

CALL FOR PROJECTS N°33/2023_SPA/RAC

CALL FOR PROJECTS

**Involvement of Local Civil Society Organizations in
SPAMI sustainable management**

Rules

September 2023

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Call for Projects

Involvement of Local Civil Society Organizations in SPAMI sustainable management

I- Context

The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) was established in 1985 in Tunis by a decision of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols, to assist Mediterranean countries in implementing the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol). SPA/RAC is part of the United Nations Environment Programme's Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) system. Its mission consists in providing the necessary assistance to Mediterranean countries for the establishment and management of marine and coastal protected areas and the preservation of marine and coastal biodiversity.

The "SPAMI Twinning Programme" - Developing and strengthening effective management of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance - implemented within the framework of the cooperation agreement between the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security and UNEP/MAP, aims at developing and strengthening effective management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and particularly Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs). The activities are envisaged to develop twinning programmes between Italian SPAMIs/MPAs and other Mediterranean SPAMIs/MPAs, in order to promote networking and the exchange of good management practices. The Programme also aims to promote cooperation between Mediterranean SPAMIs by supporting the celebration of the SPAMI Day, which aims to share experiences and best practices between SPAMIs/MPAs, strengthen their capacities and encourage the involvement of local civil society organizations.

In this context, three Italian SPAMIs - Miramare MPA, Porto Cesareo MPA and Isola di Mal di Ventre-Peninsula del Sinis MPA - signed a twinning agreement in June 2023, with the Palm Islands Nature Reserve (Lebanon), the Al Hoceima Nature Park (Morocco) and the Zembra & Zembretta National Park (Tunisia), respectively.

The current call for proposals for small projects is aimed at engaging civil society and non-governmental organizations (CSOs and NGOs) in the sustainable management of SPAMIs while fostering cooperation between governmental and civil society organizations.

II- Objective

The primary objective of this call for proposals is to enhance the participation of local civil society organizations in the sustainable management of their SPAMIs. To this end, six (06) organizations operating within the following SPAMIs - Miramare MPA, Porto Cesareo MPA, and Isola di Mal di Ventre-Peninsula del Sinis MPA in Italy, the nature reserve of Palm Islands

in Lebanon, Al Hoceima Natural Park in Morocco, and Zembra & Zembretta National Park in Tunisia - will be selected to receive grants aimed at supporting their environmental management and sustainable development initiatives within their respective SPAMIs.

III- Eligibility Criteria

The call for sustainable management projects is open to the following SPAMIs: **Miramare MPA, Porto Cesareo MPA, and Isola di Mal di Ventre-Peninsula del Sinis MPA** in Italy, the **Palm Islands Nature Reserve** in Lebanon, **Al Hoceima Natural Park** in Morocco, and **Zembra & Zembretta National Park** in Tunisia. Small grants will be awarded to representatives of local civil society organizations working in collaboration with or having obtained approval from the SPAMI manager.

The candidate should be a local civil society organization (NGO, association, ...) involved in the management of the above-mentioned SPAMIs.

The civil society organization that wants to apply for this call for projects must have a legal status that allows it to receive grants by bank transfer.

In order to ensure a successful implementation of the small project activities, the candidate will have to prove a transparent collaboration and communication with the authority in charge of the management of the concerned SPAMI.

The missions, objectives and activities of the applicant organization, especially those related to the concerned SPAMI, should be detailed within the application documents.

IV- Themes and Eligible Activities

The activities presented must be in line with one of the themes listed in the paragraph below. Any activity that cannot be connected to one of the following themes will not be eligible.

The implementation of small projects to contribute to the sustainable management of SPAMIs will be made between October 01st and November 30th, 2023, through the development of activities aiming at:

- Biodiversity Conservation in and around SPAMIs: Projects aimed at the preservation and restoration of marine and coastal biodiversity. This may include initiatives such as the creation of conservation areas, habitat restoration, protection of endangered species, and more.
- Sustainable Fishing in and around SPAMIs: Initiatives focused on promoting sustainable fishing practices, responsible management of fishery resources, reducing

illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and implementing measures for marine ecosystem conservation.

- Marine Pollution Prevention in and around SPAMIs: Projects designed to reduce marine pollution through preventive measures, waste collection, raising awareness about plastic pollution and other forms of pollution, and the promotion of environmentally friendly practices.
- Mitigation/Adaptation to Climate Change in and around SPAMIs: Initiatives aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change on marine ecosystems and helping coastal communities adapt to climate change impacts within and around SPAMIs.
- Sustainable Coastal Development in and around SPAMIs: Projects focused on promoting sustainable socio-economic activities, with particular emphasis on sustainable tourism. This may include economic diversification initiatives, local capacity building, and natural resource preservation.
- Public Awareness and Education in and around SPAMIs: Environmental awareness and education activities aimed at informing the public about the importance of marine and coastal biodiversity conservation. This may involve awareness campaigns, educational programs for schools, community events, and more.

Projects must include a maximum of concrete, effective and coherent actions.

V- Project Duration

The project's maximum duration will be **two (02) months maximum**. The projects are expected to start in October 2023.

VI- Payments

For each project, the amount financed by the SPA/RAC will be **10 000 USD maximum**.

Co-funding to the SPA/RAC grant is preferable. This contribution may be either (i) in kind from the applicant organization, (ii) self-financing or (iii) co-financing by other local or international financial partners. Co-financing, if any, must be clearly specified on the application form (Appendix I).

The grant will be paid in three (03) instalments:

- **3000 USD** soon after the signature of the financial agreement,
- **6000 USD** upon approval of interim report and
- **1000 USD** upon approval of the final report.

VII- Applications

All eligible civil society organizations wishing to apply for this call for projects will have to (i) file a grant request, (ii) fill in the Grant Application Form (Annex I) and (iii) provide all supporting documents required hereafter (documents 3 to 6):

The application should include the following documents:

- 1- A written request for the grant.
- 2- The Grant Application Form completed, in PDF format, either in English or in French.
- 3- The CVs of project team members.
- 4- The agreement of the official/governmental SPAMI manager on the activities to be carried out.
- 5- The legal status of the applicant organization.
- 6- The latest activity report of the applicant organization.

Each organization can submit only one (01) application form under this call for projects.

Applications, including the Grant Application Form and the appendices, must be sent by **20 September 2023 (23:59 UTC+1, Tunis time) at the latest, only by email to:**

car-asp@spa-rac.org

Applicants will receive an email confirming the receipt of their application.

For any questions, please contact Ms. Emna DEROUICHE, SPAMI Twinning Programme Officer, and Ms. Naziha BEN MOUSSA, Administrative assistant, at SPA/RAC, at the following emails: emna.derouiche@spa-rac.org ; naziha.benmoussa@spa-rac.org.

VIII- Selection Process

An internal ad hoc commission will be established in SPA/RAC for the assessment of project applications under this call for projects.

The commission will eliminate applications from organizations that are not eligible for a grant under this call for projects, and then proceed to the selection. The assessment will be made according to a grid of criteria that should lead to an overall score for each application file and a ranking of the candidates.

Applications will be rated on 10 points according to the following three criteria:

SELECTION CRITERIA		Maximum score
Experience in the field	1 point for each project or action carried out by the organization in the management and/or communication around the concerned SPAMI	2 points
Team dedicated to the project	0 to 2 points for the adequacy of the project team (in terms of numbers and experience) in relation to the type of activities proposed.	2 points
Relevance of the project	0 to 4 points depending on the relevance of the proposed small project (average of the scores given by the different members of the commission)	4 points
Project presentation and timeline	0 to 2 points depending on the clarity of the presentation and the coherence of the proposed timeline for the small project	2 points
TOTAL		10 points

IX- Implementation and Evaluation

The civil society organizations selected will sign a financial agreement with SPA/RAC. SPA/RAC can cancel the financial agreement of a given project if the project is not launched within 15 days (maximum) after the grant signature. In such a case, the beneficiary is required to reimburse the full first instalment to SPA/RAC. SPA/RAC could reallocate the funds to another project.

The organization should participate in an exchange workshop gathering all the small project beneficiary organizations under this call, by the end of the projects' implementation. Participation fees will be covered by SPA/RAC and are not to be included in the project proposal.

All projects will be subject to a middle and final evaluation. To this end, the organization will provide an interim report one month after the signature of the financial agreement, and a final technical and financial report one week after the end of the small project. SPA/RAC can assist project leaders with their self-assessment and reporting.

The organization shall keep accurate and up-to-date records and documents in respect of all expenditures incurred with the funds made available by SPA/RAC to ensure that all expenditures are in conformity with the provisions of the financial agreement. For each disbursement, proper supporting documentation shall be maintained, including original invoices, bills and receipts pertaining to the transaction.

SPA/RAC will directly monitor the project progress and may call on the support of a consultant, if necessary.

ANNEX I

APPLICATION FORM

I- Applicant organization statement

I, the undersigned, as the person responsible for this project in the applying civil society organization, hereby certify that the information given in this file is true and correct, that I have carefully read the Rules of the call for Projects, that I have understood the funding terms and I submit a complete application.

Name:

Function:

Date and place:

Sign and seal:

II- Presentation :

1. THE CANDIDATE

Country	
Name of the organization	
Legal status of the organization and official Activity (NGO, association)	
Date of Creation	
Postal address	
Phone (with prefixe)	
Website/Social Networks	
Name of the President of the organization	
Organization President email address	
Name of the project manager	
Project manager email address	
Other relevant email addresses	

2. THE PROJECT

Name of the SPAMI	
Project title	
Project partner(s) if any	
General purpose of the project	
Brief description of project (3 to 4 lines, max)	
Expected results	

3. BUDGET

	Total amount of the project	Amount requested from SPA/RAC¹ (Max 10.000 USD)	Self-funding (In Cash or in Kind)	Co-funding (In Cash or in Kind)
Sources		SPAMI Twinning Programme	Applicant organization	
Amount in USD				
%	100			

¹: Mandatory

III- Project description

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT (2 pages Max)

Information should be included in the description:

- *General purpose,*
- *Relation with the call for project theme,*
- *Specific objectives,*
- *Description of activities,*
- *Expected results,*
- *Human and financial resources planned,*
- *All relevant information.*

2. PROJECT TIMELINE (1 page Max)