



# INTERCAFE

## COST ACTION 635

### Fact Sheet



There is growing interest across Europe in the COST Action “INTERCAFE”. This 2-page fact sheet provides: (1) answers to Frequently Asked Questions about INTERCAFE, (2) contact information for INTERCAFE’s website, (3) background information to INTERCAFE’s predecessor, the Concerted Action “REDCAFE”.

#### ***(Q1) What is COST?***

COST is not part of the standard EU ‘Framework’ funding programme. It is an intergovernmental framework for European Co-operation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research. Since 1971, COST has promoted the co-ordination of nationally funded scientific research across Europe. It does this by providing funding for networks of national research projects. These networks are called “Actions” and currently COST funds about 200 Actions involving nearly 30,000 scientists. Further information about COST can be found at: <http://www.cost.esf.org>



#### ***(Q2) What is INTERCAFE?***

INTERCAFE is COST Action 635 “*Interdisciplinary Initiative to Reduce pan-European Cormorant-Fisheries Conflicts*”. INTERCAFE will operate from September 2004 to September 2008. Building on the REDCAFE Concerted Action (see Q9-10), INTERCAFE is a network of natural and social scientists. This group of researchers have a specific interest in cormorant-fisheries interactions. Currently, there are 55 INTERCAFE participants from 25 countries across Europe and the Middle East: including 16 bird biologists, 16 fisheries scientists/managers representing fish farming, angling and commercial fishing, 10 ecologists, 7 social scientists and 6 ecologists involved with policy issues.



#### ***(Q3) What is the objective of INTERCAFE?***

The main objective of INTERCAFE is to improve communication and sharing of European scientific knowledge in relation to cormorant-fisheries interactions and the management of human:wildlife conflicts. INTERCAFE hopes to

inform policy decisions at local to international levels across Europe by developing a coordinated information exchange system. INTERCAFE addresses three issues: the reduction of distrust between all those with interests in cormorants and fisheries, the development of collaborative management strategies, and the provision of useful and practical information to natural resource managers/decision-makers.



#### ***(Q4) How are stakeholders involved in INTERCAFE?***

INTERCAFE is an unusual COST Action because it attempts to involve local people - stakeholders - in its scientific work. Apart from natural and social scientists, a number of other stakeholders have interests in cormorant-fisheries issues across Europe. These include commercial fishermen, fish farmers and recreational anglers (in freshwaters and on the coast), fisheries managers, wetland conservationists and natural resource managers/decision-makers. INTERCAFE always tries to invite some local experts to specific meetings and/or Case Studies (see Q5).



#### ***(Q5) How does INTERCAFE work?***

Following COST’s procedures, independent scientific assessors evaluated the INTERCAFE work programme - as a preliminary proposal and then a full proposal. The INTERCAFE network meets 2-3 times each year where researchers work on synthesising and exchanging information from their own countries. As well as the general work of INTERCAFE (see Q7), each meeting has a specific ‘theme’ and a small number of local experts are invited to

discuss specific issues with INTERCAFE participants. A one-day field trip is organised at each meeting further allowing INTERCAFE participants and local experts to discuss specific issues. In addition, each year INTERCAFE proposes to work on a larger 'Case Study', a meeting where participants and local experts work together over 2-3 days to explore a specific example of cormorant-fishery interaction.

**(Q6) How is INTERCAFE funded by COST?**

INTERCAFE receives an annual grant from COST. As with all other Actions, this grant does not pay for the staff time of any INTERCAFE participants. The grant primarily covers the travel and accommodation expenses of participants attending meetings. COST Actions are given about 70,000 euro per year. INTERCAFE is no exception to this and, for travel and accommodation, in 2004/05 the Action received an average of 350 euro per researcher per meeting (meetings in Brussels, Lisbon, Gdansk) and in 2005/06 an average of 303 euro per researcher per meeting (meetings in Saxony, Israel).



**(Q7) What will INTERCAFE do?**

INTERCAFE is not a lobby group. It does not have any direct, formal link to national or international policy-makers. INTERCAFE's main purpose is to act as an information exchange network providing scientists, local people and those with decision-making and policy-related interests access to up-to-date information from across Europe. During its 4-year duration, INTERCAFE also plans to produce amongst other things (a) a practical methodological manual for those working on cormorant-fisheries issues, (b) a 'tool box' of potential techniques for mitigating cormorant impacts at fisheries, (c) a 'water systems database' to explore the biological and geographical status and distribution of cormorants, (d) a series of information leaflets on specific issues relating to the

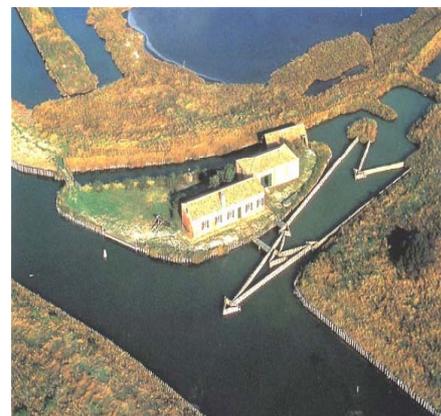
cormorant:fisheries situation.

**(Q8) Where can I find out more about INTERCAFE?**

Further details of the INTERCAFE COST Action are available on the Action's website: <http://www.intercafeproject.net>

**(Q9) What was REDCAFE?**

REDCAFE ("Reducing the Conflict between Cormorants and Fisheries on a pan-European Scale") was an EU Framework 5 Concerted Action that ran from 2000-2002. REDCAFE was a biologically based network of scientists interested in cormorant and fishery issues. As a Concerted Action, the EU did not pay REDCAFE to undertake any new research. In a similar manner to INTERCAFE (see Q2-8), REDCAFE was not aimed at providing 'recommendations' or 'a solution' to cormorant-fisheries issues, but tried to collate current information and make it available to others outside the scientific community. Taking a broad-brush approach, REDCAFE summarised (a) aspects of cormorant ecology, (b) the conflicts between cormorants and stakeholder (fishery and nature conservation) interests, and (c) potential cormorant management tools used across Europe. REDCAFE also undertook a Case Study, exploring cormorant-fisheries issues and recreational angling in a catchment in southern England.



**(Q10) How can I find out more about REDCAFE?**

REDCAFE produced two reports. The first, produced in 2003 - the Final Report to the EU - was a pan-European overview of cormorant-fisheries issues. The second, produced in 2005, was a series of national overviews from each of the 24 countries involved in the Concerted Action. Each country provided information on cormorant numbers and diet, interactions with fisheries, specific conflict situations, potential management tools, and a detailed national bibliography. Both reports are available on the INTERCAFE web site: <http://www.intercafeproject.net>