

Terms of Reference (ToR)

for a Consultant (Thematic Expert) to support the Correspondence Group- Pollution and Litter Cluster in the EcAp-MED Project

Request for: Consultant Individual contractor

Organizational Unit: Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan

1. Purpose (justification for request)

1.1 Explain the requirement for a consultant / individual

The Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way, as stated by Convention of Biological Diversity. It goes beyond examining single issues, species, or ecosystem functions in isolation. Instead, it recognizes ecological systems for what they are: rich mixes of elements that interact with each other continuously. This understanding is particularly important for coasts and seas, where the nature of water keeps systems and functions connected.

The main valued added of the Ecosystems Approach in the context of the Barcelona Convention is a renewed emphasis on implementation and integration that will strengthen our ability to understand and address cumulative risks and effects as well as to better focus our action on priority targets. Simply put, the EcAp brings MAP's many sectoral analyses and management measures into a single integrated framework which will results in an adaptive management strategy that will be periodically monitored, evaluated and revised through a rigorous 2012-2018 Six-year Management Cycle.

Decisions IG 17/6 "Implementation of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities that may affect the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment" and IG 20/4 "Implementing MAP ecosystem approach roadmap: Mediterranean Ecological and Operational Objectives, Indicators and Timetable for implementing the ecosystem approach roadmap adopted by the Contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention" respectively in COP 15 (2008) and COP17 (2012) articulate a systematic process for moving forward towards more effective ecosystems-based management in the Mediterranean. They also contain the agreement reached on the progress achieved and define priorities on the way forward.

The progress achieved to date in the seven steps process identified for moving towards a more effective, ecosystem-based management is as follows:

I. Definition of an **Ecological Vision for the Mediterranean.**

"A healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse for the benefit of present and future generations".

II. Setting of common **Mediterranean strategic goals.**

- a. To protect, allow recovery and, where practicable, restore the structure and function of marine and coastal ecosystems thus also protecting biodiversity, in order to achieve and maintain good ecological status and allow for their sustainable use.

- b. To reduce pollution in the marine and coastal environment so as to minimize impacts on and risks to human and/or ecosystem health and/or uses of the sea and the coasts.
 - c. To prevent, reduce and manage the vulnerability of the sea and the coasts to risks induced by human activities and natural events.
- III. Identification of important ecosystem properties and **assessment of ecological status** and pressures.

The UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention **Initial Integrated Assessment** (Step 3) peer reviewed by GESAMP was completed in 2011 and disseminated to the COP as document IG.20/Inf.8. The Integrated Assessment contains information on the overall nature of the ecosystems in the Mediterranean, including physical and ecological characteristics, pressures that affect the state of the marine environment, conditions or state of the coastal and marine ecosystems, and expected response of ecosystem if trends continue. It identifies existing pressures and impacts affecting the Mediterranean region as well as emerging ones. It has also been useful in highlighting information availability and needs going into the future.

- IV. Development of a set of **ecological objectives** corresponding to the Vision and strategic goals.

The following ecological objectives have been defined through an intensive process of consultation led by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat fully owned by the Contracting Parties and with participation of MAP Partners and technical experts:

1. **Biological diversity is maintained** or enhanced. The quality and occurrence of coastal and marine habitats and the distribution and abundance of coastal and marine species are in line with prevailing physiographic, hydrographic, geographic, and climatic conditions.
2. **Non-indigenous species** introduced by human activities are at levels that **do not adversely alter the ecosystem**.
3. **Populations of selected commercially exploited fish and shellfish are within biologically safe limits**, exhibiting a population age and size distribution that is indicative of a healthy stock.
4. **Alterations to components of marine food webs** caused by resource extraction or human-induced environmental changes **do not have long-term adverse effects** on food web dynamics and related viability.
5. **Human-induced eutrophication is prevented**, especially adverse effects thereof, such as losses in biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, harmful algal blooms, and oxygen deficiency in bottom waters.
6. **Sea-floor integrity is maintained**, especially in priority benthic habitats.
7. **Alteration of hydrographic conditions does not adversely affect coastal and marine ecosystems**.
8. The **natural dynamics of coastal areas are maintained** and **coastal ecosystems and landscapes are preserved**.
9. **Contaminants cause no significant impact** on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health.
10. **Marine and coastal litter does not adversely affect coastal and marine environments**.
11. **Noise from human activities causes no significant impact on marine and coastal ecosystems**.

The remaining 3 steps of the 7-step process will form the bulk of the forthcoming work for the full-fledged EcAP process in the Mediterranean, and include:

- V. Derivation of **operational** objectives with **indicators** and **target** levels.
- VI. Revision of existing **monitoring programmes** for ongoing assessment and regular updating of targets.
- VII. Development and review of relevant **action plans and programmes**.

The implementation of the EcAp in 2012-2013 has been organized around four specific pillars which capture the main deliverables expected from the Parties and further strengthen and complete the application of the seven steps for the implementation of the EcAp. These are:

- **Targets and Good Environmental Status.** Work on methodologies for the determination of good environmental status and target for each of the 11 agreed Ecological Objectives; and implement a pilot case which successfully tests EcAp indicators (Step 5);
- **Monitoring.** Initial steps to prepare an integrated monitoring system based on the indicators and targets (Step 6);
- **Assessment.** Complement the integrated assessment of the Mediterranean ecosystem with a socio-economic analysis and establish an assessment cycle by developing a UNEP/MAP policy on assessments of the marine and coastal environment to be periodically implemented (Step 3); and,
- Develop and review relevant **measures** for implementation of EcAp (Step 7).

The process for the development of Good Environmental Status and Targets for the Mediterranean will be carried out by the Correspondence Group on GES and Targets, which will be composed of national experts, designated by the Contracting Parties, and will be coordinated by the UNEP/MAP components and the Coordinating Unit. It will work to ensure efficient coverage and in-depth discussions and analysis of all Ecological Objectives (EOs) and it will be made up of 3 clusters: 1) Pollution and litter related EOs (EOs 5, 9, 10 and 11); 2) Biodiversity and Fisheries related EOs (EOs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6); and 3) Coastal and Hydrological Conditions related EOs (EOs 7 and 8). The expected outcome of the group is defining the methodology for Mediterranean targets, as well as identifying regional targets through a participatory process involving contracting parties and MAP components, to be submitted to COP 18.

The requested Consultancy, in the form of a “Thematic Expert” will focus on “Pollution and Litter Cluster”.

Pollution and Litter Cluster Ecological Objectives

Eutrophication (EO#5)

Ecological Objective	Operational Objectives	Indicators
<p>Human-induced eutrophication is prevented, especially adverse effects thereof, such as losses in biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, harmful algal blooms and oxygen deficiency in bottom waters.</p>	<p>5.1 Human introduction of nutrients in the marine environment is not conducive to eutrophication</p>	<p>5.1.1 Concentration of key nutrients in the water column</p>
		<p>5.1.2 Nutrient ratios (silica, nitrogen and phosphorus), where appropriate</p>
	<p>5.2 Direct effects of nutrient over-enrichment are prevented</p>	<p>5.2.1 Chlorophyll-a concentration in the water column</p>
		<p>5.2.2 Water transparency where relevant</p>
		<p>5.2.3 Number and location of major events of nuisance/toxic algal blooms caused by human activities</p>
	<p>5.3 Indirect effects of nutrient over- enrichment are prevented</p>	<p>5.3.1 Dissolved oxygen near the bottom, i.e. changes due to increased organic matter decomposition, and size of the area concerned</p>

Pollution (EO#9)

Ecological Objective	Operational Objectives	Indicators
<p>Contaminants cause no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health</p>	<p>9.1 Concentration of priority contaminants is kept within acceptable limits and does not increase</p>	<p>9.1.1 Concentration of key harmful contaminants in biota, sediment or water</p>
	<p>9.2 Effects of released contaminants are minimized</p>	<p>9.2.1 Level of pollution effects of key contaminants where a cause and effect relationship has been established</p>
	<p>9.3 Acute pollution events are prevented and their impacts are minimized</p>	<p>9.3.1 Occurrence, origin (where possible), extent of significant acute pollution events (e.g. slicks from oil, oil products and hazardous substances) and their impact on biota affected by this pollution</p>
	<p>9.4 Levels of known harmful contaminants in major types of seafood do not exceed established standards</p>	<p>9.4.1 Actual levels of contaminants that have been detected and number of contaminants which have exceeded maximum regulatory levels in commonly consumed seafood</p>
		<p>9.4.2 Frequency that regulatory levels of contaminants are exceeded</p>
	<p>9.5 Water quality in bathing waters and other recreational areas does not undermine human health</p>	<p>9.5.1 Percentage of intestinal enterococci concentration measurements within established standards</p>
		<p>9.5.2 Occurrence of Harmful Algal Blooms within bathing and recreational areas</p>

Marine litter (EO#10)

Ecological Objective	Operational Objectives	Indicators
<p>Marine and coastal litter do not adversely affect coastal and marine environment</p>	<p>10.1 The impacts related to properties and quantities of marine litter in the marine and coastal environment are minimized</p>	<p>10.1.1 Trends in the amount of litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines, including analysis of its composition, spatial distribution and, where possible, source</p>
		<p>10.1.2 Trends in amounts of litter in the water column, including microplastics, and on the seafloor</p>
	<p>10.2 Impacts of litter on marine life are controlled to the maximum extent practicable</p>	<p>10.2.1 Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organisms, especially mammals, marine birds and turtles</p>

Energy including underwater noise (EO#11)

Ecological Objective	Operational Objectives	Indicators
<p>Noise from human activities cause no significant impact on marine and coastal ecosystems</p>	<p>11.1 Energy inputs into the marine environment, especially noise from human activities is minimized</p>	<p>11.1.1 Proportion of days and geographical distribution where loud, low and mid-frequency impulsive sounds exceed levels that are likely to entail significant impact on marine animals</p>
		<p>11.1.2 Trends in continuous low frequency sounds with the use of models as appropriate</p>

Objective of the assignment

The objective of the assignment is to provide support to UNEP MAP Coordinating Unit, PAP/RAC and EcAp-MED Project team in delivering of the EcAp-MED Project, through substantive support and facilitation during expert discussion on methodologies, targets, indicators and thresholds for Ecological Objectives 5, 9, 10 and 11 of the EcAp process for the Mediterranean.

TASKS

The Thematic Expert will have an active role (as explained below in details) during expert discussion on methodologies, targets, indicators and thresholds for Pollution and litter related EOs (EOs 5, 9, 10 and 11 – as listed above) of the EcAp for the Mediterranean that will follow the process below:

- Taking into reference the pre and post documents prepared for the first meeting of Correspondence Group on GES and targets (October 2012, Sarajevo) – Pollution and litter Cluster¹, working for the finalization of the list of GES and targets through consultations, if necessary, with additional technical workshops with regional, sub regional and national experts, and scientific expert advice;
- Facilitating the consultation process towards reaching consensus on the list of core targets to meet the Ecological Objectives;
- Producing the necessary documents of the Pollution and Litter Cluster of Correspondence Group work on GES and targets in English, compiling the outputs, deliver the final report to UNEP MAP Coordinating Unit and MED POL for clearance; and,
- Preparing a proposal of GES and targets, for those that data would be available and subject to agreement by the Contracting parties, for submission to EcAp Coordination Group, MAP FPs and COP 18.

1.2 Qualifications / special skills or knowledge

- Postgraduate degree in environmental sciences, marine science , chemistry, biology, engineering or in a related field;
- Very good command of both written and spoken English. Knowledge of French is an asset;
- At least 5 years of professional working experience;
- At least 3 years of proven experience in pollution and litter related work with additional knowledge on Mediterranean and EU processes (MSFD, WFD and similar related EU directives); and,

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- UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.372/2 “Approaches for definition of GES and setting targets for the “pollution” related Ecological Objectives in the framework of the Ecosystem Approach - (EO5: Eutrophication, EP9: Contaminants, EP10: Marine Litter, EO11: Noise)”
- UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.372/Inf.3 “Existing targets and EQO regarding pollution in the framework of UNEP/MAP MEDPOL Programme”
- The Report of the first meeting of Correspondence Group on GES and targets – Pollution and litter Cluster

- Working experience with scientific institutions, government agencies, civil society, local administrations, and international organizations in subjects related to pollution issues.

1.3 Outputs (Final results)

- The Working Document on GES and targets prepared for consideration of Pollution and Litter Cluster of Correspondence Group; with a particular focus on defining baselines based on data availability at regional and sub regional levels where appropriate, as well as SAP MED based pressure targets relevant to ecosystem approach;
- Consultation process towards reaching consensus on the list of core targets to meet the Ecological Objectives successfully facilitated and followed;
- Pollution and Litter Cluster of Correspondence Group work facilitated;
- Draft proposal on GES and targets (for those that data would be available and subject to agreement by the Contracting Parties) prepared, submitted to the EcAp Coordination Group; and,
- Final proposal prepared for approval by MAP focal point before submission to the Contracting Parties meeting in 2013.

1.4 Ultimate result of services

The consultant's support will facilitate the process towards an agreement on definition of related GES and targets through consultations, and, contribute to the preparation of relevant documents and reports to UNEP/MAP bodies.

1.5 Legislative authority reference

- UNEP/MAP Programme of work 2012-2013;
- Decision IG.20/4 "Implementing MAP ecosystem approach roadmap"; and,
- The activities detailed in the project document of the "EcAp MED - Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (EA) in the Mediterranean by the Contracting parties in the context of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols", approved by EU in April 2012. (The implementation of the programme of work on the Ecosystem Approach has been supported by EU through DG Environment, which falls under the Project of the ENRTP Strategic Cooperation Agreement (SCA) between UNEP and EU.).

1.6 Title and identification number of programme / project

"EcAp MED - Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (EA) in the Mediterranean by the Contracting parties in the context of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols", ECL-2322-2G70-2664-1210.

1.7 Duration

The consultancy services will be provided in part-time basis. Total duration of the consultancy is 25 man/day over a period of 12 months of Correspondence Group work, starting upon signature of the Contract.

2. Funding

ECL-2322-2G70-2664-1210

Indicative level of remuneration

The consultancy services will be at P3 level. Total duration of the consultancy is 25 man/day over a period of 12 months of Correspondence Group work, starting upon signature of the Contract.

3. Travel involved

Travel will be undertaken in accordance with the needs identified in the course of project implementation in line with the work plan and upon written approval (authorization). The consultant will follow the UNEP travel guidelines for travel arrangements (where the cheapest economy class and most direct routes should be adopted). The Official duty station will be considered as Consultant's town of residence. Itineraries will be determined from the consultant's town of residence to the identified meeting venue. The travels will be subject to adjustment upon the clarification of the town of residence of the selected consultant, the mission to countries and approval of UNEP/MAP administration. Travel is covered separately.

Travel will be organized by Substantive Office Selected candidate

4. Workplan

#	Outputs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	The Working Document on GES and targets prepared for consideration of Pollution and Litter Cluster of Correspondence Group (5 days)												
2	Consultation process facilitated and followed (5 days)												
3	Pollution and Litter Cluster of Correspondence Group work facilitated (5 days)												
4	Draft proposal on GES and targets prepared, submitted to the EcAp Coordination Group (5 days)												
5	Final proposal prepared for approval by MAP focal point before submission to the Contracting Parties meeting in 2013 (5 days)												

Installments

- Upon completion of # 1 of workplan – 25%
- Upon completion of # 2, 3, and 4 of workplan – 50%
- Upon completion of # 5 of workplan – 25%

Reporting lines

The contractor will report to EcAp-MED Project Manager and UNEP/MAP Programme Officer, under the general guidance of the Executive Secretary.

To apply, please submit the following documents on or before 23 November 2012, by email to sylvie.fortin@unepmap.gr with cc to natalie@unepmap.gr:

1. CV in the United Nations standard form – [Personal History Form - P11](#) (and [Employment Record Supplementary sheet](#), if needed),
2. academic certificates,
3. the completed "[Fields of Expertise](#)" form,
4. any other document which is relevant

All applications will be treated with the strictest confidentiality.