



**Università
degli Studi
di Palermo**



RESEARCH COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE UNDERSIGNED

Department of Earth and Marine Sciences (DiSTeM) University of Palermo (Italy)

Hereinafter referred to as "DiSTeM", Viale via Archirafi 26, 90123 Palermo, Italy, here represented by its Head of Department, Prof. Attilio Sulli

and

Marine Biology Department in the Marine Science Centre, University of Basrah, Basra, Iraq, 61001, Basra, Iraq, here represented by its Head of Department, Prof. Murtada Naser.

The DiSTeM and the Marine Biology Department in the Marine Science Centre are hereinafter referred to jointly as "PARTIES" and individually as "PARTY".

Expressions used in the singular may also be used in the plural and vice versa, depending on the context.

"Preamble"

The **Department DiSTeM** has a deep experience in studies of marine fauna. It is an interdisciplinary department that carries out research, teaching and third mission activities in the fields of earth, natural and environmental sciences, focusing on theoretical foundations, experimentation and analysis of environmental problems and systems, development of methodologies for environmental planning and management and application of modern technologies for the assessment and mitigation of the impacts exerted by human activities. In this context, DiSTeM coordinates, with an interdisciplinary approach, research activities aimed at studying environmental processes and problems in the framework of sustainable development.

The Department is involved in the activities of the "**National Biodiversity Future Center**" (NBFC) focused on the study of the marine and terrestrial Biodiversity worldwide.

The **Marine Sciences Center** was established in 1981 to become the national specialized centre in marine sciences within the University of Basra and throughout Iraq. Today, the center has become one of the largest specialized centers in the region.

The Marine Science Center undertakes research and applied tasks, as well as applied scientific research and provides scientific and technical advice to state institutions and the private sector, in addition to pure scientific research for the purposes of identifying the marine environment and water bodies. It also seeks to advance relative capabilities in a way that is compatible with the development of human capabilities and the development of the center's human resources to meet Scientific research needs.

The collaboration will improve information related to the species inhabiting a wider range of marine geographical areas, and provide new materials and tools to understand and manage the complex ocean ecosystem.

The Director of the Department DiSTeM of the Università degli Studi di Palermo and the Head of Marine Biology Department in the Marine Science Centre envisage in cultural and scientific relations among institutions a



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necessary and important tool for mutual understanding of cultures and the advancement of knowledge and its dissemination.

According to this belief and in the areas deemed of mutual interest for prospective cooperation, the parties intend therefore to foster one or more of the following actions which will be regulated from time to time in separate and specific agreements. **The content of this agreement shall be considered by each party as a “Declaration of Intent” which commits the parties exclusively to those initiatives agreed in the specific agreements.**

The Parties hereby agree as follows:

1. Objectives

Cooperation between the Parties in the conduct of training and research programs shall be directed toward finding solutions to mutually agreed problems and exchanging information developed during the resolutions of these problems. **This cooperation includes the exchange of marine samples, experiences and results of theoretical, experimental and development projects, and the exchange of academic staff.** Cooperation between the Parties shall be on the basis of mutual benefit, equating and reciprocity. Besides, the Parties recognise the importance of joint participation in programmes promoted by the European Commission or by other bodies or foundations as well as in the coordination of proposals directed to the acquisition of funds for the realisation of structures and the implementation of research and training projects.

2. Scope of Cooperation

It is intended that the Parties will cooperate in the common field of Marine Sciences, with the aim of publishing scientific articles co-authored by both Parties.

Prof. Sabrina Lo Brutto sabrina.lobruzzo@unipa.it, Professor of Zoology at the DiSTeM and involved in the activities of the “National Biodiversity Future Center” (NBFC) and Associate Prof. Amaal Gh. Yasser, Marine Biology Department, Marine Science Centre, University of Basrah will be responsible for this agreement at DiSTeM and at Marine Biology Department of the Marine Science Centre, respectively. Other cooperation items can be added upon mutual agreement between the Parties.

3. Specific Cooperation

The execution of any specific cooperation decided upon by both Parties shall be subject to a separate prior written agreement between the Parties (Specific Agreement). There is no obligation for any of the Parties of this document to conclude any agreements whatsoever. Each future Specific Agreement could contain all major details of the execution of specific cooperations.

4. General Provisions

The provisions of this Agreement shall be applied in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in each country.

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as creating a legal or financial relationship between DiSTeM and Marine Biology Department of the Marine Science Centre.

This Agreement becomes effective on the date of the last signature and will be valid for an initial period of five (5) years and may be prolonged by written agreement after an internal evaluation six (6) months prior to the date of expiration. This letter may be revised after consultation and mutual agreements. Amendments shall be made by written agreement signed by both parties.

The terms and conditions of this agreement as well as those of the specific agreements related to it, must conform to the laws and statutes regulating both Institutions. The parties will not be obliged to respect those commitments resulting from the specific agreements which could contravene this principle. The Parties shall endeavour to resolve their disputes related to this agreement amicably.

This agreement is written in English. All misinterpretations will be settled by mutual assent. Specific agreements, although signed by decentralised bodies, shall refer to this framework agreement.



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For the Marine Biology Department of the Marine Science Centre, University of Basrah (Iraq)

The Head of Department Prof. Murtada Naser.

For the Department DiSTeM, University of Palermo (Italy)

The Director Prof. Attilio Sulli