



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN
COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES
PÊCHES POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE



COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

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PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET 2006–2008

1. The proposed programme of work of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) for the intersessional period 2006–2008 mainly includes (i) support to the revitalization exercise of the SIPAM portal and overall working structure; (ii) support to selected activities of one or more of the working groups proposed in the new EAM subsidiary body; (iii) support to selected activities proposed for the new TECAM/SELAM subsidiary body; (iv) support to selected training activities in aquaculture to be organized in collaboration with the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM)/Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ); and (v) one statutory meeting of the CAQ.

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 as well as contribution from FAO, mainly in kind. The necessity of recruiting a full-time GFCM Aquaculture Expert is considered essential for an adequate follow-up of the increasing activities demanded by CAQ. In this regards, the Committee is invited to discuss the matter which will be then reported to the Commission at its next session.

3. On several occasions, many GFCM Members have emphasized the growing importance of aquaculture in the region. Consequently, in fiscal year 2005 CAQ has been allocated a consistent share of the autonomous budget (mainly for SIPAM) to perform its mandate through core and ad hoc activities. It is expected that such a share will be at least confirmed over the 2006–2007 fiscal periods. However, the programme of work of CAQ will also have to consider potential contributions from existing and other partners in support of the CAQ network and new subsidiary bodies as well as additional funds for the implementation of the CAQ activities as mentioned above.

MAIN ACTIVITIES OF SIPAM

Meetings and targets

4. The Ninth SIPAM Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place in late 2006 and will be hosted either by Cyprus or Lebanon as agreed at the Eighth SIPAM Annual Meeting held in Split, Croatia, from 21 to 23 June 2005.

5. At this meeting, the first release of "SIPAM 2006" will be presented together with the SIPAM Communication Strategy and the draft version of the SIPAM Management Guidelines which will include a preliminary proposal for a revised allocation of roles and responsibilities. In view of the migration of the available SIPAM data into the new system, the results of data completion and updating process will be presented and discussed. In the case that the aquaculture data for certain countries are still insufficient, urgent decisions will have to be taken in order to avoid as possible, negative impact on the forthcoming launching of SIPAM 2006.

6. Furthermore, the feasibility of extending some components of the SIPAM revitalisation process in view of the transition of SIPAM under the overall GFCM information system will need to be evaluated and discussed at the Annual Meeting. It is expected that a final document outlining the revitalisation results and possible alternative scenarios for the consolidation and continuation of the initiative will be prepared for presentation at the next session of the Commission planned for January 2007. Following this meeting, a revised SIPAM workplan will be prepared taking into account the indications also provided by GFCM Members.

SIPAM National Coordinators

7. During the on-going revitalisation phase of SIPAM, all National Coordinators will be encouraged to take a leading role in the completion process for all SIPAM databases. Moreover, they will be fully engaged in the implementation of the new SIPAM system and in the definition of the overall SIPAM 2006 management framework. Their involvement will be facilitated by the SIPAM MedFisis team and by the SIPAM Regional Centre through questionnaires, sharing and discussing design documents and by inviting them to take part in the testing of newly-available system components.

8. The SIPAM Communication Strategy will also be prepared and finalized with the collaboration and involvement of all the National Coordinators. The success of the revitalisation process, as well as the importance and impact of SIPAM in the regional information framework on aquaculture, will depend mostly on their commitment and contribution. The adopted Terms of Reference of the SIPAM National Coordinator are attached in Appendix 1 as reference.

9. The issue of financial support for the National Coordinators, foreseen in the project document for the revitalization process (see GFCM:CAQ/V/2006/Inf.8), will be further defined, particularly in consideration of the purposes and criteria to be adopted, and discussed at the next SIPAM Annual Meeting.

SIPAM Portal

10. During the period June-December 2006, the Rome-based SIPAM MedFisis team will continue the design and implementation of the SIPAM 2006 in collaboration with the SIPAM Regional Centre and in close consultation with all the National Coordinators. It is anticipated that the portal will be rebuilt around a new operational environment and using development tools now available in the market to better respond to the management of SIPAM and its use.

11. The discussion with the FAO Fishery Information, Data and Statistics Unit (FIDI) will endeavour to provide a full synchronisation of the two database systems, standardization of the terminology/reference tables and definition of the data model for the SIPAM statistics section. The data update and completion process for all SIPAM databases will be maintained in collaboration with the National Coordinators. By the end of the SIPAM revitalisation process in January 2007, the new portal will be completed together with the migration of the latest data available. The SIPAM Communication Strategy, as presented at the Ninth SIPAM Annual Meeting, will indicate in detail the SIPAM user target groups, the type of information to be delivered, the appropriate tools and techniques to be used and how to manage these.

12. Furthermore, a mailing list of interested parties will be drawn up in collaboration with the National Coordinators. The list will be managed centrally by the Secretariat in Rome, to which SIPAM Members will be provided with complete access. The list is intended to become the “push” component in the flow of regional aquaculture information; stakeholders will receive, among other things, news alerts whenever additional items are made available through the system.

Training

13. During the design and implementation phase of SIPAM 2006, training and/or help-desk assistance to the National Coordinators will continue to be provided, in particular on the use of the SIPAM for WINDOWS software, data exchange process and SIPAM portal. In preparation for the launching of SIPAM 2006, an initial training course will be organized at the next SIPAM annual meeting. Learning tools for introducing SIPAM 2006 to the users and to support their operations will also be made available. More targeted support and on-demand specific training on the operational management of the SIPAM system will also be made available to the National Coordinators.

SIPAM Regional Centre

14. During the SIPAM revitalisation process, the SIPAM Network will operate through the SIPAM Regional Centre located in Tunisia and the SIPAM MedFisis team in Rome. The Centre will continue to collate, scrutinize and validate the national data submitted by the SIPAM Member countries and to compile the regional aggregated databases.

15. The Regional Centre will have an important role in the design of SIPAM 2006. It will operate in close collaboration and coordination with the SIPAM MedFisis team allowing the revitalisation effort to be the result of the effective combination of expertise acquired over the last decade and the new resources made available by the Commission. The role of the SIPAM Regional Centre in the management of SIPAM 2006 will then be further defined.

ENVIRONMENT AND AQUACULTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN (EAM)

16. As mentioned in document GFCM:CAQ/V/2006/3 (Activities of the Committee on Aquaculture in the intersessional period 2004–2006) the Experts Meeting for the Re-establishment of the Network on Environment and Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (EAM) was held in Rome from 7 to 9 December 2005 in accordance with the recommendations made by the Commission.

17. The experts suggested that the EAM Network be re-established as a subsidiary body of GFCM/CAQ operating through working groups dealing with: (i) Harmonization of environmental regulation and standards for aquaculture; (ii) Scaling Aquaculture-environmental interactions; (iii) Integrating aquaculture within a Coastal Zone Management framework; and (iv) Public perception of aquaculture in relation to environment.

18. The Working Groups will require initial funding from GFCM as seed money for launching main activities, possibly starting in 2006. The short- and medium-term programme of work proposed by the Meeting of Experts for the new EAM is reported in Appendix F of document GFCM:CAQ/V/2006/Inf.10 which contains estimates for the main activities and a timeframe proposal for the activities.

19. It is expected that CAQ will review and provide guidance on the most suitable institutional arrangement and *modus operandi* for the new EAM, including the finalization of its Terms of Reference, and work programme. Furthermore, the Committee will need to decide and prioritize the activities proposed also in view of the funds required and time needed for their implementation.

TECAM AND SELAM NETWORKS AS A NEW SUBSIDIARY BODY

20. At its Thirtieth session (Istanbul, Turkey, 24–27 January 2006), the Commission, as a follow-up to the recommendation made by the external evaluation of CAQ and its Networks (Rome, Italy, 29–30 March 2004), agreed to support the holding of an expert meeting for the establishment of a subsidiary body of CAQ which would combine the competencies/mandates of the two networks on Technology and Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (TECAM) and Socio-Economic and Legal Aspects of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SELAM) and replace them in one single and more efficient entity.

21. During the preparation of this document, the meeting was planned to be held back-to-back with the Fifth session of CAQ from 2 to 3 June 2006 in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. The meeting would have (i) identified the rationale, objectives, terms of reference, membership and operational structure for the new subsidiary body; (ii) agreed on initial common priorities and activities on the basis of a medium-term programme of work; and (iii) suggested the most appropriate institutional set-up and *modus operandi* for such subsidiary body.

22. In view of the recommendations derived from the outcome of the meeting regarding the creation of the CAQ subsidiary body on socio-economic and technical aspects of aquaculture, the Committee is invited to discuss, prioritize and endorse the proposed programme of work, possible funding and timing implications for the intersessional period 2006–2008.

CIHEAM-IAMZ TRAINING ACTIVITIES

23. During the 2004–2006 intersessional period, six international courses and seminars will have been implemented by the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) through the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ), some with the financial contribution from the autonomous budget of the Commission while others from the FAO Fisheries Department Regular Programme. The activities reported in document GFCM:CAQ/V/2006/3 were proposed at the Fourth session of CAQ (Alexandria, Egypt, 7–9 June 2004) and endorsed at the Twenty-ninth session of the GFCM (Rome, Italy, 21–25 February 2005) when it recognized that some of the courses to be organized by CIHEAM still required funds in order for them to be implemented.

24. At its Thirtieth session (Istanbul, Turkey, 24–27 January 2006), the Commission agreed that an appropriate subsidiary body of CAQ, covering marketing and industry related issues, should be established in order to replace the TECAM and SELAM Networks. Furthermore, the Commission recognized CIHEAM-IAMZ as a primary partner for training in aquaculture, thereby clarifying the relation between the two institutions and future *modus operandi*.

25. For the next intersessional period, CIHEAM-IAMZ has so far secured funds and planned three short specialized courses/seminars with the participation of external collaborating partners. At present, the participation in these training activities is open to CIHEAM Member countries. Should the Committee include one or more of the activities outlined herebelow in its work programme, participation will be secured for non-Mediterranean and Black Sea CIHEAM Member countries. However, funds would need to be provided by the Commission or other sources. The level of such participation will depend on the extent of the financial contribution secured.

- (a) *Strategies, development options and technology choice in Mediterranean aquaculture.* This activity is planned for 18–22 September 2006 (Location: Santiago de Compostela, Spain). Organizers: CIHEAM-IAMZ and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) through the NAUTA Programme.
- (b) *Advances in fish reproduction and their application to broodstock management.* This activity is planned for 19–23 February 2007 (Location: Castellón, Spain). Organizers: CIHEAM-IAMZ and the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)/Aquaculture Institute of Torre de la Sal (IATS).
- (c) *Quality and safety control of fish and fish products.* This activity is planned for 11–15 June 2007 (Location: Zaragoza, Spain). Organizers: CIHEAM-IAMZ and FAO.

26. In view of the fact that the Fourth TECAM and SELAM Networks Coordinating Committee Meeting was not held, the Committee is invited to discuss the need and eventually proposals for additional specific technical training activities to be incorporated into the 2006–2008 work programme; possibly to be implemented in partnership with CIHEAM-IAMZ. The implementation of any such activity will depend on the identification of sufficient funds which, in turn, will guarantee the attendance of GFCM participants.

27. In view of the changes suggested it is proposed that the TECAM and SELAM Networks Coordinating Committee Meeting be formally disbanded.

OTHER

Workshop on the European seabass and Gilthead seabream market analysis

28. The organization of the joint SELAM and SIPAM Workshop on Market Analysis of the European seabream (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) and Gilthead seabream (*Sparus aurata*) was under preparation when drafting the present document. The Workshop will have identified and drafted recommendations for follow-up actions. The report of the Workshop is available as information document GFCM:CAQ/V/2006/Inf.9.

29. In view of the recommendations derived from the outcome of the above Workshop (Rome, Italy, 12 May 2006), the Committee is invited to discuss, prioritize and endorse activities to be included in the programme of work for the next intersessional period 2006–2008.

Joint GFCM/ICCAT ad hoc Working Group on Sustainable Bluefin Tuna Farming/Fattening Practices in the Mediterranean

30. The Joint GFCM/ICCAT ad hoc Working Group on Sustainable Tuna Farming/Fattening Practices in the Mediterranean produced, as required, Technical Guidelines which were developed under the following main topics: capture fisheries, transport and transfer, farming, including

various parameters, harvesting and marketing. In this respect, the Commission at its Thirtieth session (Istanbul, Turkey, 24–27 January 2006) expressed its satisfaction for the results of this joint activity with ICCAT. Furthermore, the Commission endorsed the guidelines and invited CAQ to expand them through the new EAM subsidiary body as necessary, especially on issues related to aquaculture and the environment.

31. In view of the creation of the EAM subsidiary body (see paragraphs 18–20), the Committee is invited to discuss concrete actions to be undertaken as part of the activities to be undertaken by one or more of the proposed Working Groups of the new subsidiary body.

Workshop on bio-indicators for sustainable aquaculture and Workshop on Coastal Lagoon Management and its Interactions with Artisanal Fisheries

32. (i) The Workshop on Bio-indicators for Sustainable Aquaculture, which was scheduled to take place in Montpellier, France, early April 2006, has been postponed; (ii) and the Workshop on Coastal Lagoon Management and its Interactions with Artisanal Fisheries to be held in Italy has yet to take place.

33. The Committee is invited to discuss their implementation including objective and mandate, in connection with the proposed work plan of the new EAM and TESAM/SELAM subsidiary bodies, as well as to clarify the financial and logistical support to be provided by the two GFCM Member countries that originally offered to organize and host these workshops.

SUGGESTIONS ON FUNDING REQUIREMENT

34. In order to carry out the regular meetings of CAQ subsidiary bodies and secure the implementation of the various activities proposed in the programme of work, funds will have to be secured from various sources.

35. In order to ensure a realistic, timely and quality delivery of the planned activities, the Committee is invited to take into consideration the time required for the implementation of each activity. Member countries that offer to host any given activity are called upon to take an active role in their implementation. The *modus operandi* of the new subsidiary bodies will need to be clearly defined, considering the part-time engagement of the CAQ Technical Secretary.

36. The table below provides a partial estimate of the funds required for the implementation of the proposed activities for the biennium 2006-2008.

SIPAM	US\$
Meeting	
Ninth Annual Meeting, 2006 (Cyprus or Lebanon) ⁽¹⁾	2 000
Tenth Annual Meeting, 2007 ⁽¹⁾	2 000
SIPAM Portal Revitalization	
Consultancies, portal development and server maintenance ⁽²⁾	67 000
EAM Subsidiary body	
The budget requirement will depend on the prioritization of the activities of the four Working Groups and proposed by the Meeting of Experts and endorsed/prioritized by the Committee.	?
TECAM/SELAM Subsidiary body	
The budget requirement will depend on the activities proposed by the Meeting of Experts and prioritized/endorsed by the Committee.	?
TRAINING ACTIVITIES (organized by CIHEAM-IAMZ)	
Workplan for 2006–2008. Two full/four joint training courses ⁽³⁾	80 000
CAQ SESSION	
Sixth CAQ Session ⁽⁴⁾	40 000

- (1) The Members participating in the SIPAM Network will cover the expenses of their National Coordinator unless funds are otherwise identified. The FAO Fisheries Department supports the travel expenses of its staff. The host country often covers costs of a meeting room and related local logistics. The budget proposed is for miscellaneous expenses.
- (2) Budget up to January 2007 for the SIPAM revitalization exercise. The outcome of such process will be reported to the Commission at its Thirty-first session (January 2007). Should the Commission be interested, the SIPAM revitalization team could only, and certainly not at this early stage, propose possible financial scenarios for the maintenance and further development of the "new" SIPAM.
- (3) Contribution requested to the GFCM Autonomous Budget. The estimated direct cost for the organization of one full training activity is around US\$ 40 000, calculated on the basis of former courses organized by CIHEAM-IAMZ. The Committee may propose either two ad hoc courses for GFCM Member countries or participate in four or more courses, depending on the level of financial support, jointly organized and funded with CIHEAM-IAMZ. FAO will evaluate supporting some of the activities when elaborating annual work programmes and budgets. In addition, the Secretariat, GFCM Members and CIHEAM may additionally search for the financial and organizational support in other national and international organizations and institutions.
- (3) The next CAQ Session will be held in 2008. Estimated direct costs currently include interpretation in four languages, translation and printing of documentation.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS BY THE COMMITTEE

37. The Committee is invited to discuss the proposed programme of work and the funding requirements for the intersessional period 2006–2008 with regards to the subsidiary bodies and related activities linked to the GFCM Committee on Aquaculture.

Appendix 1**Terms of Reference of the SIPAM National Coordinator**

Recognizing each government's commitment to SIPAM within the *aegis* of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), and the full support of his/her supervisors, the duties of the SIPAM National Coordinator shall include (but not be confined to):

- The National Coordinator is representing his/her country in SIPAM.
- In close collaboration with the SIPAM Regional Centre and in coordination with other CAQ Networks Focal Points, be responsible for all SIPAM activities in his/her country.
- Elaborate through national workshops or other means such as sub-offices, projects and initiatives on aquaculture to be submitted to the SIPAM Network.
- In conjunction with the SIPAM Regional Centre, prepare annual national SIPAM work programmes in coordination with other national aquaculture bodies.
- Prepare and submit annual draft budgets for all national SIPAM activities, including essential national and international travel, for government funding.
- Be responsible for the regular and timely transmission of data and information to the SIPAM Regional Centre also required for the updating of the SIPAM web pages.
- Attend regional SIPAM meetings.
- Assist the SIPAM Regional Centre in identifying and soliciting potential non-governmental and private sources of funding to support the SIPAM Network and activities.
- Fully publicize the existence and value of the information contained in the SIPAM website 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.
- On a continuing basis, suggest ways in which SIPAM can be improved.
- Conduct continuous internal evaluation of the efficacy of information dispersal by SIPAM on a national level in order to improve future services.
- Assist in the promotion and success of SIPAM in any other way as shall be requested, from time to time, by the SIPAM Regional Coordinator and by the GFCM Secretariat.