

Interreg Programme “EuroMed”: Adapting IUCN Green List Standard to the Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas - GreenList4MMPAs project

Act. 2.2 Drafting of Med MPA EAGLs’ Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference for the Mediterranean Marine Expert Assessment Group for the IUCN Green List (Med M EAGL)

A. Introduction

The **IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Programme (Green List)** was officially launched in 2014 at the World Parks Congress to recognise and promote successful protected and conserved areas (PCAs) around the world. The IUCN Green List is a global campaign for successful nature conservation. At its heart is the Green List Sustainability Standard that provides a global benchmark for how to meet the environmental challenges of the 21st century. The IUCN Green List offers locally relevant expert guidance to help achieve fair and effective nature conservation results in protected and conserved areas. The main objective of the Green List is to encourage protected and conserved areas to measure, improve and maintain their performance through globally consistent criteria on good governance, sound design and planning, effective management, and successful conservation outcomes. More details on the IUCN Green List can be found at <https://iucngreenlist.org/>.

The **Expert Assessment Group for the Green List (EAGL)** is at the heart of IUCN Green List implementation and is established in every participating jurisdiction. The EAGLs are tasked with adapting the global Green List Standard to ensure they are applicable to their unique jurisdictional context, as well as evaluating protected and conserved areas that apply to be added to the IUCN Green List. EAGL jurisdictions are typically established at the country level but can also be established across multiple countries in regions with common regional context or shared ecosystems and/or sustainability challenges (e.g. the Amazon EAGL; the Maghreb EAGL). In some cases, these regional EAGLs have a thematic focus such as marine conservation, for example in the case of the West Africa Marine Areas EAGL.

The Mediterranean Sea is one of the world’s hotspots for marine biodiversity. Despite covering less than 1% of the planet’s marine surface, the Mediterranean hosts around 4-18% of known marine species [1]. However, the region’s unique natural diversity is under threat from a range of human-driven pressures. Over a fifth of the Mediterranean Sea’s habitats are listed as vulnerable and a tenth as endangered [2]. Marine Protected and Conserved Areas (MPAs) are an important tool to conserve, manage and restore the Mediterranean’s biodiversity and deliver benefits for nature and people. Over 1,200 MPAs have been established in the Mediterranean covering around 9% of its surface [3]. However, the ability of these MPAs to achieve their conservation and socio-economic outcomes hinges on their proper management and only around 1.27% of the Mediterranean is estimated to be effectively managed [4]. Strengthening the effectiveness of Mediterranean MPAs must be therefore a priority and will contribute towards achieving the global commitment to equitably and effectively conserve at least 30% of marine areas by 2030 agreed under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD) Global Biodiversity Framework [5].

[1] [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0025-326X\(00\)00027-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0025-326X(00)00027-8)

[2] DOI: [10.5772/intechopen.69214](https://doi.org/10.5772/intechopen.69214)

[3] [The system of Mediterranean MPAs in 2020 | MedPAN - Le réseau des gestionnaires d'Aires Marine Protégées](#)

[4] [Gomei M., et al. \(2019\). Towards 2020: how Mediterranean countries are performing to protect their sea.](#)

[5] <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>

The IUCN Green List standard has been recognized as a Flagship Initiative by the Barcelona Convention under the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025, given a key challenge for the effective management of Mediterranean MPAs is the absence of shared and standardised monitoring frameworks to assess their successful management.

‘Adapting IUCN Green List Standard to the Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas’ (GL4MMPAs) is a “study” project funded by the INTERREG EuroMed Programme that will help overcome this challenge. The project aims to strengthen management quality and equitable governance of MPAs in the Mediterranean through the IUCN Green List process. The project started in January 2024, will run until March 2026, but the Med Marine EAGL will work longer term. This project is formed by a partnership of 6 organizations from 5 different countries across the Mediterranean, namely: Naples Zoological Station from Italy (Leading partner), Côte Bleu Marine Park and IUCN French Committee from France, Aegean University from Greece and WWF Adria from Croatia. More details on the project in: <https://greenlist4mmpas.interreg-euro-med.eu/>

B. Scope of the Call for Experts

The objective of this process is the establishment of the Med Marine EAGL, recruiting its expert members.

The jurisdiction of the Med Marine EAGL will cover marine and coastal protected and conserved areas in the Mediterranean basin, where no regional/national EAGLs are already established.

C. Responsibilities of Med Marine EAGL Members

- **Receive training on the IUCN Green List Standard, its Generic Indicators, associated [User Manual](#) and COMPASS**, the Green List online portal, as appropriate (at least at commencement of appointment and after scheduled Standard, Indicator and User Manual revisions).
- **Establish a working relationship with the assigned Reviewer(s), the relevant Operations Team members and Implementing Partners** (where applicable) to enable formation of the EAGL, adaptations of the Generic Indicators and evaluations of MPAs. Implementing partners are the organisations, agencies or associations that help implement the IUCN Green List Programme in jurisdictions.
- If necessary, **adapt some tools of the Green List to** make them applicable to the Mediterranean basin’s jurisdictional context.
- **Support the evaluation of the MPAs in coordination with other National-Regional EAGLs** for compliance with the approved Indicators following the [Green List User Manual](#)’s rules and procedures and recommend MPAs for addition to the Green List if they are found to comply with all Indicators.
- **Deal with received alerts to potential Triggers for unscheduled reviews** of Green List MPAs.
- **Coordinate its work with the nearest representatives** of the IUCN Green List Programme, WCPA and, wherever possible, with relevant authorities.
- **Support Green List communication efforts of the Operations Team and Green List MPAs** where needed and appropriate.

D. Required competencies of Med Marine EAGL Members

Candidates for membership in an EAGL shall meet the following competency criteria:

1. A total of **at least ten years** of work experience with public or private MPAs in a professional capacity, such as:
 - MPA management and specific knowledge of MPAs in the Mediterranean Basin, including expertise in relevant World Heritage Sites.
 - Government ministry or PA agency.
 - Community or economic development.
 - Independent auditing or assessment of PAs.
 - Scientific research within or about MPAs.
 - Other academic research within or about MPAs, including social sciences.
 - Sustainable development or environmental issues at a management, operational, technical, policy or governance level.
 - Community or indigenous stakeholder organisations, if relevant in the context of the Mediterranean Basin.

OR a Youth Professional with at least 5 years of relevant work experience in some of the above areas.
2. Knowledge of the Mediterranean marine environment.
3. Good network of regional contacts to be able to reach out to key actors.
4. Ability to analyse and integrate diverse information from various sources and derive a conclusion from this information.
5. Strong oral communication skills, ability to craft and deliver messages in an articulate manner.
6. Working knowledge of written and spoken English.
7. Fluency in at least one and ideally several Mediterranean language(s): Albanian, Arabic, Bosnian, Croatian, French, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Maltese, Montenegrin, Serbian, Slovene, Spanish, Tamazight or Turkish.

E. Role of Med Marine EAGL Members

The Med Marine EAGL members will ensure the fulfilment of the EAGLs tasks under the coordination of the EAGL Chair. EAGL members need to understand the [IUCN Green List Standard](#) and follow the [User Manual's](#) rules and procedures. Once selected, EAGL members will receive training on the IUCN Green List Standard and will sign a Declaration of Engagement¹ to demonstrate their commitment to independence and objectivity of decision-making in the context of the Green List programme.

EAGL members are expected to dedicate up to 10 - 20 days of volunteer time per year (max 1.6 days per month) to the EAGL tasks, over at least two years. Participation in an EAGL shall be *pro bono*. However, travel and subsistence costs will be covered on the occasion of a PA site visit.

Benefits of being an EAGL member include advancing Protected Areas management effectiveness and governance, membership with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, and an opportunity

¹ The Declaration of Engagement can be found in the Annexes of the Green List User Manual: [IUCN-Green-List-User-Manual-Version-1.2.pdf \(iucngreenlist.org\)](#)

to become part of the global Green List community of PA practitioners and stakeholders in more than 30 countries to date.

Members of existing EAGLs in the Mediterranean region, who meet the above described requirements, are eligible to apply. If selected, they can participate in the former and the Med Marine EAGLs, as the groups will coordinate their efforts within the region.

F. Application process for Med Marine EAGL Membership

Interested individuals are kindly requested to apply no later than 11 December via <https://glpca.force.com/online/s/eaglapplcation>. On the web application form, please ensure you select the EAGL name 'Mediterranean Marine'. The online form under this link asks for:

1. Your professional experience in a pre-defined table format.
2. A self-evaluation of your competency.
3. A short statement on why you are interested to join the EAGL.
4. An up-to-date CV in English (ensure it covers all the requirements of the TOR listed above).
5. A declaration of your relevant interests to manage any Conflict of Interest.
6. Confirmation of your commitment to dedicate up to 20 days of volunteer time per year (1.6 days per month) to the EAGL tasks, over at least two years. All travel and logistic expenditures will be covered.

G. Evaluation process for Med Marine EAGL candidate members

The EAGL is formed through a transparent selection process coordinated by the Implementing Partner (i.e. IUCN Med) as well as IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), identifying local, regional, national experts from a diversity of backgrounds, sectors and experiences relevant to PA management and/or governance.

The candidates will be selected to ensure that, as a group, the Med Marine EAGL meets the following criteria:

- Sufficient competencies and experience to adequately assess the applicability of the Generic Indicators and, if necessary, adapt their description to the Mediterranean context and to judge whether a MPA meets the approved Adapted Indicator.
- Balanced skill set, with no one professional background dominating.
- Inclusive and balanced geographic, linguistic and demographic representation of the Mediterranean region.
- Reasonable balance of gender.
- At least one Young Professional.

Details of the selection process can be found in the [User Manual](#).

H. Further Information and Queries

For further information on the Green List please visit the Green List website.

More information on the Green List Standard can be found on the following link: [https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/resrecrepattach/IUCN Green List Standard Version 1.1 - 25 September 2018 update 0.pdf](https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/resrecrepattach/IUCN%20Green%20List%20Standard%20Version%201.1%20-%2025%20September%202018%20update%200.pdf)

More information on the Green List's rules, procedures and implementation can be found in the User Manual linked here: <https://iucngreenlist.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/IUCN-Green-List-User-Manual-Version-1.2.pdf>.

Please feel free to get in touch with Jose Luis Postigo Sánchez, Green List Officer for Europe and Mediterranean regions (jose.postigo-sanchez@iucn.org) should you wish to find out more about the IUCN Green List and the EAGL or if you have any other queries.