



**CALL FOR CONSULTANCY N°21/2022\_SPA/RAC \_ SIDA Adriatic**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY  
SERVICES**

**“Application of the Nested Environmental status Assessment Tool  
(NEAT) for GES assessment in the Adriatic”**

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

## 1. BACKGROUND

The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) was created in 1985 and established in Tunis through a decision of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention). It intervenes within the framework of the Action Plan for the Mediterranean – Barcelona Convention (UN Environment/MAP). SPA/RAC's main mission is to assist the contracting Parties in implementing their obligations under Barcelona Convention Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity with main aim to contribute to the protection, conservation, and sustainable management of Mediterranean coastal and marine areas of special cultural and natural value and of threatened and endangered species

Based on the Regional Seas Indicator Monitoring Framework, UNEA resolution on conservation and sustainable management of peatlands ([UNEA 4/16](#)), as well as the [UN Decade on ecosystem restoration](#), the project, entitled "SIDA project in the Adriatic region", aiming towards integrated ecosystem assessment and ecosystems management approach in the Adriatic, has the objective to facilitate an overall quantitative assessment of IMAP Common Indicators (CIs) that correspond to UNEP Regional Seas Indicators and, to this aim, test integration tools/ assessment approaches in line with

- Decision IG.25/19 on the UNEP/MAP 2022-2023 Program of Work and Budget (Antalya, Turkey, 7-10 December 2021);
- Decision IG.22/7 on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016);
- Decision IG.23/06 on the 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017);
- Decision IG.24/7 on the Roadmap and Needs Assessment for the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019);

The Nested Environmental Status Assessment Tool (NEAT) is a pioneering tool and software developed specifically to assess the state of marine environment. NEAT is primarily targeted to the good environmental status (GES) assessment under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) of the European Union (EU), but it is applicable for other similar assessments. It uses nested hierarchies of pre-defined spatial assessment units (SAU) and habitats within these units, combined with ecosystem components (such as fish, benthic fauna etc.) and associated indicators. The final NEAT values are calculated as a weighted mean of all indicator values assigned to certain SAU or combination of SAU and habitats or ecosystem components. NEAT has already been applied at various scales in the framework of different projects. However, in order for NEAT to function, it is of vital importance to feed it with adequate quantitative data.

## 2. OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

The aim of this call for consultancy is to assess the GES of the biodiversity IMAP CI using the NEAT in the Adriatic sub-region of the Mediterranean.

## 3. TASKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN

The consultant will be in charge of the following tasks:

- 1) Prepare a detailed work plan and timetable;
- 2) Apply the NEAT to make an assessment for each CI in collaboration with SPA/RAC for E01

- and EO2 (depending on the sufficiency of data<sup>1</sup> and GES definitions)
- i. Test the NEAT tool in an integrated way within the same cluster for biodiversity (if feasible);
  - ii. Assess GES as appropriate ensuring integration of CIs within Ecological Objectives (EO1 and EO2);
  - iii. In case the NEAT application for GES assessment is not possible, provide necessary explanations and report the gaps and limitations of the use of NEAT and propose another adequate assessment tool and test it for the corresponded EOs;
- 3) Analyse the methods used for GES assessments and report the key findings, including determining:
- i. the minimum quantity of data necessary for successful application of the tools/approaches selected for testing assessment of GES;
  - ii. whether and at what level integration is meaningful so that the status of GES can be assessed and;
  - iii. whether pressures can be identified at the appropriate level to inform targeted measures and actions.
- 4) Determine the potential for applying GES assessment tools/approaches to other parts of the Mediterranean when appropriate; and the need for adjustment of the software of the applied GES assessment tools to serve to IMAP purposes.

#### 4. DELIVERABLES & TIMELINE

Deliverables		Deadlines
<p><b><i>Deliverable 1:</i></b> Work plan and Timeline</p> <p>Production of 1 document (word) detailing the work plan and timeline.</p>	Detailed work plan and timeline	One week after the contract signature
<p><b><i>Deliverable 2:</i></b> Report on the application of the NEAT for GES assessment on biodiversity with recommendations for the integrated assessment as appropriate in the selected pilot sites</p> <p>Production of 1 document (word)</p>	<p>Apply the NEAT to make an assessment for each CI of IMAP biodiversity cluster (depending on sufficiency of data and GES definitions)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Apply the NEAT tool to make an assessment first for each CI.</li> <li>ii. Test the NEAT tool in an integrated way within the same cluster for biodiversity (if feasible).</li> <li>iii. Assess GES as appropriate ensuring integration of CIs within Ecological Objectives (EO1 and EO2)</li> </ol> <p>In case the GES assessment is not possible, report necessary explanations and limitations of the use of NEAT tool and propose another adequate assessment tool and test it for the corresponded Eos.</p>	Two months from the date of contract signature
<p><b><i>Deliverable 3:</i></b> Report analysing the methods used</p>	Evaluate the methods employed for GES assessment and reveal the	3 months from the date of the contract signature

<sup>1</sup> Sets of data concerning EOs 1 and 2 are collated by another expert and will be provided for the aim of this consultancy

for GES assessments and report of the key findings  Production of 1 document (word)	significant results including analysis for the following details: i. The minimum quantity of data necessary for successful application of the tools/approaches selected for testing assessment of GES; ii. Whether and at what level integration is meaningful so that the status of GES can be assessed, by building on results of NEAT testing for IMAP Pollution Cluster and; iii. whether pressures can be analysed versus GES assessment findings to inform targeted measures and actions.	
<b><u>Deliverable 4:</u></b> Report investigating the possibility of applying GES assessment tools/approaches to other parts of the Mediterranean where applicable and the requirement for software adjustments to fulfill IMAP objectives.  Production of a (Word format) document in English	Determine the potential for applying GES assessment tools/approaches to other parts of the Mediterranean when appropriate; and the need for adjustment of the software of the applied GES assessment tools to serve to IMAP purposes.	4 months from the date of the contract signature

## 5. SUPERVISION AND COLLABORATION

The consultant will work under the direct supervision of the SPA/RAC IMAP Officer and the overall supervision of the SPA/RAC director.

## 6. TIME DURATION OF THE CONTRACT

The time duration of this contract is 4 months starting from the date of its signature.

The estimated number of net working days to implement the tasks and deliverables of this contract are 25 effective working days (WD). They are estimated as follows:

<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Estimated working days</b>
<b>Deliverable 1:</b> Work plan and timeline	2
<b>Deliverable 2:</b> Report on the application of the NEAT for the GES assessment on biodiversity with recommendations for the integrated assessment as appropriate in the selected pilot sites.	13
<b>Deliverable 3:</b> Report analysing the methods used for GES assessments and report the key findings	5
<b>Deliverable 4:</b> Report investigating the possibility of applying GES assessment tools/approaches to other regions of the Mediterranean where applicable and the	5

requirement for software adjustments to fulfill IMAP objectives.	
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## **7. SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OF CONSULTANTS**

The consultant should meet the following criteria:

- Advanced University degree in marine biodiversity/ environment, environmental assessment, integrated coastal zone management, hydrography, oceanography etc.;
- Advanced experience in sub-regional and/or regional Monitoring and assessments of IMAP CIs related to marine biodiversity;
- Relevant experience in GES assessment using the NEAT;
- Good knowledge and working experience of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) process /Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP);
- Familiarity and good knowledge of the EU MSFD (2008/56/EC; 2010/477/EU; 2017/848/EU) is an asset;
- Excellent command of English (oral and written) is required.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE CLAUSES**

### **ARTICLE 1 - CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CONSULTANCY**

Are eligible for the call of consultancy: consulting firms or individual consultants.

Individual consultants may associate with each other to form a consultant association to complement their respective areas of expertise, or for other reasons. They must clearly identify the lead consultant, who will be the legal representative of the consultant association. The consultant association cannot exceed two experts.

Consulting firms must propose a lead expert and can be supported by one other expert to complement their respective areas of expertise or for other reasons that need to be specified in the offer.

### **ARTICLE 2 - COMPOSITION AND PRESENTATION OF OFFERS**

The submitted offer must include separately: (i) a technical offer, (ii) administrative documents, and (iii) a financial offer.

The services provided as part of this assignment consist of an overall fixed and non-revisable cost.

#### **2.1. Technical offer**

It must contain:

##### **For individual consultant(s):**

1. A cover letter outlining the consultant's suitability for the job.
2. CV of the expert(s) indicating educational background (including a copy of higher education degrees) as well as experience/references. Particular attention must be paid to the experience in the field of marine studies and environmental conservation in the Mediterranean with a focus on *Experience monitoring and assessment of the IMAP CI related to marine biodiversity, and experience in GES assessment using NEAT*;
3. A methodological note on how to approach and complete the assignment;
4. Planning and detailed time schedule (including a chronogram of intervention of the team in case of more than one expert involved in the offer);

##### **For consultancy firm:**

1. The consulting firm references regarding similar studies (including reference proof certificates);
2. The CV of the experts indicating educational background (including a copy of higher education degrees as well as experience/references; Particular attention must be paid to the experience in the field of marine studies and environmental conservation in the Mediterranean with a focus on *Experience monitoring and assessment of the IMAP CI related to marine biodiversity, and experience in GES assessment using NEAT*. (including reference proof certificates);
3. A methodological note on how they will approach and complete the assignment; and
4. A planning and detailed time schedule (and chronogram of intervention of the team in case of 2 experts involved in the offer).

Applicants are encouraged to send links to references of previous works completed on subjects relevant to the consultancy or share relevant documents by e-mail if those are not accessible online.

The selection process may include interviews (through a teleconferencing platform), as well as a pre-selection phase followed by requests for complementary information / negotiation if required.

#### **2.2. Administrative documents**

It must contain:

**For individual consultant(s):**

1. Document certifying the ability to practice this profession (registration certificate, for example) according to the legislation of their country with the tax number on it.
2. A sworn statement that the bidder is in no situation that could in any way be incompatible with the mission or compromise independence in carrying out the mission.
3. Terms of reference signed (date, signature of the provider at the end of the document).

**For consultancy firm:**

1. A certificate proving that the tenderer is registered in the commercial register, or the equivalent.
2. A tax certificate, valid on the offer submission date, proving that the consulting firm/service provider company has no outstanding tax obligations.
3. A statement delivered by the social security body to which the consulting firm/service provider company is affiliated stating that all dues have been paid and which is valid on the date of submission.
4. A sworn statement of non-bankruptcy.
5. A sworn statement that the consulting firm/service provider company is in no situation that could in any way be incompatible with the mission or compromise independence in carrying out the mission.
6. A sworn statement from each of the team of expert members, who are not staff members, confirming that they are willing to participate in the work team to carry out this mission.
7. The present restricted call for tenders signed (date, signature and stamp of the consulting firm/service provider company at the end of the document).

If the original administrative documents are not in English or French, it should be provided with additional copies translated into English or French by a sworn translator. Should any of the administrative documents be missing, the tenderer will be contacted to complete the missing offer documents within a period of ten (10) days. If after a period of ten (10) days, the documents are still not complete the offer will be eliminated.

**2.3. Financial offer**

The financial offer must be expressed in US Dollars, in both tax-free and all tax-included prices. It should include all the costs connected to the provision of the service

The financial offer should also include the following documents:

- submission letter, using the template attached in Annex 1; and
- the details of the global price using the template in Annex 2.

**ARTICLE 3 - SUBMISSION**

Proposals must be received electronically at the following e-mail address: [car-asp@spa-rac.org](mailto:car-asp@spa-rac.org), before **22 May 2022 11:59 pm UTC+1 (Tunis Time)**.

E-mails should have the following subject:

**Call for consultancy n°21/2022\_SPA/RAC\_ SIDA Adriatic  
"Application of the Nested Environmental status Assessment Tool (NEAT) for GES assessment in  
the Adriatic - Applicant name"**

Proposals received after this deadline will not be considered.

**ARTICLE 4 - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Should questions or need for clarification related to these terms of reference and their content arise, bidders may submit a written request by e-mail to: [car-asp@spa-rac.org](mailto:car-asp@spa-rac.org) ; cc: [mehdi.aissi@spa-rac.org](mailto:mehdi.aissi@spa-rac.org), [samar.kilani@spa-rac.org](mailto:samar.kilani@spa-rac.org) and [asma.yahyaoui@spa-rac.org](mailto:asma.yahyaoui@spa-rac.org) no later than five (5) calendar days before the deadline for the proposal submission.

## **ARTICLE 5 - TERMS OF PAYMENT**

Payment for the mission will be made as follows:

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Instalment of 20 % will be paid upon submission of the deliverables 1 and 2 and after the review and approval of SPA/RAC;
2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of 30% will be paid upon validation of the deliverable 3;
3. The 3<sup>rd</sup> instalment of 40 % will be paid upon validation of the deliverable 4;
4. The 4<sup>th</sup> and last instalment of 10% will be paid after the completion of the work and submission of all its final version deliverables and delivery by SPA/RAC of the final acceptance certificate. This payment is also conditioned by a certificate from SPA/RAC that the service provider has accomplished all its contractual obligations and duties at SPA/RAC satisfaction.

All payments will be made by bank transfer after the receipt of an invoice from the contractor. Payments shall be made to a bank account held by the contractor.

## **ARTICLE 6 - EVALUATION PROCEDURE**

The evaluation will be based on combined technical and financial criteria as follows:

### **6.1. Technical evaluation**

The technical offers will be first examined, while the financial offers remain sealed.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- i. Consulting firm's general experience and technical references (20 points) (if a consulting firm is involved in the tender);
- ii. Experts / Individual consultant(s) capacity and expertise (45 points) (or 65 points if individual consultants are involved in the tender);
- iii. Methodology, organization, and work implementation planning and schedule (35 points).

Criteria		Scoring if a consulting firm is involved in the study		Scoring for individual consultant(s)		
		In the case of one expert involved	In the case of two experts involved	In the case of one expert involved	In the case of two experts involved	
<b>General Experience of the consultancy firm</b>		<i>Experience monitoring and assessment of the IMAP CI related to marine biodiversity. and experience in GES assessment using NEAT.</i>	<b>20 points maximum</b>  (5 points/reference + 2 additional points/study in the Mediterranean)		N/A	
		No similar studies	0 points  (in this case the offer is eliminated)		N/A	
<b>Lead consultant</b>	<b>Experience</b>	<i>Experience monitoring and assessment of the IMAP CI related to marine biodiversity. and experience in GES assessment using NEAT.</i>	<b>40 points maximum</b>  (12 points+ 2 additional points/study in the Mediterranean)	<b>25 points maximum</b>  (6 points/similar study + 2 additional points/study in the Mediterranean)	<b>60 points Maximum</b>  (15 points / study+ 2 additional points/study in the Mediterranean)	<b>45 points Maximum</b>  (12 points / study+ 2 additional points/study in the Mediterranean)
		No similar study	0 points  (in this case the offer is eliminated)	0 points  (in this case the offer is eliminated)	0 points  (in this case the offer is eliminated)	0 points  (in this case the offer is eliminated)
	<b>Diploma</b>	Post-graduate university degree •in marine biodiversity/ environment, environmental assessment, integrated coastal zone	<b>5 points maximum</b>	<b>5 points maximum</b>	<b>5 points maximum</b>	<b>5 points maximum</b>

		management, hydrography, oceanography or related discipline				
		University degree in the above-mentioned fields	3 points	3 points	3 points	3 points
		No university degree in the above-mentioned fields	0 point (in this case the offer is eliminated)	0 point (in this case the offer is eliminated)	0 point (in this case the offer is eliminated)	0 point (in this case the offer is eliminated)
<b>Associate consultant</b>	<b>Experience</b>	<i>Experience monitoring and assessment of the IMAP CI related to marine biodiversity. and experience in GES assessment using NEAT.</i>	<b>N/A</b>	<b><u>10 points maximum</u></b> <i>(4 points/ study + 2 additional points/study in the Mediterranean)</i>	<b>N/A</b>	<b><u>10 points maximum</u></b> <i>(4 points/ study + 2 additional points/study in the Mediterranean)</i>
		No similar study	N/A	0 point	N/A	0 point
	<b>Diploma</b>	Post-graduate university degree •in marine biodiversity/ environment, environmental assessment, integrated coastal zone management, hydrography, oceanography or related discipline	<b>N/A</b>	<b><u>5 points maximum</u></b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b><u>5 points maximum</u></b>
		University degree in the above- mentioned fields	N/A	3 points	<b>N/A</b>	3 points
		No university degree in the above-mentioned fields	<b>N/A</b>	0 point	N/A	0 point
<b>In case the bidder proposes more than one expert per position, each CV will be evaluated separately, and the lowest score given will be the one attributed to that position.</b>						

<b>3- Methodology, time planning schedule, chronogram of intervention of the team</b>	<b>The methodological note evaluation</b>	Methodology clearly presented, well developed, and meets the terms of reference and the study's objectives	<b><u>25 points maximum</u></b> Points awarding can be done in various ways	<b><u>25 points maximum</u></b> Points awarding can be done in various ways
		Methodology more or less well developed but clearly meets the terms of reference and the study's objectives	15 points	15 points
		Methodology poorly developed and meets partially the terms of reference and the study's objectives	8 points	8 points
		Methodology not clearly presented and does not meet the terms of reference and the study's objectives or no methodology presented	0 points	0 points
	<b>Planning and time schedule, and chronogram</b>	Realistic planning clearly presented, coherent with the time schedule considering the requested time for reports validation and chronogram of intervention	<b><u>10 points maximum</u></b>	<b><u>10 points maximum</u></b>
		Realistic planning but more or less well presented, fairly coherent with the time schedule and the chronogram of intervention	5 points	5 points
		Planning unclearly presented, doesn't respect the deadline, or no planning or no time schedule or no chronogram of intervention	0 point	0 point

Any offer that has not attained the minimum score of 80 points will be eliminated.

In the event of no offer obtains 80 points or more, the call for consultancy process will be declared unsuccessful

## 6.2. Financial evaluation

Once the technical evaluation has been completed, the financial offers of applicants that have not been eliminated during the technical evaluation will be examined.

The evaluation committee will check that the financial offers do not contain any obvious arithmetical errors. Any possible obvious arithmetical errors will be corrected, and the corrected figures will be taken into consideration.

The evaluation committee will then proceed to a financial comparison. The lowest financial offer that is judged acceptable will receive 100 points. The other offers will be attributed a score based on the following equation:

Financial score = (amount of the lowest accepted offer/amount of the offer in question) x 100

## 6.3. Conclusions of the evaluation committee

The choice of the best offer is achieved by weighting the technical and financial scores using a distribution key of 80/20 basis. To this end:

- The technical score will be multiplied by a coefficient of 0.80.
- The financial score will be multiplied by a coefficient of 0.20.

The weighted technical - financial scores thus calculated will be added to ascertain the offer with the best technical and financial score.

If two offers obtain the same weighted technical-financial scores, preference will be given to the applicant in the following order:

- having obtained the best technical score.
- having obtained the best score for methodology.
- having obtained the best total score for experience and qualifications of experts.

Note: The selection process may include interviews (through a teleconferencing platform), as well as a pre-selection phase followed by requests for complementary information / negotiation if required.

## ARTICLE 7 - MONITORING, CONTROL AND VALIDATION OF THE WORK

The consultant will work under the supervision of SPA/RAC. The consultant will submit draft version of each deliverable. The consultant will submit the final version of deliverables as indicated in section 4 (Deliverables) and section 6 (Time schedule) of the technical specifications.

## ARTICLE 8 - DEADLINE FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE MISSION

The time duration for carrying out the study of this contract is four (4) months as from the date of signature of the contract, including the deadlines for handing in the final documents and deliverables according to the following timeline:

Deliverables		Deadlines
<b><i>Deliverable 1:</i></b> Work plan and Timeline  Production of 1 document (word) detailing the work plan and timeline.	Detailed work plan and timeline	One week after the contract signature
<b><i>Deliverable 2:</i></b> Report on the application of the NEAT GES on biodiversity with recommendations for the integrated assessment as appropriate in the selected pilot sites	Apply the NEAT to make an assessment for each CI of IMAP biodiversity cluster (depending on sufficiency of data and GES definitions)  iv. Apply the NEAT tool to make an assessment first for each CI.	Two months from the date of contract signature

<p>Production of 1 document (word)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v. Test the NEAT tool in an integrated way within the same cluster for biodiversity (if feasible).</li> <li>vi. Assess GES as appropriate ensuring integration of CIs within Ecological Objectives (EO1 and EO2)</li> </ul> <p>In case the GES assessment is not possible, report necessary explanations and limitations of the use of NEAT tool and propose another adequate assessment tool and test it for the corresponded Eos.</p>	
<p><b><u>Deliverable 3:</u></b> Report analysing the methods used for GES assessments and report the key findings</p> <p>Production of 1 document (word)</p>	<p>Evaluate the methods employed for GES assessments and reveal the significant results including analysis for the following details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The minimum quantity of data necessary for successful application of the tools/approaches selected for testing assessment of GES;</li> <li>ii. Whether and at what level integration is meaningful so that the status of GES can be assessed, by building on results of NEAT testing for IMAP Pollution Cluster and;</li> <li>iii. whether pressures can be analysed versus GES assessment findings to inform targeted measures and actions,</li> </ul>	<p>3 months from the date of the contract signature</p>
<p><b><u>Deliverable 4:</u></b> Report investigating the possibility of applying GES assessment tools/approaches to other regions of the Mediterranean where applicable and the requirement for software adjustments to fulfill IMAP objectives.</p> <p>Production of a (Word format) document in English</p>	<p>Determine the potential for applying GES assessment tools/approaches to other parts of the Mediterranean when appropriate; and the need for adjustment of the software of the applied GES assessment tools to serve to IMAP purposes.</p>	<p>4 months from the date of the contract signature</p>

#### **ARTICLE 9 - PENALTY**

In the absence of completion by the consultant of the services at his/her charge within the contractual deadlines envisaged in section 7 of the technical specifications (Time schedule), and Article 8 (Deadline for the execution of the mission), it will be applied as of right and without notice, a penalty of one two hundredth (1/200) of the total amount of the contract (All Taxes Included - ATI) for each calendar day of delay.

The amount of the late penalties will be deducted from the accounts. The amount of the penalties is capped at 10% of the total amount of the contract in ATI. When this threshold is reached, SPA/RAC reserves the right to terminate the contract at the holder's fault, in accordance with Article 14 (Cancellation conditions) below, without that the holder cannot raise disputes or claim any compensation.

#### **ARTICLE 10 - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENT**

All legal rights throughout the world in works or inventions created by the provider in connection with the consultancy will remain the property of SPA/RAC. The provider recognizes that such rights include, but are not limited to, copyright and other rights in written material, sound and video recordings (including films), maps, photographs, etc. as well as patents and other rights in inventions, and that the said rights enable SPA/RAC to control and authorize, where appropriate, all publications, publicity material and other exploitation of the said works and inventions.

All the plans, drawings, software, photos, videos, data, presentations, study reports and any other documents, elaborated and submitted by the provider to SPA/RAC for the execution of the present consultancy, will become and remain the property of SPA/RAC, and the consultant will submit all of them to SPA/RAC.

The provider does not have the right to use or copy the products resulting from this consultancy, whatever their form or their media, without the explicit written non objection of the SPA/RAC."

#### **ARTICLE 11 - ARBITRAGE, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT**

Every dispute arising from or in connection with this contract execution shall be solved by way of amicable negotiations by the parties. The contract is deemed to have been made in Tunisia and to be subject to Tunisian law. In case of dispute, the Court of Tunis is competent.

#### **ARTICLE 12 - LIABILITY AND INSURANCE**

SPA/RAC does not accept any liability for acts of third parties, accidents, sickness, losses of any kind, however caused arising during the implementation of the specific actions and the production of the relative outputs expected. The bidder confirms that themselves or any involved staff will be covered by appropriate insurance.

#### **ARTICLE 13 - FORCE MAJEURE**

Force majeure means any event outside the control of a party so that it is impossible for one party to carry out his obligations or the implementation of these obligations becomes so difficult that it is considered to be impossible to carry them out under such circumstances.

The party which invokes force majeure must inform its co-contractor within seven (7) days of its occurrence so that the contractual deadline will be suspended with a joint agreement between the parties for the period which is covered by the case of force majeure.

SPA/RAC has a right to assess the circumstances of the impediments invoked by the holder as a case of force majeure to see if they are convincing, and if this should not be the case, then the days of discontinued work will be accounted for as days of delay.

Failure by either party to fulfil any of its contractual obligations does not entail a contract termination or failure to fulfil its contractual obligations if such a failure is due to a case of force majeure, if the party that finds itself in such a situation has done the following:

- a. has taken all the reasonable precautions and measures to allow it to comply with the terms and conditions of the contract; and
- b. has informed the other party of the event, as soon as possible. Any timeline given to a party for the execution of its contractual obligation will be prolonged by a period which is equal to the period during which that party

was prevented from fulfilling its obligations.

Any timeline given to a party for the execution of its contractual obligations will be prolonged by a period which is equal to the period during which that party was unable to fulfil its obligations due to the case of force majeure.

#### **ARTICLE 14 - CANCELLATION CONDITIONS**

SPA/RAC could cancel this contract through a notification in writing addressed to the tenderer after one of the events indicated in the following paragraphs:

- a. no respect of the deadline of the execution in application of Article 8 (Deadline for the execution of the mission);
- b. in the case described in the Article 9 (Penalty) when the amount is capped at 10% of the total amount of the contract;
- c. non-conformity to the content of the service listed in the technical specifications of the present consultancy (section 4 of the technical specifications: Tasks to be undertaken),
- d. If the tenderer goes bankrupt or into receivership;
- e. If, after a case of force majeure, the holder is unable to execute a substantial part of the Services for a period equal to at least sixty (60) days;
- f. If the tenderer was involved in corruption or fraudulent manipulations in order to obtain the contract or during the execution of the contract. For the purpose of the clause: a person is guilty of "corruption" if he/she offers, gives, solicits or accepts any kind of advantage in order to influence the action of a public official during the selection or the execution of the contract; and undertakes "fraudulent manipulations" which distort or denature the facts so as to influence the selection or the execution of the contract to the detriment of the borrower; by "fraudulent manipulations" is meant any agreement or collusive manipulation of the tenderers (before or after submitting the proposals) so as to artificially maintain the prices of the tenders at levels which do not correspond to prices which would have resulted from free and open competition and which deprive the borrower of the advantages of free and open competition; or
- g. If SPA/RAC, on its own initiative and for any reason whatsoever, decides to terminate the contract.

#### **ARTICLE 15 – CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

##### **15.1- Prohibition of incompatible activities**

The contract tenderer, the personnel and agents must not engage, directly or indirectly, during the contract implementation period, in professional or commercial activities which could be incompatible with the activities with which they have been entrusted due to the present contract.

##### **15.2- non-participation of the holder and his associates in certain activities**

The tenderer and his associates are prohibited, during the contract duration and at the end of the contract period, to provide good, works or services means for any project stemming from the Services or closely connected with the present contract services (except for the implementation of the present contract services and their continuation).

#### **ARTICLE 16- PROVISIONAL AND FINAL ACCEPTANCE**

The provisional acceptance is pronounced after complete completion of the services covered by this consultancy i.e. after the completion of the service described in section 2 tasks to be undertaken of the technical specifications, and Article 8 (Deadline for the execution of the mission). The provisional acceptance will be pronounced only in the case of complete conformity deemed conclusive by SPA/RAC and a provisional acceptance report issued by the SPA/RAC no later than 30 days from receipt of the deliverables and at the written request of the service provider and the signing of a report of completion

of the work/services jointly by the service provider and SPA/RAC. The Service Provider shall, however, correct any deficiencies identified by the SPA/RAC upon completion of the various phases.

Final acceptance will be given one (1) month after the date of provisional acceptance without reservation of the contract. The final acceptance report will only be delivered once the service provider has fulfilled all his obligations resulting from sections 2 (Tasks to be undertaken) and section 4 (Deliverables) of the "Technical Specifications" and after corrections of all deficiencies signalled by SPA/RAC

**ANNEX 1 SUBMISSION LETTER**

I, the undersigned ..... (Lead expert), after having taken due note of the dossier documents of the call for consultancy N° ..... launched by

....., pertaining to a mission of .....

..... I hereby pledge to execute the requested services in conformity with the provisions defined in the documents referred to, for the prices as established by myself without taking into account the taxes and knowing that the stamp duties and registration are to be covered by the insurer. The total price of the bid is ..... (.....) US Dollars ATI. I take due note of the fact that you are not obliged to proceed with the tendering

procedure and that I cannot claim a compensation. I pledge that the conditions in my offer will remain valid for a period of one hundred and twenty days (120 days) starting from the day after the date for the deadline for the receipt of tenders. SPA/RAC pledges to pay the amount after the signing of a convention into the bank current account of the Bank ..... In the name of .....

Under the number of ..... RIB (BIC – IBAN) .....

In ....., on .....  
(Name,  
first name  
and  
function)  
Right for  
submission  
(Signature)

**ANNEX 2 DETAILS OF TOTAL PRICE**

The bidder, in support of its bid, should provide a breakdown of each unit price according to the following model:

Designation	Unit price	Tasks 1		Tasks 2		Tasks 3 ...		Total Tasks (1+2+3...)		
		Duration	Sub-total	Duration	Sub-total	Duration	Sub-total	Duration	Sub-total	
<b>Fees</b>										
Lead consultant										
Associate consultant										
<b>Other costs</b>										
Travel and accommodation										
Other costs necessary for the proper execution of the present consultancy										
Sub-total / task (excluding VAT)										
	TOTAL Excluding VAT									
	VAT Amount									
	TOTAL All Taxes Included									

Amount of the offer excluding Tax is fixed at the sum of .....

Amount of the VAT is fixed at the sum of .....

Amount of the offer is fixed at the sum of..... All Taxes Included (ATI).

**(Signature and official stamp of the bidder)**

