



**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention



*The Mediterranean
Biodiversity
Centre*

CALL FOR CONSULTANCY N° 21/2020_SPA/RAC

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

“Development of a Post-2020 Regional Strategy for marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean”

29 December 2020

**This call for consultancy document is available only in English.
Offers could be made either in English or French.**

Development of a Post-2020 Regional Strategy for marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean

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List of acronyms in English and French

English		Français	
ACCOBAMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area	ACCOBAMS	<i>Accord sur la Conservation des Cétacés de la Mer Noire, de la Méditerranée et de la zone Atlantique adjacente</i>
AGEM	Ad hoc Group of Experts for Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean	AGEM	<i>Groupe ad hoc d'experts pour les aires marines protégées en Méditerranée</i>
COP	Conference of Parties	CdP	<i>Conférence des Parties</i>
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	CDB	<i>Convention sur la diversité biologique</i>
EcAp	Ecosystem Approach	EcAp	<i>Approche écosystémique</i>
EU	European Union	UE	<i>Union européenne</i>
FP	Focal Point	PF	<i>Point focal</i>
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean	CGPM	<i>Commission générale des pêches pour la Méditerranée</i>
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management	GIZC	<i>Gestion intégrée des zones côtières</i>
IMAP	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and related Assessment Criteria	IMAP	<i>Programme de surveillance et d'évaluation intégrées de la mer et des côtes méditerranéennes et critères d'évaluation connexes</i>
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature	UICN	<i>Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature</i>
IUCN-Med	International Union for Conservation of Nature Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation	UICN-Med	<i>Centre de coopération pour la Méditerranée de l'Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature</i>
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan	PAM	<i>Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée</i>
MAPAMED	Database on marine protected areas in the Mediterranean	MAPAMED	<i>Base de données des aires marines protégées de Méditerranée</i>
MedPAN	Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean	MedPAN	<i>Réseau des gestionnaires d'aires marines protégées en Méditerranée</i>
MPA	Marine Protected Area	AMP	<i>Aire marine protégée</i>
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive	DCSMM	<i>Directive-cadre Stratégie pour le milieu marin</i>
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning	PSM	<i>Planification spatiale marine</i>
MSSD	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development	SMDD	<i>Stratégie méditerranéenne pour le développement durable</i>
NFP	National Focal Point	PFN	<i>Point focal national</i>
OECM	Other effective area-based conservation measures	AMCE	<i>Autres mesures de conservation efficaces par zone</i>
Post-2020 SAP BIO	Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region	PAS BIO post-2020	<i>Programme d'action stratégique pour la conservation de la biodiversité et la gestion durable des ressources naturelles en région méditerranéenne pour l'après-2020</i>
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production	CPD	<i>Consommation et production durables</i>
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals	ODD	<i>Objectif de développement durable</i>

SPA	Specially Protected Area	ASP	<i>Aire spécialement protégée</i>
SPA/BD	Specially protected areas and biological diversity	ASP/DB	<i>Aire spécialement protégées et diversité biologique</i>
SPAMI	Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance	ASPIM	<i>Aire spécialement protégée d'importance méditerranéenne</i>
SPA/RAC , formerly "RAC/SPA"	Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre	SPA/RAC , formerly "CAR/ASP"	<i>Centre d'Activités Régionales pour les Aires Spécialement Protégées</i>
UN	United Nations	ONU	<i>Organisation des Nations unies</i>
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea	UNCLOS	<i>Convention des Nations unies sur le droit de mer</i>
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme	PNUE	<i>Programme des Nations unies pour l'environnement</i>
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas	CMAP	<i>Commission mondiale des aires protégées</i>
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature	WWF	<i>Fonds mondial pour la nature</i>

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

1. Background

1.1. The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre

The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) was established by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in order to assist the Mediterranean countries in implementing the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean¹ (SPA/BD Protocol) of the Barcelona Convention². Tunisia has been hosting the centre since its establishment in 1985. The centre works under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) - Barcelona Convention Secretariat, based in Athens, Greece.

SPA/RAC's main objective is to contribute to the protection, preservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal biological diversity in the Mediterranean and, in particular, the creation and effective management of marine and coastal areas of particular natural and cultural value and the conservation of threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna in the Mediterranean.

For more information, please consult: www.spa-rac.org.

1.2. Previous strategies and programmes of work on marine and coastal protected areas under the Barcelona Convention

In their approach of alignment with the Programme of Work on Protected Areas³ adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2004, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted, at their sixteenth ordinary meeting, COP 16 (Marrakesh, Morocco, 3-5 November 2009), the Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea⁴ (Decision IG.19/13⁵).

In 2015, the regional working programme was evaluated. The evaluation report⁶ provided an overview of relevant initiatives at the international, regional or sub-regional levels and the status of activities implementation at the national level during the period 2010-2014. The main conclusions that emerged from this evaluation were: (i) the significant role played by international and regional organizations in catalyzing activities at country level, and (ii) the imbalanced geographical distribution of the Mediterranean marine protected areas (MPAs) and the need to improve their effectiveness and management.

In their further approach of alignment with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets⁷ adopted under the CBD in 2010, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted, at their COP 19 (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016), the Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean⁸ (Decision IG.22/13⁹).

¹ http://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/protocole_aspdb/protocol_eng.pdf

² Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean : https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/7096/Consolidated_BC95_Eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
³ [cbd.int/doc/publications/pa-text-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/pa-text-en.pdf)

⁴ http://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/doc_pwmcpa/pwmcpa_en.pdf

⁵ http://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/doc_cop/decision_ig_19_13_en.pdf

⁶ http://rac-spa.org/nfp12/documents/information/wg.408_inf26_eng.pdf

⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/sp/>

⁸ http://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/action_plans/fdr_en.pdf

⁹ http://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/doc_cop/decision_22.13_en.pdf

The roadmap aims at guiding and harmonizing the efforts of the Contracting Parties, supported by regional and international organizations, towards achieving the Aichi Target 11 by 2020.

In 2017, a first evaluation¹⁰ of the progress of the Contracting Parties in implementing the roadmap was made and presented to COP 20 (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017).

In 2019, a final evaluation¹¹ of the roadmap was made, to assess the progress made (including success and possible failure) by the Mediterranean countries towards achieving the Aichi Target 11 at regional level.

This final evaluation, that included recommendations for priority actions for MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) beyond 2020, was reviewed by the Fourteenth Meeting of the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points (Portorož, Slovenia, 18-21 June 2019), presented to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 10-13 September 2019) and subsequently to COP 21 (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) for information and guidance.

Based on the findings of the evaluation (inadequate management and enforcement, geographical and ecological unbalance, etc.), the Contracting Parties have been strongly encouraged to take significant action towards achieving Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean, including through setting up an effective and equitable management, enhancing ecological representativeness, connectivity and integration of their marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures into the wider landscape and seascape (Decision IG.24/6¹²).

1.3. Mandate to elaborate the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs under the Barcelona Convention

COP 21 has expressed appreciation for the progress made by the Contracting Parties towards achieving the quantitative aspects of Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean, and especially with regard to MPAs and OECMs coverage, estimated to 8.9%¹³ of the Mediterranean Sea.

The meeting of the Parties has also noted the need to further advance to achieve a comprehensive coherent network of well-managed MPAs, as the overall coverage shows a geographical unbalance and a strong bias regarding the type of ecosystems protected, as they are mainly coastal and located in waters less than 50 meters deep, resulting in an under-representation of deeper ecosystems.

Consequently, COP 21 requested the UNEP/MAP Secretariat (through SPA/RAC) to elaborate an ambitious and transformational post-2020 roadmap/strategic document on MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean, in line with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework of the CBD and other regional and global processes, and in consultation with relevant global and regional organizations, for consideration by the Contracting Parties at their COP 22 (Antalya, Turkey, 7-10 December 2021) (Decision IG.24/6).

2. Objective and scope

The objective of this activity is to elaborate an ambitious, actionable and transformational post-2020 regional strategy for marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based

¹⁰ https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/21896/17iq23_inf07_engonly.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowe

¹¹ https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28640/19wg468_inf12_eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

¹² http://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/doc_cop/cop21/decision_24_6_eng.pdf

¹³ United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan and Plan Bleu (2020). State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean. Nairobi: <https://planbleu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/SoED-Full-Report.pdf>

conservation measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean, in line with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework of the CBD, the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAP BIO) of the Barcelona Convention, and other relevant global, regional and sub-regional processes, and in consultation with relevant global and regional organizations, as well as national institutions/Mediterranean countries representatives.

The draft post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs will be submitted for review and endorsement by the Fifteenth Meeting of SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points (Malta, 22-25 June 2021), and subsequently to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 7-10 September 2021) and COP 22 (Antalya, Turkey, 7-10 December 2021) for consideration.

3. Processes, initiatives and strategies to be taken into consideration

The outcomes of relevant processes and initiatives undertaken at global, regional and sub-regional levels should be taken into consideration in the process leading to the development of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean.

For the sake of consistency, alignment and coherence, the relevant global, regional and sub-regional strategies and action plans should be also consulted and taken into consideration.

A systematic inventory, analysis and integration of such processes, initiatives and strategies should be made by the consultant. Nonetheless, a non-exhaustive listing of the most acknowledged ones is provided here below:

It is important to note that many of the major processes the post-2020 regional strategy should be aligned with are underway, in particular the process of preparation of the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

3.1. Processes and initiatives at global level

- Process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework¹⁴ under the CBD (ongoing: 2020-2021).
- The Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction¹⁵ (BBNJ) under the United Nations (UN) (ongoing: since 2018).
- The World Conservation Congress Marseille 2020¹⁶ of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (Marseille, 3-11 September 2021).
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹⁷, and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals¹⁸ (SDGs) and more particularly SDG 14: Life below water¹⁹ under the United Nations (UN) (ongoing: since 2015).

3.2. Processes and initiatives at regional level

- Preparation of the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean

¹⁴ <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020>

¹⁵ <https://www.un.org/bbnj/>

¹⁶ <https://www.iucncongress2020.org/>

¹⁷ <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

¹⁸ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

¹⁹ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal14>

- Region (Post-2020 SAP BIO)²⁰ under the Barcelona Convention (ongoing: 2020-2021).
- Preparation of a Post-2020 MPA Roadmap in the framework of the process²¹ of the 2020 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean²² by the Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), SPA/RAC and the Mediterranean programme of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) (ongoing: 2020-2021).
- The Joint Cooperation Strategy on spatial-based protection and management measures for marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean area, among the Secretariats of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the International Union for Conservation of Nature Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med), and the United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)²³.
- The study entitled “Assessment of Institutional Capacities for the Establishment and Management of Marine Protected Areas in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region”, elaborated in the framework of a collaboration between SPA/RAC, IUCN and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) (ongoing: 2020-2021).
- The Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) roadmap and process²⁴ under the Barcelona Convention (Second EcAp cycle of implementation: 2016-2021).
- The environmental trust fund for marine protected areas in the Mediterranean²⁵ (The MedFund).
- The Twinning Programme among Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance²⁶ (SPAMI Twinning Programme) launched by SPA/RAC (since 2018).
- The database on marine protected areas in the Mediterranean²⁷ (MAPAMED) by MedPAN and SPA/RAC.

3.3. Strategies and action plans adopted at regional level (Barcelona Convention)

- Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region²⁸ (SAP BIO).
- Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea²⁹.
- Roadmap for a comprehensive coherent network of well-managed MPAs to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean³⁰.
- Action Plan for the Management of the Monk Seal in the Mediterranean³¹.
- Regional Strategy for the Conservation of Monk Seal in the Mediterranean³².
- Action Plan for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles in the Mediterranean³³.
- Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea³⁴ (Updating process ongoing: 2020-2021).
- Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea³⁵.

²⁰ <https://www.rac-spa.org/node/1843> // <https://www.rac-spa.org/node/1882>

²¹ <http://www.rac-spa.org/node/1973>

²² <http://www.medmpaforum.org/en>

²³ https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/30078/19ig24_05_reissued_eng.pdf?sequence=5&isAllowed=y // https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/31700/19ig24_22_2402_eng.pdf

²⁴ <https://www.rac-spa.org/fr/ecap> // <https://www.unenvironment.org/unepmap/what-we-do/ecosystem-approach>

²⁵ <https://themedfund.org/en/>

²⁶ http://www.rac-spa.org/spami_project // <http://spami.medchm.net/en#>

²⁷ <https://www.mapamed.org/>

²⁸ <http://sapbio.rac-spa.org/sapbioeng.pdf>

²⁹ http://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/doc_pwmcpa/pwmcpcpa_en.pdf

³⁰ http://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/action_plans/fdr_en.pdf

³¹ https://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/action_plans/monkap.pdf

³² https://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/doc_cop/cop21/decision_24_7_eng.pdf

³³ https://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/doc_cop/cop21/decision_24_7_eng.pdf

³⁴ https://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/action_plans/ap_cetaceans_en.pdf

³⁵ https://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/doc_cop/cop21/decision_24_7_eng.pdf

- Action Plan for the Conservation of Cartilaginous Fishes (Chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea³⁶.
- Action Plan for the Conservation of Bird species listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol³⁷.
- Action Plan concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea³⁸.
- Action Plan for the conservation of the Coralligenous and other calcareous bioconcretions in the Mediterranean Sea³⁹.
- Action Plan for the conservation of habitats and species associated with seamounts, underwater caves and canyons, aphotic hard beds and chemo-synthetic phenomena in the Mediterranean Sea (Dark Habitats Action Plan⁴⁰) (Updating process ongoing: 2020-2021).
- Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development⁴¹ (MSSD 2016-2025⁴²).
- Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and related Assessment Criteria⁴³ (IMAP).
- Common Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management⁴⁴ (ICZM).
- Conceptual Framework for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Mediterranean⁴⁵.
- Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas⁴⁶.
- Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean⁴⁷.
- Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in the Mediterranean⁴⁸.

3.4. Strategies at sub-regional level (EU)

- The European Union (EU) Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 “Bringing nature back into our lives”⁴⁹ (Communication adopted on 20 May 2020); and its related process aiming at putting forward criteria and guidance for identifying and designating additional protected areas, including a definition of strict protection, as well as for appropriate management planning⁵⁰ (ongoing: 2020-2021).
- The European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive⁵¹ (MSFD).
- The EU Habitats Directive⁵².
- The EU Birds Directive⁵³.

4. Tasks to be undertaken

³⁶ https://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/doc_cop/cop21/decision_24_7_eng.pdf

³⁷ http://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/action_plans/bird.pdf // http://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/doc_birds/birds.pdf

³⁸ http://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/action_plans/pa_alien_en.pdf

³⁹ http://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/action_plans/pa_coral_en.pdf

⁴⁰ http://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/action_plans/dark_habitats_ap.pdf

⁴¹ <https://www.unenvironment.org/unesmap/what-we-do/mediterranean-strategy-sustainable-development-mssd>

⁴² https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/7097/mssd_2016_2025_eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

⁴³ <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/17012>

⁴⁴ https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/31703/19iq24_22_2405_eng.pdf

⁴⁵ <http://papr.org/storage/app/media/Meetings/MSP%20Conceptual%20Framework%20EN.pdf>

⁴⁶ <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/17500>

⁴⁷ <https://www.unenvironment.org/unesmap/news/news/regional-plan-marine-litter-management-mediterranean-prevent-and-eliminate-pollution> // https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/6012/13iq21_09_annex2_21_07_eng.pdf

⁴⁸ <http://www.cprac.org/en/news-archive/general/you-can-now-discover-the-full-scp-regional-action-plan-for-the-mediterranean-fo> // <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/20731>

⁴⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/strategy/index_en.htm

⁵⁰ <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/fcb355ee-7434-4448-a53d-5dc5d1dac678/library/f298de23-322d-4cac-ba27-75ccabf03755/details>

⁵¹ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/marine-strategy-framework-directive/index_en.htm //

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32008L0056&from=EN>

⁵² https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm

⁵³ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm

The development of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMS in the Mediterranean should be participatory and consultative.

The consultant should conduct the post-2020 regional strategy preparation process using a methodology to be refined and adjusted in partnership with SPA/RAC with the support of the Ad hoc Group of Experts for MPAs in the Mediterranean (AGEM).

It is expected that the development of the post-2020 regional strategy will be built around a wide online consultation with MPA and OECM stakeholders, with the input and support of a dedicated consultation workshop, gathering key experts and stakeholders from the whole Mediterranean region, and with the guidance of AGEM.

In preparing the post-2020 regional strategy, the consultant should undertake the following tasks:

- Review and analyze **regional assessments and evaluation reports** of the previous strategies and programmes of work on marine protected areas in the Mediterranean (described under the section 1.2. above).
- Identify and take into consideration the **current processes, initiatives and strategies** that are most directly relevant to the development of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean (a non-exhaustive listing of such processes, initiatives and strategies is provided under the section 3. above, to be complemented as relevant and needed).
- Prepare an **annotated table of contents** of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean, based on the two previous steps and reflecting the review and analysis made, as well as a **brief note** introducing and defining the post-2020 regional strategy, including its vision, strategic and operational objectives, targets, expected results and any other relevant information.
- Prepare the **first working draft** of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean.
- Prepare the **agenda/topics, presentation materials and working documents** of the Consultation Workshop for the elaboration of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean (tentative date: March 2021; date, venue and format (face-to-face or by teleconferencing) to be confirmed by SPA/RAC).
- Undertake a wide **online consultation** about the first working draft of the post-2020 regional strategy (consisting in sharing the document electronically and collecting comments), among all concerned stakeholders for their feedback (to enrich the reflection and collect additional views to those to be expressed by the participants to the consultation workshop). Prior to the online consultation, the consultant should prepare the **list of stakeholders** to be consulted based on specific objective criteria.
- Prepare an **overview of the main results** of the online consultation, to be presented during the consultation workshop (along with the first working draft).
- Present the first working draft of the regional strategy to the **Consultation Workshop** for the elaboration of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs, facilitate the **discussions** and prepare the **minutes** of the workshop.
- Prepare the **second working draft** of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and

OECMs in the Mediterranean, based on the discussions and orientations of the consultation workshop, feedback of the online consultation and guidance of AGEM, in view of its timely⁵⁴ **submission to the Fifteenth Meeting of SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points** (Malta, 22-25 June 2021).

- Support SPA/RAC in finalizing the **third draft** of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean, based on the comments provided by the Fifteenth Meeting of SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points.

The third draft of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean will be further submitted to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 7-10 September 2021) and eventually to COP 22 (Antalya, Turkey, 7-10 December 2021) for consideration. These final governance steps will be outside the scope of the consultant's mission and will be managed by SPA/RAC internal means.

5. Deliverables

The consultant shall deliver the following outputs:

- An **inception report** including a work plan, detailed methodology and timeline, to be submitted within 7 days from the commencement of the assignment.
- An **annotated table of contents** of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean, and a **brief note** introducing and defining the post-2020 regional strategy, including its vision, strategic and operational objectives, targets, expected results and any other relevant information.
- The **first working draft** of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean.
- The **agenda/topics, presentation materials and working documents** of the Consultation Workshop for the elaboration of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean (tentative date: March 2021; date, venue and format (face-to-face or by teleconferencing) to be confirmed).
- The **list of stakeholders** to be consulted based on specific objective criteria.
- The **online consultation** organization and coordination about the first working draft of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean.
- The **Consultation Workshop** for the elaboration of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean preparation and facilitation (tentative date: March 2021; date, venue and format (face-to-face or by teleconferencing) to be confirmed).
- The **second working draft** of the post-2020 regional strategy of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean.
- Attending the **Fifteenth Meeting of SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points** (Malta, 22-25 June 2021) and supporting SPA/RAC in submitting and reviewing the draft regional strategy.

⁵⁴ The working documents of the SPA/BD Focal Points meetings should be received by the Contracting Parties at least one month before the opening of the meeting.

- The **third draft** of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean.

6. Supervision and collaboration

The consultant will work under the supervision of SPA/RAC Director and Programme Officer of Specially Protected Areas.

The process of the elaboration of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean will be steered by the SPA/RAC with the support of the Ad hoc Group of Experts for MPAs in the Mediterranean (AGEM).

In this respect, the first working draft of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean will be submitted to AGEM for orientations and comments during an AGEM meeting (second meeting⁵⁵) (tentative date: March 2021; date, venue and format (face-to-face or by teleconferencing) to be confirmed; to be held back-to-back to the Consultation Workshop for the elaboration of the post-2020 regional strategy).

The second working draft of the post-2020 regional strategy should be also presented to an online AGEM meeting (third meeting) to be held in May 2021 (dates to be confirmed).

7. Time schedule

The planned duration of the consultancy is approximately 6 months from mid-January to mid-July 2021, with the following tentative schedule:

Step	Deadline
Inception report including a work plan, detailed methodology and timeline, to be submitted within 7 days from the commencement of the assignment.	29 January 2021
Annotated table of contents of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean; and Brief note introducing and defining the post-2020 regional strategy.	15 February 2021
Agenda/topics, presentation materials and working documents of the Consultation Workshop for the elaboration of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean.	18 February 2021
first working draft of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean.	15 March 2021
Online consultation about the first working draft of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean.	18 March 2021
Consultation Workshop for the elaboration of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean (back-to-back to the second AGEM meeting)	Late March 2021 (tentatively the week of 29 March 2021)
Second working draft of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean.	15 April 2021

⁵⁵ The first meeting of AGEM was held on 8 December 2020 by teleconference.

Feedback from the third AGEM meeting (May 2021) in view of the finalization of the second working draft .	Early May 2021 (tentatively the week of 3 May 2021)
Circulating the final second working draft of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean (formatted as a working document to a UNEP working group meeting) to the SPA/BD Focal Points.	21 May 2021
Fifteenth Meeting of SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points (Malta, 22-25 June 2021).	21-26 June 2021 (including travelling days)
Third draft of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean.	2 July 2021

8. Skills and experience required of consultants

The consultant(s) is/are expected to have the following skills and expertise:

- Advanced degrees in marine biology or environmental sciences, geography, economics, social sciences, political science, law, development studies or related discipline.
- Experience in working on marine and coastal protected areas and conservation strategies and action plans.
- Experience in working on marine protected areas, with preference for working in or with MPA management agencies and/or international or regional organizations for environmental conservation. Experience in the Mediterranean region is an asset.
- Knowledge of international conventions and treaties for the conservation and management of the environment.
- Excellent writing and communication skills in English, with the ability to write high-quality unambiguous texts. Knowledge of French is an asset.
- Proven ability to deliver under tight deadlines.
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate and work well with diverse cultures and people.

ADMINISTRATIVE CLAUSES

Article 1 - Conditions for participation in the consultancy

Participants to this consultancy should be 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.

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:

1. A cover letter outlining the consultant's suitability for the job;
2. A curriculum vitae including: education, qualifications, professional experience, and **references to previous relevant works and publications highlighted in bold** and particularly similar studies covering marine and coastal protected areas and conservation strategies and action plans (references must be backed by attached documents/URL links/certificates from the study sponsor, etc.);
3. Documents/URL links/certificates that support the relevant references presented; and
4. A detailed methodological note on how the consultant will conduct the task, including initial observations/comments on the terms of reference, if needed.

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

The administrative folder should include the following administrative documents:

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 and stamp of the provider at the end of the document).

2.3. Financial offer

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

Should any administrative documents be missing, the consultant will be contacted to complete the offer documents. If after a period of ten (10) days, the documents are still not completed the candidate will be rejected even if already chosen as best positioned.

Article 3 - Submission

Proposals must be received electronically at the following e-mail address: car-asp@spa-rac.org, before **Wednesday 20 January 2021, at 23:59 UTC+1 (Tunis Time)**.

E-mails should have the following subject:

“Call for consultancy n° 21/2020 SPA/RAC - Post-2020 Regional Strategy on MPAs & OECMs in the Med. - 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: souha.asmi@spa-rac.org ; cc: car-asp@spa-rac.org, no later than five (5) calendar days before the deadline for the proposal submission.

Article 5 - Maximum budget available

A total maximum budget available for this call for consultancy is **20,000 Euros**. **Any financial offer exceeding this amount will not be considered.**

Travel expenses (if needed) for the accomplishment of the assignment are not included in this budget, and will be covered by SPA/RAC.

Article 6 - Terms of payment

Payment for the mission will be made as follows:

- 10% of the total amount of the contract, after submission of the inception report, its approval by SPA/RAC, and submission of an invoice by the consultant;
- 30% of the total amount of the contract, after submission of the first working draft of the regional strategy, its approval by SPA/RAC, and submission of an invoice by the consultant;
- 30% of the total amount of the contract, after submission of the second working draft of the regional strategy, its approval by SPA/RAC, and submission of an invoice by the consultant; and
- 30% of the total amount of the contract, after submission of the third draft of the regional strategy, completion of all the tasks due in the consultancy, their approval by SPA/RAC, and submission of an invoice by the consultant.

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 7 - Evaluation procedure

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

7.1. 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) Profile (experience and diploma) of the consultant in relation to the subject of the present mission (60 points); and
- (ii) The methodology proposed for conducting the mission, and observations/analysis on the terms of reference (40 points).

Technical evaluation grid				
Criteria			Scoring	
			Application by one consultant	Application by a consultant association (2 consultants)
Lead consultant	Experience	Experience in similar studies	55 points maximum (12 points/study + 2 additional points/study including the Mediterranean region and/or countries)	40 points maximum (8 points/study + 2 additional points/study including the Mediterranean region and/or countries)
		No similar studies	0 points <i>(In this case the offer is eliminated)</i>	0 points <i>(In this case the offer is eliminated)</i>
	Diploma	Post-graduate university degree in marine biology or environmental sciences, geography, economics, social sciences, political science, law, development studies or related discipline	5 points maximum	5 points maximum
		University degree in the above-mentioned or related disciplines	3 points	3 points
		No university degree in the above-mentioned or related disciplines	0 point <i>(In this case the offer is eliminated)</i>	0 point <i>(In this case the offer is eliminated)</i>
Associate consultant	Experience	Experience in similar studies	N/A	10 points maximum (5 points/study + 1 additional point/study including the Mediterranean

				region and/or countries)
		No similar study	N/A	0 point
	Diploma	Post-graduate university degree in marine biology or environmental sciences, geography, economics, social sciences, political science, law, development studies or related discipline	N/A	<u>5 points maximum</u>
		University degree in the above-mentioned or related disciplines	N/A	3 points
		No university degree in the above-mentioned or related disciplines	N/A	0 point <i>(In this case the offer is eliminated)</i>
Methodology proposed for conducting the mission, and observations/analysis on the terms of reference		Methodology clearly presented, well developed and meets the study terms of reference and objectives <u>(the presentation of improvements and innovations is desirable)</u>		<u>40 points maximum</u>
		Methodology clearly presented, fairly well developed and meets the study terms of reference and objectives	30 points	
		Methodology not developed but meets the study terms of reference and objectives	15 points	
		Methodology not developed but meets partially the study terms of reference and objectives	5 points	
		Methodology not clearly presented and does not meet the study terms of reference and objectives, or No methodology presented	0 point	
Total score (<u>100 points maximum</u>)			... points	

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.

The technically compliant offers will be attributed a technical score based on the following equation:

7.2. 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.

A maximum budget of twenty thousand Euros (€ 20,000) is available for this study. Any financial offer exceeding this budget means that the offer will be eliminated.

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:

$$\text{Financial score} = (\text{amount of the lowest accepted offer/amount of the offer in question}) \times 100$$

7.3. 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 8 - Monitoring, control and validation of the work

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

Article 9 - Deadline for the execution of the mission

The maximum time allocated for carrying out the study is 6 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:

Deliverable / Milestone	Deadline
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Inception report including a work plan, detailed methodology and timeline, to be submitted within 7 days from the commencement of the assignment.	29 January 2021
Annotated table of contents of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean; and Brief note introducing and defining the post-2020 regional strategy.	15 February 2021
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first working draft of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean.	15 March 2021
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Fifteenth Meeting of SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points (Malta, 22-25 June 2021).	21-26 June 2021 (including travelling days)
Third draft of the post-2020 regional strategy for MPAs and OECMs in the Mediterranean.	2 July 2021

Article 10 - 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 9 (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 15 (Cancellation conditions) below, without that the holder cannot raise disputes or claim any compensation.

Article 11 - Copyright, ownership of document

All the plans, drawings, software, photos, videos, data, presentations, study reports and any other documents, elaborated and submitted by the consultant to SPA/RAC for the execution of the contract, will become and remain the property of SPA/RAC, and the consultant will submit them to SPA/RAC. The names and logos of UNEP/MAP - SPA/RAC must be displayed appropriately in the documentation to be produced in the framework of this consultancy.

Article 12 - 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 13 - 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 14 - 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 fulfill any of its contractual obligations does not entail a contract termination or failure to fulfill 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 fulfill its obligations due to the case of force majeure.

Article 15 - Cancellation conditions

SPA/RAC could cancel the contract in case of non-respect of the deadline of execution (Article 9: Deadline for the execution of the mission) or of 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), and in the case described in the Article 10 (Penalty), when the amount is capped at 10% of the total amount of the consultancy. In case of cancellation, the payment will be done in proportion to the tasks already carried out and judged satisfactory.