

## **Terms of Reference (ToR)**

for contractor to prepare the thematic Monitoring Programmes for Montenegro, for Ecological Objectives: EO1 Biodiversity; EO2 Non Indigenous Species (NIS); EO3 Fisheries, and EO10 Marine Litter, in the framework of 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 Programme (IMAP) 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.

The total duration of contracting is six months starting from the date of the signature of the contract.

### **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 present action is part of the Project (GEF Adriatic project), which, among other goals, sets to develop National Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) for Albania and Montenegro.

The project “Implementation of Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning” is financed by GEF and jointly implemented by SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC and UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit in collaboration with relevant institutions of the countries.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The objective of the assignment is to deliver the parts of the national IMAP that are related to Ecological Objectives 1, 2, 3 and 10, thus contributing to development of the overall national IMAP for Montenegro. Thematic inputs to the National IMAP of Montenegro include chapters related to monitoring of Common Indicators belonging to Ecological Objectives 1, 2, 3 and 10, i.e.:

- Common indicators 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, belonging to EO1 Biodiversity;
- Common indicator 6, belonging to EO2 Non-indigenous species;
- Common indicators 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, belonging to EO3 Fisheries;
- Common indicator 22 and 23, belonging to EO10 Marine Litter.

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 indicator* (i.e. its Activities 2.1.1 *Setting up a national team of experts and organization of training workshops on monitoring based on IMAP indicators' factsheets* and 2.1.2: *Prepare initial monitoring programmes for Albania and Montenegro*) 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*. 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 Work plan of the GEF Adriatic project, the contractor will:

### For EO1 Biodiversity and EO 2 Non-indigenous species:

- Prepare **thematic monitoring programme** for EO1 Biodiversity and EO2 Non-indigenous species for the following IMAP Common Indicators:
  - Common Indicator 1: "Habitat distributional range";
  - Common Indicator 2: "Condition of the habitat's typical species and communities";
  - Common Indicator 3: "Species distributional range (related to marine mammals, seabirds, and marine reptiles)";
  - Common Indicator 4: "Population abundance of selected species (related to marine mammals, seabirds, and marine reptiles)";
  - Common Indicator 5: "Population demographic characteristics (related to marine mammals, seabirds, and marine reptiles)"; and
  - Common Indicator 6: "Trends in abundance, temporal occurrence, and spatial distribution of non-indigenous species, particularly invasive, non-indigenous species, notably in risk areas".

The content of the programme should be fully in line with IMAP Common Indicator Guidance Fact Sheets, the Table of contents and the outline of the document for assessing national knowledge gaps that will be prepared under the guidance of the international sectoral experts and presented during thematic trainings). In addition, it should also be aligned with metadata templates, upon their availability, for the respected indicators. The guidelines and fact sheets will be provided to the contractor by PAP/RAC and SPA/RAC.

Draft thematic monitoring programme will be developed under guidance of the international sectoral experts which will ensure quality control of all individual expert inputs. The work of the national team will be coordinated by the international sectoral expert and the national coordinator who will ensure that all inputs are properly integrated. International lead marine monitoring expert will supervise the entire process, in particular transfer of knowledge from international experts to national team of experts. Also, it will ensure integration of the thematic monitoring programme into integrated national monitoring programme, including expert advises and support where necessary, all in line with division of responsibilities, as defined in the Inception report. PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC and Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro (MSDT) together with Environmental Protection Agency, will supervise progress in development of the national integrated monitoring programme at all stages of the process, including final revision and approval of the final proposal of the thematic monitoring programme for Common Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6;

- Prepare **national knowledge gap assessment** related to IMAP indicators for EO1 and EO2 in accordance with the outline of the document for assessing national knowledge gaps with support of the international sectoral expert, and under supervision of international lead marine monitoring expert. The document will identify gaps and inconsistencies in the existing monitoring programme(s), compared with IMAP requirements. Under guidance of external sectoral expert (based on his/her proposal of the conditions, monitoring protocols and data processing, as well as the assessment methods), and taking into account best available practice, tailored to specific national and sub-regional circumstances, the contractor shall provide:
  - Information of the assessment/sampling methods applied in Montenegro, based on the current national knowledge and current national monitoring program of marine environment;
  - Information on the areas for researches/samplings identified so far through scattered individual projects, as well as through present not complete national monitoring programme of marine environment, both in coastal and open sea areas;
  - Available time series of national data in order to support their statistical elaboration by the international sectoral expert with the aim to propose the baseline values and thresholds in line with related IMAP Decisions on assessment criteria and threshold, including participation in development of the baseline values and thresholds;

- Inputs to the international sectoral experts for redefinition/amendments of present areas for researches/samplings, including establishment of the ones in open sea area (offshore areas);
- Inputs to the international sectoral experts for the proposed modification of the frequency for assessments/samplings;
- Inputs to the international sectoral experts for redefinition/amendments for data.
- Inputs for the preparation of the **site selection proposal** for marine data collection and processing;
- Participate to **project meetings and training/workshops**, based on consultations with PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC and MSDT, including:
  - Training workshop on monitoring for EO1 and EO2, based on IMAP indicators' factsheet. The workshop will be organized jointly for both participating countries (Albania and Montenegro);
  - National team meetings;
  - National harmonisation meeting necessary for ensuring coordination between the outputs related to different EOs,
  - Other meetings/trainings/workshops organized by PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC and MSDT, in the time horizon envisaged for the execution of this ToR.
- Undertake **communication** with the national coordinator who will coordinate execution of the entire project at national level, including facilitation of the communication with project partners, international sectoral experts, and International lead marine monitoring expert.

For **EO3 Fisheries:**

- As for EO1 and EO2, the same process and inputs (thematic monitoring programme and gap assessment; inputs for site selection) will be provided by the contractor for development of the thematic monitoring programme for EO3 Fisheries, based on following IMAP Common Indicators:
  - Common Indicator 7: "Spawning stock Biomass";
  - Common Indicator 8: "Total landings";
  - Common Indicator 9: "Fishing Mortality";
  - Common Indicator 10: "Fishing effort";
  - Common Indicator 11: "Catch per unit of effort (CPUE) or Landing per unit of effort (LPUE) as a proxy"; and
  - Common Indicator 12: "Bycatch of vulnerable and non-target species"

For this group of indicators, the contractor has to possess knowledge of GFCM work and practices, and experience in realization of the fishery surveys in national and sub-regional context.

For **EO10 Marine Litter:**

As for EO1 and EO2, the same process and inputs (thematic monitoring programme and gap assessment; inputs for site selection) will be provided by the contractor for development of the thematic monitoring programme for EO10 Marine Litter based on the following IMAP Common Indicators:

- Common Indicator 22: Trends in the amount of litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines (including analysis of its composition, spatial distribution and, where possible, source)
- Common Indicator 23: Trends in the amount of litter in the water column including microplastics and on the seafloor, with focus on the litter on the seafloor (only the part related to amount of litter on the seafloor).

The results/inputs for the Common Indicator 22 will be consulted with the Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management as the national institution in charge for the marine litter management on beaches and their inputs integrated in the overall output for EO10.

For this indicator, the contractor has to possess previous experience in dealing with marine litter monitoring, including experience in realization of the fishery surveys gained in relevant Adriatic project (such as DeFishGear Project), and to perform all tasks in close communication with Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management, as the national institution in charge for marine litter on beaches.

**For all EOs**, subject to this TOR, the process and the outputs will be based on the following inputs/documents provided by the International Experts:

- The Outline (Structure and Content) for the Knowledge Gap Assessment,
- Table of Content (ToC) for the thematic monitoring programmes,
- On the basis of the Knowledge Gap Assessment, prepared by the National Experts, the International Experts will propose necessary amendments (if any) to the current national monitoring programme, in line with the IMAP requirements,
- Provided comments on the draft monitoring programme prepared by the National Experts.

All outputs will be prepared in Montenegrin and English language, while the communication with the international sectoral experts will be conducted in English language.

**QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS OR KNOWLEDGE**

- Experts with advanced University degree in a field related to the coastal/marine environment, such as environmental sciences, biological and/or chemical oceanography, biology, chemical analysis;

- Experts with at least 5 years of professional working experience, including a minimum of 3 years of proven experience in work related to coastal/marine studies and/or management and related laboratory and field/survey work in Montenegro;
- ;
- Very good command of both written and spoken Montenegrin and English.
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## OUTPUTS and DEADLINES

Outputs	Deadline
1. National knowledge gap assessments regarding EO1, EO2, EO3 and EO10 indicators	30 November 2018
2. Proposal of the thematic monitoring programmes for EO1, EO2, EO3 and EO10	Draft version: 15 January 2019 Final version: 15 February 2019

## COSTS and REMUNERATION

For the execution of tasks defined by this ToR, the contractor will be remunerated by a fee not exceeding 20 000 USD.

The payment will be made in two installments:

- First installment (50%) upon submission of the outputs under point 1, subject to clearance by PAP/RAC,
- Final installment (50%) upon submission of the outputs under point 2 and completion of all tasks, subject to clearance by PAP/RAC.

## APPLICATION

Eligible individuals/companies interested in this tender should provide:

- The proof of qualifications, i.e.CVs of involved experts; optional - any additional documentation that might be relevant;
- The cost breakdown per key tasks, as indicated in the financial proposal template;
- Proposal submission form.

The offer should be sent in electronic format to PAP/RAC office at the [paprac@paprac.org](mailto:paprac@paprac.org) and [marina.markovic@paprac.org](mailto:marina.markovic@paprac.org) indicating “***Thematic Programme for Montenegro (EO 1, 2, 3, 10)***” in the subject field.

Closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> October 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. Knowledge of monitoring system and protocols related to monitoring of the marine biodiversity, fisheries and marine litter in Montenegro (max 40 points)
- ii. Working experience in research and assessments related to marine biodiversity, fisheries and marine litter in Montenegro (max 40 points)
- iii. Financial offer (max 20 points).