

Management report  
November 2000 – April 2001

**Implementation and Networking of large-scale long-term  
Marine Biodiversity research in Europe**

***BIOMARE***



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

Project Coordinators :

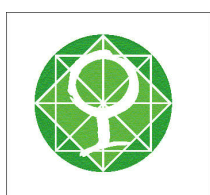
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Website: <http://www.biomareweb.org>

Project duration: 2 years  
November 2000 – October 2002

Yerseke, May 2001

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## SECTION 1: Management and resource usage summary related to the reporting period

### 1.1. Objectives of the reporting period

The objectives in the reporting period, November 2000 – April 2001, were:

- 1) to start the Concerted Action
  - through a Steering Committee meeting
- 2) to make first inventories on :
  - Reference Sites and Flagship Habitats
  - Biodiversity indicators
- 3) to report the first inventories on Regional Meetings

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

#### 1.2.1. Progress

In November 2000 the BIOMARE Concerted Action started with a steering committee meeting (members 1-10, table 1) at Yerseke, the Netherlands, discussing the general issues of the CA, and offering suggestions and recommendations to the WP Leaders for the first actions such as the development of the questionnaires. A full report was published (see enclosure).

In December 2000 the BIOMARE website (<http://www.biomareweb.org>) was established. It includes details of the project objectives, work packages, results and participants. Links are provided to key marine biodiversity and biodiversity websites. The website has been promoted at regional BIOMARE meetings and through the Marine-B list server, owned by M. Costello and J.-P. Féral. The Marine-B list server has been promoted as a tool for the dissemination of the BIOMARE project and marine biodiversity information. Promotion has been through the website and at BIOMARE regional meetings.

At present nearly 1100 'hits' have been made on the BIOMARE site.

From December to April all BIOMARE members, and several interested parties, answered to both questionnaires: a questionnaire for WP 1 on flagship- and reference sites and one for WP 2 on biodiversity indicators, led by the respective WP leaders (members 2 and 3). For the Reference Sites it provided details on location, coordinates, on demographic aspects and legal protection status, on the array of habitats, on the published data on the biodiversity from the area, and on the research facilities available in the vicinity.

All BIOMARE members attended the Regional meetings organized by the Regional Co-ordinators (members 5-10)(table 1). The meeting for the Atlantic / Arctic Region and the North Sea / Baltic Region were organised in parallel in Sopot (April 2001). The meeting for the Mediterranean Region was organized directly after the Euroconference in Corinth (10-12 May). A full report is soon to appear.

**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	IMBC (Institute of Marine Biology Crete)	Regional Meeting	Members of the Mediterranean group	Corinth, Gr

No specific international publications on BIOMARE have been made in the first period. BIOMARE was introduced at some (inter)national meetings (see further Ch. 1.5, table 5), such as a presentation by the general coordinators at the Euroconference "Biodiversity of Coastal

Ecosystem" in Corinth, Greece 5-10 May 2001. Moreover, the BIOMARE Concerted Action has been announced and introduced by many members at several regional and local meetings.

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 draft plans for Reference Sites and Biodiversity Indicators will be further developed and a second version will be discussed at the first BIOMARE workshop, to be held in the Balears, Spain on 2 and 3 November 2001.

Editions of the BIOMARE newsletter will be published in late June 2001, December 2001 and June 2002. Publication will be 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 BIOMARE database of researchers and scientists interested in marine biodiversity will be further developed. Each member will be contacted and contact details checked. The results of the database may be published via the BIOMARE 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 website will promote BIOMARE meetings and conferences and workshops relating to marine biodiversity.

A metadata database of long term large scale marine biodiversity datasets and species inventories will be developed. The results of the database will be published via the BIOMARE website. Initial result will be presented at the November BIOMARE workshop.

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.

### 1.2.3. Manpower

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

**Table 2.** Comparison between planned and used manpower (all efforts are expressed as person-days; 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			Second year	Total	
	First half year		Second half year			
	Planned manpower	Used manpower	Planned	Planned	Planned	
Member No. / task						
1. Coordinator	P	12	23	2	21	35 (2)
	M	57	57	48	105	210 (12)
2. WP Leader	P	8	12	2	25	35 (2)
	M	29	29	23.5	52.5	105 (6)
3. WP Leader	P	8	8	2	25	35 (2)

	M	29	29	23.5	52.5	105 (6)
4. WP Leader	P	8	8	2	25	35 (2)
	M	29	18	23.5	52.5	105 (6)
5. Regional co-ord.	P	8	16	2	25	35 (2)
	M	15	60	11.25	26.25	52.5 (3)
6. Regional co-ord.	P	8	12	2	25	35 (2)
	M	15	15	11.25	26.25	52.5 (3)
7. Regional co-ord.	P	8	8	2	25	35 (2)
	M	15	17	11.25	26.25	52.5 (3)
8. Regional co-ord.	P	8	8	2	25	35 (2)
	M	15	15	11.25	26.25	52.5 (3)
9. Regional co-ord.	P	8	10	2	25	35 (2)
	M	15	20	11.25	26.25	52.5 (3)
10. Regional co-ord.	P	8	15	2	25	35 (2)
	M	15	15	11.25	26.25	52.5 (3)
11. Regular member	P	9	6	0	26	35 (2)
12. Regular member	P	9	8	0	26	35 (2)
13. Regular member	P	9	10	0	26	35 (2)
14. Regular member	P	9	6	0	26	35 (2)
15. Regular member	P	9	6	0	26	35 (2)
16. Regular member	P	9	8	0	26	35 (2)
17. Regular member	P	9	8	0	26	35 (2)
18. Regular member	P	9	6	0	26	35 (2)
19. Regular member	P	9	8	0	26	35 (2)
20. Regular member	P	9	12	0	26	35 (2)
21. Regular member	P	9	6	0	26	35 (2)
Total Person-Days	P	183	204	20	532	735 (42)
	M	234	275	186	420	840 (48)

### 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.

**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 – 01-05-2001)	Planned
<b>WP 1</b>	<b><u>Reference sites for marine biodiversity</u></b>			
1.1	Outline of criteria for site selection	(12) 24	First draft made	Final draft to be discussed at Steering Committee meeting in October 2001 and Workshop in November 2001
1.2	Recommendation on areas suitable as 'reference sites', and institutions responsible to integrate and lead the research.	(12) 24	First questionnaire sent to BIOMARE and MARS members. List and map of candidate reference sites constructed and published at internet ( <a href="http://www.biomareweb.org">http://www.biomareweb.org</a> )	Final list of 'reference sites' to be decided at Steering Committee meeting in October 2001 and Workshop in November 2001

1.3	Protocol for institutes participating in long-term monitoring of marine biodiversity	(12) 24		Draft to be discussed at first Workshop in November 2001
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	Set-up for metadatabase discussed at Regional Meetings in April-May 2001 (see also 3.6)	Set-up for database to be decided at Steering Committee meeting in October 2001 and Workshop in November 2001
1.5	Comparisons of species lists for best studied sites and deduce what they indicate regarding habitat diversity, research efforts	(12) 24		To be discussed at first Workshop in November 2001
1.6	Criteria for accessibility, and compatibility of data-banks connected to (potential) reference sites	(12) 24		To be discussed at first Workshop in November 2001
1.7	Critical review of data and identification of gaps in existing data and knowledge	24		To be discussed after first Workshop in November 2001
1.8	Potential role of new methods, e.g. bio-physical modelling approaches and remote sensing techniques	24		To be discussed after first Workshop in November 2001
<b>WP 2</b>	<b><u>Indicators of marine and coastal biodiversity at a European scale</u></b>			
2.1	Sets of standardised indicators	(12) 24	First questionnaire sent to BIOMARE and MARS members. Available at the internet. First draft of flow-chart made	Second draft to be discussed at first Workshop in November 2001
<b>WP 3</b>	<b><u>Capacity building, dissemination and networking to facilitate marine biodiversity research and integration with socio-economic questions</u></b>			
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.	This will continue through the duration of the project.
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	The website has been established and the first newsletter will be published in hard copy and electronically shortly. No publications or reports have been produced yet but this will follow after the results of the other work packages have been collated.	This will continue through the duration of the project.
3.3	Overview of ongoing research programs, facilities and equipment of European institutes involved in marine biodiversity research	(12) 24	This area will be developed alongside the MARS network. A draft questionnaire has been developed	Questionnaire will be send to members in second half of 2001

3.4	Overview of possibilities for training (courses) and mobility of students and researchers at member institutes, in the field of marine biodiversity (in co-operation with the MARS Network)	(12) 24	This area will be developed alongside the MARS network. A draft questionnaire has been developed	Questionnaire will be send to members in second half of 2001
3.5	Meetings, conferences on marine biodiversity	6, 17 / 13, 22	First Regional meetings were organised in April-May 2001. In concert with ESF, EC, UNESCO, and MARS in May 2001 an Euroconference on Marine Biodiversity was organised in Corinth	In November 2001 a BIOMARE workshop on Marine Biodiversity will be held at the Balears, Spain
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	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		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

Most activities and meetings were organized and conducted according to the agreed time schedule (table 4). Only the functionality of the server used for the questionnaire on biodiversity indicators (WP 2) was questionable and it was decided to send this questionnaire also by E-mail. Therefore, the deadline for filling in the questionnaire of WP 2 was extended.

**Table 4.** Time table for the BIOMARE Concerted Action. Dark-grey cells indicate the part that is covered by this 6-monthly Management Report.

	2000			2001					2002															
	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
Inventories by leaders of WP's			i	i	i	i	i	i	i															
Local meetings (m); workshop (W)						M						W					m						W	
Draft reports, protocols ...									r	r	r	r												
Adjusting/completion reports, ...													r	r	R				r	r	r			
Final implementation/dissemination																								r

### 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 drafted and will be published in the next month.

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 for presentation at the BIOMARE workshop in October-November 2001.

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

**Table 5.** International meetings at which BIOMARE was introduced.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Organiser of conference</b>	<b>Title of conference</b>	<b>Title of presentation</b>	<b>Location of conference</b>
March 2001	Institute of Biomedical Sciences	25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Aquatic Sciences Program	Protection and conservation of biodiversity	University of Porto
May 2001	European Science Foundation EURESCO conference	Biodiversity of coastal marine ecosystems	Species information systems	Corinth, Greece

### 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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