

CALL FOR APPLICATION

Position title:	Ecosystem Approach Projects Officer
Duty station	Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC), Tunis- Tunisia
Type of contract	Fixed-term contract (accompanied by a probationary period of 3 months)
Expected start date	Early on November 2022
Application period	1 st October 2022 – 15 October 2022
Application deadline	15 October 2022

The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) is the main body of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) which coordinates the implementation of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean. It further implements the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity and sustainable management of marine resources (Post-2020 SAP BIO) in the Mediterranean Region (2003), develops management plans, information tools for monitoring, and promotes awareness campaigns and the circulation of information among specialists and relevant international organisations including NGOs.

The Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way, as stated by the Convention on Biological Diversity. It goes beyond examining single issues, species, or ecosystem functions in isolation. Instead, it recognizes ecological systems for what they are: rich mixes of elements that interact with each other continuously. This understanding is particularly important for coasts and seas, where the nature of water keeps systems and functions connected.

The UNEP/MAP system delivered in 2017 the first ever Quality Status Report for the Mediterranean (2017 MED QSR, <https://www.medqsr.org/>). The MED 2017 QSR was based on region-wide Ecological Objectives and the Integrated Monitoring & Assessment Programme (IMAP) Common Indicators (CI). It was built upon existing data and complemented with inputs from numerous diverse sources.

The work of the UNEP/MAP system in the 2020-2021 biennium focused on the implementation of identified priority activities required for the successful delivery of the 2023 MED QSR. To this aim, an Operational Plan was developed including concrete activities per each Milestone/Output of the Roadmap, supported by the UNEP/MAP SPA/RAC Programme of Work 2020-2021 and 2022-2023, and externally funded Projects, namely, the EU-funded EcAp MED III and IMAP-MPA Projects:

1. 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” (hereafter referred to as “IMAP-MPA project”), is funded by the European Union (EU) – the European Commission’s (EC) Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) and the Green MED III. The biodiversity cluster of the project is implemented by SPA/RAC until August 2023. The overall objective of the project is to contribute towards the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) in the Mediterranean Sea and along its coast. In so doing, the project proposes to consolidate, integrate, and strengthen the ecosystem approach (EcAp) for Marine Protected Area (MPA) management and their sustainable development. This will be achieved through the monitoring and assessment of environmental status in the Mediterranean Sea and its coast, including MPAs, in a comparative and integrated manner.
2. The Project “Support to Efficient Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach-based Integrated Monitoring and Assessment of the Mediterranean Sea and Coasts and to delivery of data-based 2023 Quality Status Report in synergy with the EU MSFD (EcAp-MED III)” is funded by the European Union (EU) – Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV). The biodiversity cluster of the project is implemented by SPA/RAC

until 31 August 2023. The overall aims of the EcAp MED III Project are (i) to further assist the Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to implement the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP), adopted in 2016, as part of the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap; and (ii) to contribute to the preparation and delivery of the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (2023 MED QSR), in line with the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap milestones at national, sub-regional and regional level.

The Ecosystem Approach Projects officer will work under the overall authority of the SPA/RAC Director. The QSR officer and related Projects Officers at the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit will provide general guidance. The incumbent will liaise as necessary with the SPA/RAC Program Officers. He/She will be responsible for supporting the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach activities as follows:

1. Development and implementation of IMAP-MPA and EcAp-MEDIII projects activities related to biodiversity cluster such as:
 - the promotion and the support of IMAP implementation at the regional, sub-regional and national scale;
 - Harmonised monitoring and assessment including at sub-regional level, of IMAP common indicators for biodiversity and Non-Indigenous Species (NIS) both within and surrounding MPAs;
 - Effective 'On the ground' national IMAP implementation with beneficiary countries providing quality assured data for the development of a quality-assured, region-wide and data-based (Evidence-based) 2023 MED QSR;
 - Regional scale progress and consensus for the monitoring and assessment as well as the reporting processes at national, sub-regional and regional levels;
2. Development and implementation of the Program of work of the biennium 2022-2023 related to the Ecosystem Approach and Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP).
3. Research, analysis and presentation information gathered from diverse sources in collaboration with the external consultants by coordinating and supervising the activities linked to the projects.
4. Supervision and coordination of reviews, assessment and analysis responses linked to the above indicated projects.
5. Provision of substantive support to consultative and other meetings and conferences, training to include, among other, proposing agenda topics, identifying participants, preparation of documents and presentations.
6. Coordination of the activities related to budget, funding, and preparation of related progress reports in accordance with project plans, contractual agreements, UNEP/MAP policy and requirements.
7. Preparation of written outputs, i.e., draft background papers, analysis, inputs to publications, etc.
8. Participation in field missions necessary for the smooth implementation of the Ecosystem Approach roadmap.
9. Participation in the EcAp Task Force.
10. Other duties as required and specified in the Annual Work Plan and Communication Plan of the Ecosystem Approach process.

QUALIFICATIONS

Education

Master's degree on Marine Natural Resources Management, Marine Biology or Ecology, with a relevant combination of academic and professional qualifications.

Knowledge of monitoring of Mediterranean biodiversity, Ecosystem Approach process of the Barcelona Convention and relevant European directives (EU WFD and EU MSFD) is an asset.

Work Experience

- At least five years' experience of project implementation in coastal and marine biodiversity.
- Experience in Mediterranean countries.
- Experience regarding budget, financial and administrative management issues related to environmental projects.

Languages

Fluency in oral and written English and French is required. Knowledge of Arabic and other Mediterranean languages is an asset.

Other desirable skills

- Fully proficient computer skills and use of relevant software and other applications, e.g., text processing, spreadsheets, and internet.
- Experience in development, planning, implementation, evaluation and reporting of project activities, including governance issues.
- Knowledge of the administrative procedures within institutions of the UN system or the European Union will be an asset.
- Experience in technical and logistical aspects of meetings organisation.
- Good communication skills.

CONTRACT DURATION

The finalisation of the selection process is foreseen for the end of October 2022.
The contract will start on early November 2022.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants are invited to send the hereafter detailed documents, before 15th October 2022 CoB, by email to car-asp@spa-rac.org. Please, mention the position, name in the email subject line Ecosystem Approach Projects Officer

The application file must include:

- Motivation letter describing the candidate's motivations and suitability for this position (in English);
- Detailed curriculum vitae
- Copies of original university diploma(s)
- Work or Internship certificate or any other documentation concerning experience and skills acquired relevant to the job position

Incomplete application files will not be considered.

Application files that do not comply with the submission procedure of this call for applications will be rejected.
Any application reaching the SPA/RAC after this deadline will be rejected.

EVALUATION OF THE APPLICATIONS

A first selection will be based on the applications, the first three candidates will be invited to an oral interview on the following themes relevant to the job position: Mediterranean Action Plan, Marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean, SPA/BD Protocol, Mediterranean Regional Action for the conservation of threatened species and habitats, Monitoring and assessment, Ecosystem Approach, Communication.