



Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness project

Request for proposal and Terms of Reference for a study on

**Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas financial needs
assessment & management effectiveness monitoring**

October 18th 2018,

Point of contact rrenoux@m2pa.org

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

October 18th 2018,

Request for Proposals GEF-2018-1 : Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas financial needs assessment & management effectiveness monitoring

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Association for the Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPAs (hereinafter referred to as “M2PA”), is issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for **Marine Protected Areas financial needs assessment & management effectiveness monitoring**. The attached RFP and Terms of reference contain all the necessary information for interested Offerors.

The goal of our organization is to establish a conservation trust fund (CTF) dedicated to Mediterranean MPAs.

The organization benefits from financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Le Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) to design the most appropriate institutional, legal and financial structure to manage this CTF and to fund pilot MPAs in Mediterranean countries with an initial focus on projects in Morocco, Tunisia and Albania.

This service is funded by the GEF project executed by M2PA and entitled “Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness project”.

Consulting firms (Consultants), (Offerors), should indicate their interest in submitting a proposal for the anticipated agreement by sending an email indicating their intention to Mr Renoux at rrenoux@m2pa.org by midnight (CET Time) on October 26th 2018. Interested Offerors can submit their questions to contact@m2pa.org.

All offerors are expected to exercise the highest standards of conduct in preparing, submitting and if selected, eventually carrying out the specified work.

Overview

According to the 2016 findings on Mediterranean MPAs the 1,231 MPAs and OECMs (*Other Effective Conservation Measures*) now cover 7.14% of the Mediterranean through a large variety of conservation designations, with national designations accounting for only 1.6% and no-go, no-take or no-fishing zones for another 0.04%¹.

Looking at the qualitative aspects of the current system of MPAs and OECMs, many sites are not actively managed and are characterized by insufficient regulations and enforcement. Little is also known about the management measures in place and if those measures are effective at maintaining or restoring the biodiversity they aim to protect. It appears that there are insufficient human and financial means allocated to marine management, which ultimately compromises successful conservation.

MPA managers currently lack adequate technical and financial resources, particularly in the area of operating costs. There is an urgent need to provide these management organizations with long-term financial support in synergy with governmental subsidies and short-term project funding.

Following a strategic study in this area, a trust fund was identified as the most suitable funding mechanism. The initiative to set up a sustainable financing mechanism for Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) was launched jointly by France, Monaco and Tunisia in October 2013 in Ajaccio, during the high-level session of the International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC3). It received political support from the countries bordering the Mediterranean, under the framework of the Barcelona Convention and the Union for the Mediterranean.

To lead this initiative the government of Monaco, France, Tunisia and the Prince Albert II Foundation created the Association for the sustainable financing of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (M2PA), a Monaco based organization with the objective of establishing a *conservation trust fund* (CTF) dedicated to Mediterranean MPAs.

The Association is a cooperation platform. It is open to a) States that have confirmed their commitment to implementing an ambitious policy to support MPAs and explicitly shown their support for the initiative (to date, Albania, France, Monaco, Morocco, Tunisia and Spain); and to b) regional organizations involved in the conservation of Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems (currently including the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC), Network of MPAs Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), WWF-Mediterranean, the IUCN Mediterranean Programme, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation), Conservatoire du Littoral (a French public agency for the preservation of the coastline), Small Mediterranean islands Initiative and the Oceanographic Institute of Monaco.

The organization benefits, inter alia, from financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Le Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) to design the most appropriate institutional, legal and financial structure to manage this CTF and to fund pilot MPAs in Mediterranean countries with an initial

¹ MedPAN et. al. 2016. The 2016 status of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean : Main findings. Brochure MedPAN & UN Environment/MAP - SPA/RAC

focus on projects in Morocco, Tunisia and Albania.

Over a 12-month period (July 2017/July 2018), two MPAs have been funded as pilot sites : Kuriat Island in Tunisia and Al Hoceima National Park in Morocco.

Scope of work

The completion of this study will provide two critical pieces of information needed to appropriately design and manage the CTF for Mediterranean MPAs. First, the financial needs of current and potential participating MPAs will be assessed and the results will inform, among others, the capitalization targets and the financial structure of the CTF. And second, the management effectiveness baseline of MPAs will be established and used to monitor and evaluate the contribution of the CTF in enhancing MPA management effectiveness once the CTF is fully operational and is granting to MPAs.

Since the number of MPAs in the region is relatively large and due to the scope of this project, not all the Mediterranean MPAs will be assessed as part of this output. Consequently, priority will be given to MPAs in Albania, Morocco and Tunisia. These countries are already members of M2PA and benefit from institutional and financial support. The M2PA Action Plan (2018-2019) targets 3 MPAs assessment in Morocco, 4 in Tunisia and 3 in Albania. covering 106,100 hectares)*.

Total Area and Percentage of coastal and Marine Protected Areas in Project Countries

Countries	EEZ Areas (km ²)*	TOTAL	
		Area (km ²)	%
Albania	11,151.96	181.45	1.63
Morocco	18,778.41	376.38	2.00
Tunisia	100,550.94	1,020.24	1.01
TOTAL	130,481.31	1,578.07	1.21

* Estimated using the World Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) V8 developed by the Flanders Marine Institute

* See maps of Marine Protected Areas in appendixes at the end of the document.

In addition, MPAs will be assessed in other additional GEF/FFEM eligible countries: such as Algeria, Lebanon, Montenegro or Turkey. As needed, other MPAs will be included in the assessments to improve representativeness of the whole region.

Altogether 20 MPAs is targeted by this service. The GIS database MAPAMED (Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean) administered by the MedPAN association and RAC / SPA gathers information on marine protected areas of the Mediterranean.

Information can be found on <http://rac-spa.org/mapamed>

There are 2 main components for this service:

COMPONENT 1: Financial needs assessment of MPAs

Over the last decade, several studies on the financial needs for Mediterranean MPAs have been conducted. However, the large number of countries assessed, the heterogeneity of situations and management ambitions, as well as the diversity of conservation categories complicate the analysis of the needs, available resources, and funding gaps for Mediterranean MPAs. For instance, the 2006 IUCN assessment on the sustainable funding sources for protected areas in the Mediterranean² underlines the difficulty in obtaining reliable and comparable data on resources and needs for managing protected areas, and thereby to accurately assess the funding needs.

In a study commissioned by MedPAN in 2012 and directed by Barry Spergel from the Conservation Finance Alliance³, a first attempt to estimate the total financial requirements for Mediterranean MPAs was conducted. This study estimated that between €7M and €12M (USD 8.1M – USD 13.9M) per year are needed to reduce the gap in spending on recurrent costs of management of protected areas between the European and non-European Mediterranean countries.

Another assessment by Binet et al. (2015)⁴ estimated that the financial gap between needs and available resources to achieve optimal management of MPAs in the Mediterranean would be around €700M (USD 813M) per year.

However, these results should be taken with caution as they each use different methodologies and form conclusions based on divergent time periods. Moreover, the results are based on extrapolations and do not factor the effective capacity of states and local actors to operationalize these management objectives.

The aim of the Association for the sustainable financing of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (M2PA) is to fund operational running costs such as the ones listed below:

- *the proper functioning and sustainability of governance processes and bodies;*
- *field presence and patrolling;*
- *the effective integration of the MPA within its territory;*
- *scientific monitoring activities to improve knowledge of the site and ecosystems status and trends for their conservation and management*
- *environmental restoration activities*
- *maintenance of equipment and facilities*

² Arturo López y Sira Jiménez. 2006. Sources de financement durables pour les aires protégées de la Région Méditerranéenne. UICN, Gland, Suisse et Cambridge, Royaume-Uni, Fundación Biodiversidad, Madrid, Espagne et Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional du Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y de Cooperación, Madrid, Espagne. 144 pages.

³ Spergel B., 2012. Conservation Finance Alliance – Med PAN, Towards a long-term sustainable funding mechanism for MPAs in the Mediterranean.

⁴ Binet, T., Diazabakana, A., Hernandez, S. 2015. Financement durable des Aires Marines Protégées en Méditerranée: analyse financière. Vertigo Lab, MedPAN, RAC/SPA, WWF Méditerranée. 118 pp.

Objectives

The outcome of the study shall:

- assist in refining the capitalization targets of the CTF
- articulate a strategy for financial and resource mobilization
- suggest the appropriate grant amounts to be given to pilot MPA sites

The service will provide the following deliverables:

1. Estimate the 5-year financial needs of maintaining “core management” activities (comparing available resources and projected outflows) for a maximum of 20 Mediterranean MPAs. Based on management plans (where available), the study will highlight the different sources of funding (national/donors/self-financing) in order to better target M2PA’s financial support.
2. Based on the financial need assessment, draft a funding request template to be used by M2PA beneficiaries to apply for M2PA support. This template will also serve as financial reporting tool by M2PA to track financial expenses done by the beneficiaries throughout the grant.
3. Develop a tailor made and a user-friendly tool that can be used by MPAs managers to assess and update their financial needs
4. Based on case studies, prepare, facilitate and conduct a capacity building session for MPA managers on MPA financing

** Core management activities are defined in MPAs’ management plans as those needed to guarantee a minimum level of efficient management of the MPAs.*

Outputs

1. **Financial needs assessment for a maximum of 20 MPAs in GEF/FFEM eligible countries¹** covering a 5-year period and presenting recurrent cost of management, different sources of funding and M2PA financial support needed
2. **A ready to use and tailor-made business plan tool/template** that could be used by Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas managers to update their financial needs
3. **M2PA funding request and financial report templates**
4. **Development of training material and contents of a training session to enhance MPA managers capacity** regarding financial needs assessment and business plan – a 1 / 2 days training to be organized last quarter 2019 (back to back with MedPAN regional training workshop)

¹List of potential targeted countries : Morocco, Tunisia, Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Montenegro, Turkey.

COMPONENT 2 : Management effectiveness baseline and management effectiveness monitoring

A CTF should have a clear focus and the priority should be to identify whether the initiatives or activities funded will actually have a conservation impact. It does not matter how successful a CTF is in financial terms unless it is funding activities based on sound science and its conservation outcomes are rigorously assessed.

To be successful and, therefore, to attract political, financial and partnering support, a CTF must demonstrate evidence of its conservation results.

Thus, the project will conduct a management effectiveness baseline analysis of current participating MPAs and provide a custom-made tool to monitor management effectiveness progress and the implementation of activities throughout the M2PA financial support.

There are several available tools to assess management effectiveness, among them the Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management (RAPPAM)⁵, the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)⁶, the Score Card to Assess Progress in Achieving Management Effectiveness Goals for MPAs⁷ and the Guide for quick evaluation of management in Mediterranean MPAs⁸.

Objectives

The service will provide the following deliverables :

- 1- A desk review of the tools mentioned above and an analysis for each tool will be conducted to select the most appropriate methodology for this assessment. The tool designed has to be adapted and tailored to MPA in the Mediterranean context with limited management capacity. The tool developed will be tailored to the needs of the CTF and specific enough to monitor progress according to M2PA funding.
- 2- Management effectiveness baselines for a maximum of 20 MPAs will be assessed in GEF/FFEM eligible countries¹, which will be used to measure management changes in the future and CTF efficiency. **MPAs targeted in component 2 will be the same MPAs assessed for the component 1 of the service.** Those pilot sites will include MPAs in Morocco, Tunisia, and in Albania, totalling 106,100 hectares. This assessment will consider the existing management plan of those sites (where available).

⁵ Ervin, J. 2003. WWF: Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management (RAPPAM) Methodology. WWF Gland, Switzerland.

⁶ World Bank and WWF. 2007. Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool. Reporting Progress at Protected Area Sites: Second Edition.

⁷ Staub, F. and Hatzios, M.E. 2003. Score Card to Assess Progress in Achieving Management Effectiveness Goals for MPAs. The World Bank, Washington, DC, USA.

⁸ Tempesta M., Otero M. 2013. Guide for quick evaluation of management in Mediterranean MPAs. WWF Italy, IUCN. 68 pp.

- 3- Based on the management effectiveness monitoring tool, draft a reporting template that will be used by M2PA as technical report to track progress and activities implementation by the beneficiaries throughout M2PA financial funding. The selection of a manageable number of key indicators is essential.
- 4- Capacity building/training sessions: findings of the assessments will be presented to key stakeholders and MPAs managers during a feedback workshop at the beginning of the second year of the project (last quarter 2019).

¹List of potential targeted countries: Morocco, Tunisia, Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Montenegro, Turkey.

Outputs

1. Custom-made score card to assess and monitor MPA management effectiveness
2. Baselines management effectiveness established for 20 MPAs maximum
3. Management effectiveness monitoring tool as reporting template
4. Based on the assessment done (case studies) development of training material and contents of a training session on management effectiveness– 1 or 2 days training to be organized last quarter 2019 (back to back with MedPAN regional training workshop)

Key elements for the methodology

Targeted countries : Morocco, Tunisia, Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Montenegro, Turkey, priority will be given to countries located in the southern and eastern shore of the Mediterranean

1 field visit/per country targeted

1 regional capacity building workshop gathering Mediterranean MPA managers

Approximative maximum budget

Maximum \$ 9,000 / € 8,000 to define tailored tools for MPAs financial needs assessment and management effectiveness score card

Maximum \$ 50,000 / € 40,000 inclusive of all taxes (including VAT) to assess financial needs and management effectiveness for 10 MPAs in Tunisia/Morocco/Albania – 4 000 € per MPAs for the 2 components of the service

Maximum \$ 50,000 / € 40,000 inclusive of all taxes (including VAT) to assess financial needs and management effectiveness for 10 MPAs in other Mediterranean countries - 4 000 € per MPAs for the 2 components of the service

In addition to the fees, this budget includes expert mission trips and administrative costs (telecommunications, secretariat...) and costs of local experts for data collection on pilot sites and countries.

Study steering and responsibilities

This study is under the responsibility of M2PA.

The supervision of the consultancy will be done jointly by an Advisory Committee formed of key members of the M2PA initiative and the coordinator.

Supplied items

M2PA will facilitate contacts with MPA managers and other relevant organizations needed to conduct this study. The non-exhaustive bibliography listed below will be given to the consultant.

- Financing MPA local survey template by Vertigo Lab for MedPAN
- MedPAN Business Tool
- CFA toolkit and other CTF tools
- Guide for quick evaluation of the management of Mediterranean MPAs
- World Bank Score card
- Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool

Useful links

<http://www.rac-spa.org/>

<http://medpan.org/>

Format of deliverables

All documents will be submitted **in English and French**. Logos to be included will be provided by M2PA.

Preliminary calendar

The study will be conducted in 3 steps.

Step 1 Kick-off meeting

The final calendar will be set up during the kick off meeting. A list of targeted MPAs will be presented, discussed and approved.

Step 2 : Service in Morocco, Albania and Tunisia

10 MPAS targeted in Morocco, Albania and Tunisia to be assessed between December 2018 to February 2019.

Final outputs have to be delivered before end of March 2019.

Draft versions for comments need to be delivered in advance to guarantee a 10-day period for comments.

Step 3 : Service in other targeted countries

10 additional MPAS targeted in Algeria, Lebanon, Montenegro and Turkey to be assessed from June 2019 to September 2019.

Final outputs have to be delivered before end of October 2019. Draft versions for comments need to be delivered in advance to guarantee a 10 days period for comments.

The regional capacity building workshop will be organized last quarter 2019 (tbc).

Bids

Bids must be emailed to Romain Renoux rrenoux@m2pa.org by **November 16th, 2018 by midnight (CET time)**. Bids have to be signed by an authorized representative of the bidder. Proposals and questions can be submitted in French or English languages.

The consultancy will be executed by an expert with in-depth knowledge of MPA management issues and financial needs assessment in conservation and protected areas management in the Mediterranean.

The candidate must submit technical and financial budget specifying the countries and MPAs targeted. A breakdown of fees and reimbursable expenses must be presented in the budget.

Desired Profiles:

- At least 10 years of relevant experience are required
- Expert (s) in support of protected areas (and in particular the Marine Protected Areas) – ideally with a proven experience as MPA manager(s)
- Expert (s) in financing mechanism for protected areas
- Expert (s) in training

Each application must include:

- CV (s) of the expert (s) and references (related to each of the components of the study) especially in the Mediterranean
- The proposed methodology
- The completion schedule (specific to each objective)
- The bid estimated budget detailing the allocation of funds to different tasks and for each Objective and including, without limitation, personnel, travel, communication and logistics, and all equipment and / or supplies.

The candidate (consisting of one or more experts) must answer all the objectives stated in the brief. The candidate may subcontract one of the objectives to another provider (consisting of one or more experts). In this case, the applicant must submit a CV and references of the proposed subcontractors.

Selection criteria

Understanding of the scope of work, issues and ToRs (5 pts)

Methodology and tools provided (5 pts)

Expertise and Relevant experience (5 pts)

Cost (5 pts)

A selection panel will evaluate the quotes/proposals received in relation to the stated criteria above.

After the evaluation has been completed M2PA will notify successful and unsuccessful bidders. A fixed-price contract will be established with the successful bidder in Euros or US dollars.

Chronological List of Proposal Events

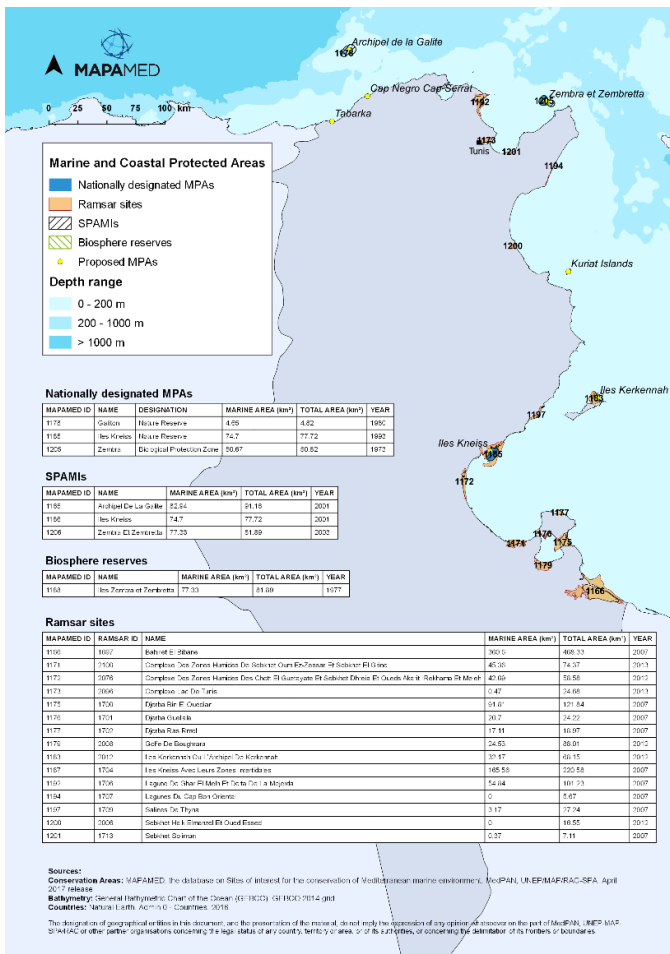
RFP published	October 19 th 2018
Deadline for written questions	November 1 st 2018
Proposal due date	November 16 th 2018

Contact : rrenoux@m2pa.org

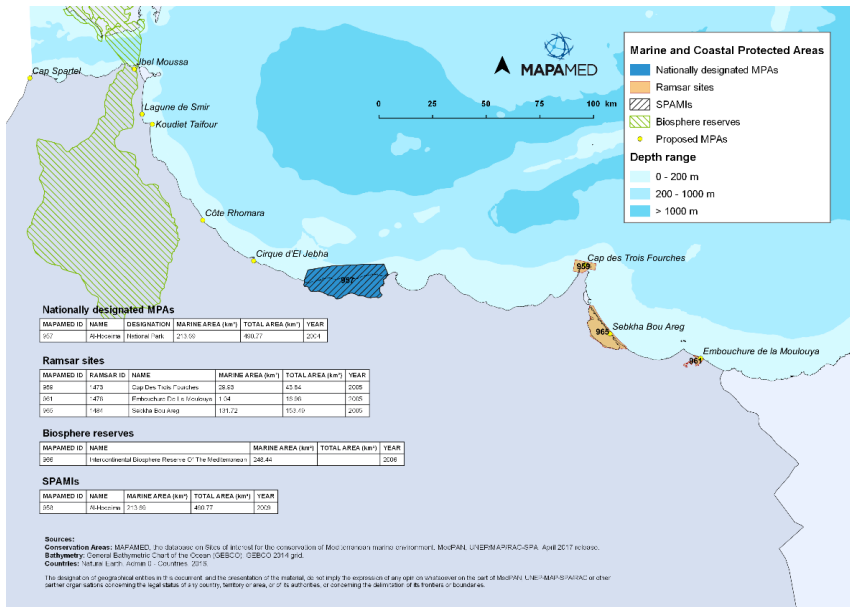
Appendices

Maps below are from the GIS database MAPAMED (Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean) that gathers information on marine protected areas of the Mediterranean, and more generally on sites of interest to the conservation of the marine environment. It is developed and jointly administered by the MedPAN association and RAC / SPA.

Tunisia



Morocco



Albania

