

Recommendations of the meeting of the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy

held under the Portuguese Presidency of the EU

Porto, Portugal, 7th – 9th November 2007

concerning

LIFE ON THE BLUE PLANET:

BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH AND THE NEW EUROPEAN MARINE POLICIES

*This is a condensed version of the full text available at
http://www.epbrs.org/PDF/EPBRS-Porto2007_Final.pdf*

Having in mind the unique, highly connected, dynamic, large-scale and 3-dimensional nature of marine systems, and the importance of marine ecosystems and their services to human well-being as outlined in the Blue book for an integrated maritime policy for the European Union (COM(2007) 574 final), the participants of the meeting place high priority on research to:

- 1. Understand status and trends of marine biodiversity and the impacts of drivers and pressures**
- 2. Develop concepts and tools for the improved management of human activities influencing marine biodiversity**
- 3. Determine and quantify the causes of regional variation in the sensitivity to human activities and global change of marine ecosystems and their functioning.**
- 4. Improve the capacity to forecast the combined impacts of global change and human activities on the sustainable functioning of marine ecosystems**
- 5. Predict and assess the impacts on marine biodiversity of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures**
- 6. Improve understanding of how marine biodiversity contributes to mitigation of and adaptation to climate change**

For these research priorities to deliver effective policy relevant results, particular attention should be paid to:

- foster long-term inter-disciplinary research, funded on a pan-European scale, including sustained observations and experiments at multiple scales;
- secure taxonomic expertise on marine organisms and foster capacity to deliver appropriate information in support of ecological work;
- develop mechanisms to better incorporate key actors and stakeholders in the discussions about marine biodiversity conservation;
- enhance communication and dissemination of biodiversity research results and increasing awareness of scientists on policy and governance issues;
- maximize the value and accessibility of existing data and meta-data including archives and the interoperability of existing data bases;

- encourage the development and continuity of national and regional networks that can then be linked to form European and international networks.

The participants of the meeting agreed that, as a consequence of high connectivity of marine ecosystems, technological interventions should be governed by the precautionary approach and complemented by appropriate protective measures. This implies substantial research to ensure that marine ecosystem and biodiversity effects are well understood and their environmental consequences and social acceptance are taken into account in decision making.