



4th Meeting of the CopeMed II Coordination Committee Madrid, Spain 28-29 April 2011

Report on the intersessional activities of the Project (May 2010-March 2011)

Introduction

This paper summarizes the main activities carried out by the Project CopeMed phase II from May 2010 (3rd Coordination Committee meeting) to March 2011, including workshops, training, research activities and the technical assistance provided to the countries; as well as the cooperation established with the GFCM, the SAC and Sub-Committees and other relevant institutions. The work programme and recommendations of the 3rd Meeting of the CopeMed II Coordination Committee (Tunis, 6-7 May 2010) were implemented.

The activities carried out during the inter-committee period comply with the methodological framework of the Project and its mandate for this phase. This report details the main outputs of the Project activities and the results achieved with direct reference to the following Project Objectives:

1. Strengthening the national capacity to obtain statistical data on catch and effort, including biological and socio-economic data.
2. Strengthening fisheries scientific research and upgrading the research activity in the national and international context.
3. Strengthening the institutional capacity at national level (organization and network of fishery stakeholders, development of management strategies) and at sub-regional level (cooperation between countries and with Regional Fisheries Organisations).

Moreover activities related with the donors, reporting and visualisation is included in this report for better information to the Committee.

1. Strengthening the national capacity to obtain statistical data on catch and effort, including biological and socio-economic data.

Technical support to countries

The 3rd Coordination Committee meeting decided that CopeMed II may support the countries that wish to run an evaluation of their statistical systems and that, to this end, the countries should formally request the assistance of the project for this task. Activities carried out include:

- Collaboration with MedFisis in improving the country's capacity and to carry out new actions in the countries: during the SAC - SCs meeting (Malta, 28/11 to 2/12, 2010) CopeMed and MedFisis met to review common activities in Morocco and Tunisia.
- Support the participation of experts at the GFCM *Transversal workshop on the Monitoring of Recreational Fisheries in the GFCM Area 20 to 22 October, Palma de Majorca, Spain* and at the *Workshop on Data collection methods applied to all segments of the Fleet and their coherence with the requirements of the GFCM Task 1* (29 September to 1 October 2010), Roma, Italy and at the *Subcommittee on Statistics and Information* (SAC) in Malta (28/11 to 2/12, 2010).

- The project recruited an international expert on fisheries statistics to provide technical support to the DGPA (Tunisia) in the diagnosis of the national small scale fisheries statistical system, including the identification of weaknesses and gaps, and to prepare a draft project for monitoring these fisheries. The project recruited two national experts (one from the DG Fisheries and Aquaculture and one from the INSTM) to support the activities of the international expert during a programmed visit. A one-week visit of this expert to Tunisia is planned for the end of April 2011 aiming to contribute to:
 - Evaluate the current systems for collecting statistics related with the artisanal fisheries
 - Prepare a proposal for implementing a new statistical systems, and
 - Prepare a draft project document PCT to help the DGPA in implementing a new artisanal fisheries statistics system in Tunisia.
- Several missions with different objectives, including statistics, were organised in Morocco (October, Meeting at the DGPMA); Tunisia (October and November. Meeting at the DGPA) and Algeria (meeting with the CNRDPA and the vessel owner and authorities of the port of Boudjazar (Oran). The MBRC in Tajura (Libya) was visited (18-19 May) during the MedSudMed Coordination meeting although a meeting with the authorities on fisheries was not organised.

Socio-economic indicators

- Experts from the CopeMed countries participating in the SAC-SCCESS requested to CopeMed II the possibility to publish a document on socio-economic indicators prepared during CopeMed phase I. The same request was posed during the SAC (Marseille),
- The project reviewed the related documentation and contacted the Editor requesting authorization to prepare a pdf version for distribution before publication.

2. Strengthening the fisheries scientific research and upgrade the research activity in the national and international context.

The relations and interactions with the participating countries were further strengthened, which contributed to the improved implementation of the Project activities in most of the countries. Several missions were organised in the countries and the Project supported experts from the fisheries research Institutions in international training courses, workshop and other joint research activities. Specific actions with the CNRDPA were carried out by the project answering different request from Algeria national focal point as a consequence of the current development of the CNRDPA and the launching of the *R/V Grine Belkacem* that should be operational for fisheries research soon in 2011.

Subregional research activities related with shared stocks

- CopeMed II and MedSudMed jointly organised a workshop in 2010 (Mazzara, Italy, 16-17 September) to assess the stock of *Parapenaeus longirostris* from the Sicily Strait area, participating experts from Italy, Malta, Libya, Tunisia and Algeria. The assessment was presented to the SCSA of the SAC-GFCM in November 2010.
- The first meeting of the CopeMed II and MedSudMed joint Subregional Demersal WG was organised in Mazzara during the same week. The meeting agreed that two new WG on shared stocks should be organised during 2011: *P. longirostris* between Algeria, Morocco and Spain and *M. merluccius* in the Sicily channel area. The Project and experts from Morocco and Algeria are already working to agree the TOR for the first *P. longirostris* from the Alboran area.
- A meeting in Tunisia on the shared stock *Coryphaena hippurus* was jointly organised by CopeMed II and MedSudMed. (Unfortunately the meeting was postponed).

- SRWG on shared demersal resources: an ad hoc scientific working group between Morocco and Spain on *Pagellus bogaraveo* was organised by CopeMed following the GFCM request. Later the first Morocco-Spain joint assessment of *P. bogaraveo* stock in the Gibraltar Strait area was performed. The results were presented to the SCSA meeting in Malta by the national experts.
- Small pelagic in the Alboran sea in collaboration with Morocco and Spain. A document that revised the progress in the “pilot project for the management of small pelagic fisheries in the Alboran Sea” countries was produced by CopeMed II.
- CopeMed organised a meeting “*Small pelagic fisheries in the Alboran Sea within the framework of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management*” (Málaga, Spain. 15 March 2011) with the participation of 20 experts from Algerian, Moroccan and Spanish research institutions and fisheries administrations and one NGO. A report was prepared.

Training activities

- On-the-job training on assessment of demersal stocks by direct methods by supporting two experts from the CNRDPA (Algeria) participating at the Italian Medits survey (May-June 2010).
- Support the participation of two experts from Morocco in: i) the course on *Selectivity of fishing gear* organised by the CIHEAM, (Zaragoza, Spain 14-18 June 2010) and ii) the International Master on Economy and Fisheries Management (CIHEAM-University of Barcelona- SG Mar, Spain)
- In the framework of the International Master on Economy and Fisheries Management, the staff of the project trained a Master graduate (from Morocco, INRH) on the “*Commercialisation of the voraz (P. bogaraveo) from the artisanal site of Dikky, Morocco*” (presented and approved in November 2010);
- Course on VPA methods organised by AdriaMed (Rome, Italy 22-26 November 2010): CopeMed II supported the participation of two experts from Morocco (INRH) and Algeria (CNRDPA, failed)
- A training workshop on “*Implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Framework and Practical Guidance*” was held during December 2010 (Rome) organised by the FAO project GEF_MedLME, with participation of experts from Tunisia and the Project.
- In collaboration with the IEO (Spain), a training course on “*Theory and practice of the acoustic methodologies applied to the assessment by direct methods of small pelagic species*” was organised in Palma de Majorca (17 January-18 February 2011). Ten experts from Algeria (CNRDPA), Morocco (INRH) and Tunisia (INSTM) were participating. A final evaluation by the scholars shows general satisfaction with the contents and performance although it was generally considered too short time for such level of information. Most of the participants requested new support to CopeMed II to be involved in acoustics surveys (on the job training) with the IEO.
- Support an expert from the fisheries administration in Morocco (DGPMA) to participate at a CIHEAM course on *Tools for monitoring and surveillance in fisheries control systems* (Zaragoza (Spain), 14-18 March 2011)

Other subregional and national research activities

- Support the new Algerian research vessel, through facilitating the participation of Algerian experts (CNRDPA) in demersal and small pelagic stock assessment surveys using direct methods and course on acoustic methodologies.
- Implementation of the 40 mm square meshes size in trawl gears. CopeMed II in collaboration with INRH and CNRDPA, is supporting two pilot projects in Morocco and Algeria on the implementation of 40 mm square mesh size bottom-trawl gears:
 - In collaboration with the CNRDPA the coordinator and a consultant on selectivity, visited Alger and Bouzedjar (Oran). The project prepared and financed material

(codend and double codend) exported to Algeria. In agreement with the vessel owner and the CNRDPA the campaign will start on 11th April.

- CopeMed II is in close contact with the Mediterranean professional sector in Morocco (Tangier and Al-Hoceima), the INRH and the fisheries administration to organize a pilot research survey with a professional vessel in Al-Hoceima to assess the biological and socioeconomic impacts of the use of 40 mm square mesh size in the bottom trawl fleet.
- CopeMed II financed the participation of 67 experts (7 unsuccessful from Algeria) from all the countries, according to requests from the national focal points and the GFCM Secretariat, to participate in training activities, CopeMed II meetings and GFCM and subsidiary bodies during the intersessional period.

3. Strengthening institutional capacity at national and sub-regional level (cooperation between countries and with Regional Fisheries Organisations).

- CopeMed II is collaborating with responsible of the fisheries administration at different levels (local, provincial and national) in different issues (statistics, participation at regional activities, coordination between countries, etc) and coordinating small scale fisheries activities (through ArtFiMed) in supporting the creation and reinforcement of artisanal fishers' associations in Morocco and Tunisia;
- The FAO Mediterranean Projects have been invited to participate in the EU Mediterranean RAC and included in the groups of discussion. CopeMed II Project staff participated as representative of the FAO Mediterranean Projects in two RAC Med meeting on:
 - *Technical measures* and on the revision of Mediterranean EU Fisheries Policy including discussion on small scale fisheries (June 2010 in Marbella, Spain),
 - *Collaboration between fishermen and scientists* in June 2010 Bussels (Belgium).
- Represent FAO-FIRF in the third meeting at the working group on Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) for the Mediterranean (24 November 2010, Brussels) was an occasion to reinforce the cooperation of the FAO with the European Commission on: the Integrated Maritime Policy; the Maritime Spatial Planning; the Maritime Knowledge 2020 and the Mediterranean Maritime Surveillance.
- Served as a channel of communication among the different organizations dealing with fisheries issues in the project's area, and disseminated information on events and activities of interest in the region through the project's website (www.faocopemed.org) and the i-bulletin which is distributed bi-monthly to key persons in the eight countries.
- CopeMed maintained the main fisher's organisations and other stakeholders informed by distributing information generated by the project (meeting, documents), information from others (courses, meeting, documents) and the i-bulletin of the project main activities.

Reinforcing the regional cooperation and supporting the GFCM

The FAO subregional projects, and particularly CopeMed II, supports regularly the GFCM' activities, in close collaboration with national focal points of the countries participating and the Commission' Secretary by providing scientific contributions for discussion and by funding the participation. These efforts (in FAO staff workload, funds and time, but also providing GFCM meeting with the countries participation and information or data) during the Coordination Committee intersessional period (May 2010-March 2011) should be considered not only as a support to the countries but also as a true support to the GFCM. The project supported the GFCM and the countries during the mentioned period in eleven regional activities, facilitating the regional participation of the countries and disseminating the documents, data, knowledge and ideas of its national experts to the international GFCM arena: At the same time CopeMed II is also reinforcing the GFCM, facilitating regional activities by giving broad participation to countries that, without the project, will not be able to reinforce the GFCM participating in the

numerous activities organised. The following eleven activities of the GFCM were supported by CopeMed II:

- Supporting the participation of a Libyan representative, SAC 2nd Vice-chair to the GFCM – SAC Coordination Meeting of the Sub Committees (Rome, Italy 9-10 June 2010)
- GFCM transversal workshop on red coral, by supporting one expert from Morocco (Alghero, Italy, September 2010)
- GFCM First Transversal Expert Meeting on the status of Elasmobranches in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, by supporting two experts from Morocco and Algeria (Sfax, Tunisia. 20-22 September 2010)
- GFCM-SAC Transversal Workshop on European Eel (Salambó, Tunisia. 23-24 September 2010) by supporting one expert from Morocco.
- Workshop on data collection methods applied to all segments of the Fleet and their coherence with the requirements of the GFCM Task 1 (Rome, Italy 29 September 2010 - 1 October 2010) by supporting four experts from Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Algeria.
- GFCM - SAC - Workshop on algal and jelly fish blooms (Istambul, Turkey 6-8 October 2010) by supporting three experts from Algeria (failed) Morocco and Tunisia.
- GFCM - SAC - Working Group on Stock Assessment on Demersal Species (Istambul, Turkey 18-23 October 2010) by supporting three experts from Algeria and Morocco.
- GFCM - SAC - Workshop on monitoring recreational fisheries (Palma de Mallorca, Spain. 20-22 October 2010) by supporting two experts from Algeria (failed) and Morocco.
- Transversal Workshop on selectivity improvement, bycatch reduction and alternative gears (Mazzara del Vallo, Italy 11-6 November 2010) by supporting two experts from Algeria and Morocco.
- SAC annual Sub Committees meeting (Malta, 29 November - 2 December 2010) by supporting 10 experts from Algeria (3 failed), Morocco (1 failed) and Tunisia to participate in all the four sub committees.
- SAC meeting (Marseille, France. 6-12 February 2011) supporting one expert (the national SAC delegate) from Morocco to represent his country.

Moreover,

- The Project' staff has participated actively in the SCs, SAC and GFCM by reinforcing the collaboration with the participating countries and the Commission.
- In coordination with the other subregional projects CopeMed II and ArtFiMed prepared to the SAC a document on "Major activities of the FAO regional Projects in 2010". This document summarizes the most significant activities carried out by the FAO Regional Projects during the intersessional period of the SAC. Project activities include research and training programmes, workshops and working groups, as well as the technical assistance provided to the countries, the SAC and its Sub-Committees and Working groups.

Strengthening the FAO regional projects coordination, cooperation and synergy.

In order to consolidate and coordinate common activities to strengthen international and regional cooperation, CopeMed II interact closely by correspondence and direct contact with the other FAO Regional Projects, mainly with MedSudMed and GEF-MedLME and participating in the Coordination Committees of the other projects.

- Coordination between the different FAO project's experts and meetings were carried out during the Sub Committees meeting in Malta and the SAC meeting in Marseille (France).
- Organisation of subregional working groups on demersal species and facilitating experts' participation at regional meeting in coordination with MedSudMed
- A Coordination meeting within FIRF (Marine and Inland Fisheries Service, Fisheries Department, FAO) was organised during January 2011 with the participation of the Mediterranean projects CopeMed II and ArtFiMed.

- The project staff participated at a retreat meeting organised by FAO-FIRF Service to review the Medium Term Plan 2010-13 and prepare the work programme for the biennium 2012-13.
- The AdriaMed coordinator participated at the CopeMed II meeting on “*Small pelagic fisheries in the Alboran Sea within the framework of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management*” presenting the experience in the Adriatic on small pelagic shared stocks.
- CopeMed II staff helped the EastMed staff in implementing different FAO procedures during the first months of the project.
- The FAO Mediterranean Projects, namely AdriaMed, MedSudMed, CopeMed II, EastMed, ArtFiMed, MedFisis and the GEF-supported Partnership for the Mediterranean (MED-LME) were present during the COFI meeting with a joint stand. Documents and products, including posters and flyers were available to the participants.

4. Activities related with the donors (UE and Spain)

European Union

The signature of the EC-FAO Grant Application for CopeMed II, Year 3, was signed by the two parties in 2010. The project (GCP/INT/006/EC) is operative from September the 4, 2010 and should be finished the 3 of September 2011.

- FAO in coordination with the project staff prepared the documentation requested by the E. Commission to the administrative closure of the EC project, Year 2.
- The EU as donor has been invited and/or in copy of all the activities carried out by the project and particularly on: Selectivity trials for 40 mm square mesh size; shared stocks activities including the small pelagic stocks in the Alboran sea; CopeMed experts participation in EU MEDIAS; collaboration with the GFCM; Publications, visualisation documents and i-Bulletin.
- Informal meeting with the EU delegates were celebrated during the SCs and SAC of the GFCM meetings.
- The Coordinator was informed that a new Commission staff, Mr A. Cervantes will be in coordination with FAO for the follow up of CopeMed II.
- The project has reported annually (May 2010) to the Commission (progress report) on the activities of the project.
- The E. Commission was invited to participate at the 4th CopeMed II Coordination Committee meeting.

Spain (Secretaría General del Mar and AECID)

- Contacts with the two Spanish donors have been continuous by different ways: telephone and mail contacts; visits to Madrid and meeting during GFCM sessions.
- At request of the SG del Mar, the project’ staff prepared a draft proposal in March 2011 to extend CopeMed II, including the activities of ArtFiMed for 3 additional years.
- A meeting with the SG del Mar in October 2010 and in March 2011 facilitated the coordination and the discussion on the extension of CopeMed II.
- AECID approved in October 2010 the assignation of remnant funds (153.819 US \$) for complementary activities of CopeMed II.
- A meeting with AECID in October 2010 and discussion by email and telephone along the year facilitating the coordination and flow of information.
- The project has reported twice a year to the Spanish donors on the activities of the project.
- SG del Mar and AECID agreed in the extension, without increasing the budget, of the activities of CopeMed II and ArtFiMed until the end of July 2011.
- The two Spanish donors have been invited and/or in copy of all the activities carried out by the project as mentioned to the European Commission.

5. Reports and documents

Technical documents

CopeMed II and ArtFiMed maintain a series of Technical documents and a series of internal documents aiming to reinforce common standards in the subregion and to disseminate general and scientific information.. The list of technical and internal documents produced by CopeMed II and ArtFiMed are available in the project' Web page www.faocopemed.org. New documents from the 3rd Coordination Committee meeting include:

- Rapport of the third meeting of the Committee of Coordination. Tunis, May 2010.
- Spanish information about the red seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) fishery in the Strait of Gibraltar Region; Gil, J. 2010
- Présentation ArtFiMed «La pêche artisanale à la Dorade rose *Pagellus bogaraveo* à Dikky (Maroc), dans la région du détroit de Gibraltar»
- Sistema de Seguimiento del Proyecto ArtFiMed - Versión en francés - Version en español CopeMed II – ArtFiMed Technical Documents
- Situation sur la mise en oeuvre des activités ArtFiMed en Tunisie. Novembre 2010
- Situation sur la mise en oeuvre des activités ArtFiMed au Maroc. Novembre 2010
- Poster ArtFiMed au Maroc et en Tunisie: associer la pêche responsable au développement social
- Spanish information about the red seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) fishery in the Strait of Gibraltar Region
- Report of the CopeMed II meeting on the definition of priority topics related to shared resources (demersal and pelagic) in the subregion. Málaga, Spain, 29-30 April 2010
- ArtFiMed Internal Committee (CPSI) meeting report. November 2010, Tunis. CopeMed II – ArtFiMed Technical Documents

Progress reports

Progress report are prepared to inform the donors on the progress within the year (for the EU according FAO-UE agreement) and every 6 months for the Spanish donors (Secretaría General del Mar and AECID).

Travel Reports (Back to Office Reports)

Internal FAO report to inform Fisheries and Aquaculture Department are produced after every duty travel by the staff of the project.

6. Project visualization

Web pages: An important aspect for visualization is the projects Web page. In coordination with the other FAO subregional projects, an expert update the CopeMed II and ArtFiMed web pages with news, documents, activities and information related with the projects (<http://www.faocopemed.org>; <http://www.faoartfimed.org>)

Projects brochures and posters: Brochures and posters of CopeMed II in Spanish, French and English are updated and distributed every time that a staff of the Project participate in any international event.

Press notes and mentions in media: Information on the project activities appeared in digital national or international journals are compiled and linked to the Web page.

7. ArtFiMed activities

The Coordinator of the project CopeMed II is also coordinating ArtFiMed, as established in the Project document signed by FAO with the donor (AECID). The activities carried out under the coordination of CopeMed II corresponding to ArtFiMed are summarized in the document *CopeMed II CC04/2011/03*.