvelle
	PNEC			Caledonie

1.6. Difficulties encountered at management and co-ordination level and proposed/applied solutions

So far no problems were encountered.

Participants information

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