

Terms of Reference (ToR)

for Lead International marine monitoring expert to prepare Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programmes for Albania and Montenegro (GEF Adriatic Project)

SCOPE and DURATION

The implementation of this ToR refers to the tasks envisaged in the project “Implementation of Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning” (GEF Adriatic project), which, among other goals, sets to develop National Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programmes (IMAPs) for Albania and Montenegro.

IMAPs aim to establish the strategy, themes, and products that the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties are aiming to deliver through the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) Process, with the ultimate goal to assess the status of the sea and coast.

Scope of the assignment is set within the Outcome 2 of the Project, and detailed within Outcome 2.1

The total duration of contracting is from end September/beginning October 2018 to the end of April 2019.

BACKGROUND

Due to its specificities, Adriatic Sea is considered as a distinct biogeographical sub-unit of the Mediterranean Sea. There are more than 50 million people living within the Adriatic Sea catchment area and about 20% of those live on the coastline itself. The Adriatic is home to nearly half (49%) of the recorded Mediterranean marine species. The marine and coastal areas of the Adriatic sub-region contain the most notable marine and coastal Mediterranean habitats that provide valuable ecosystem services.

The ecological balance of the Adriatic Sea has been disrupted, in spite of the efforts of Adriatic countries to improve the situation. It is obvious that joint efforts will have to be continued along the lines of creating a sound scientific knowledge base and good level of trust in data collected in all countries of the region based on a common set of indicators, and introducing new tools and techniques for marine planning and management, such as Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). Furthermore, emerging and future problems will demand more inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration in resources management.

The Adriatic countries are Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the framework of UN Environment/MAP. Since 2008 the UN Environment/MAP has committed to apply the EcAp and has agreed on 11 Ecological Objectives to assess the level of

the environmental status of marine waters and coasts (Good Environmental Status - GES). They have also developed an IMAP based on 23 common indicators, on the basis of which the Adriatic countries should adjust their national monitoring programmes. In addition, the ICZM protocol adopted in 2008 and entered into force in 2011 and in particular the Action Plan for its implementation, promote the use of up-to-date planning tools including MSP. Therefore, ensuring the integration of MSP to ecosystem approach application remains a challenge for the Adriatic countries with the view to define the just uses of the sea, and reduce related pressures with the view to maintain or achieve GES.

The overall objective of the project “Implementation of Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning” (GEF Adriatic project) is to restore the ecological balance of the Adriatic Sea through implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp as applied by UN Environment/MAP) and improve sub-regional management capacity through MSP as a viable marine management tool. In doing so, the aim is to integrate horizontally management tools through EcAp (MSP, ICZM, MPAs, etc.) and to provide technical assistance to Albania and Montenegro to strengthen their respective management capacity. Moreover, all other countries of the Adriatic sub-region, EU and non-EU members (Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina), while not being direct beneficiaries of this project, will participate in its implementation as Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, thus, will indirectly benefit from and contribute to its results.

With the ultimate objective of achieving the GES of the Adriatic Sea, the specific objectives of the project and associated outcomes are the following:

- i. To increase the level of knowledge in participating countries to achieve joint assessment, protection and sustainable use of marine areas (Outcome 1: Science-based consensus among sub-regional countries on Good Environmental Status of the Adriatic Sea; and Outcome 2: Sub-regional programme on integrated observation and monitoring is agreed among Adriatic countries, including a set of regionally agreed common indicators).
- ii. To strengthen participating countries' capacity for sub-regional marine management through targeted demonstration of successful tools and practices (Outcome 3: Marine Spatial Planning demonstrates how environmental status of all Adriatic countries could be improved)
- iii. To share knowledge and experiences to secure successful participation of stakeholders (Outcome 4: Increased national and regional awareness of the usefulness of the ecosystem approach and marine spatial planning).

The Project is financed by GEF and jointly implemented by SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC and UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit in collaboration with relevant institutions of Albania and Montenegro.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The main objectives of the assignment are to:

1. Lead the overall process for the preparation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) for both countries for different Ecological objectives;
2. Support national teams of experts in preparing thematic monitoring programmes, in particular for the Ecological Objectives 5 (Eutrophication) and 9 (Contaminants);
3. Raise capacity of national experts and expert institutions for preparing the IMAP.

The Lead international marine monitoring expert will work in close collaboration with National project coordinators and international sectoral experts of both countries and under coordination of the partner organisations (SPA/RAC and PAP/RAC).

The assignment is part of the Outcome 2 (*Sub-regional programme on integrated observation and monitoring system is agreed among Adriatic countries, including a set of regionally agreed common indicators of the Project's Component 1: Consolidating common knowledge to utilize Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) as applied by UNEP/MAP and Blue Growth in the Adriatic sub-region*) and Output 2.1 (*Methodological framework for the establishment of national marine and coastal monitoring programme towards GES*). The assignment is in line with the EcAp MED II Project, which aimed at development of national IMAPs for South/East Mediterranean countries.

The details of the assignment are described in *Tasks* chapter.

TASKS

On the basis of the Project document and the Inception report of the GEF Adriatic project, the Lead international marine monitoring expert will:

1. Prepare outline of the IMAP;
2. Support the National project coordinators and national experts during their preparation of the national knowledge gap assessments for their countries;
3. Where necessary, support national coordinator and national experts in preparing the proposal for marine survey site selection for Albania and Montenegro;
4. Participate/provide inputs in training workshops on monitoring IMAP indicators for Albania and Montenegro, mainly to present the integrated monitoring programme and, if needed, to provide guidance and additional explanations regarding the links with the EcAp process in coherence with the MSFD process (in terms of identification of differences and similarities);
5. Support national team of experts for the preparation of thematic monitoring programs (MPs) for Albania and Montenegro, focusing on EO5 and EO9 by:

- assisting the organization of specific trainings and/or meetings, when necessary,
 - providing feedback during the drafting of thematic MPs,
 - providing initial review of the draft document;
6. With the technical and logistic support of national coordinators, organise the work of national teams of experts, working on different thematic MPs by:
 - ensuring the coordination of thematic MPs, including organization of the meetings with national thematic experts (for different EOs) to,
 - ensuring necessary and important interrelations between Ecological Objectives,
 - ensuring harmonised approach in preparing thematic MPs;
 7. Integrating all the thematic MPs prepared by National teams of experts in a draft of the national IMAPs;
 8. Participate in relevant project meetings.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Advanced University degree in a field related to the coastal/marine environment, such as environmental sciences; chemical, physical and/or biological oceanography; marine resources; chemical analysis;
- Very good command of both written and spoken English;
- At least 10 years of professional working experience, including a minimum of 5 years of proven experience in work related to marine studies and/or surveys.

OUTPUT and DEADLINE

Outputs	Deadline
1. IMAP outline	15 October 2018
2. Meeting reports	15 days following the meeting(s)
3. First progress report, detailing the work undertaken for the execution of tasks 1-4	End December 2018
4. National IMAPs for Montenegro and Albania	End March 2019
5. Second progress report, detailing the work undertaken for the execution of tasks 5-7	End April 2019

COSTS and REMUNERATION

For the execution of tasks defined by this ToR, the Consultant's fee shall not exceed 24000 USD, all taxes included.

The transportation and accommodation costs, occurring during the contract period, will be covered by PAP/RAC.

The payment will be made in two installments: first, upon submission and approval of outputs 1 and 4; and second, upon submission of all the outputs defined above and completion of all tasks, subject to clearance by PAP/RAC.

APPLICATION

Eligible individuals interested in this tender should provide:

- The proof of qualifications, i.e.CV; optional - any additional documentation that might be relevant;
- The cost breakdown per key tasks, as indicated in the financial proposal template;
- A cover letter explaining the interest and suitability for performing these tasks;
- Proposal submission form.

The offer should be sent in electronic format to PAP/RAC office at the paprac@paprac.org and marina.markovic@paprac.org indicating "Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme for Albania and Montenegro" in the subject field.

Closing date for applications is 28th September 2018. Any applications received after this date will not be given consideration.

The procurement procedure will be considered as valid, even if only one offer is received and/or only one offer accommodates all the required criteria.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The proposals will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- i. Experience in the field of IMAP/MSFD (max 50 p);
- ii. Experience in the field related to the coastal/marine environment in the Adriatic sub-region (max 30 p);
- iii. Financial offer (max 20 points).