CALL FOR CONSULTANCY No46/2026_SPA/RAC

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES

"ASSESSMENT OF THE COLLECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POST-2020 SAPBIO AGAINST THE EXPECTED RESULTS FOR 2027, USING THE ENDORSED INDICATORS"

October 2026

This call for consultancy document is available only in English.
Offers should be made in English.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

1. CONTEXT

1.1 SPA/RAC, 40 years of action for the Mediterranean

The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) was established by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in order to assist the Mediterranean countries in implementing the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol) of the Barcelona Convention. Tunisia has been hosting the Centre since its establishment in 1985. The Centre works under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) - Barcelona Convention Secretariat, based in Athens, Greece.
SPA/RAC's main objective is to contribute to the protection, preservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal biological diversity in the Mediterranean and, in particular, the creation and effective management of marine and coastal areas of particular natural and cultural value and the conservation of threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna in the Mediterranean.
For more information, please consult: www.spa-rac.org.

1.2 The Post-2020 SAPBIO and its assessment cycle

The Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO), adopted by the 22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 22, Antalya, December 2021) through Decision IG.25/11, is the regional framework for implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) under the SPA/BD Protocol. It sets a Vision to 2050, a Mission to 2030, three Goals, 27 Targets and 42 Actions (Annex III), each with expected results for 2027 and 2030.

Chapter 7 of the Post-2020 SAPBIO ("SAPBIO implementation and monitoring progress"), Decision IG.25/11 and Decision IG.26/5 (COP 23) provide that the collective implementation of the programme is assessed at regional level against the 2027 and 2030 expected results. A mid-term assessment focusing on the start-up activities was completed in 2025 and presented to the 11th Meeting of the Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents (Athens, 9-10 April 2025), the 17th Meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points (Istanbul, 20-22 May 2025) and COP 24 (December 2025).

To support the 2027 and 2030 assessments, SPA/RAC developed a **Monitoring Framework for the assessment of the collective implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO** (UNEP/MED WG.642/Inf.7) and a **set of indicators** aligned with the KM-GBF monitoring framework (UNEP/MED WG.642/4 and WG.642/5). The 12th Meeting of the Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents (report UNEP/MED WG.642/6) endorsed the comparative analysis of the KM-GBF and SAPBIO monitoring frameworks as the structural baseline, approved the use of **achievement indicators for the Targets** (primary indicators based on established regional metrics, mainly IMAP Common Indicators, and secondary proxy indicators, including KM-GBF headline indicators) and **performance indicators for the 42 Actions**, and agreed to use the indicator for the 2027 and 2030 assessments. The Meeting also recommended that fisheries-related indicators be synchronised with GFCM tracking, that similar indicators be grouped to reduce the national reporting burden, and that baselines be reconstructed where data allow.

Targets 1.4 and 1.5 and Action 15 (marine and coastal protected areas and OECMs) are assessed under the separate evaluation framework of the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs (Decision IG.25/12), whose external mid-term evaluation (2026-2027) is carried out by a separate team of two consultants under the supervision of SPA/RAC and the Ad hoc Group of Experts for MPAs in the Mediterranean (AGEM), with a first draft report on 15 November 2026, an advanced draft on 31 January 2027 and a final report on 28 February 2027. The consultants recruited under the present call shall use these drafts, coordinate with the MCPA/OECM evaluation team through SPA/RAC and avoid any duplication of data requests to Contracting Parties.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this consultancy is to undertake the **assessment of the collective implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO against the expected results for 2027**, using the set of indicators endorsed, and to deliver an assessment report aggregated first at the level of the four Mediterranean sub-regions and then for the whole Mediterranean, with recommendations for consideration by the Advisory Committee, the National Correspondents, the SPA/BD Focal Points and COP 25.

Specifically, the assessment will:

- **Measure the achievement of the 2027 expected results** for each of the 42 Actions (performance indicators) and the progress towards each Target (achievement indicators), at national, sub-regional and Mediterranean scale, on the basis of the national and regional questionnaire responses, the means of verification provided, and the regional data sources identified in the endorsed indicator set (IMAP Info System and 2023 MED QSR, MAPAMED, the Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform, MAMIAS, GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IUCN Red List, CBD national reports and other sources listed in UNEP/MED WG.642/5).
- **Integrate the outcomes of the mid-term evaluation of the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs** for Targets 1.4 and 1.5 and Action 15, using its draft and final evaluation reports and the data compiled by its evaluation team (MAPAMED, 2025 MPA Status Report, questionnaires to SPA/BD Focal Points), so that the assessment of these Targets is consistent with, and cross-references, the MCPA/OECM Strategy evaluation.
- **Contribute to informing the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) in the Mediterranean**: the endorsed indicator set is aligned with the KM-GBF monitoring framework (headline, component and complementary indicators, passed through a "Mediterranean filter"). The assessment shall therefore present, for each Post2020 SAPBIO Target, the corresponding KM-GBF Target(s) and indicator(s) and the regional progress measured against them, so as to provide (i) a regional-level reading of progress towards the KM-GBF in the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment and (ii) an input that Contracting Parties can use in their national reporting to the CBD and that UNEP/MAP can use in its reporting to the CBD and the Regional Seas Programme.
- **Compare progress with the 2030 trajectory**, identifying the Actions and Targets that are off track, the main challenges reported by Contracting Parties (policy, regulatory, financial, technical, other) and the areas where regional support is most needed.
- **Formulate strategic and actionable recommendations**, including proposed adjustments to the work schedule of the Post-2020 SAPBIO for 2028-2030, to be considered by the National Correspondents and submitted to the SPA/BD Focal Points and COP 25 in accordance with Chapter 7 of the Post-2020 SAPBIO.

The scope covers the three Goals and the Actions and Targets listed in Annex III of the Post-2020 SAPBIO.
For Targets 1.4 and 1.5 and Action 15, the consultants will not collect new data but will integrate the results of the MCPA/OECM Strategy evaluation provided by SPA/RAC:

- Goal 1 – Reduce the threats to biodiversity (Actions 1 to 15): species and habitat action plans; species recovery; maritime traffic; NIS/IAS commitment, capacity and control; marine litter; EIA/SEA; wind energy; minerals; spatial planning; restoration; climate change; good environmental status; MCPAs and OECMs.
- Goal 2 – Ensure that biodiversity is preserved and maintained or enhanced to meet people's needs (Actions 16 to 31): biodiversity platform; invertebrates; vertebrates; habitats; NIS/IAS database; overfishing and IUU; by-catch; small-scale fisheries; aquaculture; tourism; integrating biodiversity; streamlining the Post-2020 SAPBIO; political will and coordination; stakeholder participation; scaling of international commitments; compliance and enforcement.
- Goal 3 – Enable transformative change through the implementation of tools and solutions (Actions 32 to 42): IMAP refinement and implementation; Post-2020 SAPBIO monitoring; support to run the Post-2020 SAPBIO; capacity building; networking; awareness; outreach and education; employment; sustainable funding; cooperation.

3. TASKS AND EXPECTED RESULTS

3.1 Composition of the team

SPA/RAC will recruit, through the present call, **two international consultants – a lead consultant and an associate consultant – applying jointly as a team**, who will conduct the assessment in close consultation with the SPA/RAC team and with the support of the Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee and the National Correspondents. The lead consultant coordinates the team, ensures the quality and consistency of the deliverables and is the contact point with SPA/RAC; the associate consultant contributes to all tasks. One offer is submitted per team.

The two consultants form one team and are jointly responsible for all deliverables. The assessment is aggregated at the level of the following four sub-regions:

Western Mediterranean	Ionian Sea and Central Mediterranean	Adriatic Sea	Aegean Sea and Levantine Basin
Algeria, Spain, France, Italy, Morocco, Monaco, Tunisia	Greece, Italy, Libya, Malta, Tunisia	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro, Slovenia	Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Türkiye, Syria

3.2 Tasks

The two consultants will jointly work on :

- The assessment method: prepare the inception note, including the analysis grid derived from the endorsed indicator set (Annex IV of UNEP/MED WG.642/6), with, for each Action and Target, the 2027 expected result, the endorsed indicator(s), the corresponding KM-GBF Target and indicator(s), the data source and the baseline; the rating scale for the 2027 expected results (e.g. achieved / largely achieved / partially achieved / not achieved / not applicable, with means of verification); and the template of the sub-regional and regional reports.
- The database: export, clean and consolidate the national and regional questionnaire responses (Lime Survey) and their means of verification into a structured database; identify incomplete or inconsistent responses; with SPA/RAC, follow up on outstanding questionnaires and information gaps and organise online consultations with National Correspondents and regional partners (UNEP/MAP components, GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IUCN-Med, MedPAN, etc.).
- The indicators: populate the performance indicators for the 42 Actions and the achievement indicators for the Targets from the database and the regional data sources; document, for each indicator, the data source, the baseline, the 2027 value and the confidence level; flag indicators that cannot be populated and propose proxies; populate Targets 1.4 and 1.5 and Action 15 from the outputs of the MCPA/OECM Strategy evaluation and MAPAMED; synchronise fisheries-related indicators with GFCM data.
- The sub-regional assessment: for each of the four sub-regions, assess progress by Goal, Action and Target, the challenges reported, good practices and priority needs, and validate the findings with the National Correspondents concerned.
- The Mediterranean synthesis: aggregate the sub-regional findings into a single regional assessment report for the whole Mediterranean, including the cross-cutting and governance issues (Goal 3), the reading of regional progress against the KM-GBF Targets and indicators, the recommendations and the proposed adjustments to the 2028-2030 work schedule.
- The Coordination with the MCPA/OECM Strategy evaluation: liaise, through SPA/RAC, with the team leader of the MCPA/OECM mid-term evaluation; integrate the findings of its first draft (15 November 2026) and advanced draft (31 January 2027) for Targets 1.4 and 1.5 and Action 15; ensure consistency of the two reports presented to the 18th Meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points.

3.3 Expected results

The results should correspond to the objectives and tasks mentioned above.

- A consolidated and documented database of the 2027 questionnaire responses and of the values of the endorsed indicators, with baselines and data gaps.
- An assessment report of the collective implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO against the 2027 expected results, structured in four sub-regional assessments (Western Mediterranean; Adriatic Sea; Ionian Sea and Central Mediterranean; Aegean Sea and Levantine Basin) and one Mediterranean-wide

synthesis, integrating the outcomes of the MCPA/OECM Strategy evaluation for Targets 1.4 and 1.5, reporting regional progress against the KM-GBF indicators, with recommendations and proposed adjustments for 2028-2030, **finalised by 31 January 2027** .
- Presentations and revisions of the report following the Advisory Committee, the 13th National Correspondents meeting.

Key documentation (available at https://legacy.spa-rac.org/en/reunion/44/12th-post-2020-sapbio-national-correspondents-meeting and on the SPA/RAC website):

- Post-2020 SAPBIO (Decision IG.25/11) and Decision IG.26/5;
- Monitoring Framework for the assessment of the collective implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO (UNEP/MED WG.642/Inf.7);
- Comparative analysis of the KM-GBF and Post-2020 SAPBIO monitoring frameworks (UNEP/MED WG.642/4) and draft set of indicators (UNEP/MED WG.642/5);
- Report of the 12th Meeting of the Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents (UNEP/MED WG.642/6), including the endorsed indicator set (Annex IV);
- Conclusions of the 7th Meeting of the Advisory Committee (UNEP/MED WG.642/Inf.5) and main findings of the mid-term assessment (UNEP/MED WG.642/Inf.6);
- Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs (Decision IG.25/12), its Evaluation and Monitoring Framework adopted by COP 23, and the draft and final reports of its 2026 mid-term evaluation (to be provided by SPA/RAC);
- The KM-GBF monitoring framework (CBD Decision 15/5 and its updates) and the Mediterranean countries' national reports to the CBD;
- The four sub-regional reports "Conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the … sub-region by 2030 and beyond".

4. TIME DURATION OF THE CONTRACT, DELIVERABLES & TIMELINE

The contract implementation will need about a period of **08 months** from the date of signature, with the **Preliminary draft of the Post-2020 SAPBIO** evaluation Report no later than **31 January 2027** and the **final Post-2020 SAPBIO evaluation report due no later than 30 June 2027** and the remaining months devoted to the presentation of the report to the governing bodies and its revision. The estimated effort is **40 working days for both consultants**, distributed by deliverable as indicated below. Key deliverables, to be delivered jointly by the two consultants, are:

Deliverable	Deadline	Working days
D1. Inception note: assessment method, analysis grid based on the endorsed indicator set with KM-GBF correspondence, rating scale, report template, work plan	7 days after the start of the contract (no later than 25 November 2026)	2
D2. Consolidated questionnaire database, list of gaps and follow-up requests	10 December 2026	5
D3. Populated indicator set (performance and achievement indicators, baselines, data gaps), including Targets 1.4/1.5 and Action 15 from the first draft of the MCPA/OECM Strategy evaluation	20 December 2027	8
D4. Draft sub-regional assessments (4) and draft Mediterranean synthesis (Draft 1), for review by SPA/RAC	10 January 2027	10
D5. Revised report (Draft 2) incorporating the comments of SPA/RAC and the advanced draft of the MCPA/OECM Strategy evaluation	20 January 2027	4
D6. **Preliminary draft of the Post-2020 SAPBIO evaluation report** (four sub-regional assessments, Mediterranean synthesis, KM-GBF progress reading, indicator tables and data annex) and PowerPoint presentation, for the Advisory Committee, the 13th National Correspondents meeting and the 18th SPA/BD Focal	**31 January 2027**	4

Deliverable	Deadline	Working days
Points meeting		
D7. A)**Draft Post-2020 SAPBIO evaluation report** incorporating conclusions of the Advisory Committee (online, March-April 2027), and the B) **final Post-2020 SAPBIO evaluation report** the 13th National Correspondents meeting and the 18th SPA/BD Focal Points meeting (26-28 May 2027, TBC); revised report incorporating their conclusions	A)**25 April 2027** B) 15 days After the 18th SPA/BD Focal Points meeting	7
Total		**40 working days**

5. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The methodology should be aligned with the objectives and the tasks outlined above. The assessment will follow the Monitoring Framework and the indicator set endorsed by the 12th Meeting of the National Correspondents, through the following steps:

- **Inception and method** – kick-off meeting with SPA/RAC; preparation of the analysis grid (one line per Action and Target, with the 2027 expected result, the endorsed indicator(s), the corresponding KM-GBF Target and indicator(s), the data source, the baseline and the rating), the rating scale and the report template; organisation of the work between the two consultants; validation by SPA/RAC and information of the Advisory Committee.
- **Data consolidation** – export and cleaning of the national and regional questionnaire responses; check of the means of verification; identification of non-responding Contracting Parties and incomplete answers; follow-up by SPA/RAC and the consultants, including online consultations with National Correspondents, to be completed by mid-December 2026.
- **Population of indicators** – performance indicators for the 42 Actions (number and percentage of countries having reached the 2027 expected result, by sub-region and for the Mediterranean) and achievement indicators for the Targets (primary indicators from IMAP Common Indicators and other established regional metrics; secondary proxy indicators, including KM-GBF headline indicators, where regional data are still emerging), with documented baselines and confidence levels; integration of the findings of the MCPA/OECM Strategy evaluation (first and advanced drafts) for Targets 1.4 and 1.5 and Action 15; synchronisation of fisheries-related indicators with GFCM data.
- **Sub-regional aggregation** – for each of the four sub-regions, assessment of progress by Goal, Action and Target, challenges reported, good practices and priority needs; validation of the findings with the National Correspondents concerned.
- **Mediterranean synthesis** – aggregation into the regional report, which shall include: the assessment framework; a summary of findings; the progress analysis per Goal, Target and Action with the indicator values, baselines, ratings and their justification, at sub-regional and Mediterranean level; the reading of regional progress against the corresponding KM-GBF Targets and indicators; data gaps and limitations; cross-cutting and governance issues; and strategic recommendations, including proposed adjustments to the 2028-2030 work schedule and to the indicator set in view of the 2030 final assessment.
- **Review and submission** – review by SPA/RAC; finalisation of the draft evaluation report by 31 January 2027; consideration by the Advisory Committee and the 13th Meeting of the National Correspondents; submission, together with the MCPA/OECM Strategy evaluation, to the 18th Meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points.

6. SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OF CONSULTANT

Objective: to conduct, as a team of two (lead consultant and associate consultant), the assessment of the collective implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO at sub-regional and Mediterranean level, using the endorsed indicators.

Qualifications (both consultants; the lead consultant shall in addition have proven experience in coordinating assessment teams):

- Advanced university degree (Master or PhD) in marine biology, ecology, environmental sciences or a related discipline.
- At least 10 years of experience (**Disqualifying criteria**) in marine and coastal biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean, including the evaluation of strategies, action plans or programmes at regional or national level.
- Demonstrated experience in indicator-based assessments: design and analysis of questionnaire or survey data, use of regional datasets (IMAP, MAPAMED, GFCM, IUCN, CBD national reports), production of indicator tables, charts and maps.
- Good knowledge of the principles and methods for evaluating strategic frameworks in international and environmental contexts, and of the KM-GBF monitoring framework and CBD national reporting.
- Good knowledge of the Barcelona Convention system, the SPA/BD Protocol, the Post-2020 SAPBIO, the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) and IMAP.
- Proven collaboration with regional organisations and stakeholders; ability to work in a two-person team under tight deadlines.
- Languages are assessed as part of the methodology: proficiency in English is required; knowledge of other UN languages used in the Mediterranean (French, Arabic, Spanish) and of dominant regional languages is an asset, in particular for the consultations with National Correspondents.

The Consultant team should be composed of 2 experts, led by oner of them. This should be clearly specified in the bidder offer.

ADMINISTRATIVE CLAUSES

ARTICLE 1 - CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CONSULTANCY

1.1. Eligibility

This call for consultancy is open to individual consultants only (association of two (02) individual consultants). The service providers must have proven competence in the evaluation of biodiversity strategies, action plans or programmes and indicator-based assessments.

Offers shall be made by a consultant association of two (02) individual consultants – a lead consultant and an associate consultant – who will jointly implement the tasks of the present assignment. The offer must clearly identify the lead consultant, who will be the legal representative of the consultant association and the official representative vis-à-vis SPA/RAC. Offers proposing one consultant only, or more than two consultants, will not be considered.

Only proposals submitted by consortia of consultants will be considered. Individual consultant proposals will not be accepted.

ARTICLE 2 – COMPOSITION, PRESENTATION OF OFFERS AND DEADLINES

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

The technical offer must include:

1. **Curriculum vitae (CV)**: Updated CVs for both consultants, highlighting higher education degrees, professional experience, and references to relevant previous works, studies, and publications. **Key references must be highlighted in bold**. Applicants are encouraged to attach electronic copies of relevant past work or provide accessible web links.
2. **Methodological note**: A detailed note presenting the consultants' vision for the project. This should demonstrate alignment with the assignment's objectives and scope, the proposed methodological approach, the organization of work, and any relevant comments on the Terms of Reference (ToR).
3. **Work plan and schedule**: A detailed implementation timeline, including a chronogramme of intervention for each expert.

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.

2.2. Administrative documents

The administrative folder must contain:

1. **Cover letter**: Outlining the consultants' suitability and motivation for the assignment.
2. **Proof of professional standing**: Document certifying the ability to practice this profession (Patent, trade register, etc.) according to the legislation of one's country with the tax number.
3. In cases where the Bidder is an academic (researcher or university teacher), a sworn statement that he/she complies with the applicable tax law in his/her country would be accepted. **Declaration of independence and absence of conflict of interest**: A sworn statement confirming that the bidder is not in any situation of conflict of interest and is not subject to any incompatibility that could compromise their independence or impartiality during the assignment.
4. **Signed Terms of Reference**: The present ToR, signed and dated by the provider on the final page.

If original administrative documents are not in English, they must be accompanied by a certified translation into English or French.

Missing documents: Should any administrative documents be missing, the tenderer will be contacted to provide them within **five (05) calendar days**. If the file remains incomplete after this period, the offer will be automatically disqualified.

2.3. Financial offer

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

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.

2.4. MAXIMUM BUDGET

A maximum budget of **27 000 US Dollars** is available for this work. Any financial bid exceeding this budget means that the bid will be eliminated.

ARTICLE 3 – SUBMISSION

Offers must be received electronically at the following e-mail address: procurement@spa-rac.org, with the date of electronic transmission as the reference, and indicating in the subject line:

Call for consultancy No.46/2026_SPA/RAC – Assessment of the collective implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO against the expected results for 2027 – [names of the lead and associate consultants].

The deadline for receiving proposals is set for 6 November 2026, at 23.59 UTC+1 (Tunis Time). Any proposal received by SPA/RAC after this date and time 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: procurement@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 1st instalment of 30% will be paid upon submission of deliverables D1, D2 and D3 and after their review and approval by SPA/RAC.
2. The 2nd instalment of 40% will be paid upon submission of deliverables D4, D5 and D6 (final Post-2020 SAPBIO evaluation report, 31 January 2027) and after its review and approval by SPA/RAC.
3. The balance (30%) shall be paid upon submission of deliverable D7, submission of all final deliverables and supporting documents and satisfactory completion of the assignment,
   . This payment is also conditioned by a certificate from SPA/RAC that the service providers have accomplished all their contractual obligations and duties at SPA/RAC satisfaction.

Payment modalities: All payments will be made by **bank transfer** upon receipt of an invoice from the contractor. Payments shall be made to a **bank account held by the bidder** in their **country of residence** where they are officially registered for tax purposes.

Travel and subsistence: Travel and accommodation expenses (including airfare, lodging, catering, local transportation, and travel insurance) required for the performance of this assignment will be **fully covered by SPA/RAC**. These costs will be managed through direct payment and the provision of Daily Subsistence Allowances (DSA) in accordance with standard UNEP rules and regulations.

ARTICLE 6 - EVALUATION PROCEDURE

The evaluation must be conducted with total impartiality. Any previous involvement of the consultants in the design or implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO actions being assessed must be disclosed and may lead to disqualification if it compromises the independence of the assessment.

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:

1. Capacity and expertise of the two consultants – lead consultant (45 points) and associate consultant (15 points): 60 points;
2. Methodology, organisation and work implementation planning and schedule, including the languages mastered by the team for the consultations with Contracting Parties: 40 points (methodology 30, planning 10).

Criteria			**Scoring** **Application by a consultant association of two consultants (lead consultant and associate consultant)**
Lead consultant	**Experience**	More than 10 years' experience in regional or national assessments or evaluations of biodiversity strategies, action plans or programmes (indicator-based assessments, use of regional datasets, questionnaire-based assessments), in particular in the Mediterranean	**30 points maximum (6 points/assessment + 2 additional points/assessment in the Mediterranean + 2 additional points/assessment as lead)**
		No similar assessment	0 points (In this case the offer is eliminated)
		Experience with the Barcelona Convention system, SPA/BD Protocol, the Post-2020 SAPBIO, EcAp/IMAP and the KM-GBF monitoring framework	**10 points maximum (2 points/experience involving these frameworks)**
	Diploma	Master or PhD in marine biology, ecology, environmental sciences or a related discipline	**<u>5 points maximum</u>**
		A university degree in the above-mentioned or related disciplines	3 points
		No university degree in the above-mentioned or related disciplines	0 point ***(In this case the offer is eliminated)***

Associate consultant	**Experience**	Experience in indicator-based or questionnaire-based assessments of biodiversity or environmental programmes, processing and analysis of survey data and regional datasets (IMAP, MAPAMED, GFCM, IUCN, CBD national reports), in particular in the Mediterranean	**10 points maximum (3 points/study + 1 additional point/study in the Mediterranean)**
		No similar study	0 point
	Diploma	Master or PhD in marine biology, ecology, environmental sciences, environmental data analysis or a related discipline	**5 points maximum**
		University degree in the above-mentioned or related disciplines	3 points
		No university degree in the above-mentioned or related disciplines	0 point ***(In this case the offer is eliminated)***
The methodology proposed for conducting the mission, the planning and detailed time schedule (including a chronogram of intervention)	**a. The methodology proposed for conducting the mission, including the languages mastered by the team for the consultations with Contracting Parties**	Methodology clearly presented, well developed and meets the study terms of reference and objectives	**30 points maximum**
		Methodology clearly presented, fairly well developed and meets the study terms of reference and objectives	20 points
		Methodology not well developed but meets the terms of reference and objectives	8 points
		Methodology not clearly presented and does not meet the study terms of reference and objectives, or No methodology presented	0 point
	b. the planning and detailed time schedule (including a chronogram of intervention)	Realistic planning clearly presented, coherent with the time schedule considering the requested time for reports validation and with the chronogram of intervention	**10 points maximum**
		Realistic planning but more or less well presented, fairly coherent with the time schedule and with the chronogram of intervention	8 points
		Planning unclearly presented, doesn't respect the deadline, or no planning, or no time schedule or no chronogram of intervention	0 points
Total score (100 points maximum)			**… points**

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

In the case of no offer obtain 80 points or more, the call for consultancy 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:

Financial score = (amount of the lowest accepted offer/amount of the offer in question) x 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 the consultants.

ARTICLE 7 - MONITORING, CONTROL AND VALIDATION OF THE WORK

The consultant(s) will work under the supervision of SPA/RAC, which is responsible for overall process coordination.

The consultants will submit draft versions of each deliverable as indicated in section 4 (Time duration of the contract, deliverables & timeline) of the technical specifications and the final versions considering the SPA/RAC feedback.

ARTICLE 8 – DEADLINE FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE MISSION

The contract implementation will need about forty working days (40 WD) starting from the date of the contract signature, until the completion of all tasks no later than 30 September 2027, with the following tentative schedule:

Deliverable	Deadline	Working days
D1. Inception note: assessment method, analysis grid based on the endorsed indicator set with KM-GBF correspondence, rating scale, report template, work plan	7 days after the start of the contract (no later than 25 November 2026)	2
D2. Consolidated questionnaire database, list of gaps and follow-up requests	10 December 2026	5
D3. Populated indicator set (performance and achievement indicators,	20 December2026	8

Deliverable	Deadline	Working days
baselines, data gaps), including Targets 1.4/1.5 and Action 15 from the first draft of the MCPA/OECM Strategy evaluation		
D4. Draft sub-regional assessments (4) and draft Mediterranean synthesis (Draft 1), for review by SPA/RAC	10 January 2027	10
D5. Revised report (Draft 2) incorporating the comments of SPA/RAC and the advanced draft of the MCPA/OECM Strategy evaluation	20 January 2027	4
D6. **Final Post-2020 SAPBIO evaluation report** (four sub-regional assessments, Mediterranean synthesis, KM-GBF progress reading, indicator tables and data annex) and PowerPoint presentation, for the Advisory Committee, the 13th National Correspondents meeting and the 18th SPA/BD Focal Points meeting	**31 January 2027**	4
D7. A)**Draft Post-2020 SAPBIO evaluation report** incorporating conclusions of the Advisory Committee (online, March-April 2027), and the B) **final Post-2020 SAPBIO evaluation report** the 13th National Correspondents meeting and the 18th SPA/BD Focal Points meeting (26-28 May 2027, TBC); revised report incorporating their conclusions	A)**25 April 2027** B) 15 days After the 18th SPA/BD Focal Points meeting	7
Total		**40 working days**

ARTICLE 9 - PENALTY

In the absence of completion by the tenderer of the services at his charge within the contractual deadlines envisaged in Article 8 (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 late penalties will be deducted from the accounts. The amount of the penalties is **capped at 5%** 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 14 (Cancellation conditions), and without that the service provider can raise disputes or claim any compensation.

ARTICLE 10 - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENT

All legal rights throughout the world in works or inventions created by the provider in connection with 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 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 expected output. The bidder confirms that themselves or any staff involved 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 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 this contract through a notification in writing addressed to the tenderer after one of the events indicated in the following paragraphs:

a. no respect for the deadline of the execution in the application of Article 2 (Composition, presentation of offers and deadlines);
b. in the case described in Article 8 (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 specifications of the present consultancy (section 2 of the technical specifications: II.2. Tasks to be undertaken),
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 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 15 – CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

15.1. Prohibition of incompatible activities

The consultants, including all members of the consultancy team and their personnel, shall not engage, directly or indirectly, in any professional or commercial activities during the contract implementation period that may conflict or be incompatible with the duties entrusted to them under the present contract.

15.2. Restrictions on subsequent activities

The consultants, whether contracted individually or as an association, are prohibited during the contract period and following its completion from providing goods, works, or services for any project resulting from or closely connected to the Services provided under this contract (except for the direct implementation or continuation of the present contract services).

15.3. Duty to disclose

The consultants have an ongoing obligation to disclose to SPA/RAC any situation that arises during the performance of the contract that may constitute an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest. Failure to do so may result in the immediate termination of the contract.

ANNEX 1 SUBMISSION LETTER

I, the undersigned ....., 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 ATI.

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
Fees									
Lead consultant									
Associate consultant									
Other costs									
Travel and accommodation									
Other costs necessary for the proper execution of the present consultancy									
Sub-total / task (excluding VAT)									
	TOTAL Excluding VAT								
	VAT Amount (VAT eligible only if the contractor is fiscally resident in Tunisia)								
	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)