



**Mediterranean  
Action Plan**  
Barcelona  
Convention



*The Mediterranean  
Biodiversity  
Centre*

**CALL FOR CONSULTANCY N°30/2021\_SPA/RAC IMAP MPA**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE  
FOR THE PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES**

**“Regional Consultant to Support the Implementation of IMAP  
component of the EU-funded IMAP-MPA project for  
Biodiversity”**

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

## 1. BACKGROUND

The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) was created in 1985 and established in Tunis through a decision of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention). It functions within the framework of the Action Plan for the Mediterranean – Barcelona Convention (UN Environment/MAP).

SPA/RAC's main aim is to contribute towards the protection, conservation, and sustainable management of Mediterranean coastal and marine areas of special cultural and natural value and of threatened and endangered species.

In line with

- Decision IG.24/17 on the UNEP/MAP 2020-2021 Programme of Work and Budget (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019);
- Decision IG.22/7 on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016);
- Decision IG.23/06 on the 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017);
- Decision IG.24/7 on the Roadmap and Needs Assessment for the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019);

The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have updated/developed their national monitoring programmes based on the IMAP Common Indicators per each cluster namely Biodiversity and Non-indigenous species (NIS), Pollution and Marine Litter, and Coast and Hydrography. The 23 Common Indicators of IMAP cover mainly state and impact indicators.

The project "*Towards achieving the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast through an Ecologically Representative and Efficiently Managed and Monitored Network of Marine Protected Areas*" (hereinafter IMAP-MPA project) aims to ensure that additional support is provided for the national implementation of IMAP, and for the delivery of reliable data for IMAP common indicators on three clusters: (i) biodiversity and NIS, (ii) pollution and marine litter (iii) and coast and hydrography.

Aware of the importance and need for coordination required at the national level for IMAP implementation, countries are establishing the National IMAP Steering Committees, to mobilise an effective network of competent national institutions and boost and coordinate IMAP implementation at the national level for all its clusters, pollution & marine litter, biodiversity & NIS, and coast & hydrography.

Expertise is required to provide scientific and technical guidance to elaborate the integration of the already existent national monitoring programmes developed within the EcAp-MEDII project (2015-2019).

## 2. OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

The aim of this consultancy is to provide technical guidance and support to the national IMAP teams responsible for biodiversity and NIS monitoring, as well as national consultants to monitor and assess marine environment with regards to IMAP Common Indicators (CIs) 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 in selected areas taking into account the need for interlinkages with other ecological objectives, work undertaken integrated/joint monitoring, monitoring, assessment and reporting scales as well as interlinkages between impact, pressures and activities.

## 3. TASKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN

The consultant will be in charge of the following tasks:

- 1) Prepare a detailed work plan and timetable.

- 2) Based on the IMAP-MPA Project Document, the Progress Report of the First Steering Committee of the Project, as well as the respective national IMAPs, follow-up and further progress the relevant work to undertake a specific, thorough and elaborated analysis per country (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon and Morocco), focusing in reviewing the EO1 and EO2 chapters of national IMAPs (i.e. proposed monitoring sites, techniques and methodologies) and its integration potential with EO5, EO9 and EO10 (IMAP Pollution Cluster) and EO7-EO8 (IMAP Coast and Hydrography Cluster).
- 3) Provide technical guidance to national country team and design concrete monitoring plans per country (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco) for IMAP EO1 and EO2, specifying monitoring sites/transects, their respective Common Indicators, methodologies and protocols for their measurements, quality assurance and reporting schemes, costs of implementation and other elements necessary to build, support and implement a reliable process for project activities implementation;
- 4) Support national teams to identify the gaps and define a concrete roadmap to address the specific needs for the implementation of IMAP EO1 and EO2 monitoring programmes.
- 5) Participate in round-table discussions at national level aimed at streamlining of the roles and responsibilities for IMAP implementation as defined in national IMAP monitoring programmes for all three IMAP Clusters (i.e. Pollution and Marine Litter; Biodiversity; and Coast and Hydrography).
- 6) Provide input to the preparation of tender documentation for purchasing/renting of equipment (e.g. vessels for filed surveys, laboratory equipment) to address the needs for IMAP implementation as part of the package of the field monitoring survey.
- 7) Guide and support the national teams in monitoring data reporting into IMAP Pilot Info System.
- 8) Participate in round tables organized by the IMAP-MPA Project Manager in bringing together the other thematic consultants that will be engaged in the framework of the project to maximize coordination and effectiveness of work at all levels.
- 9) Recommend potential upgrades of national IMAPs for IMAP EO1 and EO2 with a focus on scales and integration assessment aspects as appropriate

#### 4. DELIVERABLES

Deliverables		Deadlines
<b>Deliverable 1:</b> Work plan and timeline Production of 1 document (word) detailing the work plan and timeline.	Detailed work plan and timeline	One week after the contract signature
<b>Deliverable 2:</b> Concrete monitoring plans for EO1 and EO2 Filed survey programmes Tender documentation package	Concrete monitoring plans for EO1 and EO2, complementary the relevant chapters of national IMAPs, are prepared for all countries (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, and Morocco) providing with recommendations and proposals on the integration potential of IMAP EO1/and EO2 with the other IMAP Ecological Objectives (i.e. EO5, EO7, EO8, EO9 and EO10), as well as gaps and lessons learnt (Cf. outline of the report in annex 3).  A field survey programme for IMAP EO1 EO2 is prepared for countries (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco) in an integrated manner as appropriate with the other Common Indicator per each selected monitoring site, as well as related input for the Tender documentation package	15 February 2022
<b>Deliverable 3:</b> Data upload support	Support to countries (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco) to upload data sets coming from the filed survey implementation to IMAP Info System are provided including quality assurance	30 September 2022

<b>Deliverable 4:</b> Final Report	Report is prepared to reflect the results, lessons learnt, gaps and issues from the testing at local scales of the MAP scales of assessment and assessment criteria, including relevant recommendations	15 December 2022
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## 5. SUPERVISION AND COLLABORATION

The consultant will work under the direct supervision of the SPA/RAC IMAP Officer and the overall supervision of the SPA/RAC director, and in close collaboration with the other regional consultants.

Virtual meetings (teleconference/skype/phone) with the other regional consultants will be organized. Virtual/in-person meetings with the national teams and stakeholders will be organized when necessary.

## 6. TIME SCHEDULE

The contract duration will start from the date of its signature and will be concluded no later than December 30<sup>th</sup>,2022.

The estimated working days for the contract implementation are about forty (40) effective working days (WD). Working days are split as follows:

Deliverables	Estimated working days
<b>Deliverable 1:</b> Work plan and timeline	1
<b>Deliverable 2:</b> National integrated monitoring plan	27
<b>Deliverable 3:</b> Data upload support	6
<b>Deliverable 4:</b> Final Report	6

## 7. SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OF CONSULTANTS

The consultant should meet the following criteria:

- Advanced experience in marine biodiversity and conservation;
- Relevant experience in the development of monitoring and assessment studies of the marine environment;
- Good knowledge of the context of the marine environment conservation in the Mediterranean ;
- Good knowledge of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) process /Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP);
- Fluency English;

# ADMINISTRATIVE CLAUSES

## Article 1 - Conditions for participation in the consultancy

Participants to this consultancy should be individual consultant.

The consultant must prove that he/she has all the legal and professional guarantees required for the performance of this assignment under good conditions.

Individual consultants may associate with each other to form a consultant association to complement their respective areas of expertise, or for other reasons. They must clearly identify the lead consultant, who will be the legal representative of the consultant association. The consultant association cannot exceed two experts.

## Article 2 - Composition and presentation of offers

The submitted offer must include separately: (i) a technical offer, (ii) administrative documents, and (iii) a financial offer.

The services provided as part of this assignment consist of an overall fixed and non-revisable cost.

### 2.1. Technical offer

It must contain:

- CV of the expert with his qualifications and experience/references. Particular attention must be paid to the experience in the field of marine studies and environmental conservation in the Mediterranean and the Ecosystem Approach process. If a second expert is proposed, the same documents and information should be provided.
- A methodological note on how to approach and complete the assignment;
- Planning and detailed time schedule (including a chronogram of intervention of the team in case of 2 experts involved in the offer);

Applicants are encouraged to send links to references of previous works completed on subjects relevant to the consultancy or share relevant documents by e-mail if those are not accessible online.

The selection process may include interviews (through a teleconferencing platform), as well as a pre-selection phase followed by requests for complementary information / negotiation if required.

### 2.2. Administrative documents

The administrative offer should include the following administrative documents:

1. A cover letter outlining the consultant's suitability for the job;
2. Document certifying the ability to practice this profession (registration certificate, for example) according to the legislation of their country with the tax number on it.
3. A sworn statement that the bidder is in no situation that could in any way be incompatible with the mission or compromise independence in carrying out the mission; and
4. Terms of reference signed (date, signature of the provider at the end of the document).

### 2.3. Financial offer

The financial offer must be expressed in US Dollars, in both tax-free and all tax-included prices. It should include all the costs connected to the provision of the service.

The financial offer should also include the following documents:

- submission letter, using the template attached in Annex 1; and
- the details of the global price using the template in Annex 2.

Should any administrative documents be missing, the consultant will be contacted to complete the offer documents. If after a period of seven (10) days, the documents are still not completed the candidate will be rejected even if already chosen as best positioned.

### Article 3 - Submission

Proposals must be received electronically at the following e-mail address:  
[car-asp@spa-rac.org](mailto:car-asp@spa-rac.org), before **19 November 2021, at 12pm (midday) UTC+1 (Tunis Time)**.

E-mails should have the following subject:  
**“Regional Consultant to Support the Implementation of IMAP component of the EU-funded IMAP-MPA project for Biodiversity - Applicant name”**

Proposals received after this deadline will not be considered.

### Article 4 - Additional information

Should questions or need for clarification related to these terms of reference and their content arise, bidders may submit a written request by e-mail to: [car-asp@spa-rac.org](mailto:car-asp@spa-rac.org) ; cc: [mehdi.aissi@spa-rac.org](mailto:mehdi.aissi@spa-rac.org) et [asma.yahyaoui@spa-rac.org](mailto:asma.yahyaoui@spa-rac.org), no later than five (5) calendar days before the deadline for the proposal submission.

### Article 5 - Terms of payment

Payment for the mission will be made as follows:

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Instalment of 40 % will be paid upon submission of the deliverables 1 and 2 and after the review and approval of SPA/RAC;
2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and final instalment of 60 % will be paid upon submission of final version of all deliverables, taking into consideration comments raised during the national meetings and after the review and approval of SPA/RAC.

All payments will be made by bank transfer after the receipt of an invoice from the contractor. Payments shall be made to a bank account held by the contractor.

### Article 6 - Evaluation procedure

The evaluation will be based on combined technical and financial criteria as follows:

#### 6.1. Technical evaluation

The technical offers will be first examined, while the financial offers remain sealed.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- (i) Individual consultant(s) experience and diploma (60 points);
- (ii) the methodology proposed for conducting the mission (20 points), and
- (iii) the planning and detailed time schedule (including a chronogram of intervention) (20 points).

Criteria			Scoring	
			Application by one consultant	Application by a consultant association (2 consultants)
Lead consultant	Experience	Experience in marine biodiversity monitoring and assessment studies in the Mediterranean	<b>55 points maximum</b> (12 points/study + 2 additional points/study in the Mediterranean)	<b>40 points maximum</b> (8 points/study + 2 additional points/study in the Mediterranean)

		No similar studies	0 points <i>(In this case the offer is eliminated)</i>	0 points <i>(In this case the offer is eliminated)</i>
	<b>Diploma</b>	Post-graduate university degree in marine biology or environmental sciences, geography, economics, social sciences, political science, law, development studies or related discipline	<b>5 points maximum</b>	<b>5 points maximum</b>
		University degree in the above-mentioned or related disciplines	3 points	3 points
		No university degree in the above-mentioned or related disciplines	0 point <i>(In this case the offer is eliminated)</i>	0 point <i>(In this case the offer is eliminated)</i>
<b>Associate consultant</b>	<b>Experience</b>	Experience in marine biodiversity monitoring and assessment studies in the Mediterranean with a focus on benthic habitats and sea floor integrity	N/A	<b>10 points maximum</b> (5 points/study + 1 additional point/study in the Mediterranean)
		No similar study	N/A	0 point
	<b>Diploma</b>	Post-graduate university degree in marine biology or environmental sciences, or related discipline	N/A	<b>5 points maximum</b>
		University degree in the above-mentioned or related disciplines	N/A	3 points
		No university degree in the above-mentioned or related disciplines	N/A	0 point <i>(In this case the offer is eliminated)</i>
<b>The methodology proposed for conducting the mission, the planning and detailed time schedule (including a chronogram of intervention)</b>	<b>a. The methodology proposed for conducting the mission</b>	Methodology clearly presented, well developed and meets the study terms of reference and objectives	<b>20 points maximum</b>	
		Methodology clearly presented, fairly well developed and meets the study terms of reference and objectives	10 points	
		Methodology not well developed but meets the terms of reference and objectives	5 points	
		Methodology not clearly presented and does not meet the study terms of reference and objectives, or No methodology presented	0 point	
	<b>b. the planning and detailed time schedule (including a chronogram of intervention)</b>	Realistic planning clearly presented, coherent with the time schedule considering the requested time for reports validation and with the chronogram of intervention	<b>20 points maximum</b>	
		Realistic planning but more or less well presented, fairly coherent with the time schedule and with the chronogram of	10 points	

		intervention	
		Planning unclearly presented, doesn't respect the deadline, or no planning, or no time schedule or no chronogram of intervention	0 points
<b>Total score (100 points maximum)</b>			<b>... points</b>

Any offer that has not attained the minimum score of 80 points will be eliminated.

In the event of no offer obtains 80 points or more, the call for consultancy process will be declared unsuccessful.

## 6.2. Financial evaluation

Once the technical evaluation has been completed, the financial offers of applicants that have not been eliminated during the technical evaluation will be examined.

The evaluation committee will check that the financial offers do not contain any obvious arithmetical errors. Any possible obvious arithmetical errors will be corrected, and the corrected figures will be taken into consideration.

The evaluation committee will then proceed to a financial comparison. The lowest financial offer that is judged acceptable will receive 100 points. The other offers will be attributed a score based on the following equation:

$$\text{Financial score} = (\text{amount of the lowest accepted offer} / \text{amount of the offer in question}) \times 100$$

## 6.3. Conclusions of the evaluation committee

The choice of the best offer is achieved by weighting the technical and financial scores using a distribution key of 80/20 basis. To this end:

- The technical score will be multiplied by a coefficient of 0.80.
- The financial score will be multiplied by a coefficient of 0.20.

The weighted technical - financial scores thus calculated will be added to ascertain the offer with the best technical and financial score.

If two offers obtain the same weighted technical-financial scores, preference will be given to the applicant in the following order:

- having obtained the best technical score.
- having obtained the best score for methodology.
- having obtained the best total score for experience and qualifications of experts.

Note: The selection process may include interviews (through a teleconferencing platform), as well as a pre-selection phase followed by requests for complementary information / negotiation if required.

### Article 7 - Monitoring, control and validation of the work

The consultant will work under the supervision of SPA/RAC. The consultant will submit draft version of each deliverable. The consultant will submit the final version of deliverables as indicated in section 4 (Deliverables) and section 6 (Time schedule) of the technical specifications.

### Article 8 - Deadline for the execution of the mission

The maximum time allocated for carrying out the study is about seventeen (17) working days (WD)) as



from the date of signature of the contract, including the deadlines for handing in the final documents and deliverables according to the following timeline:

	<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Deadlines</b>
<b>Deliverable 1:</b> Work plan and timeline Production of 1 document (word) detailing the work plan and timeline.	Detailed work plan and timeline	One week after the contract signature
<b>Deliverable 2:</b> Concrete monitoring plans for E01 and E02 Filed survey programmes Tender documentation package	Concrete monitoring plans for E01 and E02, complementary the relevant chapters of national IMAPs, are prepared for all countries (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) providing with recommendations and proposals on the integration potential of IMAP E01/and E02 with the other IMAP Ecological Objectives (i.e. E05, E07, E08, E09 and E010), as well as gaps and lessons learnt (Cf. outline of the report in annex 3).  A field survey programme for IMAP E01 E02 is prepared for countries (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco) in an integrated manner as appropriate with the other Common Indicator per each selected monitoring site, as well as related input for the Tender documentation package	15 February 2022
<b>Deliverable 3 :</b> Data upload support	Support to countries (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco) to upload data sets coming from the filed survey implementation to IMAP Info System are provided including quality assurance	30 September 2022
<b>Deliverable 4:</b> Final Report	Report is prepared to reflect the results, lessons learnt, gaps and issues from the testing at local scales of the MAP scales of assessment and assessment criteria, including relevant recommendations	15 December 2022

### **Article 9 - Penalty**

In the absence of completion by the consultant of the services at his/her charge within the contractual deadlines envisaged in section 7 of the technical specifications (Time schedule), and Article 9 (Deadline for the execution of the mission), it will be applied as of right and without notice, a penalty of one two hundredth (1/200) of the total amount of the contract (All Taxes Included - ATI) for each calendar day of delay.

The amount of the late penalties will be deducted from the accounts. The amount of the penalties is capped at 10% of the total amount of the contract in ATI. When this threshold is reached, SPA/RAC reserves the right to terminate the contract at the holder's fault, in accordance with Article 15 (Cancellation conditions) below, without that the holder cannot raise disputes or claim any compensation.

### **Article 10 - Copyright, ownership of document**

All the plans, drawings, software, photos, videos, data, presentations, study reports and any other documents, elaborated and submitted by the consultant to SPA/RAC for the execution of the contract, will become and remain the property of SPA/RAC, and the consultant will submit them to SPA/RAC. The

names and logos of UNEP/MAP - SPA/RAC must be displayed appropriately in the documentation to be produced in the framework of this consultancy.

### **Article 11 - Arbitrage, dispute settlement**

Every dispute arising from or in connection with this contract execution shall be solved by way of amicable negotiations by the parties. The contract is deemed to have been made in Tunisia and to be subject to Tunisian law. In case of dispute, the Court of Tunis is competent.

### **Article 12 - Liability and insurance**

SPA/RAC does not accept any liability for acts of third parties, accidents, sickness, losses of any kind, however caused arising during the implementation of the specific actions and the production of the relative outputs expected. The bidder confirms that themselves or any involved staff will be covered by appropriate insurance.

### **Article 13 - Force majeure**

Force majeure means any event outside the control of a party so that it is impossible for one party to carry out his obligations or the implementation of these obligations becomes so difficult that it is considered to be impossible to carry them out under such circumstances.

The party which invokes force majeure must inform its co-contractor within seven (7) days of its occurrence so that the contractual deadline will be suspended with a joint agreement between the parties for the period which is covered by the case of force majeure.

SPA/RAC has a right to assess the circumstances of the impediments invoked by the holder as a case of force majeure to see if they are convincing, and if this should not be the case, then the days of discontinued work will be accounted for as days of delay.

Failure by either party to fulfil any of its contractual obligations does not entail a contract termination or failure to fulfil its contractual obligations if such a failure is due to a case of force majeure, if the party that finds itself in such a situation has done the following:

- a. has taken all the reasonable precautions and measures to allow it to comply with the terms and conditions of the contract; and
- b. has informed the other party of the event, as soon as possible. Any timeline given to a party for the execution of its contractual obligation will be prolonged by a period which is equal to the period during which that party was prevented from fulfilling its obligations.

Any timeline given to a party for the execution of its contractual obligations will be prolonged by a period which is equal to the period during which that party was unable to fulfil its obligations due to the case of force majeure.

### **Article 14 - Cancellation conditions**

SPA/RAC could cancel the contract in case of non-respect of the deadline of execution (Article 9: Deadline for the execution of the mission) or of non-conformity to the content of the service listed in the technical specifications of the present consultancy (section 4 of the technical specifications: Tasks to be undertaken), and in the case described in the Article 10 (Penalty), when the amount is capped at 10% of the total amount of the consultancy. In case of cancellation, the payment will be done in proportion to the tasks already carried out and judged satisfactory.

**ANNEX 1  
SUBMISSION LETTER**

I, the undersigned ..... (Lead expert), after having taken due note of the dossier documents of the call for consultancy N° ..... launched by ..... pertaining to a mission of ..... I hereby pledge to execute the requested services in conformity with the provisions defined in the documents referred to, for the prices as established by myself without taking into account the taxes and knowing that the stamp duties and registration are to be covered by the insurer. The total price of the bid is ..... (.....) US Dollars. I take due note of the fact that you are not obliged to proceed with the tendering procedure and that I cannot claim a compensation. I pledge that the conditions in my offer will remain valid for a period of one hundred and twenty days (120 days) starting from the day after the date for the deadline for the receipt of tenders. SPA/RAC pledges to pay the amount after the signing of a convention into the bank current account of the Bank ..... In the name of ..... Under the number of ..... RIB (BIC – IBAN) .....

In ....., on .....  
(Name, first name and function)  
Right for submission  
(Signature)

**ANNEX 2  
DETAILS OF TOTAL PRICE**

The bidder, in support of its bid, should provide a breakdown of each unit price according to the following model:

Designation	Unit price	Tasks 1		Tasks 2		Tasks 3 ...		Total Tasks (1+2+3...)	
		Duration	Sub-total	Duration	Sub-total	Duration	Sub-total	Duration	Sub-total
<b>Fees</b>									
Lead consultant									
Associate consultant									
<b>Other costs</b>									
Travel and accommodation									
Other costs necessary for the proper execution of the present consultancy									
Sub-total / task (excluding VAT)									
TOTAL Excluding VAT									
VAT Amount									
TOTAL All Taxes Included									

Amount of the offer excluding Tax is fixed at the sum of .....  
 Amount of the VAT is fixed at the sum of .....  
 Amount of the offer is fixed at the sum of .....All Taxes Included (ATI).

**(Signature and official stamp of the bidder)**

**ANNEX 3  
OUTLINE OF THE REPORT**

**Outline for the Preparation of Complementary Studies for National IMAPs for EO1 Biodiversity and EO2 Non-indigenous species (NIS)**

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**1. Introduction**

*[Purpose of this study, overall scope and link with IMAP-MPA Outcome 1/Output 1.1]*

**2. Comparative Analysis of National IMAP-based Monitoring Programme of [Country] for EO1 Biodiversity and EO2 NIS against UNEP/MAP IMAP Requirements**

*[Analysis of National IMAP of [Country] for EO1 and EO2 in terms of monitoring requirements (e.g. list of stations (maps, GIS layers, etc.), spatial-temporal scale/frequency, protocols, methodological/analytical techniques, monitoring protocols, reporting templates) against the IMAP Requirements (e.g. IMAP Guidance Document (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/Inf.7; IMAP Data Dictionaries (DD) and Data Standards (DS) for EO1 (Benthic Habitats) and EO2 (UNEP/MED WG.467/9)) and relevant recent monitoring guideline/protocols prepared for the respective EO (UNEP/MED WG.467/16 and (UNEP/MED WG.502/16). Analysis of institutional set responsible for national IMAPs implementation (i.e. all institutions responsible for collection and processing of monitoring data; data quality assurance; data reporting; monitoring data assessment) and coordination mechanisms in place; legislation defining financing mechanisms, etc.]*

**3. Rules for integration of monitoring and assessment within the Biodiversity and NIS cluster (EO1, EO2) and in relation to Coast & Hydrography (EO6, EO7) and Pollution and Marine litter (EO5, EO9, EO10) clusters.**

*[This section should provide the rules of integration of monitoring efforts within relevant monitoring areas, considering initial tabular form of analysis per each Country, in order to further elaborate interrelations between EOs/CIs considering all the relevant aspects into laboratory practices, techniques and requirements. The analysis should result with concrete fine details of present national monitoring programmes and their implementation.*

**4. Methodologies for Aggregation -Integration of CIs within and across EOs**

*[This section should provide methods for aggregation of CIs within the respective EOs towards an assessment of GES for an assessment area. This section should include proposals for: (i) defining integrated assessment scales taking in consideration the work ongoing/done on defining the scales for each CI; ii), piloting application of the assessment criteria as presently established/ ongoing for EO1 and 2 iii) propose GES assessment approaches for EO1 and 2. The aim of this proposals is to provide clear concepts to be applied within IMAP-MPA and EcAp MED III project as contribution to 2023 MED QSR from national level.]*

**5. Gaps, Issues and Way Forward.**

*[List all gaps and issues deriving and identified in the National IMAP-based Monitoring Programme of [Country] for EOxx [Description of EO] versus findings in chapters 2 and 3 in order to: (i) Undertake a review of national IMAP monitoring programmes prepared in the framework of EcAp MED II Project with the scope to eliminate all identified gaps, including institutional and legal framework; (ii) prepare integrated monitoring plans for implementation at selected project areas (IMAP-MPA Project), along with an update of national IMAP monitoring programmes, ensuring their harmonization with monitoring plans as well. The overall scope of this chapter is to allow improving IMPAs by addressing the specific needs, gaps; but also providing more details that will come up through the preparation of the monitoring plans for the selected areas.]*