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**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)  
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE  
MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)**

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE  
FOR THE PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO  
PREPARE A STUDY ON TRENDS AND OUTLOOK OF MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS AND  
ACTIVITIES AND OF MARITIME TRAFFIC AND OFFSHORE ACTIVITIES IN THE  
MEDITERRANEAN**

**Mediterranean Trust Fund  
Activity No. 2.4.3.1.  
Budget line: 1212**

**Background**

1. The Strategic Outcome 1.4 of the Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) 2016-2021 of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP) reads: “Knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast enhanced through mandated assessments for informed policy-making” (Decision IG.22/1). It is stated in the Indicative Key Output 1.4.1: “Periodic assessments based on Driver State Pressure Impact Response (DPSIR) approach and published addressing inter alia status quality of marine and coastal environment, interaction between environment and development as well as scenarios and prospective development analysis in the long run. These assessments include climate change related vulnerabilities and risks on the marine and coastal zone in their analysis, as well as knowledge gaps on marine pollution, ecosystem services, coastal degradation, cumulative impacts and impacts of consumption and production”.

2. The MTS Strategic Outcome 1.4 and Indicative Key Output 1.4.1 translate into the preparation of three distinct assessments, namely the Mediterranean 2017 Quality Status Report ([MED 2017 QSR](#), addressing status quality of marine and coastal environment), the State of the Environment and Development Report (SoED to be published in 2020, addressing the interactions between environment and development, piloted by Plan Bleu) and MED2050 Foresight Study on the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (scenarios and prospective development analysis in the long run, piloted by Plan Bleu).

3. Pursuant to the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2020-2021, the Secretariat is requested to implement the following activities:

- .1 Support the preparation of QSR 2023, by capitalizing on the results of SoED, Dashboard of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and the assessment report of the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC) 1.4.1.2).
- .2 Prepare thematic products building on the findings of the SoED for outreach (1.4.1.3.).
- .3 Develop and implement the second set of activities included in the Med 2050 Roadmap (1.4.1.4.).
- .4 Update thematic assessment products related to pollution and marine litter cluster of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP), including prevailing industrial sectors and priority pollutants/sectors addressed by the Regional Plans; and sea-based sources of pollution (2.4.3.1.).

4. At the Thirteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) (Floriana, Malta, 11-13 June 2019), the Secretariat presented the MED QSR and the SoED, as well as the progress made to address identified gaps while proposing further measures to standardise monitoring and reporting formats for the pollution from ships.

5. Particular reference was made to the 2017 MED QSR conclusions on the common indicator 19 (“Occurrence, origin (where possible), extent of acute pollution events (e.g. slicks from oil, oil products and hazardous substances), and their impact on biota affected by this pollution”) related to the Ecological Objective 9 of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea, and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP), reproduced in Annex I to document [REMPEC/WG.45/8](#).

6. The Secretariat also recalled the recommendations on environmental monitoring and reporting from shipping activities extracted from the report for the Development of a Quality Assurance Programme for Data Reporting and Collection, in accordance with Article 5 of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, as well as the development of the 2017 MED QSR, presented in Annex II to document [REMPEC/WG.45/8](#)

7. The representative of the Associate Researcher, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research Institute of Oceanography, contributed to the discussion related to identified data collection gap on “accidental post-spill consequences on biota and ecosystem” by referring to document [REMPEC/WG.45/INF.7](#) related to the Study of the short- and medium-term environmental consequences of the sinking of the AGIA ZONI II tanker on the marine ecosystem of the Saronikos Gulf.

8. In light of the conclusion of the 2017 MED QSR and the recommendations on environmental monitoring and reporting from shipping activities, which underscored that monitoring initiatives should not be limited to Common Indicator 19 of the IMAP Ecological Objective 9, the Meeting requested the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to continuously monitor and report as required the following, within their national monitoring programme:

- .1 illicit discharges occurrences and its cumulative effects and impacts;
- .2 accidental post-spill consequences on biota and ecosystem;
- .3 non-indigenous species (NIS) invasion; and
- .4 underwater noise from commercial shipping.

9. Recognising the importance of a common approach on data sharing, and following the overview provided by the Secretariat, when working towards a standardised monitoring and reporting format for the pollution from ships, the Meeting requested the Secretariat to:

- .1 carry out (at international and regional levels) a comparative review of existing reporting procedures and formats to, as much as possible, avoid duplication and to ensure the format retained is in line with the one already developed; and
- .2 review, as required, relevant IMAP Common Indicator Guidance Facts Sheets .

10. The Meeting underscored the relevance of the information provided in the draft section on maritime transport of the SoED Report, which had been overseen jointly by REMPEC and Plan Bleu, and agreed on the version included in Annex III of the document [REMPEC/WG.45/8](#).

11. With a view to contributing to the preparation of the 2023 MED QSR, and in light of the gaps identified and related assessment exercises (for example, the SoED identified a lack of comprehensive knowledge about offshore activities), the Meeting requested the Secretariat, with the contribution of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, to update existing information and prepare a Study on marine pollution from ships and maritime traffic in the Mediterranean in the 2020-2021 biennium.

12. The work undertaken under this assignment, should also support Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, to take well-informed decisions, while implementing the [Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships \(2016-2021\)](#) and preparing the Post-2021 Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships.

## Objectives

13. The main objective of the consultancy services is to elaborate a **“Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution from ships and activities and of maritime traffic and offshore activities in the Mediterranean”** under activity 2.4.3.1 of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2020-2021.

14. The further objectives of the consultancy are:

- .1 to contribute to the three activities under the MTS Key Output 1.4.1, mentioned in paragraph 3 above;
- .2 and to support the Secretariat in carrying out the comparative review and the review of relevant IMAP Assessment Fact Sheets, referred to in paragraph 9 above.

15. To meet these objectives, the consultant will review a set of documents to be provided by REMPEC, Plan Bleu, the Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL), and the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC), in addition to other information collected through a literature review and will be granted access to the online Lloyd's List Intelligence and the online Clarkson Offshore database.

## Assignment

16. For the completion of this consultancy, the lumpsum covering all expenses including consultancy fees is seventeen thousand five-hundred (17,500) Euros, corresponding to thirty-eight (38) working days, at the current consultancy fees.

17. The Consultant will perform the assignments in his/her office/home.

18. Under the overall supervision of REMPEC and in consultation with the Steering Committee composed of representatives from other components of UNEP/MAP, including the Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL), the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC), Plan Bleu, the Consultant shall:

- .1 attend a kick-off Meeting to be held through video-conference, **preferably on 20 May 2020**, to discuss the content of the reference documents to be analysed, the scope of the assignment, as well as to collect all required information for the completion of this consultancy and to agree on the method of work and communication channel;
- .2 prepare a brief kick-off Meeting report to be submitted to REMPEC reflecting the main outcomes of the meeting including a list of available information sources and types of information for each assignment;
- .3 review and analyse reference documents provided by REMPEC and members of the Steering Committee, and other information collected through a literature review, as well as data from the online Lloyd's List Intelligence and the online Clarkson Offshore database;
- .4 prepare a first draft Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution from ships and activities and on maritime traffic and offshore activities in the Mediterranean, providing a detailed analysis on:
  - a) Oil and chemical accidental pollution,
  - b) marine litter,
  - c) air pollution,
  - d) illicit discharges occurrences and their cumulative effects and impacts;
  - e) accidental post-spill consequences on biota and ecosystems;
  - f) accidental post-spill major socio-economic impacts on biological resources access and exploitation (fisheries, aquaculture, etc.), seawater use and exploitation (coastal desalination factories, salt farms, etc) and coastal services (ports, beaches, etc.),

- g) non-indigenous species (NIS) invasions;
- h) underwater noise from commercial shipping;
- i) overview of trends for the past twenty (20) years and the current situation of maritime traffic and offshore activities in the Mediterranean region; and
- j) maritime traffic and offshore activities outlook for the next five (5), ten (10), and thirty (30) years (2025, 2030, 2050). The outlook will clearly indicate the hypotheses underlying the analysis and the determining factors for future changes of the mentioned activities and their impacts on the ecosystems.

This analysis will be illustrated with graphic elements, including, if possible, maps and/or infographics. Based on the available data, the analysis should include, at the extent possible, the impact over time (including immediate impact for accidents) and space. Mitigation measures, when applied, should be highlighted

- .5 prepare a second draft Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution from ships and activities and of maritime traffic and offshore activities in the Mediterranean, considering comments received from the Steering Committee to be consulted through REMPEC.
- .6 prepare a third draft Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution from ships and activities and of maritime traffic and offshore activities in the Mediterranean, taking into account comments received from Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to be consulted through REMPEC.
- .7 prepare under the guidance of Plan Bleu, UNEP/MAP and other members of the Steering Committee and based on the Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution from ships and activities and of maritime traffic and offshore activities in the Mediterranean, relevant input to contribute to:
  - a) the preparation of a thematic assessment by also capitalizing on the results of SoED 2019, MSSD Dashboard and MedECC assessment report with the view to feeding 2023 QSR preparation process and identification of respective data and knowledge gaps.
  - b) the development of the second set of activities included in the Med 2050 Roadmap, namely a 4-page illustrated summary of the Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution from ships and activities and on maritime traffic and offshore activities in the Mediterranean, with a focus on the outlook;
- .8 prepare a comparative review of existing reporting procedures and formats at international and regional levels on:
  - a) Oil and chemical accidental pollution,
  - b) marine litter,
  - c) air pollution,
  - d) illicit discharges;
  - e) non-indigenous species (NIS) invasions; and
  - f) underwater noise from commercial shipping;
- .9 review under the guidance of REMPEC, and in consultation with MEDPOL and SPA/RAC and based on the 2017 MED QSR Conclusions:
  - a) [IMAP Common Indicator Guidance Facts Sheets \(Pollution and Marine Litter\)](#) related to [Common Indicator 19](#) (CI19): *Occurrence, origin (where possible), extent of acute pollution events (i.e. slicks from oil, oil products and hazardous substances), and their impact on biota affected by this pollution,*
  - b) [IMAP Common Indicator Guidance Facts Sheets \(Biodiversity and Fisheries\)](#) [Common Indicator 6](#): *Trends in abundance, temporal occurrence, and spatial distribution of non-indigenous species, particularly invasive, non-indigenous species, notably in risk areas, in relation to the main vectors and pathways of spreading of such species*

## Deliverables and deadlines

19. The Consultant shall:

- .1 prepare and submit to REMPEC, not later than one (1) week from the Kick-off Meeting, a brief kick-off Meeting report referred to in paragraph 17.2 above;
- .2 prepare and submit to REMPEC, **not later than 30 June 2020**, the first draft Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution from ships and activities and of maritime traffic and offshore activities in the Mediterranean referred to in paragraph 17.4 above;
- .3 prepare and submit to REMPEC, **not later than 2 August 2020**, the second draft Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution from ships and activities and of maritime traffic and offshore activities in the Mediterranean referred to in paragraph 17.5 above;
- .4 prepare and submit to REMPEC, **not later than 15 September 2020**, the third draft Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution from ships and activities and of maritime traffic and offshore activities in the Mediterranean referred to in paragraph 17.6 above;
- .5 prepare and submit to REMPEC, **not later than 15 August 2020**, a first draft of the relevant input to contribute the preparation of QSR 2023 and the Med 2050 Roadmap referred to in paragraph 17.7 above;
- .6 prepare and submit to REMPEC, **not later than 20 September 2020**, a second draft of the relevant input to contribute the preparation of QSR 2023 and the Med 2050 Roadmap referred to in paragraph 17.7 above;
- .7 prepare and submit to REMPEC, **not later than 27 September 2020**, a comparative review of existing reporting procedures and formats referred to in paragraph 17.8 above; and
- .8 prepare and submit to REMPEC, **not later than 15 July 2020**, the revised MAP Common Indicator Guidance Facts Sheets referred to in paragraph 17.9 above..7 above

20. All documents produced by the Consultant shall be prepared using the Established Guidelines for the preparation of reports on seminars, symposia, courses, workshops and similar events, provided in Annex II to the "REMPEC Consultant Booklet" unless instructed otherwise by REMPEC (i.e. specific document template(s) to be provided by REMPEC) and shall be drafted in English as well as provided in electronic format using software compatible with Microsoft Office 2007.

21. The following disclaimer shall appear in all documents prepared by the Consultant

*"This activity is financed by Mediterranean Trust Funds (Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme) and implemented by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), in cooperation with Plan Bleu"*

*The views expressed in this document are those of the Consultants and are not attributed in any way to the United Nations, the International Maritime Organisation, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), Plan Bleu, MEDPOL or SPA/RAC".*

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