

Call for tender: consultant

Analytical review of Marine Protected Areas in EU Member States

Background

WWF and Sky networks are partners in a five year project to improve the management effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Europe. The partners in this project are the national WWF offices of UK, Germany, Italy and Spain, as well as the WWF European Policy Office and the Sky Network. WWF UK, Germany, Italy and Spain are collaborating with stakeholders on improving the management effectiveness of specific MPAs in each country, with WWF UK playing a coordinating role for the Partnership. The role of WWF EPO in this project is to scale up the national success stories to a European level, using good examples from the partner countries as leverage to influence EU decision making. One of the initial tasks of WWF EPO is to produce an analytical review, a Scorecard, to assess the status of the European MPA network and the actual protection it provides to the marine biodiversity and ecosystems. Ideally the Scorecard will be repeated at the end of the five year collaboration to identify the improvement in management effectiveness.

The coverage of the European MPA network has been assessed both by the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the Regional Sea conventions. These assessments have traditionally focused on the designation of MPAs, with little emphasis on management and monitoring of MPAs and providing evidence of their effectiveness. However, designation alone does not protect the marine environment. To provide actual protection a MPA must have an enforced and well executed management plan, addressing the relevant pressures in the area. In addition to this, monitoring is required to know whether the management plan is delivering as intended. Unfortunately even basic information on MPA monitoring is still largely lacking on a pan-European scale.

WWF EPO is seeking a consultant to carry out data and GIS analyses on European MPAs, and to write the first draft of the MPA Scorecard. The outcome will be used as the basis for the final European MPA Scorecard, to be published late 2018 and shared with EU and Member States decision makers to achieve WWF's conservation objectives of increasing the protection of the marine environment and ecosystem recovery. Stakeholders for the MPA Scorecard are EU institutions and decision makers at European and national level, the marine conservation community and WWF national offices. The successful completion of this work at a high standard may lead to the contracting of further related work during the course of 2019-2021.

Aim and deliverables

The objective is to produce a Scorecard which assesses the actual protection provided by European MPAs to habitats and biodiversity, and investigates how well Member States are delivering on the protection targets set out by the Convention of Biological Diversity (Aichi 11) and EU (Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Habitats Directive and Birds Directive). The Scorecard will also include an ecological coherence assessment based on GIS analyses for representativity, replication and proximity (used as a proxy for connectivity). This assessment will reveal whether the European MPAs function together as a network where the individual sites support each other in reaching the above mentioned conservation goals. The Scorecard will also include recommended actions for Member States to deliver on their commitments of global and European policies related to MPAs. The final product will be a concise WWF Scorecard (about 15 – 25 pages), with special emphasis on clarity and communication. The Scorecard needs to work well both online and in print.

The MPA Scorecard will answer these central questions:

1. Which regional/European/global policies are applicable by EU Member States in designating MPAs, and how well have the Member States met these requirements? What needs to be done to reach these requirements?

2. What percentage of each Member States' marine area is designated as MPAs and how much of this is:
 - a. situated in inshore versus offshore areas?
 - b. covered by an management plan in development?
 - c. covered by an implemented management plan?
 - d. Shows evidence of monitoring to reflect the effectiveness of the management plan.
3. Is the European MPA network ecologically coherent for the four regional seas (Baltic Sea, NE Atlantic (including the entire French Atlantic coast), Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea)? Does the network provide adequate protection to the important habitats and species, and if not, where are the largest gaps in the protection?

Scope

All marine Natura 2000 sites as well as national and regional MPAs reported to the CDDA database in the 23 EU Member states with a coastline: Belgium*, Bulgaria*, Croatia*, Cyprus, Denmark*, Estonia, Finland*, France*, Germany*, Greece*, Ireland, Italy*, Latvia*, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands*, Poland*, Portugal*, Romania*, Slovenia, Spain*, Sweden*, United Kingdom*.

(*indicates presence of national WWF office in the country, total 17)

Data

The main data sources for the assessment are the data and shapefiles in the CDDA database, EMODnet and Natura 2000 Network viewer and Standard Data Forms. Additional data sources, such as Regional Sea convention databases and Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), might be used as needed.

Schedule for consultancy work (indicative):

24 September	Start of contract
3 October	Delivery of outline and main points of report text
11 October	Delivery of first GIS results
19 October	Delivery of final GIS results
24 October	Delivery of complete draft of MPA Scorecard
26 October	Closing meeting

Instructions for Applicants

We are looking for a consultant with expertise in the field of marine protection, and knowledge of international agreements made by CBD, EU and Regional Seas conventions. Good knowledge of GIS analyses and access to your own GIS programme, such as ArcGIS, is a prerequisite. Good command of MS Office and statistical tools as well as the ability to synthesise information and excellent report writing skills (in English) are essential.

Proposals should include a response to tender, proposed approach, relevant background and CVs of the consultant(s) involved and a cost estimate of the project.

Interested experts, institutions and consortia should email their letter of intent, with the relevant documents as detailed above, to the contact below by no later than **close of business 19 September**. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

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