

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultant for the Execution of Sub-Activity 2.1.6: The Marine Spatial Planning toolkit

for

GEF Large Marine Ecosystems: Learning Exchange and Resource Network (GEF LME: LEARN)

GEF Project Number: 5278, UNDP Project Number: 4481, UNESCO Project Number: 92534

A GEF Full-Sized Project,

Implemented by UNDP and Executed by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO)

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT AND ASSIGNMENT

Within the overall framework of the IOC-UNESCO Programme and Budget, in particular ER 6 of MP11 MLA3 and in particular GLO0092534 - LME:LEARN– Large Marine Ecosystems: Learning Exchange and Resource Network (LME:LEARN), the partners will pursue activities consistent with their role in the governing project document.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a global partnership among 183 countries, international institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives. It provides grants for projects related to six focal areas: biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants. The GEF international waters focal area targets transboundary water systems, such as river basins with water flowing from one country to another, groundwater resources shared by several countries, or marine ecosystems bounded by more than one nation.

LME: LEARN is a GEF-UNDP-IOC-UNESCO project designed to improve global ecosystem-based governance of Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) and their coasts by generating knowledge, building capacity, harnessing public and private partners and supporting south-to-south learning and north-to-south learning. A key element of this improved governance is mainstreaming cooperation between LME, MPA, MSP and ICM projects in overlapping areas, both for GEF projects and for non-GEF projects. This Full-scale project plans to achieve a multiplier effect using demonstrations of learning tools and toolboxes, to aid practitioners and other key stakeholders, in conducting and learning from GEF projects.

In pursuit of its global and regional objectives, LME: LEARN seeks to strengthen global governance of large marine ecosystems and their coasts through enhanced sharing and application of LME/ICM/MPA/MPS knowledge and information tools.

The project will achieve this through the following 5 components:

- Component 1: Global and regional network of partners to enhance ecosystem-based management and to provide support for the GEF-IW LME/ICM/MPA/MSP projects to address their needs and incorporate climate variability and change.
- Component 2: Synthesis and incorporation of knowledge into policy-making, capture of best LME governance practices, and development of new methods and tools to enhance the management effectiveness of LMEs and to incorporate ICM, MPAs. MSP and climate variability and change including the 5 LME modules.

- Component 3: Capacity and partnership building through twinning and learning exchanges, workshops, and training among LMEs and similar initiatives (e.g., Seascapes).
- Component 4: Communication, dissemination and outreach of GEF LME/ICM/MPA/MSP project achievements and lessons learned.
- Component 5: Project Management by establishing a functioning Project Coordination Unit at IOC, encouraging participation by Partner Network, including short-term visits, seconding of personnel, etc.

The LME:LEARN project will generate harmonized knowledge products drawing on existing science for inclusion in new toolkits by harvesting and codifying experiences and best practices from the existing GEF LME/ICM/MPA/MSP projects, project stakeholders and learning partners including other non-GEF marine and coastal initiatives to include tools to address climate variability and change, MPAs, MSP and ICM to create a harmonized set of tools to address the existing causes of the degradation of coastal and marine resources and climate variability and change.

This ToR is aimed at the recruitment of a Consultant to undertake activities in execution of Component 2, Sub-Activity 2.1.6 of the project: The Marine Spatial Planning toolkit.

The sustainable use of the ocean and its biodiversity depends on appropriate planning and management of human uses. Marine spatial planning (MSP) is a public process of analyzing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives that are usually specified through a political process. MSP plays a vital role in maximizing the potential of maritime activities and uses, ensuring space for their development, arbitrating in case of conflicts, and bringing long-term stability and transparency for economic operators whilst ensuring that the health of the marine environment does not deteriorate.

The take-up of MSP is increasing worldwide and a significant body of experience and best practices have been developed over the last decade. IOC-UNESCO was among the first to develop MSP guidelines (see: [Marine Spatial Planning: A Step-by-step Approach](#)). The guidelines and handbooks hitherto produced should be consulted and aspects that fit into this toolkit should be taken and appropriately modified. However, there are still different levels of implementation of MSP processes in the world, including areas where MSP is in its infancy and where joint learning, improved cooperation or capacity building is needed, or areas where arrangements for MSP may exist but a strategic approach to facilitate coordination would be beneficial.

In addition, UNESCO-IOC, together with the European Commission - Directorate for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) have agreed on a Joint MSP Roadmap defining the priority areas and strategic objectives to be implemented through mutual cooperation. This roadmap encourages the development of MSP in all seas and oceans of the globe with the objective to triple the area of territorial waters benefiting from MSP effectively implemented by 2030, reaching a coverage of one third of the total surface area of waters under national jurisdictions. The five priority areas and subsequent key actions of this roadmap focus amongst others on developing guidance on transboundary MSP, developing the "blue economy" in the context of the Agenda 2030, enabling ecosystem-based MSP, pursuing capacity building, and building a mutual understanding for communicating MSP.

Spatial planning, whether on land or at sea, is generally a competency of governmental authorities who carry out planning for the territory under their jurisdiction. However, it has increasingly been recognised that planning and, in particular, the MSP, must take account of cross-border considerations, and that planning authorities should find synergies and common aspects to work with neighbouring authorities on matters that have cross-border implications.

The imperative for transboundary marine spatial planning is arguably much stronger at sea than on land for the following reasons:

- It is an integral part of an ecosystem approach to MSP, as marine and coastal ecosystem dynamics transcend administrative boundaries and steer planning towards wider regional or sea basin considerations. A central argument of MSP, therefore, is that it should be ecosystem-, rather than territory-, based, in order to take account of these natural processes and contribute to environmental integrity. However, the transboundary or cross-border thinking is also very often at the heart of MSP.-A resource management perspective directs attention beyond borders, in order to avoid conflicts with neighbours, make best use of shared or adjoining resources and ensure connectivity for habitats, species and human activities. It, therefore, speaks against boundary-setting and invites a more expansive approach to the collaborative governance of the seas.
- Many marine resources and maritime activities are often cross-border and mobile in nature; their effective planning and management requires a collaborative approach from neighbouring jurisdictions.
- MSP is generally being conducted at various geographical scales, from small to large,
- MSP should include consideration of regional and land–sea interactions.

Having the above in mind, this toolkit should **concentrate on the transboundary issues of MSP**, positioning it within the well established “step-by-step” approach to MSP championed by IOC-UNESCO (mentioned above). The toolkit should take into consideration the fact that the intention to adopt a transboundary approach may not be easily turned into practice. The toolkit should try to respond to the challenges faced by the national and regional authorities responsible for MSP who seek to cooperate with each other, such as:

- Although political borders in between countries are not always in line with natural boundaries, from an ecosystem point of view, they represent the national sovereignty of countries in terms of obligations and responsibilities in the context of the international law.
- There is likely to be tension between national interests contained within territories and shared interests for which a transnational perspective is needed.
- There may be considerable differences of governance between administrations, making joint working more complicated.
- There may be different policy and planning practices and dissimilar maritime priorities, leading to individual MSP processes, which are far from compatible, such as in terms of the timing and objectives of these processes.
- There may be procedural obstacles for authorities seeking to work together in a transboundary manner, including unevenly matched administrative structures and processes, technical difficulties of sharing data and information, language and cultural barriers and other impediments to good communication.

The users of the MSP toolkit should be public authorities in charge of coastal and marine planning and management, LME practitioners, other key stakeholders, citizens, NGOs, academia, technical experts and other, such as sectorial regional commissions. The toolkit should be developed as a combination of publication/online interactive tool and will be the basis for the development of a complementary training module. It is expected that the toolkit (as well as the subsequent training material) will assist in delivering:

- Enhanced capacity of national and regional practitioners to carry out MSP in the transboundary context;
- Improved knowledge on MSP related subjects;
- Promotion of MSP as a collaborative tool;
- Assist in the establishment of synergies amongst public, private and other societal actors at national and regional level;
- Dissemination of good practices and MSP recommendations, such as EU's;
- Better integration of ecosystem based approaches into marine management and MSP;
- More efficient and sustainable use of marine resources in LMEs.

The Sub-activity 2.1.6 The Marine Spatial Planning toolkit comprises of three activities:

- **Activity a:** Drafting the toolkit
- **Activity b:** Consultation and revision of draft toolkit
- **Activity c:** Presentation of the toolkit at the Partner Network Meeting and Regional Network Meeting

2. DESCRIPTION OF REQUIRED SERVICES

The Consultant will lead and manage the implementation of the activities based on the UNDP Project Document, with specific activities and deadlines as summarized in the next section. Key tasks for the Consultant over the period from signature through 31 December 2017 include:

Activity a: Drafting the toolkit

- **Task 1:** Review “state-of-the-art” of MSP, identification of gaps, analysis of the “step-by-step” approach at regional scale, analysis of good practices, identification of major challenges, proposal for the evaluation and monitoring template, etc.;
- **Task 2:** Identify the most important steps for the MSP process in transboundary context;
- **Task 3:** Define the most appropriate tools to carry out each step of the MSP process and advise the reader how to use it, possibly with good example to illustrate use of the tools;
- **Task 4:** Prepare the first draft of the Toolkit (for review and consultation with the LME:LEARN PCU and LME:LEARN Ecosystem-based Management Working Group)

Activity b: Consultation and revision of draft toolkit

- **Task 5:** Collect feedback on the first draft of the Toolkit from key stakeholders (EBM Working Group) and incorporate the obtained inputs; circulate of the final draft and collect of the additional comments;
- **Task 6:** Finalize the draft Toolkit, prepare inputs for preparation of selected formats of the Toolkit as planned;
- **Task 7:** Liaise with the developers of the training modules appropriate for on-site training or web-based training

Activity c: Presentation of the toolkit at the Partner Network Meeting and Regional Network Meeting

- **Task 8:** Present the toolkit (face-to-face or virtually) at the LME Partner Network Meeting, Regional Network Meetings and meetings of the LME:LEARN Ecosystem-based Management Working Group.

3. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, PAYMENTS, MONITORING AND PROGRESS CONTROL

The schedule of activities and payments is as follows:

No.	Activity	Due date for submission	Payment (USD)
1	Submission of the Inception Report with detailed explanation of the steps to be taken to complete the activity and the contents of the toolkit	15/9/2017	
2	The first draft of the toolkit	15/10/2017	
3	Final version of the toolkit including a proposal for its dissemination	30/11/2017	
4	Presentation of the toolkit at the Regional Networks meeting	31/12/2017	

This final schedule of activities and payments could be revised with the approval of the LME:LEARN PCU or UNDP Project Supervisor and, as appropriate, the LME:LEARN Steering Committee.

4. IMPLEMENTATION AND WORK ARRANGEMENTS

Time-frame

The LME:LEARN project will officially operate until March 2019.

Work place

Works taking place under this ToR will be executed from the Consultant's location, as well as on official missions. The Consultant will make its own travel arrangements unless otherwise agreed in advance by the PCU on behalf of IOC-UNESCO. The cost of the travel will be paid separately.

Coordination arrangements

The GEF LME:LEARN PCU on behalf of IOC-UNESCO will assume the overall supervision and coordination role. For purposes of programmatic guidance and execution of activities, the Consultant will coordinate with the LME:LEARN Project Manager Chief Technical Advisor and also the UNDP Regional Technical Advisor (Supervisor) of the Project. The Consultant will report on financial matters to IOC-UNESCO. The PCU may also provide direction from LME:LEARN's Steering Committee (SC) to the Consultant and, as needed, solicit progress reports, monitoring and evaluation data, etc., from the Consultant in order to keep the SC apprised of all project activities. UNDP and/or UNESCO-IOC shall be considered as the legal representative of the LME:LEARN project. At no point should the Consultant make representations or act on behalf of UNDP, IOC-UNESCO or the LME:LEARN project without authorization and coordination with the UNDP Regional Technical Advisor and/or the LME:LEARN PCU on behalf of IOC-UNESCO.

Skills and Experience Required

- Advanced degree in spatial planning, environmental, natural or social sciences, international relations, economics, development studies or related fields,;

- At least five years demonstrated experience in spatial planning, preferably in marine spatial planning, and familiarity with the transboundary waters regions and associated issues;
- Strong analytical, reporting and writing abilities and experience with researching and writing on international environment and/or international development issues;
- Excellent ability to work and write in English and proficiency in at least one other UN language (Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish or Russian) is an asset.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively and reliably contribute to a geographically distributed work environment (via phone and email), including accountability to remotely located manager(s)
- Experience with researching and writing on international environment and/or international development issues.

Also Desired:

- Demonstrated experience with the development of training courses and the training of working professionals
- Familiarity with transboundary waters regions and associated issues.
- Familiarity with or, ideally, work experience in GEF International Waters recipient countries and/or with donors or related NGOs;
- Proficiency in at least one other UN language (Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish or Russian).

5. SOLICITATION OF REQUEST

Interested candidates are requested to submit the following in writing:

- (a) an up-to-date curriculum vitae (UNESCO format);
- (b) a statement indicating how their qualifications and experience make them suitable for the assignment;
- (c) a description of the approach he/she would adopt to carry out the assignment, including any inputs that may be required from UNESCO;
- (d) the overall cost of the assignment, expressed as an overall lump-sum. Any travel and subsistence requirements should be indicated separately.

Written submissions should be sent to m.hamid@unesco.org by **31 August 2017**.