Terms of Reference
Capacity training expert for climate change adaptation in MPAs

Background of the consultation

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPPC) has identified the Mediterranean region as a climate change hotspot: mean temperatures are expected to increase more than the world average, fresh water scarcity will be more severe as a consequence of reduced precipitations and higher evaporation, sea level rise will start to jeopardize low land coastal areas, more extreme weather events (such heat waves and coastal torrential rains) will be observed, and natural resources will deteriorate further. Moreover, Mediterranean Sea temperatures and salinity are expected to increase throughout the whole water column and surface temperatures are predicted to be approximately 2.5°C higher by 2100.

Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) will be therefore highly impacted by climate change and adaptation mechanisms and actions are strongly needed to reduce the number and intensity of threats, particularly in areas of projected high risk (vulnerable areas). Incorporating adaptation into the management measures in and surrounding MPAs will further facilitate the resilience of marine communities and the coastal human societies that depend on them.

IUCN in partnership with other international and national organisations have been working on different projects to protect and restore Mediterranean coastal ecosystems for their role in reducing impacts of global climate change and maintaining the biodiversity. Outcomes from its past initiatives has led the foundations for addressing the impact of climate change on Mediterranean MPAs building a strategy for assessing and minimizing the risk posed by climate change to marine and coastal ecosystems. Its present work with the new Interreg Med project MPA-Adapt “Guiding Mediterranean MPAs through the climate change era: Building resilience and adaptation” until 2019, will consolidate and develop further what has been initiated by previous works, by fostering a common understanding and facilitating the identification of local actions in MPAs to adapt. Information on the present project can be found at:


The overall objectives of MPA-Adapt are to develop collaborative and site-specific adaptation plans for 5 pilot Mediterranean MPAs in order to enhance resilience to climate change impacts. This will be achieved by Project Partners and in cooperation with Associated Partners by building capacity for effective management, assessing risks; and exploring potential actions and priorities needed to ensure the adaptability and the resilience of biodiversity and the local communities. The project also aims to incorporate vulnerability assessments and nature-based adaptation planning into their existing management framework, and provide guidance to managers and local stakeholders to implement and test adaptation management options.
The objective of the present consultancy is to assist IUCN to enhance capacity for adaptive management and oversee the testing on five Mediterranean MPAs.

Objective

The services of this consultancy aims to enhance capacity of MPA management bodies (and other coastal authorities) to progressively integrate climate change adaptation into their plans and management. This enhanced understanding and capacity through training on climate change adaptation (and Climate-smart management), vulnerability assessments and monitoring impacts will strengthen the capacity to develop, evaluate and prioritize potential actions, taking into account the activities that are carried out in the protected area and surroundings, together with the integration of different monitoring measures. By doing so, it will further enhance their capacity for effective management.

Therefore, the work of this consultancy will be to plan and undertake a capacity building programme in coordination with IUCN (IUCN Mediterranean Center) and in cooperation with other partners for adaptation in MPA management plans and vulnerability assessments. The consultant/s will synthesize good practices and clear practical examples on the ground from other coastal development programmes, assist to identify coastal experts that can contribute on the delivery of capacity building training for vulnerability and provide feedback and guidance to the development of adaptation management plans.

Two main events will be developed for this training programme: the first will be realized as a workshop that will look at adaptation management and the second will focus on vulnerability (marine and coastal socio-economic and biodiversity aspects). Both are part of the training actions for developing management programme in MPAs and thereafter their testing adaptation actions in response to impacts on coastal and marine environments. These trainings will be realized as separate events, before (June 2017) and after (September-October 2017) summer. Contents of both workshops will include:

- A review of climate change impacts in the Mediterranean Sea and the subregions
- Preparing adaptation plans for MPA management
- Assessment application for vulnerability to biodiversity (species, habitats)
- Assessment application for socio-economic vulnerability to climate change impacts
- Discussions on local vulnerabilities in MPAs (Information needed and available resources).

Project partners also planned a last training on methodologies and techniques used for the scientific monitoring of climate change impacts on marine biodiversity. This training will be carried out in July by the scientific partners of the project. The goal of this particular action is the adoption of common protocols that will facilitate the process of understanding and managing common climate change impacts in coastal areas.

The main MPA partners that will take part on all these activities are 5 Management bodies (Brijuni, Port Cros, Isole Pelagie, Portofino and Bonifaccio) although other MPAs will be invited to participate on the training programmes.
Expected outputs

Deliverables and timeline:

1. **Training on adaptation for Mediterranean MPA managers and involved coastal administrations**
   This first action (June 2017) is to develop and provide a 3 day training session programme with IUCN on adaption management and the materials for the capacity development of Mediterranean MPA management bodies. This training will be conducted on June 2017 in Corsica and will involve a minimum of 5 MPAs management bodies with other partners. It is expected that this training will also have a field visit to a local MPA as to bring opportunities for discussions on practical options.
   The work of the consultant/s will be to prepare the agenda with IUCN Med office (and scientific partners), elaborate the relevant technical contents on his/her part, facilitate the technical development of the workshop and prepare a brief training session report of this activity by end of July 2017.

2. **Coaching pilot sites MPAs during their preparation of preliminary climate adapted management plan**
   After the training, MPA’s project partners will prepare a preliminary climate adapted management plan to define planning purpose and scope. In coordination with IUCN Med office, the consultancy will provide assistance to MPAs during this exercise if needed (approx. 1 week over July-October 2017).

3. **Training on vulnerability assessments**
   Contribute to develop a second training workshop (September-October 2017) and identify together with IUCN, the capacity building team that will develop this 2-3 day programme. The workshop on vulnerability assessments will provide a framework for understanding vulnerability and how applying case-specific assessments in the MPAs. In line with this activity and in preparation with the work to be developed in the pilot MPA sites, the present training will give a selection of methods and tools to assess the different components, which and how to carry out the task as well as the identification of focus resources for biodiversity and socio-economic vulnerability assessments to be developed by pilot activities. This will also include identify where actions can feasibly be implemented in the pilot MPAs and should consider both the marine/coastal environment.
   The aim of this training is to facilitate and enhance MPA’s skills for assessing vulnerabilities of habitats, species, and ecosystem services to climate change including evaluating sensitivity, exposure, and adaptive capacity. Participant MPAs will thereafter conduct different vulnerability assessments in their sites as practical examples for following up discussions with local stakeholders.
   The work of the consultant/s will be to prepare with the other consultants and IUCN the agenda, facilitate the technical development of the workshop and prepare with the other consultants a brief session report of this activity by end of October 2017.

4. **Evaluation and refinement of climate change action plans for pilot MPAs**
   The work of the consultant/s will be to participate and develop with IUCN, the agenda for the evaluation meeting that will be conducted by the end 2018. This evaluation will occur at the final stage of the adaptation process to integrate climate change in pilot MPAs by
assessing the degree of methodological advance in terms of monitoring procedures, capacity building and adaptation conducted during the testing period (2017-2018). A recommendation report for refinement of climate adapted action plan for the MPAs will be the final outcome of this activity and should be elaborated in cooperation with IUCN Med office.

Capacity training programme should take into consideration the following aspects:

- be interactive and participatory and enhance skills of different participants (local administrations and MPA management bodies).
- tailored to introduce specific needs and information of the region and individual MPAs to assist the MPAs develop preliminary adaptation managements plans
- be feasible to provide brainstorm opportunities to incorporate adaptation strategies into participant planning and management activities, and/or to identify and reduce vulnerabilities on MPAs activities or surrounding areas.
- bring best practices and examples from elsewhere and its adaptability to local Mediterranean sites.

Qualifications & Experience

The consultant/s is expected to have a multi-disciplinary environmental or natural resource management background, preferable marine, with a minimum Master’s degree and 15 years international experience in the related field (capacity training for MPA and management, coastal adaptation, climate change awareness) and have a good understanding of the social and economic aspects of vulnerability. Experience in developing adaptation projects and programs will be sought and good written and spoken communication skills with some Mediterranean experience will be desired.

Working knowledge in English. Knowledge of French would be an asset.

Documents will have to be produced in English.

Closing date for submission CV and presentation of a Letter of Interest explaining experience on the subject is 6th May 2017.

Value: Offers up to 13000 euros excluding VAT to be sent to: Maria del Mar Otero at mariadelmar.otero@iucn.org. Travel expenses will be part of the contract.