

<b>Posting Title:</b>	ODYSSEA PROJECT: Observatories Training and Spatial Data Officer
<b>Job Code Title:</b>	SPA/RAC Project Officer
<b>Job opening number:</b>	SPA/RAC 18-1
<b>Department/Office:</b>	Scientific and Technical Unit - SPA/RAC
<b>Location:</b>	Tunis, Tunisia
<b>Posting Period:</b>	8 March 2018 - 25 March 2018
<b>Working time:</b>	Half time
<b>Deadline:</b>	25 March 2018

## PRESENTATION OF SPA/RAC

The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre SPA/RAC is an environmental intergovernmental institution hosted by Tunis, Tunisia, under the mandate of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. It promotes the coherent implementation of its SPA/BD Protocol in support of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Secretariat, based at the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)/Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit, Athens, Greece. Its implementation instrument is the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (SAP BIO) in the Mediterranean Region, adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2003.

SPA/RAC works with international and national partners in all the Mediterranean riparian countries, providing technical assistance and advisory services for the implementation of environmental policy, and strengthening the environmental management capacity, notably that of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Mediterranean. SPA/RAC supports the implementation of species and habitats action plans, marine and coastal protected areas management plans, tools for environmental monitoring, promotes training, awareness campaigns and the collection and circulation of biodiversity information among specialists and relevant international organisations, including NGOs.

## ODYSSEA Project

The project ODYSSEA aims to develop, operate and demonstrate an interoperable and cost-effective platform that fully integrates networks of observing and forecasting systems across the Mediterranean basin, addressing both the open sea and the

coastal zone. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727277. The project is managed by the ODYSSEA Consortium, a partnership of 28 organisations, institutions and companies, with shared leading responsibilities for its implementation. The platform will collect its data from the many databases maintained by agencies, public authorities, and institutions of Mediterranean EU and non-EU countries, integrating existing earth observation facilities and networks in the Mediterranean Sea building on key initiatives such as Copernicus, GEOSS, GOOS, EMODNet, ESFRI, Lifewatch, Med-OBIS, GBIF, AquaMaps, Marine IBA e-atlas, MAPAMED and others with marine and maritime links.

High priority gaps will be filled through multiple approaches that include developing a network of coastal observatories, deploying novel in-situ sensors at sea (a.o. microplastic sensors), oceanographic modelling and integrating mobile apps for citizen scientist networks. The ODYSSEA platform will provide both primary data and on-demand derived data services, including forecasts, from Mediterranean countries through a single public portal to various end-user groups and stakeholders. End-user requirements will drive the creation of secondary data sets which the platform will provide as new and packaged services matching the specialised information needs of users. ODYSSEA aims to improve accessibility to existing data as well as increase the temporal and geographic coverage of observational data in the Mediterranean.

To operate the ODYSSEA platform and nine Model Observatories across the entire Mediterranean basin, sufficient capacity in general, and in the North African countries in particular, will be built under SPA/RAC leading. Firstly, workshops to train (future) managers and operators of the Model Observatories will be provided in order to enable them to operate the observatories and benefit from the data collected. These workshops will be conducted by project partners and invited experts alike. Secondly, networking activities will be organised that will build individual, institutional and infrastructure capacity, including exchanges between North African and European scientists and the setting up and operation of the Model Observatories. Thirdly, national workshops, in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt are planned to present the main results to local stakeholders and end-users.

#### **JOB DESCRIPTION: MISSIONS AND TASKS**

This position is located in the SPA/RAC Scientific and Technical Unit at Tunis and subject to local contracting conditions. Under the overall authority of SPA/RAC Director and supervision by the SAP BIO Coordinator, the incumbent will be responsible for the following duties:

Supports the implementation of ODYSSEA project duties assigned to SPA/RAC within the ODYSSEA Consortium, notably on the topics of: capacity building and coordination including developing and promoting exchanges with project stakeholders from North Africa countries, in coordination with national ODYSSEA Consortium partners; meetings and workshops in North African countries; oceanography and biodiversity data management, notably those available through SPA/RAC, for post processing and

accessibility through the platform; support to communication and dissemination: S/he also contributes from SPA/RAC side to actions led by others among the 28 partners within the ODYSSEA Consortium.

Within the above, the incumbent:

- Undertakes the preparation of training packages on Observatories management and contributes to various written outputs, e.g. background papers, analysis, substantial sections of reports and studies, inputs to publications, etc.
- Provides substantive support to consultative, and other meetings, including proposing agenda topics, identifying participants, preparation of needed documents, designing and conducting trainings, workshops, seminars, conferences, etc.
- Maintains appropriate synergy with ODYSSEA Partners in charge of data compilation and management, about available data on Mediterranean oceanography and biodiversity
- Give emphasis to ODYSSEA outreach activities; make presentations on assigned topics/activities; serve as an effective spokesperson and keeps collaboration and partnerships with key officials at all levels inside and outside the organization.
- Provide expertise advice, including developing strategies to ensure timely and cost-effective delivery of results in the best interests of the Centre and its partners. Take lead in proposing strategies proposals that embrace a long-term applied view about observatories functional choices, including on reconciling conservation with human activities at sea.
- Coordinate activities related to the project budget and funding (project progress reports preparation and submissions, financial statements, etc.) and ensure preparation of related documents. Keeps effective relations with staff within the Centre and from ODYSSEA partner organisations on behalf of the project; Perform any other related duties as may be assigned.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Education**

University degree in oceanography, marine biology, ecology, or a related field is required. A degree in other field in combination with three additional years of qualifying experience in the above ones may be accepted in lieu of the specific university degree. Formal training on data processing and management, notably through GIS is desirable. Formal training with focus on education and/or environmental management policy is an added advantage.

### **Work Experience**

A minimum of five years of progressively responsible experience in oceanography or related area in the Mediterranean, of which experience at the international level is a

plus. At least two years of work experience in pedagogy, teaching or training is highly desirable. Experience on environmental data processing and management, including GIS. Understanding of multiple threats to Mediterranean biodiversity is desirable. Experience in project management, notably on fields depicted in this call. Familiarity with projects funded through the EU or the UN system is an advantage.

### **Languages**

English and French are the working languages of the SPA/RAC. For the position advertised fluency in oral and written English and French is required. Oral knowledge of Arabic is an advantage. Other Mediterranean languages are a plus.

### **Competencies**

The following competencies are essential: professionalism, planning and organizing skills, teamwork, as well as managing performance.

### **CONTRACT DURATION**

Appointment against this position is for an initial period of one year (part time, half journey basis) subject to a probationary period of three months, and may be subject to yearly extensions.

### **HOW TO APPLY**

All applicants are strongly encouraged to apply as soon as possible after the job opening has been posted and well before the deadline stated in the job opening.

Applicants must provide complete and accurate information pertaining to their personal profile and qualifications to be considered for the current job opening.

Candidates should send by e-mail their application **no later than 25 March 2018**, to the address detailed as follows:

Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC)  
United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)  
B.P. 337 - 1080 Tunis Cedex – TUNISIA

Ref.: Observatories Training and Spatial Data Officer Post  
Fax: + 216 71 206 490  
Email: [car-asp@spa-rac.org](mailto:car-asp@spa-rac.org)

Documents to be included in the Application:

- CV
- Motivation letter
- Certified copies of university diploma(s)
- Work or Internship certificates or any other documentation concerning experience and skills acquired relevant to the job position

## **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

No amendment, addition, deletion, revision or modification will be accepted to applications that have been submitted. Candidates under serious consideration for selection may be subject to reference checks to verify the information provided in the application.

Job openings advertised on media and/or the SPA/RAC webpages will finalise at 11:59 p.m. (Tunis time) on the deadline date.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Only candidates selected for assessment will be contacted. A first selection of up to three qualified candidates will be conducted based on information submitted in the application (CV and cover letter) according to the evaluation criteria of the job opening. Evaluation of candidates may include a substantive competency-based and technical assessment oral interview.