

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy: Technical Support for the Implementation of the Marine Biodiversity and Blue Economy Programme at IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

1. BACKGROUND

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) opened in Malaga (Spain) in October 2001. Within the Mediterranean, IUCN-Med's work is regional across 28 countries in Southern Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. IUCN-Med has the capacity to be present and operate within and across regional political frameworks, mobilizing nature conservation and sustainable development efforts throughout the political and cultural diversity of the greater Mediterranean.

The Marine Biodiversity and Blue Economy team at IUCN-Med is in charge of delivering a programme of work in a wide range of topics focused on marine and coastal conservation, including the implementation of effective spatial and temporal measures (MPAs, local management areas and fisheries restrictions/closures) to protect marine ecosystems and contribute to the maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of marine resources. In particular, IUCN-Med works in three specific areas:

- Halting the loss of marine species and decline of marine ecosystem integrity and initiating restoration
- Promoting sustainable uses of marine natural resources in order to generate overall positive biodiversity outcomes and livelihood benefits for coastal communities
- Maintaining sea and coastal processes as a key foundation for planetary stability

The programme is implemented through a wide partnership with public, private and third sector organisations and supported by several statutory and private grant-making entities.

2. SCOPE

The overall objective of the consultancy is to provide technical support to the Marine Biodiversity and Blue Economy and Ecosystem Resilience & Spatial Planning teams for the implementation and development of the programme and the delivery of specific project commitments, particularly as it relates to the BlueTourism, Nature-based Solutions from marine ecosystems in a post-COVID-19 Mediterranean, Blue4all, Together for the Med and Rest-coast.

a) REST-COAST

The EU-funded [REST-COAST project](#) (Large-scale RESTORation of COASTal ecosystems through rivers to sea connectivity, 2021 -2026) aims to demonstrate to what extent upscaled coastal restoration can provide a low-carbon adaptation, reducing risks and providing biodiversity gains for vulnerable coastal ecosystems. The project builds on the collaboration of 37 partners at nine pilot sites representing the main EU regional seas (Baltic Sea, Black Sea, North Sea, Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea) to develop large-scale river-to-sea connectivity and promote the resilient delivery of coastal ecosystem services.

IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) is participating in the project as Lead Partner of WP5: Transformative governance for restoration upscaling. As such, IUCN-Med is working with pilot sites to support the work to improve governance at pilot areas to:

- Improve preconditions to successfully implement and maintain upscaled restoration in the pilot sites, mainly in relation to the decision-making processes, and
- Generate new ideas and promote innovation testing, including governance and management innovations within a co-designed updating plan.

b) Nature-based Solutions from marine ecosystems in a post-COVID-19 Mediterranean

This project will aim, with the lessons learnt from past initiatives, to fill the missing gaps to promote the inclusion of blue carbon ecosystems in the climate finance mechanisms for the Mediterranean countries, encouraging and promoting the value of nature-based solutions from the coastal environment to address climate challenges while conserving biodiversity.

This project aims to move forward with Nature-based Solutions and initiate ways to scale them up, towards forging a new common path for the future, addressing the urgency of climate change in the Mediterranean, support for unique biodiversity and local coastal communities.

c) Together for the Med

The 'Together for the Med' partnership is bringing together local NGOs, regional associations, international organisations, private companies, research centres and national representatives and working on a wide variety of projects across the Mediterranean Basin. The common platform established by the partners will contribute to the sustainability of efforts for the conservation of marine ecosystems and livelihoods in the region.

The main goal of the project is to mitigate threats, through key tools for conservation by enhancing cooperation and coordination in the Mediterranean to influence processes for effective conservation and sustainable management of Mediterranean biodiversity and natural resources.

d) Blue4all

BLUE4ALL is focused on the analysis of the MPA process comprising all steps needed to successfully conserve and/or restore biodiversity by means of MPAs and OECMs. These steps comprise designation, management and monitoring. Blue4All will document existing and develop new tools to deal with challenges in close interaction with real world examples of existing MPAs and networks of MPAs, comprising (1) information sites that will offer a representative view on the challenges and tools of the wide diversity of MPAs and networks of MPAs, and (2) Living Labs with which BLUE4ALL will team up. BLUE4ALL will ultimately lead to a co-created and tested (proof of concept) Blueprint Platform for effective, efficient and resilient MPAs and networks of MPAs and to a firm basis of a European-wide roll-out of the BLUE4ALL legacy to achieve the EU Mission to restore our oceans and waters.

BLUE4ALL will act to address identified weaknesses in the designation, governance and management processes for MPAs, thus improving the national and transboundary cooperation and cohesion of conservation efforts and ultimately securing improved biodiversity outcomes and optimizing the value of both existing and future MPAs.

BLUE4ALL will explicitly integrate aspects related to governance, design and planning, management, and conservation/restoration outcomes covering all essential dimensions for the future application of the IUCN Green List Standard. BLUE4ALL will exploit some of the Nature-

based Solutions proposed in the Operandum project and assess how this might be proposed in the Living Labs to plan best management and adaptation strategies. BLUE4ALL also can receive/exchange experience on Rest Coast results about ecosystem services, NbS, hands-on restoration at the pilots and about the transformative change in governance and policies.

IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) is participating in the project as Task Leader: T 1.4, 5.1 & 5.2

e) **BlueTourism**

Accounting for around 10% of the world GDP and total employment before the pandemic crisis, tourism is one of the world's largest and globalized industries. Beyond being a source of financial revenue and socio-economic dynamism, tourism also produces negative externalities and exert environmental pressure on natural ecosystems upon which communities depend for their livelihoods. Coastal communities have borne the weight of the environmental, social and cultural impact of tourism, as the ocean is increasingly coveted for its strategic resources and coastal areas become more crowded and depleted. The project started in July 2022 for a duration of four years.

IUCN Centre for the Mediterranean, is in charge of the Mediterranean component of the [Blue Tourism Initiative](#), that will deliver three innovative solutions in pilot actions in Morocco, Tunisia and Lebanon.

Responsibilities and tasks

The consultant will, under the supervision of the Marine biodiversity and Blue Economy Programme Coordinator and project officer as well as in collaboration with the Ecosystem Resilience and Spatial Planning Programme Coordinator, support the implementation of the following projects.

1. REST-COAST (20%)

- Support the development and implementation of the activity *Supporting governance for restoration upscaling*, including:
 - Co-design of innovative governance for long-term stakeholder/financial commitment via dialogues/bilateral discussions with local partners at each pilot site (through online consultations) to refine the priorities and the tools to use for implementing and to develop the vision for NbS restoration for governance implementation.
 - Preparation and delivery of a series of two-three (2-3) capacity-building workshops on different governance aspects for partners and managers from different regions.
 - Development of a Roadmap for an effective governance process in collaboration with each project pilot site and recommendations for key management elements for present and future restoration actions.
- Participate in coordination calls when requested
- Participate in project collaboration initiatives as requested

2. Blue Tourism (20%)

- Supporting the research and scoping work in Lebanon for the pilot action, including the consultation with stakeholders, procurement of documents, drafting of reports and action plans.

- Provide additional support for the implementation of activities as needed
3. **Together for the Med (10%)**
 - a. Organise an event in Málaga in September 2023
 4. **Nature-based Solutions from marine ecosystems in a post-COVID-19 Mediterranean (15%)**
 - a. Follow up of the consultancy and communicating the outcomes
 - b. Support the organization of the meeting in Tunisia in October 2023
 5. **Blue4all (35%)**
 - a. Support the work of the integrated solutions framework. Task 1.4
 - b. Support the key actor/stakeholder workshop of task 5.1
 - c. Seminars and interviews to define and analyse requirements of task 5.1

The Consultant will also provide additional support as needed for the implementation of the Marine Biodiversity and Blue Economy programme of IUCN-Med.

3. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES AND PAYMENT TIMELINE

The consultant will produce the following deliverables to be evaluated and approved by IUCN-Med:

1. **Proposed workplan and timeline**, to be submitted within one week upon the signing of the contract
2. **Five (5) monthly reports**, listing key activities implemented during the previous calendar month and specifying the number of days and hours worked. Each monthly report shall also include a summarised workplan and key priority activities for the following month. The monthly reports shall be submitted between the 1st and 7th of each calendar month.

All final decisions concerning the successful delivery and quality of deliverables will be made by IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med). The consultant shall schedule time in the work plan for reviewing drafts and implementing feedback based on discussions with IUCN-Med.

<u>PAYMENT TIMELINE</u>			
	<u>DELIVERABLE</u>	<u>DEADLINE</u>	<u>PAYMENT</u>
1	Proposed workplan and timeline	One week upon signature of contract	20% of total Remuneration

2	Monthly reports for September, October and November 2023	Between the 1 st and 7 th of the following calendar month	40% of total Remuneration upon delivery of all three reports
3	Monthly reports for December 2023 and January 2024	Between the 1 st and 7 th of the following calendar month	40% of total Remuneration upon delivery of all two reports

4. **SUPERVISION AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS**

The consultant will work under the supervision of IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) via the Marine Biodiversity and Blue Economy Programme Manager and officer and the Ecosystem Resilience and Spatial Planning Programme Coordinator. The Consultant will collaborate with other members of the Marine Biodiversity and Blue Economy team as well as with other teams at IUCN-Med and HQ. The Consultant will also collaborate with partners and contractors of the identified projects.

Duration, Workdays and Fees: The consultant will be self-employed and contracted for approximately 5 months under a consultancy agreement between September 6, 2023 and February 6, 2024.

5. **BUDGET**

Maximum budget: 15.000€ incl. VAT and all other taxes

VAT and other taxes are included in the above-mentioned amount. IUCN is not acting as a business or professional nature entity for VAT purposes and therefore the consultant should charge in its invoices the VAT or analogous tax accordingly. In case that the consultant is exempt of VAT or equivalent tax in its jurisdiction, it should include a note in the invoice document informing of this issue and mentioning the law that applies.

Payments will be made upon finalised review of deliverables by IUCN-Med.

6. **Proposal lodgement methods and requirements**

Proposers must submit their Proposal to IUCN no later than **18:00 CET on 31st July 2023 by email to Mercedes.Munoz@iucn.org**. Electronic copies are to be submitted in PDF format. Proposers may submit multiple emails (suitably annotated – e.g. Email 1 of 3) if attached files are deemed too large to suit a single email transmission.

Proposals must be prepared in English.