



**MARBEF + -European Institute for the study of
Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning**

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MarBEF NETWORK

Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning



Habitats



Communities



Species



Genes

"Biological diversity" means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

Convention on Biological Diversity



General comments

- Funding of transnational research and enabling activities is very important for **basic and applied knowledge on** biodiversity and ecosystem functioning and **should complement** (not replace) national and regional research
- Basin approach is important to bring together the member states with contiguous marine areas – but should not prevent the collaboration between countries within and outside the basin (e.g. with Poland in the Atlantic)
- The place given to research on biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and environment is appropriate in the present draft
- The topics selected are important and reflect current concerns in this field – even if others of equal importance could be considered
- We strongly support the present inclusion of research to underpin policy and to measure the impact of different human activities on ecosystems and biodiversity



Research topics

Biodiversity and ecosystems

- Basic versus applied research – division not always clear
- We support the topics proposed, and the enabling actions specifically
 - a) the review on research on ecosystem functioning and processes, **including the research on the role of diversity in this functioning**
 - b) the creation of a platform of Biodiversity institutes and stations to do research on different aspects of biodiversity and ecosystems functioning **as is being built in Euromarine.**
 - **We would also like to see support for a network of marine institutes and stations for long term data acquisition on biodiversity as is being defined by the Cost Action EMBOS and in support of Geo Bon.**
- For the deep-sea frontier **we would like to see further research on biodiversity and on ecosystem functioning, including microbial diversity and functioning**
- For biodiversity and ecosystem research it is crucial to have access to data produced by the different projects and programs from national to regional and European. So we strongly support the enabling actions proposed in 5.3.1, 5.3.2 and 5.4.2.



Other research topics

- Support of research on the use of marine algae for the sustainable production of biofuels **and other compounds and environmental impacts of these artificial algal forests**
- We would also like to see a Research issue **focusing on the integrated use of offshore platforms - including decommissioned oil and gas platforms - to increase the efficiency of use of marine space and create synergies for the maintenance and operation of the platforms**
- On transport we support the test of environmentally friendly anti-fouling paint/devices/techniques.
- On maritime security, safety and surveillance – **we propose research to integrate this surveillance with environmental surveillance, including biodiversity (e.g continuous plankton recorder, Ferrybox etc.)**
- Marine Bioresources: we support the research to underpin the management and sustainable use of fisheries resources and to decrease the impact of aquaculture in the marine environment. **Support research on Multitrophic aquaculture (e.g. IMTA) that brings together species from different trophic levels with different requirements potentially creating an aquaculture without waste.**
- In oil, gas and mineral exploitation support research on the impacts of these activities on ecosystems and propose a topic on **mitigating measures**
- Marine socio-economics: we support the proposed topics but **propose research on methods for valuation of ecosystem services and on market mechanisms to improve conservation and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity.**