

CALL FOR CONSULTANCY N°32/2025_SPA/RAC_FishEBM Med

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Regional Support to Endorse pilot NAP+ with investment plan(s) and tested in at least one FishEBM project country and support the implementation of new partnerships through the NAP+, enabling the participation of the private sector in blue economy

Clarification on technical and administrative issues - Call for consultancy N°32/2025_SPA/RAC_fishEBM Med

Technical Clarifications

1. Total Working Days (WD)

Q: The ToR indicates that the consultancy should be completed within 51 working days. Given the importance of stakeholder consultation, national feedback loops, and validation processes—particularly for the NAP+ and the regional guideline—we would like to inquire whether SPA/RAC could accept a slight adjustment to the total number of days. We estimate that 55–56 WD would allow for a more realistic and robust completion of all tasks, ensuring high-quality deliverables and sufficient time for iterative exchanges with national teams.

R: The number of working days indicated in the ToR is an estimate provided by SPA/RAC to give an indication of the expected level of effort and therefore estimate the necessary budget. Bidders are free to propose, in their technical and financial offers, the number of necessary working days they consider sufficient to successfully complete all tasks, as long as it is coherent, justified, and aligned with the proposed methodology.

Therefore, a well-justified proposal including a slightly higher number of working days will be acceptable and will be evaluated based on its overall relevance and consistency.

2. Timeline for Deliverables 1 and 2

Q: Deliverables 1 and 2 are scheduled for November 2025. Considering that the proposal deadline is November 25th, it will not be feasible to produce both deliverables within the remaining five working days of the month. For this reason, we would appreciate clarification on whether SPA/RAC would consider December 2025 as the effective starting month for the consultancy. This adjustment would maintain the intended end date of November 2026 while providing a realistic 11-month implementation period.

R: SPA/RAC confirms that it is possible for the consultancy to effectively start in December 2025. Bidders may therefore propose a revised and more realistic timeline in their technical offer, provided that all tasks described in the ToR are fully implemented and that the final deadline of November 2026 is strictly respected.

Any proposed timeline will be assessed based on its coherence, feasibility, and alignment with the overall objectives of the assignment.

3. Selection of Countries for Task 5

Q: Under Task 5 (“Support the establishment and structuring of national FishEBM Med stakeholder platforms in at least six countries”), it is not entirely clear how the six countries will be selected. We would appreciate guidance on whether these will be:

- the six non-pilot countries,
- the three pilot countries plus three additional ones,
- or another selection method coordinated with SPA/RAC and national focal points.

R: Six countries are supported under Task 5 will include the three pilot countries (Montenegro, Tunisia, and Morocco), in addition to three other countries to be selected in close coordination with the national focal points and SPA/RAC.

This approach ensures balanced regional coverage while allowing flexibility to align with national priorities and readiness levels.

Administrative Clarifications

4. Number of Contracts and Annex 1 Submission

Q: Annex 1 appears to assume a single contract and a single bank account. As the ToR specifies a two-person consultancy team, and given that the two experts are based in different countries with different tax regimes, we would appreciate clarification on the contracting mechanism:

- Will SPA/RAC issue **one contract with the team lead**, who will then manage internal distribution and individual tax obligations?
- Or will SPA/RAC issue **two separate contracts**, one per expert, each with its corresponding banking and tax information?

R: SPA/RAC will establish one contract with the 'joint venture' of the 2 experts, and the leader of this JV will receive the funds. The fiscal issues must be handled by the 'JV' entity.

