



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention



CALL FOR CONSULTANCY

Call for Consultancy N°01/2025_SPA/RAC_MASE

ELABORATION OF THE EVALUATION ON THE SPAMI TWINNING PROGRAMME

January 2025

This call for consultancy document is available only in English.

Offers could be made either in English or French.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

I- CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

I.1- The SPAMI List

The 1995 Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean ([SPA/BD Protocol](#)) entered into force in 1999, provides for the establishment of the List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI List).

The SPAMI List, aiming at promoting cooperation in the management and conservation of natural areas, as well as in the protection of threatened species and their habitats, was established in 2001. To date, the total number of protected coastal and marine areas included in the SPAMI List is 39 SPAMIs.

I.2- Context

The SPAMI Twinning Programme is coordinated by the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) as part of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocol for Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity.

This Programme aims to develop and strengthen the effective management of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs). By fostering exchanges among Mediterranean SPAMIs, sharing best management practices, and involving civil society, the programme ultimately seeks to:

- Preserve marine and coastal biodiversity,
- Promote sustainable development, and
- Strengthen cooperation among Mediterranean countries.

Since the programme's first phase in 2018, four editions have been held, with approximately ten twinning partnerships organized. The programme involves collaboration and participation from SPAMI managers, local civil society organizations, and competent authorities managing marine protected areas. Further information is provided in the Annex 3.

II- OBJECTIVE

The objective of this consultation is to evaluate the SPAMI Twinning Programme to highlight its importance, identify its strengths and successful practices, as well as aspects that need improvement to enhance its efficiency, sustainability, and impact.

The findings will be used to improve the design and planning of future programme editions and to promote the programme while supporting SPA/RAC in securing funding.

III- TASKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN

3.1. Propose an evaluation methodology

- Propose a robust methodology for evaluating the SPAMI Twinning Programmes.
- Define evaluation criteria, such as relevance to conservation goals, effectiveness in building management capacity, and post-twinning sustainability (examples in Annex 4), with a link to the Post-2020 SAPBIO and the Post-2020 Regional Strategy on Marine and Coastal Protected

Areas (MCPAs) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean.

3.2. Review the Programmes documentation

- Review reports and documents from the four SPAMI Twinning Programme editions. Summaries of main activities and outputs are provided in Annex 3 (available in English and/or French).

3.3. Stakeholder consultations

- Online interviews with key stakeholders (around 5 people).
- Online questionnaire for all SPAMI Twinning participants: SPAMI Twinning programme participants, involved SPAMI managers, relevant national authorities, NGOs and the programme responsables.

3.4. Conduct the evaluation and present the results

- Using the defined methodology and criteria in order to:
 - assess the programme's efficiency (selection of SPAMIs, participants, implementation, structure and content, follow up...)
 - assess the means of communication put in place by SPA/RAC for SPAMI managers, as well as the communication following the SPAMI Twinning initiatives, and the transfer of knowledge, best practices, and experiences to other SPAMIs that did not participate in the programme
 - assess the programme's importance in achieving conservation goals
 - highlight its strengths, successful practices, and key achievements, and
 - identify gaps and areas in need of improvement or adjustments.

3.5. Provide a summary and operational recommendations

- Summarize the programme's strengths, achievements since the first edition, examples of best practices to replicate, and successful processes to promote, and provide key messages for decision makers and donors.
- Propose detailed and actionable recommendations to improve the programme's effectiveness, sustainability, and impact, including:
 - Methodology improvements (from design to implementation to outcomes),
 - Enhancing the communication and visibility of the programme, which is dependent on external funding, taking into account existing opportunities (SPAMI platform + SPAMI Day) and
 - Strengthening the SPAMI network to secure manager buy-in and ensure long-term sustainability (opportunity: a dedicated human resource is planned for 2025 to facilitate communication between and with SPAMIs).

IV- EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

4.1. Evaluation Methodology

A clear and structured methodology, including criteria for assessing programme relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability.

4.2. Evaluation Report

- Comprehensive analysis of the SPAMI Twinning Programmes, highlighting strengths, achievements, gaps, and challenges.
- Summary of findings from document reviews and stakeholder interviews.

4.3. Best Practices and Lessons Learned

- Identification of replicable successful practices and key lessons to inform future editions.

4.4. Actionable Recommendations

- Practical, targeted recommendations to improve programme design, visibility, and sustainability, leveraging available resources and opportunities.

V- DEADLINE AND DURATION OF WORKS

The various outputs and deliverables and their submission deadlines are as follows:

| Step | Deliverable | N° person/days | Deadline |
|------|------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| 1 | Kick-off meeting with SPA/RAC | 1 | 7 days after the contract signature |
| 2 | Evaluation Methodology | 2 | 3 days after the kick-off meeting |
| 3 | Evaluation Report | 12 | 25 days after the kick-off meeting |
| 4 | Best Practices and Lessons Learned | 2 | 7 days after the validation of the evaluation report by SPA/RAC |
| 5 | Actionable Recommendations | 2 | 10 days after the validation of the evaluation report by SPA/RAC |

The consultant will inform SPA/RAC of any circumstances that may hinder or delay the execution of the operations provided for in this call for consultancy.

The deadline for the full completion of this assignment is **20 March 2025**.

The estimated total effective consultancy work effort is **19 person-days**.

VI- SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OF CONSULTANTS

The consultant should meet the following criteria:

- Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in marine science and/or environmental science, or related disciplines.
- Experience in marine protected areas (MPAs) and capacity building.
- Experience as an evaluator of projects, institutions, protected areas, SPAMIs, etc.
- Knowledge in SPAMIs is desired.
- Fluency in English and/or French (written and spoken) is required.
- Knowledge of Arabic and/or Italian is desirable.

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIFICATIONS

Article 1 – Conditions for participation in the consultancy

Only **individual consultants** are eligible for this call for consultancy. For the needs of the present assignment, the mobilisation of **one (01) consultant** is required.

Article 2 – Composition and presentation of the offer

The submitted offer must include separately: (i) a technical offer, (ii) administrative documents, and (iii) a financial offer (must be presented in 3 separate files).

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

2.1. *Technical offer*

The technical offer must contain:

1. A cover letter outlining the consultant suitability for the job.
2. A curriculum vitae (CV) including education background (at least 5 years of higher education) with copies of university diplomas, qualifications, professional experience, and **references to relevant previous similar works, studies and publications highlighted in bold**.
3. Documents/URL links/certificates that support the relevant references presented.
4. A methodological note on how the consultant will conduct the assignment, including comments on the terms of reference, if needed.
5. A time planning schedule.

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 folder should include the following administrative documents:

1. Document certifying the ability to practice this profession (e.g., registration certificate) according to the legislation of their country with the tax number on it; or a sworn statement signed by the consultant agreeing to comply with the law applicable to taxes and duties in force in their country.
2. 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.
3. Terms of reference signed (including date, signature and stamp of the bidder at the end of the document).

If the original administrative documents are not in English or in French, they should be provided with additional copies translated into English or French by a sworn translator.

Should any of the administrative documents be missing, the tenderer will be contacted to complete the missing offer documents within a period of ten (10) days. If after a period of ten (10) days, the documents are still not complete the offer will be eliminated.

2.3. Financial offer

The financial offer must be expressed in **United States Dollars (USD)**, in both **tax-free** and **all tax-included prices**. **It should include all the costs connected to the provision of the service (online tools, supplies, etc.).**

It is important to note that the financial offer should detail the number of working days (person-days), as well as the allocation of funds to each of the tasks and deliverables and including the consultant's fees and any necessary equipment and/or supplies (Cf. Annex 2).

The financial offer should also include:

- A 'Submission letter', using the template attached in **Annex 1**.
- 'The details of the global price' using the template in **Annex 2**.

Article 3 – Submission

Offers must be received electronically at the following e-mail address: procurement@spa-rac.org Cc: car-asp@spa-rac.org, before **22 January 2025, at 23:59 UTC+1 (Tunis Time)**.

E-mails should have the following subject: **"Restricted Call for Consultancy n°01/2025_SPA/RAC_MASE – SPAMI Twinning Programme – '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: asma.kheriji@spa-rac.org, dorra.maaoui@spa-rac.org, cc: car-asp@spa-rac.org, no later than five (5) calendar days before the deadline for the proposal submission.

Article 5 – Definition, consistency and variation of prices

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

5.1. Variation of prices

The prices of the contracts are fixed and not subject to revision.

5.2. Finality of prices

The services provided may not, under any pretext, reconsider the market prices which were agreed by her/him.

Article 6 – Tender validity period

Any tenderer who submitted a tender will be bound by his tender for one hundred and twenty (120) days starting from the day following the deadline fixed for receiving the offers. During that period, the prices and information proposed by the tender will be firm and non-revisable.

Article 7 – Terms of payment

The total amount of the contract will be paid upon reception by SPA/RAC of the consultant’s mission report and of an invoice from the contractor. This payment is also conditioned by a certificate from SPA/RAC that the service provider has accomplished all its contractual obligations and duties to SPA/RAC satisfaction.

Payments shall be made by bank transfer to the account held by the contractor.

Article 8 – Evaluation procedure

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

8.1. Technical evaluation

The technical offer(s) will be first examined, while the financial offer(s) remain sealed.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- (i) The consultant’s profile (experience, references and diploma) in relation to the subject of the present mission;
- (ii) The methodology proposed for conducting the mission;
- (iii) The time planning schedule;
- (iv) Languages.

| Technical evaluation grid | | |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| | Criteria | Scoring |
| Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experience in MPAs and marine conservation. ▪ Experience as an evaluator of projects, institutions, protected areas, SPAMIs, etc. ▪ Experience in trainings and capacity building. | 50 points maximum (10 points/valid reference) |
| | No references in the above-mentioned kind of experiences | 0 point (<i>In this case the offer is eliminated</i>) |
| Diploma | Post-graduate degree (Master or equivalent) in marine science and/or | 10 points maximum |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | environmental science, or related disciplines | |
| | University degree in the above-mentioned disciplines | 5 points |
| | No university degree | 0 point (<i>In this case the offer is eliminated</i>) |
| Methodology proposed for conducting the mission | Methodology clearly presented, well-developed and meets the assignment terms of reference and objectives | 30 points maximum |
| | Methodology clearly presented, fairly well-developed and meets the assignment terms of reference and objectives | 20 points |
| | Methodology not developed but meets the assignment terms of reference and objectives | 10 points |
| | Methodology not clearly presented and does not meet the assignment terms of reference and objectives, Or No methodology presented | 0 point (<i>In this case the offer is eliminated</i>) |
| Time planning schedule | Planning is clearly presented, well developed and meets the assignment terms of reference and objectives | 10 points maximum |
| | Planning is not much developed but meets the assignment terms of reference and objectives | 5 points |
| | Planning not clearly presented and does not meet the assignment terms of reference and objectives, Or No planning presented | 0 point (<i>In this case the offer is eliminated</i>) |
| Total score | | 100 points |

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 will be declared unsuccessful.

8.2. 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:

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

8.3. 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 the consultant.

Article 9 – Monitoring, control and validation of the work

The contract related to this tender will be signed with SPA/RAC.

The bidder will work under the supervision of SPA/RAC. The bidder will submit the final version of the deliverables as indicated in sections III and IV of the Technical Specifications.

Article 10 – Deadline for the execution of the mission

The overall duration for carrying out this consultancy is 14 months from the date of signature of the contract, including the deadlines for handing in the final documents and deliverables according to the timeline table in article IV of technical specifications.

Article 11 – Penalty

In the absence of completion by the tenderer of the services at his charge within the contractual deadlines envisaged in Article 10 (Deadline for the execution of the mission), it will be applied as of right and without notice, a penalty of one three hundredth (1/300) of the total amount of the contract 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. When this limit is reached, SPA/RAC reserves the right to terminate the contract at the service provider's fault, in accordance with Article 17 (Cancellation conditions), and without that the service provider can raise disputes or claim any compensation.

Article 12 – Intellectual property rights, ownership of document

All legal rights throughout the world in works or inventions created by the provider in connection with the consultancy will remain the property of SPA/RAC. The provider recognizes that such rights include, but are not limited to, copyright and other rights in written material, sound and video recordings (including films), maps, photographs, etc. as well as patents and other rights in inventions, and that the said rights enable SPA/RAC to control and authorize, where appropriate, all publications, publicity material and other exploitation of the said works and inventions.

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

The provider does not have the right to use or copy the products resulting from this consultancy whatever their form or their media, without the explicit written non objection of the SPA/RAC.

Article 13 – Confidentiality / professional secret clauses

The selected service provider undertakes to observe total discretion in all matters relating to the facts and information of which he became aware during the performance of his assignment.

Any member of the team assigned to the mission covered by this contract who contravenes the aforementioned obligation of professional secrecy would expose himself to legal proceedings.

Article 14 – 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 15 – 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 16 – 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 17 – Cancellation conditions

SPA/RAC could cancel this contract through a notification in writing addressed to the tenderer after one of the events indicated in the following paragraphs:

- a. no respect of the deadline of the execution in application of Article 10 (Deadline for the execution of the mission);
- b. in the case described in the Article 11 (Penalty) when the amount is capped at 10% of the total amount of the contract;
- c. non-conformity to the content of the service listed in the technical specification of the present tender documents;
- d. If the tenderer goes bankrupt or into receivership;
- e. If, after a case of force majeure, the holder is unable to execute a substantial part of the Services for a period equal to at least sixty (60) days;
- f. If the tenderer was involved in corruption or fraudulent manipulations in order to obtain the contract or during the execution of the contract. For the purpose of the clause: a person is guilty of “corruption” if he/she offers, gives, solicits or accepts any kind of advantage in order to influence the action of a public official during the selection or the execution of the contract; and undertakes “fraudulent manipulations” which distort or denature the facts so as to influence the selection or the execution of the contract to the detriment of the borrower; by “fraudulent manipulations” is meant any agreement or collusive manipulation of the tenderers (before or after submitting the proposals) so as to artificially maintain the prices of the tenders at levels which do not correspond to prices which would have resulted from free and open competition and which deprive the borrower of the advantages of free and open competition; or
- g. If SPA/RAC, on its own initiative and for any reason whatsoever, decides to terminate the contract.

Article 18 – Conflict of interests

18.1. Prohibition of incompatible activities

The contract tenderer, the personnel and agents must not engage, directly or indirectly, during the contract implementation period, in professional or commercial activities which could be incompatible with the activities with which they have been entrusted due to the present contract.

18.2. Non-participation of the holder and his associates in certain activities

The tenderer and his associates are prohibited, during the contract duration and at the end of the contract period, to provide good, works or services means for any project stemming from the Services or closely connected with the present contract services (except for the implementation of the present contract services and their continuation).

Article 19 – Provisional and final acceptance

The provisional acceptance is pronounced after complete completion of the services covered by this consultancy i.e., after the completion of the service described in sections III and IV of the technical specifications, and Article 10 (Deadline for the execution of the mission). The provisional acceptance will be pronounced only in the case of complete conformity deemed conclusive by SPA/RAC and a provisional acceptance report issued by the SPA/RAC no later than 30 days from receipt of the deliverables and at the written request of the service provider and the signing of a report of completion of the work/services jointly by the service provider and SPA/RAC. The Service Provider shall, however, correct any deficiencies identified by the SPA/RAC upon completion of the various phases.

Final acceptance will be given one (1) month after the date of provisional acceptance without reservation of the contract. The final acceptance certificate will only be delivered once the service provider has fulfilled all his obligations resulting from sections III and IV of the Technical Specifications and after corrections of all deficiencies signalled by SPA/RAC.

ANNEX 1

SUBMISSION LETTER

I, the undersigned (Director) of recorded in the commercial register on under the number Domiciled at After having taken due note of the dossier documents of the call for tenders 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 my bid is (.....) USD 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 tender 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 and official stamp)

ANNEX 2

DETAILS OF GLOBAL PRICE

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

| Designation | Unit price | Step 1 | | Step 2 | | Step 3 | | Total Steps (1+2+3) | |
|---|------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| | | Duration | Sub-total | Duration | Sub-total | Duration | Sub-total | Duration | Sub-total |
| Fees | | | | | | | | | |
| Expert 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Other costs | | | | | | | | | |
| Travel and accommodation | | | | | | | | | |
| Other costs necessary for the proper execution of the present consultancy | | | | | | | | | |
| Sub-total/Step | | | | | | | | | |

Amount of bid, is fixed at the sum of

In, on
 (Signature and official stamp of bidder)

Annex 3

The SPAMI Twinning Programme

Phase 1 (2018-2020) supported by the Italian Ministry of Environment

The first phase of the SPAMI Twinning Programme was implemented through the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement between UNEP/MAP and the Italian Ministry of Environment in 2018-2020. The focus was on developing twinning programmes between Italian SPAMIs/MPAs and their counterparts from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean shores.

The beneficiary MPAs and SPAMIs were:

- Egadi Islands MPA (Italy) & Kneiss Islands (Tunisia),
- Tavolara Punta Coda Cavallo MPA (Italy) & Habibas Islands (Algeria),
- Torre del Cerrano MPA (Italy) & Landscape Park Strunjan (Slovenia),
- Torre Guaceto MPA (Italy) & Karaburun-Sazan National Marine Park (Albania).

Key outputs included exchange visits, on-the-job trainings on MPA management, improving governance through stakeholder participation, involvement of civil society organizations in sustainable socio-economic activities within the protected areas, and the establishment of the SPAMI collaborative platform.

Main activities and outputs

| Description | Links to outputs |
|--|--|
| <p>A training on planning according to the ISEA¹ method was provided for 16 MPA and SPAMI managers in Tunisia on 11-12 March 2019.</p> <p>This activity helped to design four management plans according to the ISEA method, that were adopted by the concerned authorities in Albania, Algeria, Slovenia and Tunisia.</p> | <p>Training on planning (recorded)</p> <p>Management plans</p> |
| <p>4 exchange visits by Italian managers to twinned MPAs were organized to identify and discuss common challenges and possible solutions.</p> <p>4 exchange visits to Italian MPAs for managers of twinned MPAs were organized to demonstrate good management and monitoring practices.</p> <p>These exchanges have also led to a better understanding of the functioning of the ISEA system and to undertake common activities.</p> | <p>Common activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Common activity Torre Guaceto - Karaburun Sazan• Common activity Torre del Cerrano - Strunjan |
| <p>Several initiatives were launched to encourage the participatory process in the management of SPAMIs.</p> | <p>Participatory activities (4)</p> |

¹ ISEA Central Planning is the tool set up by the Italian Ministry of the Environment for the coordination of activities carried out by the national marine protected area network. It is based on a graphic conceptual model that allows a visual understanding of the governance of the protected area, with easy identification of the ecological values of the site, threats, and the strategies and actions developed by the management body to achieve its objectives.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>In Tunisia, new boundaries and zoning of the Kneiss SPAMI were defined. In Algeria, a fishing charter around the SPAMI of the Habibas Islands has been developed.</p> <p>In Slovenia, fishers were involved in the monitoring of the Strunjan SPAMI and in Albania, the activity focused on improving the sustainability of sea excursions operated by local boatmen at the Karaburun Sazan SPAMI.</p> | |
| <p>A call for small projects was launched by SPA/RAC, with the main objective of involving local civil society in the management of SPAMIs. These small projects focused on the development of sustainable socio-economic activities and monitoring within the SPAMIs.</p> | <p>Small projects for CSO involvement (7)</p> |
| <p>In order to further promote regional cooperation between SPAMIs and knowledge-sharing during the SPAMI twinning programme and beyond, a Collaborative Platform has been set up.</p> | <p>Collaborative platform: https://spami.medchm.net/en</p> |

For further information:

[Live streaming of the "Talk for Nature" organized in the Mediterranean Corner](#) at COP15 in Montreal, on Tuesday 13 December 2022 at 13:30 EST (UTC-5). Speakers:

- Ms Saba GUELLOUZ (SPA/RAC)
- Mr Oliviero MONTANARO (Ministry of Environment and Energy Security of Italy)

Phase 2 (2022) supported by the European Union

Thanks to funding through the ENI CBC Med ENSERES project, the SPAMI Twinning Programme expanded to include additional countries such as France and Spain.

This phase aimed to reinforce ecosystem-based management and integrated coastal zone management (EBM/ICZM) implementation.

The beneficiary SPAMIs were:

- Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (Lebanon)/Medes Islands Reserve (Spain); and
- Kneiss Islands Nature Reserve (Tunisia)/Côte Bleue Marine Park (France).

Activities included management issues diagnosis reports, joint monitoring programmes, medium-term on-the-job training, peer-to-peer support, mentoring, and exchange visits.

| Description | Links to outputs |
|--|---|
| <p>After definition of specific contents of each twinning, two exchange visits were organized as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tyre Coast Nature Reserve and SPAMI, June 2022: Two representatives from Medes Islands Reserve (Spain) exchanged best practices with SPAMI managers and local stakeholders.• Kneiss Islands Nature Reserve and SPAMI, August/September 2022: Two representatives from the Parc Marin de la Côte Bleue (France) exchanged best practices with SPAMI managers and local stakeholders. <p>The purpose of the exchange visits is to understand how the visited SPAMI works, and to identify the area in which the 2 SPAMIs will be working together and exchanging during the on-the-job training.</p> <p>Two on-the-job trainings were organized in Spain and France as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On-the-job training of four Tyre Coast nature reserve SPAMI managers to Montgrí, Medes Islands and Baix Ter Natural SPAMI, Spain, aiming to showcase sustainable management of tourism activity related to the park from 9 to 14 October 2022.• On-the-Job training of six Kneiss islands SPAMI managers to Côte Bleue Marine Park, France, aiming at showcasing fishery sustainable management, from 19 to 22 October 2022. | <p>Specific action plans</p> |
| <p>In order to involve local civil society in SPAMI management, six (6) small grants were awarded to 2 NOGs from Tunisia and four NGOs from Lebanon. The projects were implemented in Kneiss Island Nature Reserve SPAMI (Tunisia) and Tyre Coast Nature Reserve SPAMI (Lebanon) in the framework of the ENI CBC Med ENSERES project.</p> | <p>Subgrants</p> <p>Short video presenting the activity</p> |

For further information:

- [Short video presenting the twinning programme](#) (second edition)
- Summary report of the ENSERES project, with a section on twinning activities : https://www.enicbcmed.eu/sites/default/files/2024-05/D3.3.5_SynthesisReport.pdf
- ENSERES project page and deliverables (library): <https://www.enicbcmed.eu/fr/projects/enseres>

Phase 3 (2022 – 2023) supported by the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security

Thanks to the renewed collaboration between UNEP/MAP and the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security, the third phase of the SPAMI Twinning Programme was carried out in 2022-2023.

The beneficiary SPAMIs for this phase are:

- Miramare MPA (Italy) & Palm Islands Nature Reserve (Lebanon),
- Porto Cesareo MPA (Italy) & Al Hoceima National Park (Morocco),
- Penisola del Sinis – Isola di Mal di Ventre MPA (Italy) & Zembra and Zembretta National Park (Tunisia).

Implemented activities included diagnosis of management and monitoring practices within the SPAMIs and support to the local management teams in designing new management solutions, on-the-job training, and involvement of the civil society organizations through small project proposals.

| Description | Links to outputs |
|---|---|
| Exchange visits and on-the-job trainings to design specific action plans | Specific action plans |
| Small project proposals to foster CSO involvement | CSO involvement PS: MareTerra NGO is based in Sicily – there is no CSO in the Isola di Mal di Ventre MPA |
| CSO involvement within the context of SPAMI Day: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Empowering environmental education at Tyre coast nature reserve: a sustainable approach for conservation and awareness (Lebanon)- Discovering the marine wonders of the landscape park Strunjan (Slovenia)- La Galite archipelago: a jewel of the mediterranean, a SPAMI to preserve (Tunisia)- Promoting environmental consciousness and biodiversity conservation in Portofino marine protected area (Italy)- raising awareness and building partnerships for the Banc des Kabyles marine protected area (Algeria) | |

| | |
|--|---|
| - Discovering the living treasures of the Karaburun-Sazan national marine park (Albania) | |
| SPAMI Platform: discussion forum functionality added | https://spami.medchm.net/fr/forums |

For further information:

- Webinar: Civil Society Organisations: Key Partners for Effective SPAMI Management organized during SPAMI DAY 2024 celebration:
https://www.youtube.com/live/CHQnsS0gfvA?si=RTfa_0eyR1fXJcwk
- Short video of the [Kick off meeting](#), organised on June 8, 2023, in Rome, Italy

Phase 4: (2024) supported by the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security

The Mediterranean SPAMI Twinning Programme promotes collaboration among Special Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) through a brainstorming session, discussion sessions, on-the-job training, and peer support (follow-up activity), between Italian SPAMIs (Miramare and Egadi Islands) and two countries non-Italian countries (Tunisia and Morocco), in close concertation between SPA/RAC and MASE.

Innovative cross-twinning exchanges was a hallmark of the programme, where a mix of 2 representatives from each non-Italian SPAMIs engaged in exchanges with one Italian SPAMI each. The other 2 representatives from the non-Italian SPAMI will be paired with another Italian one. This unique approach ensures that participants not only benefit from the expertise of the Italian SPAMI but also gain insights from the experiences of their counterparts in other SPAMIs, which fosters a broader network of shared learning and collaboration across the Mediterranean region. SPAMI' representatives will discuss during a specific online brainstorming session about the dispatching of roles of the groups and priorities of their respective SPAMI.

In the framework of this MASE-funded project, SPA/RAC is proposing the development and implementation of a specific programme allowing the planification, organisation of the SPAMI Twinning Programme, as validated by MASE.

Outcomes of this edition will be shared later.

ANNEX 4

Examples of evaluation criteria for the SPAMI Twinning Programme

1. Relevance of the programme

- Alignment with regional and international conservation objectives: Does the programme meet the strategic objectives of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, in particular those concerning SPAMIs, and the Post-2020 Regional Strategy on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean? Is the selection of twinned SPAMIs appropriate?
- Suitability with the needs of the twinned sites: Does the implementation method (calls for small projects, exchange visits, training, etc.) make it possible to meet the specific needs of each participating SPAMI?

2. Effectiveness

- Achievement of objectives: Were the planned activities carried out on time and in accordance with the expected results? Has the programme achieved its objectives?
- Impact on managers' skills: Have the managers of the twinned SPAMIs acquired new skills or knowledge that can be applied to their management practices?
- Strengthening of synergies and cooperation: Have exchanges and cooperation between twinned SPAMIs been strengthened as a result of the twinning programme? Does the programme encourage ongoing communication and joint initiatives?

3. Sustainability

- Continuity of impact : Do the benefits of the programme last beyond the twinning period? Can the twinned SPAMIs maintain the actions initiated independently?
- Institutionalisation of practices: Are the good practices and tools developed by the twinned SPAMIs sustainable?

4. Impact

- Improved protection of ecosystems: Does the programme make a significant contribution to the conservation and resilience of protected ecosystems? What is the impact observed or measured by managers on biodiversity?
- Awareness-raising and involvement of local stakeholders: Has the programme strengthened the involvement of local stakeholders, such as communities and local organisations?