

Terms of Reference (ToR)

for a Consultant to support the formulation of a Guidance Document, on how to reflect changes in hydrographical conditions in relevant assessments in the framework of EcAp-MED project and Decision IG. 21/3 of COP 18

Request for: Consultant Individual contractor

Organizational Unit: Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan; Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)

1. Purpose (justification for request)

1.1 Explain the requirement for a consultant / individual

The 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP18), targets for achieving Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal zone by 2020 were adopted. In addition, through Decision IG. 21/3 (the so called "COP18 EcAp Decision"), the Contracting Parties also agreed to design an Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme by the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP19), and mandated the Secretariat to carry out an assessment of the state of the Mediterranean environment in 2017 (UNEP/MAP, 2013).

A specific timeline was adopted in the COP18 EcAp Decision, on how to develop an Integrated Mediterranean Monitoring and Assessment Programme by the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties and how to implement it, following the 6 year EcAp cycles structure (with second EcAp cycle in the Mediterranean of 2016-2021) and with giving additional flexibility and time for capacity building during the initial phase of implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (2016-2019).

In order to meet the timeline set out in the COP18 EcAp Decision, an Integrated Correspondence Group (Integrated EcAp CorGest) Meeting was held in February 2014, that gave specific recommendations for the future Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme, agreed on a list of common indicators, which would form the basis of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.390/4). With regard to the Ecological Objective 7 (EO7) Hydrographical conditions the indicator 'Location and extend of habitats impacted directly by hydrographic alterations' was agreed as a common indicator. The Correspondence Groups on Monitoring (CORMONs) started their work, with the aim to further specify the common indicators, discuss methodologies and parameters related to them and as such form the core of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme.

Three CORMON Meetings took place in between May-July 2014, on Pollution and Litter; on Coastal Ecosystems and Landscapes and Hydrographical conditions; and, on Biodiversity and Fisheries. These meetings provided important guidance on and input to the draft Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Guidance of the Secretariat.

The 4th EcAp Coordination Group took place in October 2014 and it provided further comments, suggestions, political guidance on the Draft Monitoring and Assessment Methodological Guidance (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.401/3) and mandated informal online expert groups, with the leadership of volunteering Contracting Parties, to address the outstanding monitoring and assessment questions, with the overall aim to be able to meet the timeline of the COP18 EcAp Decision and agree on an Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme by COP19.

Following the above meetings, an Integrated Correspondence Group on Monitoring Meeting (Integrated CORMON) took place in 30 March-1 April 2015, which discussed the Main elements of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme.

In relation to EO7 (Hydrographical conditions), the key recommendation of this Integrated CORMON was to mandate the Secretariat to develop by the next EcAp Coordination Group (September 2015) a Guidance Document, on how to reflect changes in hydrographical conditions in relevant assessments (such as Environmental Impact Assessments).

The above described EcAp process and meetings have been greatly supported by the EcAp-MED EU funded project, which also undertakes currently an EcAp Pilot in the area of land-use change.

During the last Steering Committee Meeting of the EcAp-MED project (17 April 2015), it has been agreed, that the EcAp Pilot's scope and timeline will be extended, until September 2015 with the undertaking of one additional activity, ie the development of a Guidance Document on how to reflect changes in hydrographical conditions in relevant assessments (such as Environmental Impact Assessments) related to this common indicator within EO7.

This consultancy agreement Terms of Reference aims to follow-up on the above mentioned mandate of the Integrated CORMON and of the agreed updated Work Programme on the need to develop a Guidance Document on how to reflect changes in hydrographical conditions in relevant assessments (such as Environmental Impact Assessments).

Objective of the assignment

The aim of the assignment is to provide scientific, analytical support in developing until the EcAp Coordination Group of September 2015 a Guidance Document on how to reflect changes in hydrographical conditions in relevant assessments

TASKS

Preparing an analysis of different relevant assessments and current methodologies available for taking into account changes in hydrographical conditions:

- *Undertake an analysis of the relevant assessments, which could either be used as a model or benefit from a Guidance Document on how to reflect changes in hydrographical conditions in relevant assessments (such as Environmental Impact Assessments, Maritime Spatial Planning, Integrated Coastal Zone Management).*
- *Identify existing Guidances, if any, on how to reflect changes in hydrographical conditions in relevant assessments.*

Preparing and consulting the main elements of a Guidance Document on how to reflect changes in hydrographical conditions in relevant assessments:

- *Organize and carry out interviews and consultations with UNEP MAP components, members of the Informal Online Working Group on Coast and Hydrography (if established) and relevant experts, policy-makers with the aim to specify in detail the gaps in current assessments, as well as the concrete steps/elements of such analyses, in particular within EIAs.*

- *Based on the above analyses, propose the major elements of the Guidance Document on how to reflect changes in hydrographical conditions in relevant assessments.*

Formulating a Guidance Document on how to reflect changes in hydrographical conditions in relevant assessments:

- *Based on the above consultations, analyses, draft the Guidance Document on how to reflect changes in hydrographical conditions in relevant assessments;*
- *Present the draft Guidance Document on how to reflect changes in hydrographical conditions in relevant assessments, to the EcAp Coordination Group in September 14-15, 2015 in Athens.*

1.2 Qualifications / special skills or knowledge

- *Advanced University degree in a field related to the marine environment, such as environmental sciences, chemical, physical or biological oceanography, biology;*
- *Skilled in the use of computer and in the statistical analysis of scientific data;*
- *Very good command of both written and spoken English. Knowledge of French is an asset;*
- *At least 5 years of professional working experience, including minimum of 3 years of proven experience in hydrography related work;*
- *Working experience with the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessments, other relevant Assessments.*

1.3 Outputs (Final results)

- ***The draft Guidance Document on how to reflect changes in hydrographical conditions in relevant assessments is formulated and presented to the Informal Online Working Group on Coast and Hydrography and to PAP/RAC (by 10 August);***
- *The Guidance Document on how to reflect changes in hydrographical conditions in relevant assessments is presented to the EcAp Coordination Group meeting (14-15 September 2015) and relevant changes made (if needed) according to the conclusions of the meeting.*

1.4 Ultimate result of services

The consultant's work will deliver progress in relation to Decision IG 21/3 of COP18 and will be presented at all relevant UNEP MAP decision-making bodies, in line with the table on timeline of the EcAp-MED Steering Committee agreed Work Plan (17 April).

Legislative authority reference

- UNEP/MAP Programme of work 2014-2015; Decision IG.21/3; the EcAp-MED Project Steering Committee approved 2015 Work Plan and Budget.
- adopted by the Contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention”.

1.5 Title and identification number of programme / project

UNEP/MAP “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.

1.6 Duration

The consultancy services will be provided for 50 working days spread over 3 months.

2. Funding

ECL-2322-2G70-2664

Indicative level of remuneration

The assignment will be remunerated by 16.675 Euro in total, including travel expenses (see point 3 below). The following installments are envisaged:

1st installment: after signature of the contract; 6,000 €

2nd installment: after submission of the draft Guidance document (10 August 2015); 6,000 €

3rd installment: after submission of the Guidance Document, presentation at the EcAp Coordination Group meeting and insertion of changes/additions if needed according to the conclusions of the meeting (25 September 2015); 4,675 €.

3. Travel involved

For the elaboration of the Guidance document one mission to the EcAp Coordination Group (foreseen to take place in 14-15 September in Athens). The expenses for this meeting (travel and per diem) will be covered by PAP/RAC and are not included in the overall sum for this assignment.

4. Workplan (Outputs/Month)

Outputs	1	2	3	4
<i>Undertake an analysis of the relevant assessments, which could either be used as a model or benefit from a Guidance Document on how to reflect changes in hydrographical conditions in relevant assessments (such as Environmental Impact Assessments, Maritime Spatial Planning, Integrated Coastal Zone Management National Plans). 7 man/days</i>				
<i>Identify existing Guidances, if any, on how to reflect changes in hydrographical conditions in relevant assessments. 8 man/days</i>				
<i>Organize and carry out interviews and consultations with PAP/RAC and relevant experts, policy-makers 5 man/days</i>				
<i>Based on the above analyses, propose the major</i>				

<i>elements of the Guidance Document on how to reflect changes in hydrographical conditions in relevant assessments, in cooperation with PAP/RAC 15 man/day</i>				
<i>Based on the above consultations, analyses, draft the Guidance Document on how to reflect changes in hydrographical conditions in relevant assessments 12 man/days</i>				
<i>Present the draft Guidance Document on how to reflect changes in hydrographical conditions in relevant assessments to the EcAp Coordination Group in 14-15 September 2015, Athens 3man/days</i>				

Payment

Following PAP/RAC rules (recommendation to have two or three installments, with first payment at signature of the contract, second payment after the Main elements delivered, third at end of contract)

Reporting lines

The consultant will work under the direct supervision of the PAP/RAC Deputy Director and under the overall guidance of the EcAp project officer.
Cleared by (PAP/RAC Director).

Signature

Date