04/10/2021

# Subject │ Minutes of the Fourth Management Committee Meeting of COST Action CA18221: “PEsticide RIsk AssessMent for Amphibians and Reptiles”

1. **Welcome to participants**

The participants were welcomed by Manuel Ortiz Santaliestra, Chair of the Action.

1. **Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda (**Annex 1**) for the 4th Management Committee (MC) meeting was adopted.

1. **Verification of the presence of two-thirds of the Participating COST Countries**

Total number of COST Countries having accepted the MoU: 32

Total number of COST Countries intending to accept the MoU: 0

Number of parties present at the meeting: 23 (**Annex 2**)

The quorum (2/3 of COST Countries participating in the Action) was reached: 23 COST Countries out of 32 attended the meeting (COST doc. 134/14 REV3 “COST Action Management Monitoring and Final Assessment” Annex I, Article 9).

1. **Approval of minutes and matters arising of and after last meeting**

The MC approved the minutes of the 3rd MC meeting held online on April 29th 2021 without modifications.

The MC ratified the approval of minutes of the 2nd MC meeting held in Ljubljana on March 5th 2020 without modifications. The minutes had been approved during the 3rd MC meeting held online on April 29th 2021, but as no quorum was reached during that meeting, approval is now ratified.

The following decisions were taken by the MC by written procedure after last meeting:

* Approval of the amendment of Working Budget Plan for Grant Period 2. Approved by unanimity on 07 June 2020.

Matters arising at last meeting, which needed further action from the MC were:

* Further elaboration of the glossary of terms. This task has been inactive during the last months, but it is expected to be resumed as soon as networking activities become more frequent.
* Finalise the Science Communication Strategy. The Science Communication Manager, Cristina Borca, informs that a final document is available and will be shared among all action participants. The possibility of publishing it in the website will also be explroed.

🡪 **Action pending 1 (Chair and Science Communication Manager, as soon as possible): make the Science Communication Strategy available to PERIAMAR participants.**

* Explore the possibilities to liaise with other projects or partnerships for mutual addressment of some of the questions. The Chair explains that a contact has been established with COST Action 16224 (European Raptor Biomonotirong Facility). As all other actions, they have had difficulties to keep active during the last 1.5 years. Now they are about to start their last GP. The possibilities for mutual cooperation can be explored further, but it seems difficult given the different timelines of the two Actions.

The Chair explains that some PERIAMAR members have joined the proposal for European Partnership for the Assessment of Risk from Chemicals coordinated by ANSES, which has been submitted in September. Annette Aldrich and Marion Junghans explain that the overall purpose of that Partnership consists of revieweing the chemical risk assessment explain through different projects that are being decided on a yearly basis. The projects included in the first year of the proposal do not fit very much with PERIAMAR activities, but we hope that we can contribute in a dignificant manner in subsequent years.

* Prepare and approve the amendment of the Working Budget Plan after the budget top-up. This action was completed after the last MC meeting.

1. **Update on the Action progress**

* **Submission of the First Progress Report**

The Chair comments that the reply from COST Scientific Committee to the first progress report was received. The SC considers that the Action’s implementation of the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy was sufficient.

The second progress report is due by December 5th 2021. This report is meant to provide an assessment of the Action progress with relation to the implementation of networking activities, development of S&T activities towards the Action’s MoU objectives, achievement of MoU deliverables, achievement of additional outputs (including projects resulting from Action activities and co-authored Action publications), impacts of the Action, and dissemination and exploitation of Action. The Chair asks MC members to share information about project proposals (either approved, rejected or under review), publications and other outputs that may have resulted from interactions among PERIAMAR members. This is one of the most important impacts coming up from COST Actions.

🡪 **Action pending 2 (Chair, as soon as possible): request information from all PERIAMAR participants about project proposals, publications and other outputs resulting from interactions among PERIAMAR participants.**

🡪 **Action pending 3 (MC members, before mid-November): send to the Chair information about project proposals, publications and other outputs resulting from interactions among PERIAMAR participants**

* **Summary of activities of Grant Period 2**

Activities carried out so far during the Grant Period 2:

Networking activities:

* Six STSMs finalised and another one ongoing to be finished on 15/10/2021. Annette Aldrich asks about the options to access the results of the STSM. The Chair comments that STSM reports are uploaded to the website (although this has not been updated in the last months). In addition, for those STSM providing a more specific output (e.g. life history trait database), the files will be shared with all action participants once they are finished. However, even if STSM are finished, the holders are still working in finalising the outputs after going back home.

🡪 **Action pending 4 (Chair, as soon as possible): ask the webmaster to update the STSM list and reports in the website.**

* Training schools:
  + Using R as GIS, with two editions (20-22 July and 31 August – 2 September). This TS was repeated because of the largen number of applications. It was lectured online by Neftalí Sillero (University of Porto).
  + ALMaSS: A Systems Simulation Approach to Environmental & Wildlife Management (planned for 18-22 October). This TS is co-organized with Aarhus University, will be lectured online and coordinated by Chris Topping.
* A Virtual Mobility Grant application was received. After review by the MC members of the relevant countries, a resubmission of the work plan was requested to the applicant, but such a resubmission was not formalised.

Dissemination activities:

* The Action website maintains its functionality, including the option for registration for Action participants to describe their profiles and incorporate information to the expertise database. The Chair encourages all Action participants to register and add information about their past and current projects in the expertise database.
* Creation of two promotional videos, one about the STSM held by Bruno Bekic in the National Institute of Biology of Slovenia, which is in the PERIAMAR YouTube Channel, and another one about Sofie Svanholm job. The latter is not in the YouTube channel. Sofie Svanholm comments that there is no problem to add it.
* Creation of a general video about PERIAMAR. The Chair explains that a joint meeting between the SCC and the Core Group decided to elaborate two general videos. One headed to the general public describing the herpetofaunal ecosystem services in agricultural areas, and another one headed to the scientific community to explain tasks and objectives of the WGs. For the latter, information will be requested to the WGs once the former is finished.

🡪 **Action pending 5 (Science Communication Manager, as soon as possible): add videos to YouTube Channel.**

* Maintenance of social networks of the Action (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and ResearchGate).
* **Action budget status**

The Chair presented the list of expenses made so far. Most of the budget is still unspent, which is related to the lack of physical activities. Considering the budget that is compromised and expected to be spent, 83.8% of the direct costs budget is foreseen to remain unspent at the end of this Grant Period.

1. **Election of a new Grant Holder**

The Chair explains that the current Grant Holder, University of Uppsala, expressed its intention to terminate this role at the end of the Grant Period, in part due to the change in affiliation of the current GH Scientific Representative. A call for interests was sent to all MC members, but nobody replied so far. Contacts have been established with the institutions of the Vice-Chair (University of Aveiro) and the Chair (University of Castilla-La Mancha), but both options present some problems at this moment. We will keep working on these options to overcome the problems, but the Chair insists that other options are welcome. Presumably we will have to choose a new GH by e-vote before the end of the Grant Period.

🡪 **Action pending 6 (MC, for the beginning of the next GP): elect a new Grant Holder.**

1. **Scientific and budget planning**

The work plan for the next Grant Period is discussed. The MC decides to finance the following activities:

* Two Working Group meetings (one of WGs 1 and 2 and another one of WGs 3 and 4), to discuss the addressment of questions coming up from WG4 meetings celebrated earlier this year. Jelka Crnobrnja-Isailovic proposes that the WG1-2 meeting could be held at Belgrade just before or after the European Congress of Herpetology (SEH) that will take place on September 5th to 9th. The WG3-4 is planned in Germany in June. Approximate budget: 12,000 € per meeting.
* A General meeting including at least an MC meeting a SCC meeting and a WG4 meeting. Katarzyna Kurek proposes that this meeting could be held at Krakow, as this was the proposed placed for the GM of GP2 that had to be cancelled because of Covid. Approximate budget: 62,000 €.
* A Training School on the use of alternative methods for toxicity testing in amphibians, proposed to be coordinated by Isabel Lopes and that would take place in Aveiro in March or April. Approximate budget: 12,000 €.
* 10 STSM, with a first call to be launched in November. Approximate budget: 3,500 € per STSM.
* 4 ITC Conference Grant, planned to finance primarily the attendance of participants to SETAC and SEH congresses to be celebrated, respectively, in Copenhagen in May and in Belgrade in September 2022. Approximate budget: 1,300 € per Grant.
* Elaboration of four promotional videos, one general on the Action and three to show specific activities such as STSM or similar. Approximate budget: 6,000 €.
* Publication of two open-access papers. Approximate budget: 3,000 € per publication.

🡪 **Action pending 7 (MC, for the beginning of the next GP): finalise WBP after defining specific dates and places for the planned activities.**

To facilitate further elaboration of the WBP, the following mandates to the Core Group were approved by the MC:

* Mandate the Core Group the option to modify without further explicit MC approval up to a 10% of the GP3 budget respect to what will be approved. Approved by unanimity.
* Mandate the Core Group the option to modify without further explicit MC approval the selected places and dates of meetings and training schools, upon request from the appointed organizer. Approved by unanimity.
* Mandate the Grant Holder the option to cancel non-answered invitations to meetings after 15 days of sending them. Approved by unanimity.

1. **AOB**

There were no any other business.

1. **Closing**

The Chair thanks MC members and the rest of participants for their contributions.

## LIST OF ANNEXES

**Annex 1 – Agenda**

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**Annex 2 – List of Participants**

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