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GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

Fourth Session

Alexandria, Egypt, 7-9 June 2004

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK 2004-2006 AND BUDGET
IMPLICATIONS**

INTRODUCTION

1. The proposed programme of work for the next intersessional period 2004-2006 mainly includes (i) support to the Information Systems for Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM), Technology and Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (TECAM) and the Socio-Economic and Legal Aspects of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SELAM) networks (including activities related to environmental aspects previously under the Environmental Aspects of Aquaculture Management in the Mediterranean (EAM) network); (ii) one regular meeting of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ); (iii) external collaboration within and outside GFCM; while the (iv) fourth component includes fund raising for additional activities of the CAQ indicated in the Plan of Action identified during the Consultation on Article 9 of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF).

2. The fulfillment of the proposed programme of work will largely depend on the availability of funds through the GFCM autonomous budget, support from donor countries and commitment from the GFCM Members. Matters related to the autonomous budget of the Commission will be discussed at an Extraordinary Session of GFCM as decided during the Twenty-eight Session of the Commission (Tangiers, Morocco, 14-17 October 2004). On several occasions GFCM Members have emphasized the growing importance of aquaculture in the region and it is expected that CAQ will be allocated a suitable share of the autonomous budget to properly perform its mandate through core and *ad hoc* activities. However, the programme of work of CAQ will also have to consider potential contributions from existing and other partners in support of the CAQ networks as well as additional funds for the implementation of the CAQ Plan of Action as mentioned above.

3. An update on the status of the autonomous budget and its implication in the activities of the CAQ is available in the document GFCM:CAQ/IV/2004/Inf.7.

ACTIVITIES PROPOSED FOR THE SIPAM NETWORK

4. The proposed SIPAM workplan for 2004-2006 takes into account the deliberations made during the Seventh SIPAM Annual Meeting (Casablanca, Morocco, 19-20 September 2003) (see GFCM:CAQ/IV/2004/Inf.10), the final report of the external evaluation of the CAQ (see GFCM:CAQ/IV/2004/Inf.12), and the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Meeting of Experts on the External Evaluation of the CAQ and its Networks (Rome, Italy, 29-30 March 2004) (see GFCM:CAQ/IV/2004/4).

5. In the absence of dedicated funds to the network, the execution of the activities proposed would have to rely principally on the financial support of the Tunisian Government with regards to the maintenance of the SIPAM Regional Centre and on technical and limited financial support that the FAO will be able to allocate to the improvement of the information system unless other funds are identified.

6. All the countries actively participating in the SIPAM network are expected to contribute, through their National Coordinators, up-dated, complete and quality checked information and statistics, as required, for dissemination to end users through the current SIPAM website. The SIPAM Regional Centre will continue to play a key role to ensure that such information is delivered and assist the National Coordinators, when necessary, and FAO Fisheries Department will continue to provide technical assistance.

7. The development and further improvement of the SIPAM website and structure simplification of the various databases are identified as the main priority activities for the next workplan. The table that follows paragraph 18 identifies responsible parties and financial implications, if any, for the proposed activities.

SIPAM Website

8. The interaction with other information systems has been considered as a priority in finalizing the development process of SIPAM. Different levels of interaction between SIPAM and other systems have been identified during a preliminary study carried out by the Secretariat and FIGIS (FAO Fisheries Global Information System) depending on the needs and requirements. *Ad hoc* links will facilitate the retrieval of specific information of interest, ensuring the flow of information on aquaculture and giving more visibility at regional and global levels. The interaction with other thematic information systems was also recommended. Interactions with information systems such as AAPQIS (Aquatic Animal Pathogen and Quarantine Information System) (www.aapqis.org), GLOBEFISH (www.globefish.org), for fish pathology and for fish trade/marketing, respectively, and other systems will be established. Links to information and training projects such as the CSN-INTRAN (Creating Supporting Networks for International Transfer of Innovative Technologies in European Aquaculture) EU project will be encouraged to create synergies and reinforce CAQ activities. Funds for interaction with other information systems have yet to be identified.

9. At the Seventh SIPAM Annual Meeting it was agreed that the website should provide improved and comprehensive national aquaculture reports. As a result the original structure of the national report was reviewed. It was finally agreed to adopt the new reporting structure of the National Aquaculture Sector Overview (NASO) developed by FAO Fisheries Department. With the assistance of FAO, the network workplan will also include the preparation of the NASOs for all the GFCM countries participating in the network.

SIPAM Databases

10. The priority action in relation to the eight SIPAM databases will be the simplification of the databases structure in order to facilitate data collection and data entry by the National Coordinators. The contents of all the reference tables will be revised with the aim of eliminating elements or data fields which are considered no longer useful. Furthermore, it will be necessary to

revise the terms and definitions contained in the reference tables. In this respect the proposed activity is to adopt standard and appropriate terminology by interacting with FIGIS and use of terms and definitions contained in the FAO glossary of aquaculture.

11. With reference to the current pathology database it was agreed at the Seventh SIPAM Annual Meeting that the specific website field would be renamed 'Fish Health' and that the TECAM aquaculture diagnostic centres directory of the Mediterranean would be inserted once the activity is completed and funds are identified for HTML editing of the document. Furthermore, the new 'Fish Health' facility would also be linked to the AAPQIS database as mentioned above.

Other

12. During the Third Session of CAQ (Zaragoza, Spain, 25-27 September 2002), it was suggested that the network would benefit from the services of a communication experts. The Secretariat will renew its efforts to investigate the possibility of obtaining such services through the Associate Professional Officer (APO) programme or similar schemes.

13. On several occasions, the Secretariat highlighted that the new SIPAM information and communication tool requires a dynamic and constant input of information in order to ensure its reputation among end users. In this regards, the SIPAM participating countries are invited to stimulate internal and external users to submit relevant aquaculture inputs including news items, relevant documents, photos and links using the online submission form (see 'Viewers Inputs' icon on the SIPAM website) through its National Coordinators.

14. Technical assistance to and training for the focal points in selected participating countries (e.g. Albania, Lebanon and Libya) with regards to the use of the SIPAM software is still required in order to enable them to contribute data and organize national databases. Funds for such training have to be identified.

15. At the Seventh SIPAM Annual Meeting (see GFCM:CAQ/IV/2004/Inf.10) and at the expert meeting on the CAQ external evaluation (see GFCM:CAQ/IV/2004/4), the importance to establish clear Terms of References (TORs) for the SIPAM National Coordinators was recognized and recommended. The new set of draft TORs for the National Coordinators is provided as Annex 1. The Committee is invited to discuss and endorse the TORs.

Meetings

16. SIPAM usually holds two annual meetings, one SIPAM Annual Meeting for all National Coordinators and one meeting of the Steering Committee. Based on the recommendations of the SIPAM external evaluation, current budget limitations and practical needs, it is proposed to limit the frequency of SIPAM Annual Meetings to one every other year and to undertake in these meetings the tasks usually dealt with at the SIPAM Steering Committee meetings.

17. It is therefore proposed to hold the next Annual Meeting in 2005. At the Seventh SIPAM Annual Meeting (GFCM:CAQ/IV/2004/Inf.10), the offer to host the Eighth SIPAM Annual Meeting in Split, Croatia, was welcomed by all other National Coordinators. Funds for this meeting have yet to be identified. However, in the absence of a operational autonomous budget, participation would have to be covered by the Members participating in the network as also encouraged at the Twenty-seventh Session of the Commission (Rome, Italy, 19-22 November 2002) unless funds were otherwise identified. Meeting dates will be proposed in due course as required.

18. The SIPAM Regional Coordinator will participate in GFCM and CAQ sessions.

Action required/proposed	Responsibility	Financial implication	Funds identified/secured
1. Regular maintenance of the SIPAM portal and databases.	Regional Centre	YES	YES Government of Tunisia, FAO, GFCM
2. Regular provision of relevant aquaculture information.	National Coordinators, Regional Centre, Private sector, Secretariat	NO	---
3. Interaction with other information systems and updating of selected SIPAM web pages.	Secretariat	YES	NO
4. Development of National Aquaculture Sector Overviews (NASO) for all the SIPAM member countries.	National Coordinators and Secretariat	YES	YES (FAO / National Coordinators)
5. Finalize the Terms of Reference for an Information Officer and submit request specific schemes.	Secretariat	NO	---
6. Recruit the Information Officer	Secretariat	YES	NO
7. Simplify the SIPAM databases structure to facilitate data collection and entry.	Secretariat and Regional Centre	YES	NO
8. Update the SIPAM pathology database and download the TECAM Diagnostic Centres directory.	Secretariat, Regional Centre and CIHEAM	YES	NO
9. Up-dating of the Terms of Reference of the SIPAM National Coordinator.	Secretariat and National Coordinators	NO	---
10. Technical assistance and training to selected member countries to install and to organise their national databases.	Regional Centre	YES	NO
11. SIPAM Annual Meetings in 2005.	Member countries, Regional Centre and Secretariat	YES	NO

ACTIVITIES PROPOSED FOR THE SELAM AND TECAM NETWORKS

19. The proposed TECAM and SELAM workplan for 2002-2004 presented during the Second Session of the Committee on Aquaculture (Zaragoza, Spain, 25-27 September 2002) was reviewed and endorsed at the Twenty-seventh Session of the GFCM (Rome, Italy, 19-22 November 2002). The workplan included eight 'Priority 1' activities and a further seven 'Priority 2' activities. It was understood that the implementation of the proposed activities would only be possible if sufficient funds could be identified in addition to the limited resources that the CIHEAM, with the technical contribution from FAO, would be able to allocate to the networks.

20. At the end of the last intersessional period only four international courses and seminars had been implemented by the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) through the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ) with the funding support of FAO and collaboration of several national institutions as a result of the limited funds available. A fifth activity on offshore mariculture scheduled from 17 to 22 May 2004 was under preparation when this document was written.

21. For the next intersessional period, four activities are proposed under the TECAM network three of which had already been endorsed by the Commission as indicated above. Of these activities, CIHEAM-IAMZ has secured all the necessary funds for the organization of the first activity which will be organized in collaboration with the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain). On the other hand, the implementation of the other three activities will only be possible if sufficient funds are identified which will also guarantee the attendance of participants from GFCM developing member countries who often require full sponsorship.

Workplan 2004-2005

- (a) TECAM advanced course on '*Fish Disease Diagnosis and Control in Mediterranean Marine Aquaculture*'. This course is planned for 13-24 September 2004 (Location: Santiago de Compostela, Spain). Organizers: CIHEAM-IAMZ and University of Santiago de Compostela.
- (b) TECAM advanced course on '*Use of Geographic Information Systems in Fisheries and Aquaculture*'. This course is planned for 13-24 June 2005 (Location: Zaragoza, Spain). Organizer: CIHEAM-IAMZ.
- (c) TECAM advanced course on '*Design and Management of Mollusc Hatcheries*'. This course is planned for 14-18 February 2005 (Location: Zaragoza, Spain). Organizer: CIHEAM-IAMZ.
- (d) Updating of the TECAM '*Survey on Mediterranean Aquaculture Diagnostic Laboratories*'.

Workplan 2005-2006

22. With regards to activities for 2005-2006, CIHEAM-IAMZ is planning to organize (dates to be determined) the Fourth TECAM and SELAM Networks Coordination Committee Meeting to discuss, identify and prioritize future activities. During this exercise, the above Committee will take into account any new activity that may be identified and discussed at the Fourth Session of the CAQ. At present, however, considering that only CIHEAM is ensuring funds for the implementation of network activities the three activities below have been tentatively prioritized, two of which had already been proposed in the last workplan of the two networks

- (e) TECAM advanced course on '*Macro and Micro Algae Aquaculture Production*'.
- (f) TECAM advanced course on '*Methodologies for Environmental Impact Assessment of Mediterranean Aquaculture Farms*'.

- (h) SELAM seminar on ‘*Traceability of Aquatic Products*’.

23. The activities proposed will rely principally on the financial contribution of CIHEAM-IAMZ from its limited resources and its technical support to the two networks. The fulfillment of the programme of work will largely depend on the implementation of the GFCM autonomous budget and fund raising for the operation of the networks. If a decision on the GFCM budget is not reached there would be a reduction in the number of activities, or the attendance of participants from some GFCM member countries.

REGIONAL PROJECT PROPOSAL

Due to the increasing difficulty of the partners involved in financing an adequate regional aquaculture programme the Secretariat has prepared, as recommended by the Committee, the revised project profile proposal originally presented at the Second Session of CAQ (see GFCM:CAQ/IV/2004/3 and GFCM:CAQ/IV/2004/Inf.8). The Committee will be invited to review the document and eventually provide comments and suggestions at a date to be decided at the Session.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE GFCM COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

24. The CAQ meets every two years. The Fifth Session of the GFCM-CAQ should be held in 2006. The organization of this meeting will require the necessary funds, particularly the costs of interpretation into four languages (see document GFCM:CAQ/IV/2004/6). The overall cost of the meeting will depend on the decision taken by the Committee on where to hold the next Session and depending on the availability of qualified interpreters.

EXTERNAL COLLABORATION WITHIN AND OUTSIDE GFCM

25. The GFCM and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) established the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Sustainable Bluefin Tuna Farming in the Mediterranean (WG) in 2002. The first meeting of the WG was held in Rome, Italy, from 12 to 14 May 2003 and the second meeting in Izmir, Turkey, from 15 to 17 December 2003 (see GFCM:CAQ/IV/2004/Inf.9). The third and final meeting of the WG is planned for the second half of 2004 in Italy with the support of the Italian Government. At this meeting, the draft guidelines on sustainable bluefin tuna farming are expected to be finalized.

26. The meeting on “Interactions between Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture”, was organized in November 2003 by the FAO ADRIAMED Project (Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea) (see GFCM:CAQ/IV/2004/Inf.11). The consultation provided a series of recommendations related to the interactions between capture fisheries and aquaculture in the AdriaMed countries/area. Potential collaborative activities may be identified and prioritized as follow-up.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON FUNDING REQUIREMENT

27. In order to carry out the regular CAQ including SIPAM associated meetings and activities, funds will have to be secured from the various partners.

28. The table below provides an estimate of the funds required for the implementation of the proposed activities.

SIPAM	
	US\$
Meeting	
Annual Meeting (2005) ¹	25 000
Assistance to participating countries by the Regional Centre	10 000
SIPAM Communication Officer	30 000
SIPAM Portal	
Portal technical and server maintenance ²	7 000
Portal development and expansion	8 000
Communication tool software	2 000
TECAM/SELAM	
Workplan for 2004-2006 - Six courses/seminars/workshops ³	200 000
CAQ SESSION	
Fifth CAQ Session ⁴	40 000

SUGGESTED ACTIONS BY THE COMMITTEE

29. The Committee is requested to discuss the proposed programme of work and the funding requirement for the next intersessional period 2004-2006 of the Networks and other activities linked to the GFCM Committee on Aquaculture.

¹ In order to maintain expenses at a minimum, SIPAM Members are encouraged to cover the expenses of their National Coordinator. The FAO supports the travel expenses of its staff. The host country will cover costs of a meeting room and related local logistics. The figure quoted is the estimated full cost of the meeting including travel.

² This task will be maintained by FAO until the SIPAM portal is eventually transferred to the GFCM Information System.

³ The estimated direct cost for the organization of the activities included in the TECAM and SELAM workplan has been calculated on the basis of former activities. For the financing of these activities, CIHEAM will take them into consideration when elaborating its budget. In addition, CIHEAM will search for financial and organizational support from national and international organizations and institutions.

⁴ The next CAQ Session will be held in 2006. Estimated direct costs currently include interpretation in four languages, translation and printing of documentation.

Annex 1***TERMS OF REFERENCE******SIPAM National Coordinator***

Recognising each government's commitment to SIPAM within the *aegis* of the GFCM, and the full support of his/her supervisors, the duties of SIPAM National Coordinator⁵ shall include (but not be confined to):

1. Establishing and leading a central SIPAM national office for the purpose of collecting national data, information and news on all aspects of aquaculture.
2. Establishing and coordinating a series of SIPAM sub-offices at suitable locations⁶ to collect appropriate information for transfer to the SIPAM national office.
3. In conjunction with the SIPAM Regional Centre, preparing annual SIPAM work programmes that provides clear staff time allotment for all current SIPAM activities, for approval by his/her government.
4. Preparing annual draft budgets for all national SIPAM activities, including essential national and international travel, for submission for government funding.
5. Collecting, verifying/validating, collating and analysing the information from the SIPAM sub-offices and transferring it, on a monthly basis, to the SIPAM Regional Centre.
6. Generating, without prompting from the SIPAM Regional Centre, original news items about the current activities and future prospects of the national aquaculture sector.
7. With the approval of his/her supervisor, attending such regional meetings as shall be agreed with the Regional Centre.
8. Assisting the Regional Centre in identifying and soliciting potential non-governmental and private sources of funding to support the SIPAM network.
9. Fully publicising the existence and value of the information contained in the SIPAM web site to the private sector and within his/her government, as well as in relevant institutions such as universities and provide guidance in the use of the SIPAM website.
10. On a continuing basis, suggesting ways in which SIPAM can be improved.
11. Conduct continuous internal evaluation of the efficacy of information dispersal by SIPAM on a national level⁷ in order to improve future services.
12. Assisting the promotion and success of SIPAM in any other way as shall be requested, from time to time, by the SIPAM Regional Coordinator.

⁵ It is assumed that these posts will be part-time (50%).

⁶ For example, in local government offices, in universities and other institutes dealing with aquaculture, within national aquaculture producers associations, etc.

⁷ For example by measuring number of website "hits", time per visit, type and location of information user, frequency of return, etc.