

## TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE COORDINATION AND FACILITATION OF A WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE DRAFTING OF A POLICY STATEMENT FOCUSED ON THE EU NATURE RESTORATION LAW

Budget code: 24EEP001

Project: D4N

Imputation item: 4.2.1

### Introduction

The Associació MedCités / MedCities is an association of cities, with its headquarters in Barcelona, dedicated to sustainable urban development in the Mediterranean. It comprises 79 municipalities and unions of municipalities from eighteen different states and runs projects in the fields of strategic urban planning, urban services, the environment and local economic and social development, as well as training activities, technical support and the capitalisation of best practices. The network was created in 1991, since which time it has carried out dozens of projects in Mediterranean cities.

MedCities is a partner to one of the governance projects of the [Interreg EuroMED Programme](#), dedicated to the protection of “Natural Heritage”. The project [Dialogue 4 Nature project](#) or D4N brings together MedCities, along with six other solid and diverse Euro-MED partners (Region of Crete, Region of Sardinia, IUCN Med, Plan Bleu, the Marine Institute of Croatia, and the Ministry of Environment of Montenegro). It aims to amplify the dialogue between national and supranational authorities to integrate the policy results of the communities and improve multi-level, multi-sector and transnational coordination, beyond the cooperation area. For this purpose, it aims to respond to three identified challenges: improve policy governance and coordination, mainstreaming conservation understanding and enhancing capacities for policy delivery.

D4N is part of the **Interreg Euro MED Mission for Natural Heritage (M4N)**, which includes:

- 2 Governance projects: One Institutional Dialogue (Dialogue 4 Nature in this case) and one Thematic Community (Community 4 Nature, C4N)
- A set of Thematic projects (TPs) to which the governance projects serve as amplifiers.

The activities of the D4N project are structured through four thematic Working Groups (WG) which fall under the activities related to TRANSFER. The thematic WGs are the core in which activities will take place and where to interact with similar/complementary entities that will ensure transfer and capitalisation of knowledge and tailored uptake of solutions, specially focused on policy, but not only. In order to differentiate the strategic focus of each WG, the partnership agreed to frame the WGs to address specific targets (T) of [the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework \(GBF\)](#). Currently there are four WG:

- WG1 on Area-based Conservation targeting T1 and 3 of the GBF; led by IUCN Med
- **WG2 on Overcoming Local Barriers for Climate Change Adaptation targeting T8 and 12 of the GBF; led by MedCities**
- WG3 on Evaluating the Socio-Economic Value of Biodiversity targeting T14, 18 and 19 of the GBF; led by Marine Institute of Croatia
- WG4 on Ecosystem Resilience through the promotion of Ecosystem Restoration and Nature-based Solutions targeting T2 and 11 of the GBF led by Plan Bleu (UNEP/MAP - Regional Activity Centre)

Four D4Ns partners coordinate each of the working groups, with the support of a C4N representative to broaden expertise and ensure smooth coordination. The WGs focus on specific issues through the organisation of events, meetings and workshops aiming at sharing and transferring good practices and gathering contributions from the Natural Heritage Mission, the Interreg Euro-MED Thematic Projects and other Mediterranean stakeholders, leading to the production of policy documents. The ultimate goal is to foster the continuous exchange of outputs and tools, and to support the Mission in their objectives of implementing transformative changes.

**MedCities is leading WG2 with the support of Region of Crete, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) and CREAM.**

In general, the WGs have two main goals; training and capacity building and supporting thematic projects. All this through:

- Increasing knowledge on the subject matter at all levels of governance. Materials/approach should be target-specific (national vs regional vs city, etc.).
- Providing material, information, ideas, contacts, speakers and expertise to implement capacity-building actions and to communicate with resources that already exist.
- Acting as a platform to share good practices and promote good work: taking into account declining habitats.

The WG structure and objectives was introduced to the Thematic Projects on a dedicated webinar on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024, splitting the TPs' project partners in each WG, according to their interests to have a first contact and settle some wishful priorities. For the year 2024, all thematic WGs agreed to focus on the policy opportunity posed by the recently approved EU Nature Restoration Law.

To recap and mainstream the yearly results of the WGs an annual two-days event is being organised every year facing policy challenges and promoting solutions for key thematic issues relevant to the Mediterranean natural context as well as discussing obstacles and new approaches for advocating for nature protection. The outcome of each annual event is a position paper related to a key policy.

The first one was in Piran, Slovenia, the 23 and 24 November 2023 and this year will be in Málaga, the 28 and 29 November 2024. This year focus will be on the deployment of the recently approved EU Nature Restoration Law and targeting specifically marine and coastal restoration. All partners are actively involved in both activities.

## **1. Objective**

The objective of this service provision is to engage an expert or group of experts to support the overall coherence of the D4N working groups 2024 activities, coordinate and facilitate the working group on climate change adaptation and its interrelation with other WGs and drafting a position paper focused on Nature Restoration, considering key policies like the EU Nature Restoration Law.

## **2. Scope of the services**

The scope and characteristics of the services are as follows:

### **Task 1: Conception and facilitation of 1 online meeting of the WGs**

#### **General Secretariat**

**The second week of October 2024, D4N will organise a capacity building webinar with the WGs to start addressing common objectives and build capacity towards a position paper on the EU Nature Restoration Law. Moreover, the focus this year is on coastal and marine restoration, considering land sea interactions and the hinterland, in a holistic approach.**

WG2 on Climate change adaptation, led by MedCities, addresses targets 8 and 12 of the GBF, on minimising impacts of climate change and ocean acidification and enhancing urban green and blue spaces for human well-being. The expansion of urban environments contributes to climate change and biodiversity loss, thus it is a key concern to address the link on urban and peri-urban areas and biodiversity and climate crisis nexus and inform adaptation strategies. A generic factsheet of the WG 2 is annexed to this ToR.

Under the banner of the **triple global crisis** of climate change, loss of nature and pollution (a term and framework adopted by the United Nations), and continuing the transfer, capitalisation and advocacy actions linked to climate change adaptation policies, the D4N WGs will strive to adopt a common position with regard to the EU Nature Restoration Law, focusing on coastal and marine areas.

In this context, the expert(s) will organise the **D4N capacity building webinar with the WG** (second week of October 2024) **to contribute to the drafting of a position paper on the EU Nature Restoration Law** as well as defining the focus for **WG 2 session on Climate change adaptation**, identify specific contents, facilitate the session and to draw preliminary policy conclusions on the whole webinar. The discussions and conclusions of the 4 WG sessions are to lead to a position paper document that will be presented and enriched during the Annual Institutional Dialogue for its final approval.

**The service provider will have to:**

- Coordinate and facilitate the work of the WG 2 to define its concrete annual focus on Climate Change adaptation based on the targets 8 and 12 of the GBF in the context of the EU Nature Restoration Law application in coastal and marine areas.
- Define together with WG leaders the overall approach of the WG Webinar and the guiding questions and expected results of the 4 thematic sessions.
- Define a proposal for the plenary session and provide a key note on the EU Nature Restoration Law implications for coastal and marine areas.
- Facilitate the WG2 session in English, and ensure active participation of all members.
- Report on the W2 session, highlighting:
  - o Key messages and concrete interests
  - o Policy relevant elements related to climate change adaptation and nature restoration that can be linked with the TPs work or the synergies with different actors of the M4N Community.
- Review all four WG sessions to draw the key policy into a position paper.

To deliver all these tasks, the provider will have access to all WGs related documents (concept notes, documents of the first online meeting the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024, and any other document linked to this activity) as well as, regular meetings with MedCities and WG leaders and any partner of D4N and C4N if needed.

***Deliverables of the Task 1:***

- 1.1. A proposal on strategic focus and priority topics to address in the short and medium term of the WG2.
- 1.2. A concept note of the overall webinar programme to guide the discussions towards a common position of the M4N, agreed with WG leaders, including a specific proposal on the W2 session and the plenary.
- 1.3. PPT or any other supporting material to be used during the webinar (plenary and WG2 session) - due 5 working days before each online seminar.
- 1.4. A brief report with the main contents and lessons learnt of the WG2 – due 10 days after the online seminar.
- 1.5. Key findings of the Webinar and proposal of the main elements to build the position paper – due 10 days after the online seminar.
- 1.6. A draft position paper – 15 days before the Annual Institutional Dialogue event in Malaga.
- 1.7. PPT presentation that will be used to present D4N partners the position paper V0, for feedback and clarifications – 10 days before the Annual Institutional Dialogue event in Malaga.

**Task 2: Participate and facilitate a working session in the 2024 Annual Institutional Dialogue to present and finalise the M4N position paper on EU Nature Restoration Law.**

Annual Institutional Dialogue Events are the main project tool for improving governance through transferring best practice to other stakeholders and territories. In this way, best practice can be integrated into local, regional, national and European policies and strategies. Organised in two days every year, the event aims at discussing policy challenges and promoting solutions for key thematic issues relevant to the Mediterranean natural context as well as discussing obstacles and new approaches for advocating for nature protection.

The **2024 Annual Institutional Dialogue** event will be held in **Málaga, Spain, on the 28 and 29 November 2024**. The first day of the event, the 28th of November, will focus on marine and coastal restoration. This is organised back-to-back with the 6<sup>th</sup> International Marine Science Communication Conference (CommOCEAN). The 29th of November, will offer a capacity-building session on the policy-science interface and will provide some useful tips for projects and organisations to better navigate decision-making complexities. Additionally, the Natural Heritage community will have the chance to meet and exchange ideas.

MedCities seeks the expert engagement to participate on the first day discussion and to organise and facilitate one thematic session on 29<sup>th</sup> of November (approx. 1h30) to share and review the **position paper document on the position of the M4N on the EU Nature Restoration Law**.

The tasks identified to undertake this work are the following:

1. In person participation to the Annual Institutional Dialogue event in Málaga to grasp additional inputs to the draft position paper (day 1) and present the draft position paper and animate a working session (1h30 approx) with the TPs, to draw the final position paper after the event.
2. Presentation of the results after the Annual Institutional Dialogue to the D4N partnership for feedback and clarification.
3. Submission of the final documents linked to the service.

***Deliverables of the Task 2:***

- 2.1. A concept note with a programme of the specific session that has to be facilitated during the Annual Institutional Dialogue in Malaga.
- 2.2. A PPT for the D4N partners' presentation of the final policy statement.
- 2.3. Final position paper.
- 2.4. Final service deliverable: Final report on the services provision.

#### **Tentative calendar:**

- ➔ **September 2024** - Kick off meeting with MedCities and other D4N partners and documents review. Draft the D1.1 and D1.2 deliverables.
- ➔ **October 2024** - Review the WG methodology after the partnership return (D1.2), manage the WG 2 session (D1.3), and write the first conclusion paper of the WG (D1.4 and D1.5).
- ➔ **November 2024** - Draft the V1 of the position paper (1.6), create session methodology for the Annual Dialogue, participate and facilitate a session on the Annual Dialogue (D1.7 and D2.1).
- ➔ **December - January 2025** - Finish the position paper and present to the M4N in an online session (D2.2, D2.3 and D2.4).

#### **Consultant profile**

##### **Education**

- University degree in Environmental Policy with a preference for a focus on marine and coastal aspects or in any other fields relevant to this call.

##### **Experience**

- Understanding of the new EU Nature Restoration Law.
- Experience with urban and periurban climate change adaptation and/or mitigation public authority processes.
- Experience working on coastal and marine issues.
- Experience of at least 5 years providing similar services.
- Experience in animating working meeting discussions and webinars.
- Experience in and drafting policy briefs and/or statements.
- Previous work with local authorities will be considered an asset.

##### **Competences**

- An excellent command of English is a must. Working knowledge of other Mediterranean languages is an asset
- Good knowledge of the latest environmental policy landscape at Mediterranean and European level with a focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation in coastal and marine areas.
- Good knowledge of the Mediterranean Basin and stakeholders related to sustainable development and marine and coastal restoration.

### **3. Type of service, duration and place of execution**

These terms of reference and the winning proposal will define the conditions of the service as a contract of provision of services from the notification of the order until 15th February, 2025. The service will be carried out online, at the provider premises, and in person participation of the Málaga Annual Dialogue the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

The service will be governed by the Catalan law, the Spanish law and the courts of Barcelona.

#### **4. Base budget of the service**

The maximum budget for this service is € 7500 (all taxes included). If the bidder has its tax domicile in Spain, the maximum amount will be € 9075 including the VAT rate valid on the date of the publication of these terms of reference which is 21%.

Any offer exceeding this amount will be rejected.

It is understood that the budget includes all of the costs that the successful bidder is required to pay for the normal fulfilment of the services contracted such as general expenses, financial costs, insurance, remuneration for the staff under its control and all verification and job costs. Transportation and travel expenses for the Málaga Annual Dialogue will be directly covered by MedCities.

#### **5. Price of the contract and economic conditions**

The administrative details of the Contracting Body are:

ASSOCIACIÓ MEDCITIES AND/OR MEDCITÉS  
C / 62. 16-18. EDIFICI B, ZONA FRANCA  
08040 BARCELONA – CATALONIA - SPAIN  
Tax number (VAT): ESG66401258

The contract price is the one established by the award of the tender, in line with the offer submitted.

2 invoices are required according to the following details:

- 50% of the total amount after the deliverables of the task 1.
- 50% of the total amount at the end of the service.

Offer and invoices must contain at least the following information:

- Full tax name and full tax address of the supplier
- Tax identification number of the supplier
- Complete MedCities data
- Offer/Invoice number
- Offer/Invoice date
- Budget code and project name indicated in the header of this document
- Description of the service to be provided/provided
- Detail of the amount of the service and taxes (if any)

The payment term of the invoice will be: bank transfer around 30 days after the date of the invoice (bank account details are required) and always after an internal favourable report issued by the General Secretariat of MedCities at the end of each phase.

The service provider will be directly responsible for paying the local or national taxes applied to the services except if the service provider is fiscally domiciled in Spain, whereupon the current tax law in respect of personal income tax (IRPF) will be applied.



Invoices must be sent either by post to the offices of the General Secretariat of MedCities or, if they are in digital format, to [contact@medcities.org](mailto:contact@medcities.org).

Bank charges arising from the payment of invoices will be shared (SHA according to bank coding).

MedCities may require information from the service provider regarding its compliance with obligations relating to social security contributions and the payment of taxes.

Those non-EU service providers will be required to present a certificate of tax residence within 7 calendar days of the award of the service. If the aforementioned document has not been provided to MedCities within 7 days, the contract may be terminated.

## **6. Participation requirements**

Those bidding for the service can be individuals or companies that have the full capacity to carry out the work, that are not subject to a ban on hiring staff and that can demonstrate their technical reliability and professional experience.

## **7. Confidentiality clause**

The information that the service provider will have access to in order to fulfil the purpose of this contract must be kept strictly confidential and must not be used for any activity not covered by this contract. In circumstances where a particular use of the information gives rise to doubts in respect of this confidentiality clause, the service provider must, in all cases, request the consent of MedCities.

## **8. Ownership and authorship of the work**

The ownership and authorship of any service provision work carried out belongs to MedCities. As owners of the study, any use or mention of it in publications, articles, interviews, conferences, etc. must have the express authorisation of MedCities.

## **9. Termination of the service**

By giving notice of one month, the service can be terminated by either party before the date indicated in Point 3 of these terms of reference for objective reasons or for the reason described in the last paragraph of point 5 of this terms of reference.

## **10. Submission of offers**

The offer must be sent to the following email address: [aguitart@medcities.org](mailto:aguitart@medcities.org) and [contact@medcities.org](mailto:contact@medcities.org)

- **Proposal submission deadline: 28 of August at 23:59CET**
- The subject line of the email should specify "Service offer for THE COORDINATION AND FACILITATION OF A WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE DRAFTING OF A POLICY STATEMENT FOCUSED ON EU NATURE RESTORATION LAW"

The offer must include the extent of the services offered and fulfil the conditions expressed in the previous sections. Notwithstanding that the candidate can attach to their offer any

complementary information they consider to be of interest, the tender must include the following documentation:

- Detailed offer of the services.
- Economic proposal: candidates must submit an economic proposal in euros that either they or their representative must sign. The prices offered should include any type of tax, charge or fiscal ruling of a European, state, autonomous community or local nature as indicated in Points 5 and 6 of these terms of reference.
- CV of the professional person or company involved and of the working team, giving relevant examples of similar work undertaken and, if applicable, international experience.

In the event that additional information is required to present the offer, we invite you to contact MedCities by writing to the email address [contact@medcities.org](mailto:contact@medcities.org). Only written questions about clarifications of the presentation of offers will be answered.

MedCities may request additional information related to the proposal if it deems it appropriate. If this is the case, the proposals that require clarification must be answered within a reasonable period established by the evaluation team.

#### **11. Assessment criteria**

The most advantageous offer will need to be evaluated bearing in mind the cost-effectiveness ratio in accordance with the overall proposal. The assessment could take the price-quality ratio into account.

MedCities guarantees equal treatment of the people/companies bidding and will keep their offers confidential.

The person/company adjudicated as the successful bidder will be notified within a period of 5 working days from the final submission date for offers.

Barcelona, 26 July, 2024

Josep Canals Molina  
MedCities Secretary General



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## **2. Scope of the services**

The scope and characteristics of the services are as follows:

### **Task 1: Conception and facilitation of 1 online meeting of the WGs**

#### **General Secretariat**

**The second week of October 2024, D4N will organise a capacity building webinar with the WGs to start addressing common objectives and build capacity towards a position paper on the EU Nature Restoration Law. Moreover, the focus this year is on coastal and marine restoration, considering land sea interactions and the hinterland, in a holistic approach.**

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In this context, the expert(s) will organise the **D4N capacity building webinar with the WG** (second week of October 2024) **to contribute to the drafting of a position paper on the EU Nature Restoration Law** as well as defining the focus for **WG 2 session on Climate change adaptation**, identify specific contents, facilitate the session and to draw preliminary policy conclusions on the whole webinar. The discussions and conclusions of the 4 WG sessions are to lead to a position paper document that will be presented and enriched during the Annual Institutional Dialogue for its final approval.

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To deliver all these tasks, the provider will have access to all WGs related documents (concept notes, documents of the first online meeting the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024, and any other document linked to this activity) as well as, regular meetings with MedCities and WG leaders and any partner of D4N and C4N if needed.

***Deliverables of the Task 1:***

- 1.1. A proposal on strategic focus and priority topics to address in the short and medium term of the WG2.
- 1.2. A concept note of the overall webinar programme to guide the discussions towards a common position of the M4N, agreed with WG leaders, including a specific proposal on the W2 session and the plenary.
- 1.3. PPT or any other supporting material to be used during the webinar (plenary and WG2 session) - due 5 working days before each online seminar.
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- 1.5. Key findings of the Webinar and proposal of the main elements to build the position paper – due 10 days after the online seminar.
- 1.6. A draft position paper – 15 days before the Annual Institutional Dialogue event in Malaga.
- 1.7. PPT presentation that will be used to present D4N partners the position paper V0, for feedback and clarifications – 10 days before the Annual Institutional Dialogue event in Malaga.

**Task 2: Participate and facilitate a working session in the 2024 Annual Institutional Dialogue to present and finalise the M4N position paper on EU Nature Restoration Law.**

Annual Institutional Dialogue Events are the main project tool for improving governance through transferring best practice to other stakeholders and territories. In this way, best practice can be integrated into local, regional, national and European policies and strategies. Organised in two days every year, the event aims at discussing policy challenges and promoting solutions for key thematic issues relevant to the Mediterranean natural context as well as discussing obstacles and new approaches for advocating for nature protection.

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MedCities seeks the expert engagement to participate on the first day discussion and to organise and facilitate one thematic session on 29<sup>th</sup> of November (approx. 1h30) to share and review the **position paper document on the position of the M4N on the EU Nature Restoration Law**.

The tasks identified to undertake this work are the following:

1. In person participation to the Annual Institutional Dialogue event in Málaga to grasp additional inputs to the draft position paper (day 1) and present the draft position paper and animate a working session (1h30 approx) with the TPs, to draw the final position paper after the event.
2. Presentation of the results after the Annual Institutional Dialogue to the D4N partnership for feedback and clarification.
3. Submission of the final documents linked to the service.

***Deliverables of the Task 2:***

- 2.1. A concept note with a programme of the specific session that has to be facilitated during the Annual Institutional Dialogue in Malaga.
- 2.2. A PPT for the D4N partners' presentation of the final policy statement.
- 2.3. Final position paper.
- 2.4. Final service deliverable: Final report on the services provision.

#### **Tentative calendar:**

- **September 2024** - Kick off meeting with MedCities and other D4N partners and documents review. Draft the D1.1 and D1.2 deliverables.
- **October 2024** - Review the WG methodology after the partnership return (D1.2), manage the WG 2 session (D1.3), and write the first conclusion paper of the WG (D1.4 and D1.5).
- **November 2024** - Draft the V1 of the position paper (1.6), create session methodology for the Annual Dialogue, participate and facilitate a session on the Annual Dialogue (D1.7 and D2.1).
- **December - January 2025** - Finish the position paper and present to the M4N in an online session (D2.2, D2.3 and D2.4).

#### **Consultant profile**

##### **Education**

- University degree in Environmental Policy with a preference for a focus on marine and coastal aspects or in any other fields relevant to this call.

##### **Experience**

- Understanding of the new EU Nature Restoration Law.
- Experience with urban and periurban climate change adaptation and/or mitigation public authority processes.
- Experience working on coastal and marine issues.
- Experience of at least 5 years providing similar services.
- Experience in animating working meeting discussions and webinars.
- Experience in and drafting policy briefs and/or statements.
- Previous work with local authorities will be considered an asset.

##### **Competences**

- An excellent command of English is a must. Working knowledge of other Mediterranean languages is an asset
- Good knowledge of the latest environmental policy landscape at Mediterranean and European level with a focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation in coastal and marine areas.
- Good knowledge of the Mediterranean Basin and stakeholders related to sustainable development and marine and coastal restoration.

### **3. Type of service, duration and place of execution**

These terms of reference and the winning proposal will define the conditions of the service as a contract of provision of services from the notification of the order until 15th February, 2025. The service will be carried out online, at the provider premises, and in person participation of the Málaga Annual Dialogue the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

The service will be governed by the Catalan law, the Spanish law and the courts of Barcelona.

#### **4. Base budget of the service**

The maximum budget for this service is € 7500 (all taxes included). If the bidder has its tax domicile in Spain, the maximum amount will be € 9075 including the VAT rate valid on the date of the publication of these terms of reference which is 21%.

Any offer exceeding this amount will be rejected.

It is understood that the budget includes all of the costs that the successful bidder is required to pay for the normal fulfilment of the services contracted such as general expenses, financial costs, insurance, remuneration for the staff under its control and all verification and job costs. Transportation and travel expenses for the Málaga Annual Dialogue will be directly covered by MedCities.

#### **5. Price of the contract and economic conditions**

The administrative details of the Contracting Body are:

ASSOCIACIÓ MEDCITIES AND/OR MEDCITÉS  
C / 62. 16-18. EDIFICI B, ZONA FRANCA  
08040 BARCELONA – CATALONIA - SPAIN  
Tax number (VAT): ESG66401258

The contract price is the one established by the award of the tender, in line with the offer submitted.

2 invoices are required according to the following details:

- 50% of the total amount after the deliverables of the task 1.
- 50% of the total amount at the end of the service.

Offer and invoices must contain at least the following information:

- Full tax name and full tax address of the supplier
- Tax identification number of the supplier
- Complete MedCities data
- Offer/Invoice number
- Offer/Invoice date
- Budget code and project name indicated in the header of this document
- Description of the service to be provided/provided
- Detail of the amount of the service and taxes (if any)

The payment term of the invoice will be: bank transfer around 30 days after the date of the invoice (bank account details are required) and always after an internal favourable report issued by the General Secretariat of MedCities at the end of each phase.

The service provider will be directly responsible for paying the local or national taxes applied to the services except if the service provider is fiscally domiciled in Spain, whereupon the current tax law in respect of personal income tax (IRPF) will be applied.



Invoices must be sent either by post to the offices of the General Secretariat of MedCities or, if they are in digital format, to [contact@medcities.org](mailto:contact@medcities.org).

Bank charges arising from the payment of invoices will be shared (SHA according to bank coding).

MedCities may require information from the service provider regarding its compliance with obligations relating to social security contributions and the payment of taxes.

Those non-EU service providers will be required to present a certificate of tax residence within 7 calendar days of the award of the service. If the aforementioned document has not been provided to MedCities within 7 days, the contract may be terminated.

## **6. Participation requirements**

Those bidding for the service can be individuals or companies that have the full capacity to carry out the work, that are not subject to a ban on hiring staff and that can demonstrate their technical reliability and professional experience.

## **7. Confidentiality clause**

The information that the service provider will have access to in order to fulfil the purpose of this contract must be kept strictly confidential and must not be used for any activity not covered by this contract. In circumstances where a particular use of the information gives rise to doubts in respect of this confidentiality clause, the service provider must, in all cases, request the consent of MedCities.

## **8. Ownership and authorship of the work**

The ownership and authorship of any service provision work carried out belongs to MedCities. As owners of the study, any use or mention of it in publications, articles, interviews, conferences, etc. must have the express authorisation of MedCities.

## **9. Termination of the service**

By giving notice of one month, the service can be terminated by either party before the date indicated in Point 3 of these terms of reference for objective reasons or for the reason described in the last paragraph of point 5 of this terms of reference.

## **10. Submission of offers**

The offer must be sent to the following email address: [contact@medcities.org](mailto:contact@medcities.org)

- **Proposal submission deadline: 28 of August at 23:59CET**
- The subject line of the email should specify "Service offer for THE COORDINATION AND FACILITATION OF A WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE DRAFTING OF A POLICY STATEMENT FOCUSED ON EU NATURE RESTORATION LAW"

The offer must include the extent of the services offered and fulfil the conditions expressed in the previous sections. Notwithstanding that the candidate can attach to their offer any



complementary information they consider to be of interest, the tender must include the following documentation:

- Detailed offer of the services.
- Economic proposal: candidates must submit an economic proposal in euros that either they or their representative must sign. The prices offered should include any type of tax, charge or fiscal ruling of a European, state, autonomous community or local nature as indicated in Points 5 and 6 of these terms of reference.
- CV of the professional person or company involved and of the working team, giving relevant examples of similar work undertaken and, if applicable, international experience.

In the event that additional information is required to present the offer, we invite you to contact MedCities by writing to the email address [contact@medcities.org](mailto:contact@medcities.org). Only written questions about clarifications of the presentation of offers will be answered.

MedCities may request additional information related to the proposal if it deems it appropriate. If this is the case, the proposals that require clarification must be answered within a reasonable period established by the evaluation team.

#### **11. Assessment criteria**

The most advantageous offer will need to be evaluated bearing in mind the cost-effectiveness ratio in accordance with the overall proposal. The assessment could take the price-quality ratio into account.

MedCities guarantees equal treatment of the people/companies bidding and will keep their offers confidential.

The person/company adjudicated as the successful bidder will be notified within a period of 5 working days from the final submission date for offers.

Barcelona, 26 July, 2024

Josep Canals Molina  
MedCities Secretary General



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# Working Group 2

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Climate change adaptation and mitigation

*A project labelled by the UfM*



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## The policy context

The Mediterranean region is known for its biodiversity and rich ecosystems, including grasslands, forests, coastal and marine habitats, which provide a range of ecosystem services such as timber, water, food and recreation. The region is considered a biodiversity and climate change hotspot, as it is warming 20% faster than the global average. Indeed, climate change and biodiversity loss are related issues. Yet, the understanding of this connection is far from consistent and slow to filter down to local governance scales, through a lack of technical capacities but also through poor information flows and a lack of policy coordination.

The Natural Heritage Mission plans to tackle these challenges through its objectives that include the promotion of climate change adaptation, natural disaster risk prevention, and socio-ecological resilience, through adopting ecosystem-based approaches. In addition, the Mission aims at enhancing protection and conservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure -including urban areas- and reducing pollution.

The main driver for the Mission Working Groups activities will be the recent Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), a historic Framework adopted in December 2022 during COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and builds on the Convention's previous Strategic Plans, setting out an ambitious pathway to reach the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050. In specific, Working Group 2 is focusing on two of its 2030 targets, namely Target 8 and Target 12.

**TARGET 8. Minimize impacts of climate change and ocean acidification including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based**



## approaches

Minimise the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimising negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.

### **TARGET 12. Urban green and blue spaces enhanced for human well-being**

Significantly increase the area and quality and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas sustainably, by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensure biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, enhancing native biodiversity, ecological connectivity and integrity, and improving human health and well-being and connection to nature and contributing to inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and the provision of ecosystem functions and services.

Having the GBF as the objective, additional protocols, frameworks, and policies will be addressed by Working Group 2 , such as:

- Mediterranean Policies and frameworks promoted under the Barcelona Convention, a multilateral legal framework for the protection of the marine and coastal environment and sustainable use of their resources in the Mediterranean, such as
- the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas, approved in 2016 and complementary to the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, approved in 2008.
- The Post 2020 SAP BIO protocol, adopted in 2021, is the Mediterranean's strategic blueprint to tackle biodiversity loss in the



region and stress the need for robust science-policy interfaces in the Mediterranean.

- Policy initiatives by the European Commission, with the overarching aim of making the European Union (EU) climate neutral in 2050, such as the European Green Deal policy framework, approved in 2020, including:
  - The European Climate Law (July 2021), establishing the goal set out in the European Green Deal, and the 'fit for 55' package (December 2021), providing a tool to realise the European Climate Law objectives.
  - The EU Adaptation Strategy, adopted in 2021, promoting smarter, swifter and more systemic adaptation, and aiming to step up international action on adaptation to climate change.
- The EU Blue Deal (ongoing, 2023), with the aim to preserve and adequately manage our common water resources in the short, medium and long term for a water-resilient future. This new framework will be fully complementary to and in synergy with the EU Green Deal

Furthermore, aiming to support the science-policy interface, the Working Group 2 will foster synergies with the latest work and publications of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and MedECC (Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change) to support local, national, and regional policy decisions on the conservation, adaptation and mitigation needs to sustain a good quality of life in the Mediterranean. For example, the group will focus on the upcoming MedECC Special Report climate-water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus.

The Working Group will also follow global action plans, such as the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), encompassing all regions of the world, all its diverse ecosystems and inhabitants, both human and nonhuman. All policy instruments worked on will be related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including a monitoring system to follow up



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the project's contributions to reach the goals.

## **The Working Group 2:**

With the support of the Mission for Natural Heritage Community, the Working Group 2 will address the above-mentioned policies at European, Mediterranean and global level.

This WG aims to build a better understanding among stakeholders on climate change mitigation and adaptation opportunities and solutions and will reinforce the urgency to address transboundary governance challenges at the Mediterranean scale.

The group will address various aspects of the climate-change related challenges. More specifically, it will:

- Assess the vulnerability level to climate change and/or ocean acidification of the different natural ecosystems and identify the impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Evaluate the current urban planning and land-use, regarding both green and blue spaces, with the aim to apply more biodiversity-inclusive approaches.
- Explore measures and solutions for mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction (e.g. wildfires, drought, floods).
- Identify key barriers, such as economic and environmental constraints, social acceptability, and human resource limitations, that can act as impediments to measures implementation and examine possible solutions by integrating strategic climate change mitigation and adaptation policies to reduce vulnerability.

By building on the existing Mediterranean governance structures, the Natural Heritage Mission will reinforce the role of the Interreg Euro-MED programme and territorial cooperation in the region showcasing successful initiatives on a



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global stage. Within the activities of the Institutional Dialogue project of the Natural Heritage Mission, Working Group 2 will pursue transferring and capitalisation actions and advocacy related to climate change mitigation and adaptation policies.

The participants to the Working Group will have access to a portfolio of services ensuring tailored transference, linking providers of solutions with potential beneficiaries. The Working Group will focus on specific issues through the organisation of events, meetings and workshops aiming at transferring good practices and gathering contributions from the Natural Heritage Mission, the Interreg Euro-MED Thematic Projects and other Mediterranean stakeholders, leading to the production of policy documents. The ultimate goal is to foster the continuous exchange of outputs and tools, and to support the Mission in their objectives of implementing transformative changes.

The Working Group 2 outcomes and key messages dissemination encompass various stakeholders of the Interreg Euro-MED Programme: Joint Secretariat, Governance Projects, Thematic Projects of the Mission for Natural Heritage as well as the other Missions and the other three Working Groups: 'Connectivity of Natural Ecosystems', 'Ecosystem Restoration/Nature-based solutions', and 'Evaluating the socio-economic importance of biodiversity'. In this context, the Mission's Associated Partners will be the main contributors and key target stakeholders within the Working Group's activities.





## Working Group steps

June 7th - 9th, 2023

**Main goal:**

Mission for Natural Heritage's launch event, coordination, launch of the Solve the Challenge 2023 Campaign on Coastal Erosion (EU Green Week event)

**Type:** Hybrid (Barcelona)

**Audience:** Partners + Associated Partners

November 9th, 2023

**Main goal:**

Presentation of the Mission's 4 Working Groups/ Call to action to invite the participants to join them

**Type:** Online

**Audience:** Partners + Associated Partners

November 21st - 24th, 2023

**Main goal:**

1st Institutional Dialogue event, back-to-back with the Interreg Euro-MED Programme's annual event

**Type:** In-person (Slovenia)

**Audience:** Partners + Associated Partners

Early 2024

**Main goal:** 1st meeting to present the approved TPs and their linkages to the WGs

**Type:** Online

**Audience:** Working Group members

Main events for 2023-2024



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## Contact

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### CONTACT US:

[natural-heritage@interreg-euro-med.eu](mailto:natural-heritage@interreg-euro-med.eu)

### VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[www.natural-heritage.interreg-euro-med.eu](http://www.natural-heritage.interreg-euro-med.eu)

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