Marseille, 10/03/2014

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR UNDERSEE

I, the undersigned, hereby confirm that MedPAN (the Mediterranean Network of Marine Protected Areas) supports the UNDERSEE project.

We confirm our interest in the project goals to develop software methods for automatically estimating fish density, richness and biomass by processing underwater videos and validate them in some operational environments.

We are ready to contribute in:

- Giving you the contacts of Marine Protected Areas managers if needed during the project implementation,
- Disseminating the project results at the Mediterranean level.

Yours sincerely,

Purificacio Canals, President of MedPAN

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THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Achieve International Excellence

Jordan Goetze
Marine Ecology Group
The UWA Oceans Institute and School of Plant Biology (M470)
The University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway
Crawley, Western Australia 6009

5th March 2014

RE: Letter of support for the "UNDERSEE" project

To Whom It May Concern:

We write to provide our support for the "UNDERSEE" project proposal to the European Commission.

The Marine Ecology Group here at The University of Western Australia has been using video technology to sample fish assemblages for ~15 years and as a result has built up a vast collection of video samples/resources. One of the major constraints with the use of video technology to sample fish assemblages is the cost and time required to analyse videos. As such, we support the UNDERSEE project proposal with the hope that significant steps can be made towards automation of this process. Automation of video analysis would facilitate expansion of sampling programs, allowing better spatial coverage and power to answer important ecological questions.

Our research group has amassed a significant amount of video imagery (5000+ hours), which we are able to make available in addition to providing guidance on how the technology may best be adapted to our research.

Yours sincerely

Mr Jordan Goetze, Dr Timothy Langlois and Dr Dianne McLean

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Prof. Daniela Giordano
Department of Electrical, Electronics and
Computer Engineering, University of Catania
Catania, 95125 Italy

5 March 2013

Dear Prof. Giordano,

Thank you for sharing me a description of the proposed UNDERSEE EU project. The Center of Excellence for Ecoinformatics, Walailak University is at the forefront of supporting marine science in terms of coral sensor network, fish and coral diversity and coral reef ecology.

In particular our Center of Excellence for Ecoinformatics has collected weather data, underwater sensor data (e.g. conductivity, temperature, and depth data), and eco-cam data both under water ecocam and beach ecocam.

We very much welcome efforts such as yours to search for supporting underwater video data analysis as even small advances can have a significant impact on our strive to understand the marine life.

We will be happy to collaborate with you and your colleagues and will contribute our expertise by providing input to your chosen methods as well as the video data we already collected and giving feedback on any of the outcomes achieved by UNDERSEE.

Where appropriate, we will assist with the potential uptake of tools developed by UNDERSEE by highlighting them to the potential stakeholders.

Your sincerely,

K. Jaroensutasinee

(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krisanadej Jaroensutasinee)

Director of CoE for Ecoinformatics

Walailak University