

## Terms of reference

### Call for applicants

# Drafting of a technical and strategic report on *“Strengthen, structure and sustain Science Policy Interface (SPI) for EcAp and IMAP implementation in the Mediterranean”.*

## 1 Background information

At the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to Barcelona Convention - COP15, held in Almeria, Spain in January 2008, Parties agreed to progressively apply the ecosystem approach (EcAp) to the management of human activities that may affect the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment for the promotion of sustainable development.

With the adoption of the EcAp strategy, and its roadmap for implementation, Contracting Parties have committed to implement EcAp in the Mediterranean with the ultimate objective of achieving the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal zone by 2020.

The GES has been defined through eleven Ecological Objectives (EO) and corresponding twenty-eight operational objectives. Operational objectives' achievement is being monitored with the help of 61 indicators (27 common and 34 candidate indicators) for the Mediterranean, providing the framework for the development on an Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) as a way to evaluate the status and achievement of GES through regular assessments of the Mediterranean Sea and coastal environment.

The main added-value of EcAp in the context of the Barcelona Convention is a renewed emphasis on the integration of cross-cutting issues and challenges. Such an approach will help strengthen our ability to understand and address cumulative risks and effects as well as to better focus our actions on priority targets into a single integrated framework.

The proposed adaptive management strategy allows for periodic monitoring, evaluation and revision through rigorous six-year management cycles. The second EcAp cycle runs from 2016 to 2021.

Mainstreaming the Ecosystem Approach into the work of UN Environment/MAP Barcelona Convention and achieving the GES of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast through the EcAp process have been supported by two projects:

- EcAp-Med I project (2012-2015): Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) in the Mediterranean by the Contracting parties in the context of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols. The overall objective of this project was to support UN Environment/MAP to implement the Conference Of Parties decisions regarding the application of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean in full synergy and coherence with the implementation of the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

- EcAp-Med II project (2015-2018), supported by the European Union: Mediterranean implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, in coherence with the EU MSFD. With the ultimate objective of achieving the Good Ecological Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea, this project seeks to support: UN Environment/MAP Barcelona Convention and its Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to implement the ecosystem approach (EcAp) in synergy and coherence with the implementation of the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). At this stage of the Ecosystem Approach implementation, this project aims particularly to support Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to implement the EcAp Roadmap, through assisting them in establishing new monitoring programmes in line with EcAP.

In their 2016-2021 MidTerm Strategy, the 21 Mediterranean countries and the European Union, Parties to the Barcelona Convention, have set the objective to progressively apply EcAp and strengthen Science Policy Interfaces in this objective. To enable the implementation of the EcAp process and in particular of IMAP, it appears crucial to bridge existing gaps between the scientific and policy making spheres. Therefore, one of the key activities of the second phase of EcAp focuses on the **strengthening of the interface between science and policy (SPI)**, with the support of the EcAp MED II project 2015-2018. Plan Bleu, UN Environment / MAP Regional Activity Center has been mandated to coordinate this activity.

## 2 Strengthening the science-policy interface (SPI) in the Mediterranean for a Stronger Ecosystem Approach

The Secretariat of UN Environment /MAP Barcelona Convention actively participates in relevant project developments and cooperates with initiatives in the region providing research and scientific support to the implementation of an ecosystem approach at the Mediterranean level, to specifically support the southern Mediterranean countries, referring as far as possible to the MSFD implementation in terms of methodology and experience.

However, the need for channelling new scientific input/guidance to specific emerging policy questions and ensuring the efficient use of scientific outcomes and existing knowledge in a rapid manner remains a strong challenge for the Mediterranean region.

In order to progress on and implement the IMAP on a regional basis, it will be an absolute necessity to ensure links with various ongoing monitoring frames and projects, EU initiatives, including projects with experimental and data collection related activities. In addition, it will be key to ensure that project and programme outcomes will be reflected in the regional IMAP and, if they are timely, in the country specific EcAp monitoring implementation plans.

In this context, **the SPI EcAp activity** aims to build on the knowledge brokering concept developed by the STAGES project<sup>1</sup> to strengthen the policy-science interaction in relation to EcAp in the Mediterranean region. From 2015 to 2018, through the implementation of 2 thematic and 2 transversal workshops, the EcAp **SPI activity** aimed to ensure that the outcomes and ongoing work of the various relevant research projects in the region could be effectively channelled into the policy discussions taking place under the Barcelona Convention and that these projects could have an impact at the regional level, beyond the EU.

In addition, to ensure that scientific projects will address monitoring challenges in the region, the **SPI activity** aimed to highlight key policy challenges in relation to monitoring, where scientific input is necessary. As such, it also makes the scientific community more aware of policy needs and challenges.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.stagesproject.eu/>

### 3 Plan Bleu's role and a series of SPI workshops.

From December 2015 to March 2018, Plan Bleu organized a series of workshops dedicated to the strengthening of science policy interface to support the full implementation of EcAp and IMAP. The SPI workshops implemented under EcApMED II project, allowed supporting scientists and policy-makers to define or structure monitoring programs at national level, in the context of EcAp Roadmap step 6 (Revision of existing monitoring programs for ongoing assessment and regular updating of targets).

One of the main objectives of the SPI workshops was to check to what extent SPI could help structure and organize existing national monitoring programs and networks (or to develop such programs and networks).

Building on the proposals formulated during these workshops, by scientists and technical representatives of the ministries concerned (referred to here as "decision makers"), it has been possible to identify and structure recommendations to ensure that the knowledge produced by scientists contributes to the operational implementation of IMAP. So, beginning of 2019, Plan Bleu published 3 brochures (one per IMAP Cluster: Marine biodiversity and fisheries; Pollution and Eutrophication; Coast and Hydrography) that provide Mediterranean stakeholders with key technical and scientific recommendations and conclusions that emerged from the workshops.

### 4 Scope of this terms of reference and deliverable

Following the drafting of the 3 brochures, Plan Bleu is now developing a **final report**, which would take a broader perspective and capitalize on experience with SPI in the context of EcAp. The expected report would have a more strategic / general nature than the thematic brochures.

The workshops opened up perspectives to develop SPI for IMAP, namely by pointing out the need to formalize SPI along with dedicated structures and processes and to identify resources to support SPI. During the workshops, scientists and decision makers made it clear that the limits or absence of current structured SPI is a real issue for a full implementation of IMAP.

**Building on the preliminary and opened up thoughts highlighted during workshops**, the request is **to formalize a policy-oriented report with operational SPI recommendations which give a frame for future actions to support countries in the full implementation of EcAp and its IMAP**. The report will present operational and illustrated ways of SPI, existing elsewhere but which also could be applied for EcAp, at regional, national and local levels.

The report will be produced based on available documentation<sup>2</sup> and the own consultant's knowledge and skills.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://planbleu.org/publications/note\\_35](http://planbleu.org/publications/note_35) **and** three brochures set out to summarize and highlight the main conclusions from SPI workshops related to three clusters (Marine Biodiversity and Fisheries; Hydrography and Coast; Contaminants, Marine litter and Eutrophication) **and** SPI Working documents and Meeting reports.

## 5 Calendar

### a) Workload

The consultant is expected to start working on Monday **11<sup>th</sup> of March 2019** and conclude its work by Friday **28<sup>th</sup> of June 2019**. The following section describes the estimated workload.

### b) Deliverables calendar

The final version of the report is planned to be performed in **25 working days** and the final version should be delivered on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

Starting of the consultancy work	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
Scoping meeting with the follow up committee (Venue: Marseille, France).	Week from 18 to 22 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
1 <sup>st</sup> draft of the report	31 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
<i>Plan Bleu will circulate the 1<sup>st</sup> draft</i>	<i>31<sup>st</sup> May to 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019</i>
Consolidated draft with all comments taken into account and final version of the report	15 <sup>th</sup> to 28 <sup>st</sup> June 2019
Skype calls	Regular

### c) Work organization

Each of the above described steps will be validated by Plan Bleu. Regular calls with Plan Bleu will be planned during the activities development to ensure a smooth development of the tasks and that the results are adapted to the needs.

The deliverable will follow Plan Bleu's visual identity and include all partners' logos.

## 6 Work assessment

The draft and the final report will be assessed by the follow up committee.

## 7 Staff and equipment

No specific equipment is provided for the realization of task. The project manager will be the contact person regarding all technical aspects of the work requested. The consultant and the project manager will keep in touch frequently.

## 8 Proposed outlines of the report

Proposed outlines		Means of implementation
<b>Introduction.</b> Short recall of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the EcAp initiative and roadmap, the importance of SPI for IMAP implementation and GES achievement.</li> <li>- the main challenges to structure, strengthen and sustain SPI for IMAP implementation.</li> </ul>		The consultant could base his work on the key SPI conclusions coming from meetings for the 3 thematic clusters. <i>Note: Plan Bleu will provide with the report.</i>
<b>Development</b>	<b>Step 1:</b> Review of relevant existing SPI initiatives and operational cases at regional, national and local levels (in the Mediterranean and from other Regional Sea Conventions) that could inspire the implementation of IMAP in the context of the EcAp roadmap.	The consultant could refer to the list of projects that have been identified in the appendix of the brochures (published in February 2019) and on which the proposals of the consultancy report may propose to build. <i>Note: Plan Bleu will provide with the Brochures.</i>
	<b>Step 2:</b> Interviews with experts (scientists and managers/practitioners) to refine SPI needs and gaps (from both sides) and how they could be addressed.	The consultant will draft a sort questionnaire. 1 Scientist and 1 manager/practitioner per IMAP cluster is foreseen to be interviewed (6 in total). 3 more specific interviews will be done with PAP RAC's, SPA RAC's and MEDPOL's representative. <i>Notes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plan Bleu will work with the consultant to draft the questionnaire.</li> <li>- Plan Bleu will provide the contact person details.</li> </ul>
	<b>Step 3:</b> Based on the above-mentioned steps 2 & 3, draft proposals for Mediterranean guidelines to frame SPI and guide future actions related to EcAp and IMAP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Operational, concrete and realistic proposals supported by examples to formalize SPI at regional, national and/or local levels along with dedicated structures and processes in the context of the Mediterranean countries;</li> <li>- Proposals to identify funding resources, programs and means of sustainability to strengthen SPI for IMAP implementation.</li> </ul>	The consultant will pay a special attention to make sure that the report provides recommendations to build bridges between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EcAp's ecological objectives, IMAP indicators and the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.</li> <li>- the various MAP exercises and reports that have been drafted in 2018: CAMP-Var, SUPREME and SIMWESTMED projects<sup>3</sup>.</li> </ul> <i>Note:</i> <i>The consultant will pay special care to existing Mediterranean initiatives and clusters (for e.g: institutions, structures, commissions -such as the <a href="#">MCSD</a>-, boundary organisations, networks, exercises -Med2050 outlook exercise at regional level and Climagine participatory approach at national and local levels-, ...) that could contribute to structure and strengthen SPI.</i>

<sup>3</sup> SUPREME and SIMWESTMED projects: <http://iczmplatform.org/page/supreme-&-simwestmed>  
 CAMP Var project : <http://iczmplatform.org/search?query=PAC+VAR&year%5B0%5D=2011&year%5B1%5D=2015> and  
<http://iczmplatform.org/search?query=PAC+VAR&year%5B0%5D=2016&year%5B1%5D=3000>

<b>Conclusion</b>	
<b>Bibliography</b>	
<i>Annex 1: the questionnaire</i>	

## 9 Selection of the expert

- Masters or PhD or equivalent degree in science policy and/or marine studies
- Previous relevant experience in drafting policy documents towards policy-makers
- Previous relevant experience on science policy topic
- Experience in the Mediterranean region strongly desired and a good knowledge of stakeholders and governance processes in Mediterranean countries
- Strong conceptual and synthesis ability combined with good communication skills
- Ability to mobilize information and existing knowledge in an efficient way
- Relevant project and publications references
- Fluency in English as well as proven technical writing skills is required.

## 10 Contractual and financial terms

The acceptance of the offer of the successful tender will implicate the acceptance of the conditions and schedules detailed in this term of reference. A duly-issued invoice will be required for payment at the presentation of the final document. The payment term for the invoice will be: bank transfer 15 days after the invoice date (bank account details should be detailed). The tax legislation in force at the date of acceptance of the offer will be applied.

## 11 Consultant's fees

The daily rate for the consultant is 400 €.

The remuneration of the Consultant for this work is set at **10 000 € (Ten thousand EUROS)**, VAT included, that shall be paid, upon presentation of invoices. This amount covers the Consultant remuneration. The expenses to attend the in-person scoping meeting will be covered by Plan Bleu in addition to the consultant remuneration.

## 12 Intellectual property and ownership of the texts

All documents elaborated by the Consultant (synthesis reports, notes, diagrams, maps...) will be provided to Plan Bleu in electronic format.

The text will be provided to Plan Bleu in Word format including all illustrations (tables, graphs, maps, pictures). These illustrations will also be provided separately: the tables and graphs in Excel format and the pictures in original files (JPEG, TIFF...).

The documents produced in the context of this contract will be the shared property of Plan Bleu. Plan Bleu reserves the right to mention or not the name of the Consultant at the time of publication, or for any use of the document – the whole or part of the document -, handed over to Plan Bleu. Any further use by the consultant shall be subject to prior approval.

## 13 Application

- Application must be submitted no later than **4<sup>th</sup> March 2019**
- Application must be submitted through Plan Bleu website: [www.planbleu.org](http://www.planbleu.org)
- Application must contain a technical offer and a resume making reference to these Terms of Reference.
- For any questions related to this call for applicants please contact:

Mr Antoine Lafitte, programme officer, Plan Bleu

E-mail: [alafitte@planbleu.org](mailto:alafitte@planbleu.org)

Tel: +33 (0)7 86 38 17 20