



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Inventory of marine and coastal sites of conservation interest in Libya

1. BACKGROUND

The Libyan coast represents the majority of the southern central Mediterranean coastal area in North Africa. It was identified as one of several hotspots of marine and coastal biodiversity in the region. In 2010, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Parties revised and updated the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity to include 20 biodiversity targets, collectively referred to as the Aichi Targets. Aichi Target 11 aims for: *at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECM).* The 22nd Meeting (COP 22) of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, held in Turkey on December 2021, adopted the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for protecting and conserving the Mediterranean through well connected and effective systems of marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. This Strategy includes that by 2030, *at least 30 per cent of the Mediterranean Sea is protected and conserved through well connected, ecologically representative and effective systems of marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, ensuring adequate geographical balance, with the focus on areas particularly important for biodiversity.*

These internationally agreed targets mandates Libya being one of CBD member states to contribute to the achievement of those international aspirations. However, like other countries in the region, Libya is bearing the brunt of coastal and marine habitat loss, and its associated impacts in terms of environmental and socio-economic consequences. The situation is exacerbated by the lack of a proper management structure for Libyan marine protected areas.

In this context, the Mediterranean Cooperation Centre of IUCN (IUCN-Med) based in Malaga (Spain), in collaboration with the Regional Activities Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) and the WWF North Africa Office, is implementing the GEF MedProgramme Child project 3.1 in Libya entitled “Management Support and Expansion of Marine Protected Areas in Libya”. This project aims to enhance the protection of marine biodiversity and the management of Marine Protected Areas. This will be done through the development of an MPA governance structure at the national level and supported through new onsite management units and updated management plans.

The present consultation is part of the Child project 3.1 in Libya. It aims at updating the list of marine and coastal sites of conservation interest in Libya.

2. PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTANCY

The objective of this mission is to characterize Libyan marine and coastal sites of conservation interest via rapid biodiversity surveys. This inventory should take into consideration previous related work and publications to identify potential sites such as, the 24 areas identified in the 2012 publication “[Towards a Representative Network of Marine Protected Areas in Libya](#)”, the ministerial decision n^o 272 published on 21/12/2021 by the Libyan Minister of Environment in Libya for the creation of 22 natural marine and coastal reserves, and any new sites of conservation interest. This survey will include, among others, the assessment of the quality of the ecosystems involved at each site and its biodiversity, while assessing the present and forecasted threats that can alter such diversity, including coastal development, climate change and potential impact of invasive species.

3. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONSULTANT

Activity 1: Desk based study to analyse the existing data related to marine and coastal sites of conservation interest in Libya and identify the target areas to be visited. This will be done through online consultation, targeted stakeholders visits and desk research. The objective is to draw a state



of the art of the existing data and prepare a targeted and tailored action plan to update and complete the inventory of sites of conservation interest. The criteria should be presented by the consultant, discussed and validated with the project partners during the inception meeting.

Activity 2: Conduct at least one field mission to identify and characterize sites of conservation interest in Libya through rapid assessment. The mission will be conducted to update and complete the data on sites of conservation interest in Libya. These sites should be categorised according to their characteristics, to their potential to respond to various criteria (with good coverage of the specific characteristics and ecological features of the Libyan coast and KBA criteria) and to the objectives of conservation in at least the following categories: potential MPAs and other sites of conservation interest. The consultant should complete the data collected in the field mission with a consultation of the relevant national actors and international organisations.

Activity 3: Assist IUCN-Med in the organisation of a national workshop to present, discuss and validate the results of the survey. Representatives from key national administrations, research centers, relevant municipalities, universities and CSOs will be invited to provide feedback on the proposed sites and agree on a clear roadmap that will ensure the conservation of the identified sites through their declaration, among others, as marine and/or coastal Protected Areas or OECMs. A consultation of the main national and international actors will follow the workshop to agree on the final version. The results of the survey and the roadmap will then be submitted to the government to take follow-up action. The costs for the organization of the national workshop will be covered by IUCN-Med.

4. KEY DELIVERABLES

- An inception report including a work plan, detailed methodology, report format and timeline, to be submitted within 7 days from the commencement of the assignment;
- A draft inventory report presenting the criteria for prioritization, the categories of sites of conservation interest and the state of conservation of each site;
- A summary report of the national workshop ;
- A final inventory and recommendations report taking into account the comments received from the national workshop and further consultations with national and international actors. This final report should include a clear roadmap and recommendations for the conservation of the identified sites;
- A PowerPoint presentation summarizing the whole process conducted, the main results and outcomes and the next steps.

5. SUPERVISION AND COLLABORATION

The consultant will work under the supervision of representatives of IUCN-Med (IUCN Marine and Blue economy manager and IUCN regional Programme Coordinator), SPA/RAC (Child project 3.1 Coordinator) and WWF North Africa (Marine Programme Manager) to finalize and validate the methodology, collection of data and to facilitate interviews and contacts with key stakeholders as well as to validate the intermediary and final deliverables.

IUCN-Med, SPA/RAC and WWF North Africa representatives will provide access to key contacts in Libya and to relevant networks in the region.

6. TIME SCHEDULE

The Assignment shall be expected to be completed within a maximum of 120 working days with the following tentative schedule:

- By 8 August 2022: Starting of the assignment upon signature of the contract between IUCN-Med and the selected consultant;
- By 5 September 2022: Inception report (including a work plan, detailed methodology, report format and timeline) completed;



- By 15 November 2022: Draft of the “inventory report” prepared and submitted;
- By 15 December 2022: Workshop organised and the summary report submitted;
- By 30 December 2022: Final delivery of the sites inventory report and recommendations taking into account the results of the workshop, consultations and the PowerPoint presentation.

7. PROFILE OF THE CONSULTANT

The consultant is expected to have the following skills and expertise:

- A minimum of seven (7) years’ experience working on Marine and coastal biodiversity and/or protected areas, and familiarity with the Libyan context;
- Excellent analytical and GIS skills;
- Excellent writing and communication skills in English. Arabic would be a strong asset; and
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate and work well with diverse people.

8. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

Applicants should submit the following documents by email to mariadelmar.otero@iucn.org (cc to maher.mahjoub@iucn.org) no later than **the 22nd of July 2022, midnight (Madrid time)**:

Consultants interested to apply are invited to send the following documents:

- A cover letter to the Director of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation;
- Updated CVs signed by their owners showcasing similar experience to the one needed in this consultation ;
- A methodological note detailing the approach to be followed in carrying out the tasks assigned and achieving the expected results of this consultation;
- Financial offer specifying the total remuneration for the consultation (in euros including all taxes)¹.

9. EVALUATION

Applications will be evaluated using the format of call for consultancies of IUCN-Med and will be based on the following criteria:

- Profile (diploma and experience) of the consultant(s) in relation to the subject of the present mission (70 points); and
- The methodology proposed for conducting the mission, and observations/analysis on the ToRs (30 points).

The best value for money is established by weighing technical quality against the price on a 70/30 basis.

10. BUDGET

A total maximum budget available for this consultancy is 12,000 Euros (All Taxes Included).

¹* 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.