

CALL FOR TENDERS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE QUIETMED II PROJECT

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Underwater noise is considered as a major threat to cetacean conservation and mitigating the impacts of noise on cetaceans is thus considered as one of the highest priority by ACCOBAMS. Monitoring all activities in the region including noise component and mapping and developing the monitoring of sea ambient noise, particularly in critical habitats, is recognized as of high priority for achieving the ACCOBAMS objectives - specific objectives B.2.3.2 and B.2.3.3 of the ACCOBAMS Strategy for the period 2014-2025 - and even if the institutional and legal frameworks are in place, lack of information and data in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, like in other parts of the world, is the key issue to assess underwater noise and to reduce its impact on marine biodiversity, in particular on cetaceans.

Monitoring underwater noise is a component of the regional policies related to the marine environment monitoring, in particular within the framework of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), as well as its complementary process at the Mediterranean level within the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) process led by the Barcelona Convention (UNEP/MAP). Strengthening synergies with these processes is critical to harmonize and coordinate approaches and to not duplicate efforts.

Several important achievements were obtained in the recent years with the support of the Joint CMS/ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Noise Working Group, and important milestones have been reached through specific activities such as the identification of the noise hot spots, the elaboration of the basin-wide strategy for underwater noise monitoring in the Mediterranean and the development of the Mediterranean Noise Register Demonstrator. In addition, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat has been closely collaborating with UNEP/MAP for developing noise related indicators within the EcAp process for several years¹.

In the framework of the EU funded QuietMed Project, the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat, in collaboration with specific experts, lead and/or contributed to several activities in particular the development of guidance on noise modelling and mapping, the development of a regional noise register. Two workshops for disseminating project results and capacity building with non-EU countries were organized in Malta in October 2018. The project ended on 31 December 2018. All deliverables are available in <http://www.quietmed-project.eu/deliverables/>

To pursue these efforts, the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat participates also in a new project recently approved under the call for proposals – MSFD- Second Cycle: implementation of the new GES Decision and Programmes of measures. This **QUIETMED II project “Joint programme for GES assessment on D11-noise in the Mediterranean Marine Region”** is also coordinated by CTN- Marine Technology Center (www.ctnaval.com) and funded by the European Commission. It aims to support the assessment of the extent

¹ The Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme adopted in February 2016 by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention includes two candidate common indicators on noise , “with the intention for these candidate common indicators to be further developed, based on pilot monitoring activities, additional expert knowledge, and scientific developments”.

to which GES on D11 has been achieved in the Mediterranean Region to get an updated, improved and more complete regional assessments by providing practical outcomes: i) a joint proposal of a candidate for an impulsive noise indicator, a common methodology for MS to establish threshold values, together with associated lists of elements and integration rules; ii) a data and information tool to support the implementation of the monitoring programmes of impulsive noise which will be demonstrated on iii) an operational pilot and iv) several activities to boost current regional cooperation efforts of Barcelona Convention developing new Mediterranean Region cooperation measures.

Its specific objectives could be summarized as follow:

- Develop and implement a candidate impact indicator in the Mediterranean Region for D11C1 Criteria.
- Make a joint proposal of a methodology to establish threshold values, lists of elements and integration rules to implement the GES decision in reference to D11 in the Mediterranean Region.
- Build an efficient data and information tool to support the implementation of the D11C1 Criteria and the update of the monitoring programmes of Impulsive Noise according to the new GES Decision.
- Perform an operational pilot of an impulsive noise impact monitoring programme implemented with the updated Joint register to demonstrate its feasibility.
- Promote Mediterranean Region Coordination by i) boosting current regional cooperation efforts of Barcelona Convention and others and ii) developing new cooperation measures.

The consortium of **QUIETMED II project** is made up of 11 entities from 9 different Member States (Spain, Italy, Malta, Greece, Cyprus, Croatia, Slovenia and Denmark) EU Member States that share marine regions and sub-regions in the Mediterranean Sea basin. The consortium also includes ICES, association that provides scientific and advisory services of relevance for the ongoing implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, ACCOBAMS which has been appointed by the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention (UNEP/MAP) to develop a basin-wide strategy for underwater noise monitoring in the Mediterranean. RAC/SPA (UNEP/MAP) has also joined the consortium as an expert in biodiversity and protected areas and as a representative of Mediterranean non-European countries.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE CALL, REQUESTED TASKS AND AVAILABLE BUDGET

In order to support the implementation of the activities of QUIETMED II project, the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat is looking for technical assistance for the tasks described in the table below.

The total workload is estimated to around 9 man-months distributed over the implementation period of the project. The maximum available budget for the requested tasks is **45.000,00 Euros**.

Description of the activity	Leader	Requested tasks and expected outputs	Timetable	Available budget <i>(as provided by the project document)</i>
<p>Activity 3 - Promote the ACCOBAMS joint register of impulsive underwater noise developed within QUIETMED project and foster its use for noise pressure data collection in the Mediterranean Marine Region</p> <p><i>This activity is aimed at:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Promoting the ACCOBAMS joint register of impulsive underwater noise developed within QUIETMED project and foster its use for noise pressure data collection in the Mediterranean Marine Region. The Joint Register will be hosted and managed by ACCOBAMS (with initial support from CTN) and is the current tool to report data at Regional level from the monitoring programs of Impulsive Noise (former indicator D11.1.1)</i> <i>Fostering knowledge and use of the ACCOBAMS joint register for impulsive noise among Competent Authorities</i> <i>Disseminating recommendations to MS to set up national registers of impulsive noise (QuietMED)</i> 	ACCOBAMS	Translation in FR the technical guide on the ACCOBAMS register, for a better implementation	July 2019	2 000€

<p>Activity 4. Joint proposal of a candidate for an impulsive noise impact indicator in MED Region <i>This activity is aimed at:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Building a joint proposal of a candidate impact indicator in the Mediterranean Region for D11C1 Criteria – Anthropogenic Impulsive Noise according to GES Decision by capitalizing the efforts done by OSPAR in the definition of a candidate impact indicator for impulsive noise.</i> • <i>Establishing effective links to the Barcelona Convention (to ensure coordination across the regions or subregions) and to Member State's competent authorities (to ensure the outcomes are MSFD oriented).</i> 	ACCOBAMS & POLIMI	Contribute to the preparation a joint proposal of a candidate impact in the Mediterranean Region for D11C1 criteria	April 2020	3 000€
<p>Activity 5. Assessment on existing guidelines and tools on biodiversity protection developed by different regional bodies, next to UNEP/MAP, such as RAC/SPA, ACCOBAMS and GFCM <i>This activity is aimed at:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identifying cetacean species list as indicators for monitoring impact of noise in Med area according to ACCOBAMS premises and following Habitat Directive. Species will be chosen based on their importance in the ecosystem, their representativeness of different habitats and data availability</i> • <i>Identifying national barriers and difficulties for getting data about sizes of the populations of cetaceans and their distribution</i> 	ACCOBAMS & IZVRS	Contribute to the assessment on existing guidelines and tools on biodiversity protection developed by different regional bodies, next to UNEP/MAP	February 2020	5 000€
<p>Activity 6. Joint proposal of a methodology to establish thresholds in MED Region <i>This activity is aimed at getting a joint proposal of a methodology to establish threshold values</i></p>	POLIMI	Contribute to the preparation Joint proposal of a methodology to establish threshold values, together with associated lists of elements and integration rules in the Mediterranean Region	July 2020	2 000€
<p>Activity 7. Organization, elaboration of materials, preparation and development of a Training session for competent Authorities from MS to better implement the new GES decision during the “2019 European Cetacean Society (ECS) Conference” <i>This activity is aimed at:</i></p>	CTN & ACCOBAMS	Contribute to the design and conduct the training workshops, including preparing the materials for the training	December 2019	2 000€

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>raising awareness to give sufficient attention in the Mediterranean to the issue of noise and in particular to the GES assessment (Art 9 of MSFD);</i> • <i>Providing technical support to competent authorities from MS to better implement the new GES decision (SG).</i> • <i>Boosting cooperation among MSs to support project execution and in particular the development of methodologies to better implement the new GES Decision.</i> • <i>Presenting the draft of the “Deliverable 6.2. Specific Guidance addressed to competent authorities from MS to better implement the new GES decision (SG)” to include their feed-back</i> 				
<p>Activity 8. Development of an efficient data and information tool to support the update monitoring programmes of impulsive noise impact indicator based on the current MED Region Joint Register of Impulsive Noise developed under QUIETMED</p> <p><i>This activity is aimed at:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Building an efficient data and information tool to support the implementation of the D11C1 Criteria and the update of the monitoring programmes of Impulsive Noise according to the new GES Decision.</i> • <i>Improving the current ACCOBAMS joint register of impulsive noise developed under QUIETMED project to build an efficient data and information tool to support the implementation of the D11C1 Criteria and the update of the monitoring programmes of Impulsive Noise according to the new GES assessment. In particular, the tool will be designed to support the data and information collection to build the candidate indicator for impact of impulsive noise: noise pressures, species abundance and distribution, thresholds, etc</i> 	<p>CTN and ACCOBAMS</p>	<p>Coordinate and develop an efficient data and information tool to support the update monitoring programmes of impulsive noise impact indicator based on the current MED Region Joint Register of Impulsive Noise development</p>	<p>December 2020</p>	<p>8 000€</p>
<p>Activity 9. Development of an operational pilot of an impulsive noise impact monitoring programme to test its feasibility and operational use of the data and information tool to support the update monitoring programmes</p> <p><i>This activity is aimed at:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Testing the feasibility and operational use of the tool created in Activity 8 through demonstrated exercise.</i> • <i>Completing gaps in monitoring data focussed on assessing the distribution, intensity and effects of underwater noise on cetaceans.</i> 	<p>CTN and ACCOBAMS</p>	<p>Contribute to the development of an operational pilot of an impulsive noise impact monitoring programme to test its feasibility and operational use of the data and information tool to support the update monitoring programme</p>	<p>December 2020</p>	<p>8 000€</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fostering regional cooperation in underwater noise monitoring in Mediterranean waters within the contest of the MSFD.</i> • <i>Providing joint analysis of biodiversity and noise-producing activities in order to study for the risk of impact from impulsive noise on selected species through the parameters and functionalities defined in the preparatory</i> 				
<p>Activity 10. Organization, elaboration of materials, preparation and development of a Training session for competent Authorities from MS to stablish new regionally-coordinated measures (tools, methods and results)” <i>This activity will aim to promote Mediterranean Region Coordination by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>demonstrating best practices of regional or subregional cooperation</i> • <i>boosting current regional cooperation efforts of Barcelona Convention (entitled to ACCOBAMS). In particular Promote the ACCOBAMS joint register of impulsive underwater noise developed within QUIETMED 2 project and foster its use for noise pressure data collection in the Mediterranean Marine Region</i> • <i>Presenting the works being developed under QUIETMED 2 project and how they can promote the Mediterranean Region coordinated measures</i> • <i>Present the final version of the “Deliverable 6.2. Specific Guidance for MS to stablish new regionally-coordinated measures (tools, methods and results)”</i> 	ACCOBAMS	Contribute to the design and conduct the regional training workshops, including preparing the materials for the training	Oct 2020	10 000€

3. CONDITIONS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF A TENDER

The tender could be submitted by individual consultants or by a consortium of consultants with a leader clearly identified who will be contractually the unique vis-à-vis of the ACCOBAMS Secretariat for all tasks related to the mission. Tenders should be established within the allocated budget as indicated in the above Paragraph 2 (OBJECTIVE OF THE CALL, REQUESTED TASKS AND AVAILABLE BUDGET).

Tenderers must provide evidence of the following:

- be graduated in marine sciences or in engineer sciences
- prove experience in :
 - i. Assessment and management of noise-producing human activities
 - ii. Studying the effects on underwater noise on the marine environment
 - iii. underwater acoustics,
 - iv. designing and programming GIS related database
 - v. analyzing underwater noise data
 - vi. contributing to the development of marine noise regulations and policy, at the national or regional level.
- be :
 - i. familiar with the environmental policies related to the monitoring of the marine environment (EU MSFD and EcAp process of the Barcelona Convention), in particular on underwater noise monitoring
 - ii. familiar with relevant organizations and advisory bodies (such as the MSFD Technical Subgroup on Noise and the Joint CMS/ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Noise Working Group) addressing underwater noise issues and noise impacts on marine life;
 - iii. familiar with ACCOBAMS and the Mediterranean geographical area;
 - iv. able to work well under pressure and to work effectively and harmoniously with people of different national and cultural backgrounds;
 - v. able to plan and prioritize workloads and capability of meeting deadlines;
 - vi. persistent when problems or challenges appear;
 - vii. able to interact with tact and diplomacy;
 - viii. fluent in English (compulsory) and fluent in French;
- have excellent interpersonal skills, especially within multicultural/multilingual settings.

Tenders shall provide the following information:

- a) A detailed methodology, including :
 - presentation of the tenderer's background and relevant experience as regards the objective of the mission, including a CV and a list of projects and publications in relation to the tasks to perform ;
 - a detailed description of the work to be carried out during the mission.

In the case the tender is submitted by a consortium of consultants, the methodology document has to include a presentation of each expert/specialist who will compose the team (including their CVs and references), a description of the working arrangements within the team and the repartition of the tasks among the experts/specialists (including an assessment of the number of working days expected per expert/specialist and per task).

- b) A detailed budget proposal, with the number of working days per task and the daily rate applicable, based on the maximum budget available.

In the case the tender is submitted by a consortium of consultants, the tenderer has to detail in the budget proposal the repartition of the costs between the different experts/specialists, as well as the number of working days expected per expert/specialist and the daily rate of each expert/specialist. The maximum available budget for this mission of technical assistance is indicated in the above Paragraph 2 (OBJECTIVE OF THE CALL, REQUESTED TASKS AND AVAILABLE BUDGET).

4. SUBMISSION OF THE TENDERS

Interested consultants should submit a tender to the ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary (fcdescroix@accobams.net) with copy to the Programme Officer (msalivas@accobams.net) **not later than 15th April 2019**.

For additional information, clarification or any communication relating to this Call for tenders, tenderers may write to fcdescroix@accobams.net with copy to msalivas@accobams.net.

5. SELECTION OF THE TENDERS

The tenders will be evaluated with reference to the scoring system included in Annex 1. The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat will notify the result of the selection process by end of April 2019.

6. PAYMENT DETAILS

One contract will be established by the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat with the consultant. Payments will be made upon presentation of invoices, based on the work achieved, within the limit of the available budget.

Annex 1 – Evaluation of the tenders

The tenders will be evaluated on 100 points, based on the following criteria:

1. General experience: 50 points

a- Relevant experience (30 points)

Previous experience of the tenderer will be assessed in relation to the fields of expertise required to achieve the intended outcomes of the project. Recent experience is more valuable than historic experience.

b- Technical skills (20 points):

The competence of the experts that the tenderer proposes to employ on the project will be assessed with particular emphasis on the skills and experience in technical areas comparable to the project.

2. Methodology, organization and planning: 50 points

a- Quality of the proposed methodology (30 points)

The tenderer should be able to demonstrate its capability to bring the contract to a satisfactory conclusion by describing the methodology of approach to accomplish the project's required outcomes.

b- Organization and planning (20 points)

Distribution of the roles and responsibilities of the proposed team, method, strategy and structures proposed for organizing, managing and coordinating the work will be assessed.

The contract will be awarded to the tender which offers the best quality/price ratio (provided that the quality mark is 70 or more), in which respect quality will account for 70% of the overall mark and price 30%.