

TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)

for a Contractor to prepare a Thematic Analysis Report on protection of coastal ecosystems and utilisation of coastal ecosystems' services of the marine and coastal area in Croatia

Scope of the Assignment

This ToR refers to the tasks related to protection of coastal ecosystems and utilisation of coastal ecosystems' services in Croatia. The assignment is undertaken in preparation of the Coastal and Marine Strategy (in further text: the Strategy) for Croatia. The preparation of the Strategy will follow the steps envisaged in the ICZM process¹ developed by PAP/RAC, and will aim at fulfilling the requirements of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive² and the Mediterranean ICZM Protocol (Official Gazette, International Contracts, 8/12)³. Furthermore, the preparation of the Strategy is based on the Decision of the Government of Croatia to prepare the respective strategy (Official Gazette, 112/14)⁴.

Duration of the Assignment

The assignment will be carried out in the period from mid January 2015 to the end of April 2015.

Background

Following the obligations arising from the ratification of the Mediterranean ICZM Protocol by the Croatian Parliament, as well as the adoption of the EU legal *acquis*, in particular the Regulation establishing a framework for action in the field of marine environment protection, the Croatian Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection (MENP) decided that a Coastal and Marine Strategy will be prepared. It is meant to be a strategic document for the Croatian Adriatic Region (in principle, covering the area of seven coastal counties in Croatia as well as entire area of Croatian national marine waters) that will integrate coastal and marine management. In doing so, Croatia will fulfil requirements of both the MSFD and the ICZM Protocol. The rationale for the development of an integrated strategy is to respond to the need for interconnectedness between the coastal terrestrial and marine areas, to deal with the impacts of the overlaps of the territorial coverage between relevant EU Directives and ICZM Protocol, and to rationalize the management framework and the use of institutional resources. It should also be mentioned that this initiative follows the most recent international trend towards adopting more strategic, precautionary and integrated approaches to coastal and marine management.

The preparation of this Strategy is carried out within the replication component of the the MedPartnership Project. In addition, PAP/RAC is currently guiding the preparation of two national ICZM strategies (Algeria and Montenegro), both within the MedPartnership project. These strategies are being prepared in accordance with the requirements of the ICZM Protocol (Art. 18) and following the Guidelines for the Preparation of National ICZM Strategies⁵.

The Croatian Strategy follows the same principles outlined in the abovementioned Guidelines. These principles were the basis for the Government's Decision to prepare the Strategy, in particular in the Decision's section related to the coastal area of Croatia. The difference between the Algeria's and

¹ http://www.pegasoproject.eu/wiki/The_ICZM_Process_-_a_Roadmap_towards_Coastal_Sustainability_-_Introduction

² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:164:0019:0040:EN:PDF>

³ http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/medunarodni/2012_11_8_96.html

⁴ http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2014_09_112_2141.html

⁵ http://pap-thecoastcentre.org/pdfs/National%20ICZM%20Strategy%20Guidelines_0712.pdf

Montenegro's strategies and the Croatian strategy is that the latter also aims at fulfilment of the EU MSFD's requirements, which is not compulsory for non-EU countries. It is also expected that the Croatian Strategy will follow the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp), as implemented by the Mediterranean Action Plan.

UNEP/MAP is also implementing GEF project "Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean". Within this project, PAP/RAC is developing a Coastal Plan for the Šibenik-Knin County in Croatia, which is one of the most climate change exposed coastal counties in Croatia. Climate change adaptation is the main focus of the plan and it will be linked to ICZM for implementation. In addition, PAP/RAC is preparing a guide to integrate climate variability and change into ICZM, and a study to assess the environmental and socio-economic costs of the climate variability and change for Croatian coast. The results of all the above activities will be, as much as possible, integrated in the Strategy.

The first step in the development of the Strategy is to prepare a Diagnostic Analysis. These Terms of Reference refer to the Diagnostic Analysis stage of the Strategy only. It has to be mentioned that the marine area of Croatia has already been analysed and an assessment of the current situation has been made. For that reason, this Analysis will mainly concentrate on the coastal area of Croatia. It will elaborate the current state of the coastal zone, root causes of major problems, risks and potential future scenarios. It will focus on major aspects of coastal development, and in particular the coastal natural resources use including protection of coastal ecosystems and utilisation of coastal ecosystems' services, coastal spatial development, and coastal governance mechanisms. Impacts of climate variability and change within each of the above subjects will be emphasised. Although the coastal productive capacity and social aspects of coastal development have been studied in the Economic and Social Analysis (ESA), reference to ESA's results should be made whenever necessary.

Nature and Objective of the Assignment

The thematic expert is required to analyse the aspects of protection of coastal biodiversity and coastal ecosystems, as well as the state and utilisation of coastal ecosystems' services in Croatia. An Analysis Guidance document, detailing structure for this theme, will be prepared by the PAP/RAC and the thematic expert will review the relevant part and give his/her substantial comments.

The main objective of the assignment is to determine key issues in utilisation of coastal natural resources, and in particular the coastal biodiversity and important coastal ecosystems. The expert will provide his/her view on the status of utilisation of ecosystem services provided by coastal ecosystems. In doing so, the expert will refer to the State of the Marine Environment report⁶, which has been prepared for the Strategy. This report is primarily dealing with the marine ecosystems, and the expert should consult it whenever necessary, but also avoid the repetition of the main findings. Therefore, the expert should focus primarily on the coastal terrestrial and transitional waters' biodiversity and ecosystems. The expert will also refer to the Economic and Social Analysis (ESA) that has already been prepared for this Strategy. The expert will develop criteria for prioritisation of coastal ecosystems with regard to their importance, value and vulnerability. In doing so, the expert will consult with other members of the Working Team. The expert will do the prioritisation of coastal ecosystems on the basis of the above criteria.

The expert will outline main elements of the vision for the protection of coastal biodiversity and development of coastal natural resources and important ecosystems.

While performing the assignment, the expert will take in consideration the work done by the State Institute for the Protection of Nature (SIPN), and in particular the State of Nature 2008-2012

⁶ http://mzoip.hr/doc/pocetna_procjena_stanja_i_opterecenja_morskog_okolisa_hrvatskog_dijela_jadrana.pdf

Report⁷. The expert will also use the indicators prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency of Croatia (EPA). In any case, no new data collection is envisaged. In addition, the expert will review the relevant results of the UNDP GEF COAST project.

It is important to mention that, overall, the Strategy primarily aims at identifying and proposing the most appropriate mechanism for integrated management of Croatian marine and coastal area. Consequently, the coastal ecosystems' analysis should focus primarily on the management aspects and the relationship between the management of coastal ecosystems and the ICZM. In this respect, an analysis of the state of coastal ecosystems serves only the purpose of setting the stage for the integrated management strategy and not to replace the National Strategy for the Protection of Nature and the National Action Plan for the Environment. However, the expert will consult both documents.⁸

Key tasks

1. Review the Analysis guidance document (prepared by PAP/RAC) and add, if needed, the elements for the Thematic analysis on protection of coastal biodiversity and important ecosystems and utilisation of coastal ecosystems' services, with regard to the ICZM Protocol requirements.
2. Prepare an Annotated Outline of the Thematic Analysis on protection of coastal biodiversity and important ecosystems and utilisation of coastal ecosystems' services.
3. Prepare the Draft Thematic Analysis report on protection of coastal biodiversity and important ecosystems and utilisation of coastal ecosystems' services. The expert should assess the importance of the Croatian coastal area based on environmental values of coastal biodiversity and associated ecosystems. The assessment should cover all important coastal terrestrial and transitional ecosystems including near coastal waters, estuaries and river basins. The assessment shall also include all protected areas and assess their management. Special focus should be on provision of ecosystem services divided in 4 categories as stipulated by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: regulating services, supporting services, provisioning services and cultural services. The latter assessment does not have to be too detailed as proper information is probably missing. However, the consultant should provide his/her own expert judgement on the subject. The report should have two parts. In the first part, each of the abovementioned aspects should be briefly analysed; coastal ecosystems will be prioritised on the basis of their importance, value and vulnerability; and key issues and problems identified and presented. The expert should pay specific attentions to the impacts of climate variability and change on coastal biodiversity. The expert should also identify root causes of these issues. Wherever possible, the expert should outline probable trends for each of the aspects of coastal biodiversity and related key issues. In the second part of the report, the expert should outline main elements of the vision of coastal biodiversity and ecosystems' protection and use, and indicate how future management mechanism, which will be part of an integrated mechanism, should assist realising that vision. The report will have to be accompanied with respective cartographic representation, preferably using GIS. The maps will also include the prioritisation of coastal ecosystems.
4. Prepare the Final Thematic Analysis report upon consultation with other experts in the Strategy's Working Team (composed of the Team Leader and Thematic Experts) and taking in consideration the comments and suggestions received during the consultation period with national stakeholders.
5. Propose a set of descriptors and indicators to monitor coastal biodiversity.

⁷ www.dzpz.hr/analiza-stanja-prirode-u-republici-hrvatskoj/razdoblje-2008-2012/analiza-stanja-prirode-u-republici-hrvatskoj-za-razdoblje-2008-2012-1379.html

⁸ <http://www.mzoip.hr/default.aspx?id=4606>

- Participate at team meetings, as well as at the presentation meetings/workshops (3 workshops in different coastal counties; 1 national workshop/meeting).

Deliverables

- Comments and specific inputs to the Analysis guidance document
- Annotated outline of the Thematic analysis report
- Thematic analysis report on protection of coastal biodiversity

The outputs will be delivered in Croatian language, with the executive summary in English.

Obligatory Meetings

- Meetings with thematic experts.
- Presentation meetings/workshops.

Qualifications

The contractor should have the following educational and professional qualifications:

- Professional level with a minimum of five years experience in nature protection, preferably in Croatia and the Adriatic;
- Recognised degree in related disciplines;
- Experience in projects/activities related to ICZM in the Mediterranean region (in particular by using the PAP/RAC methodologies) will be an advantage;
- Ability to analyse issues and information and prepare briefs and summaries on key ideas;
- Strong research skills, combined with superior communication and interpersonal skills;
- Strong skills in Croatian language, both in written and oral format;
- Good knowledge of English language.

Responsibilities and communication

The Contractor will work under the direct supervision of the Team Leader with additional supervision by the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection and PAP/RAC.

Outputs and Deadlines

Outputs	Deadline
1. Deliverable 1	10 February 2015
2. Deliverable 2	10 February 2015
3. Draft Deliverable 3	10 March 2015
4. Final Deliverable 3	30 April 2015

Costs & Remuneration

For the execution of tasks defined by this ToR, the Contractor will be remunerated by a fee of 6.000 USD.

Travel and accommodation costs pertaining to meetings to be attended and the field work are included in the aforementioned amount.

The payments will be made on an output delivery basis, upon submission of outputs defined in point above, subject to clearance of the team leader and PAP/RAC, as follows:

Instalments	Payments
First instalment, upon clearance of the outputs 1 and 2	30%
Second instalment, upon clearance of the draft output 3	50%
Third instalment, upon clearance of the final output 3 and finalisation of all the tasks	20%