

Terms of reference

Expert(s) for socio-economic analyses of measures aimed at protecting the coastal and marine environment in the Mediterranean

To undertake:

Socio-economic analyses of MPA development in the Mediterranean: investigating protection levels and the potential extension to reach a 30% coverage

1 Context and objectives

Plan Bleu - observation, analysis and prospective centre – has been created in the late seventies in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP) and the Convention for the protection of the marine environment and coastal region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention). Plan Bleu aims at supporting decision making in the Mediterranean Region with up to date information and analyses on environment and development issues in the Mediterranean, including socio-economic and sectoral analyses.

Plan Bleu has received funding from the Barcelona Convention - Mediterranean Trust fund to support the socio-economic evaluation of measures in regional strategies and action plans and intends to use part of this funding for the execution of the present terms of reference.

The EU-funded project MEDREGION aims to support the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) in the Mediterranean and includes a task on socio-economic analysis of measures, led by Plan Bleu. The assignment described in the present terms of reference will be an additional support to Plan Bleu's work on this subject, usefully providing additional input to MEDREGION.

The objective of this assignment is to conduct literature review and analysis as well as further study to provide insights on costs and benefits of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean depending on the level of protection.

Plan Bleu invites interested individual consultants, consulting firms or associations of consultants, further referred to as "The Consultant", to answer to the call for applicants to conduct the tasks described in the present terms of reference.

2 Task description

The Consultant will work in close cooperation with the Plan Bleu programme officer in charge of environmental economics. The expected tasks are the following:

1. Prepare and attend a **Kick-off meeting** (1-2 hours) with Plan Bleu upon contract signature, to agree on workplan, general analysis methodology for the tasks of this assignment, and collaboration modalities between the Consultant and Plan Bleu;
2. **Complete the literature review** conducted by Plan Bleu of existing studies/work on socio-economic analysis, including cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit and/or multi-criteria analyses with regard to the designation and implementation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean; or in other regions of the world if information can be made relevant for the Mediterranean via transfer techniques.
3. Prepare and attend an **intermediary meeting** (1-2 hours) with Plan Bleu to agree on the criteria to be applied to the regrouping exercise mentioned in task 4.
4. Based on task 1, **complete** the work done by Plan Bleu on **regrouping existing socio-economic analyses of MPAs depending on the level of protection**, so as to be able to compare costs and benefits of the different levels of protection of MPAs in the Mediterranean.
5. Prepare and attend a second **intermediary meeting** (2 hours) with Plan Bleu to discuss the results from task 4 and the analysis methodology for task 6.
6. Based on tasks 1, 2 and 5; **conduct sensitivity analysis to determine to what extent the level and type of protection of an MPA influences the outcomes** of their cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit and multi-criteria analysis.
7. Prepare and attend a **third intermediary meeting** (1-2 hours) with Plan Bleu to discuss results from task 6 and analysis methodology for task 8.
8. In an exploratory study, using available literature and via extrapolation and transfer techniques or other as relevant and as may have been identified under task 7, **explore cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit and/or multi-criteria analysis, as relevant, of the current MPA coverage of the Mediterranean Sea of close to 10% and a potential coverage of 30%** and provide elements of answers to the questions: (i) what are incremental costs and benefits linked to a potential extension of MPA coverage in the Mediterranean from the current close to 10% to 30% by 2030 (cf EU Biodiversity Strategy)? (ii) how does the level and type of protection impact the outcomes of this analysis – potential scenarios of costs and benefits of different levels of protection with a focus on the MPAs' interactions with other human activities and well-being?

3 Work assessment, deliverables and modalities

The estimated workload to complete the assignment described in the present terms of reference is 15 days.

DELIVERABLES

The Consultant shall:

1. Prepare and submit to Plan Bleu, not later than **2 working days after the kick-off meeting (tentatively scheduled 20 January 2021)**, the draft kick-off Meeting report and workplan with detailed timebound outputs for the implementation of this assignment (task 1 above);
2. Prepare and submit to Plan Bleu, not later than **27 January 2021**, the draft completed literature review (task 2);
3. Prepare and submit to Plan Bleu, not later than **8 February 2021**, the final completed literature review and the draft regrouping of existing socio-economic analyses of MPAs depending on the level of protection (task 4);

4. Prepare and submit to Plan Bleu, not later than **17 February 2021**, the final regrouping of socio-economic analyses of MPAs depending on the level of protection (task 4), and the draft sensitivity analysis (task 6);
5. Prepare and submit to Plan Bleu, not later than **26 February 2021**, the final sensitivity analysis (task 6) and the draft exploratory study (task 8);
6. Prepare and submit to Plan Bleu, not later than two working days after each intermediary meeting mentioned above, the minutes of the intermediary meetings;
7. In coordination with Plan Bleu, prepare and submit to Plan Bleu the final versions of all contributions until **5 March 2021**.

Collected source data used in any produced graphics, calculations or maps will be provided by the Consultant in a separate Microsoft excel file, or other format as relevant, clearly indicating sources of information.

All documents produced by the Consultant shall be prepared in **English**, and provided in electronic format using software compatible with Microsoft Word.

WORK ORGANIZATION

The results of the above steps will be validated by Plan Bleu. Regular calls and virtual meetings, potentially including brainstorming sessions, with Plan Bleu will be planned during the activities' development. This will ensure a smooth development of the tasks in close coordination between the Consultant and Plan Bleu, making sure that the results are adapted to the needs.

The Consultant will primarily perform the assignment in his/her office/home.

The work and tasks (including preparation and delivery reports), envisaged under the contract, shall be completed by **5 March 2021**. The contract will be terminated upon the submission by the Consultant of the final versions of all deliverables including a data sheet with used source data, and certification by Plan Bleu that the performance of the duties and the work carried out are satisfactory.

Within that timeframe, the Consultant will organise his/her work in the best possible manner and ensure the successful completion of the assignment in close coordination with Plan Bleu.

4 Selection of the expert

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND SELECTION CRITERIA

- Masters or PhD or equivalent degree in environmental economics or other field relevant to the assignment
- At least 5 years of experience with socio-economic analysis of environmental policies. Experience with socio-economic analysis applied to MPAs will be a particular advantage
- Experience in the Mediterranean region strongly desired
- Strong conceptual and synthesis ability combined with good writing and communication skills
- Ability to mobilize information and existing knowledge in an efficient way
- Relevant projects and publications references
- Fluency in English as well as proven technical writing skills are required.

The selection of the expert(s) will be done based on a presentation of a letter of interest and CV accompanied by separate financial and technical offers, clearly indicating the number of expected working days per task, including a detailed workplan, and making reference to these Terms of Reference.

Applicants are encouraged to send references of previous work completed on subjects relevant to the consultancy, and send relevant documents by email if those cannot be easily found online.

Final selection of the applicant may require an interview. In this case, applicants will be invited to participate in a virtual interview (skype or other).

CONTRACTUAL AND FINANCIAL TERMS

The acceptance of the offer of the successful tender will imply the acceptance of the conditions and schedules detailed in these Terms 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.

5 How to apply

- Applications must be submitted no later than **12 January 2021**.
- Applications must be submitted on www.planbleu.org, and transmitted via e-mail to:

Ms. Lina TODE (may also be contacted for technical questions with regard to this assignment)

E-mail: ltode@planbleu.org

And

Ms. Sandra DULBECCO

E-mail: sdulbecco@planbleu.org