



Monk Seal Alliance

**Request for proposal and Terms of Reference for a study on
Identifying Mediterranean and Atlantic actors working on monk seal
conservation & assessment of the type of monitoring and data
available**

July 2019,

Point of contact apertuisot@fpa2.org

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

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Request for Proposals: Identifying Mediterranean and Atlantic actors active on monk seal conservation & assessment of the type of monitoring and data available

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, coordinator of the Monk Seal Alliance, is issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Identifying actors active on the Mediterranean monk seal conservation in the Mediterranean and Atlantic. The attached Terms of reference contain all the necessary information for interested Offerors.

This service is funded by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.

Consulting firms (Consultants), (Offerors), should indicate their interest in submitting a proposal for the anticipated agreement by sending an email indicating their intention to Ms Auriane Pertuisot at apertuisot@fpa2.org by midnight (CET Time) on August 2nd 2019.

All offerors are expected to exercise the highest standards of conduct in preparing, submitting and if selected, eventually carrying out the specified work.

Overview

The Mediterranean monk seal, *Monachus monachus*, is one of the most endangered marine mammals in the world. Monk seals are divided into several subpopulations: in the Mediterranean, mainly around the islands of the Ionian and Aegean seas but also on the Greek, Cypriot and Turkish coasts. In the Atlantic, the monk seal is present in Cape Blanc in Mauritania, with about 330 individuals, and in Madeira where a small colony resides. In total, the population is estimated at less than 800 individuals. This is still an alarmingly low number, but a clear improvement since the situation in the 2000s.

Numerous actors and institutions have been mobilized for the protection of the monk seal: the Bern Convention (Appendix II), the European Union (monk seals are listed as a priority species in Annex II of the “Habitat Directive”), regional strategies have been adopted in the Mediterranean and Atlantic under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention), the United Nations Environment Program, and the Barcelona Convention’s Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas, some countries such as Greece and Turkey have national action plans or legal protection schemes in place, research institutes are working to better understand the species and therefore better protect it, many non-governmental organizations are working in the field to educate and raise awareness, support the creation of protected areas in relation with local actors and government representatives...

Despite the tools developed (such as regional strategies and national action plans) and the many meetings organized to make recommendations from the field rise, efforts have lacked coordination and continuity. Many action plans remain on paper and funds are allocated sporadically. Lack of coordination at transnational scale and institutional interest seem to be the main obstacles to truly efficient action.

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation has been involved in the species’ conservation for almost a decade. Apart from support to a project in Greece (island of Gyaros) led by WWF and co-funded by LIFE +, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation has also actively coordinated an “expert group” to meet, share their experiences and define regional priorities since September 2017.

In parallel, given the need for donor organizations to play their role in more efficient funding, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation launched a partnership (the “Monk Seal Alliance”, MSA) formalized by the signature of a MoU in April 2019 between MAVA Foundation for Nature, the Segré Foundation, the Sancta Devota Foundation, Thalassa Foundation and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. The MSA is intended to bring together funders (foundations and donor organisations) to increase the scope of the activities carried out by monk seal conservation specialists in the field and allow for concerted, long-term and region-wide implementation of actions.

The aim of the MSA is to support effective conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal by:

- *Promoting information exchange, networking and collaboration among experts*
- *Contributing to implementing the regional strategies and national action plans established by co-funding collaborative projects*

- *Leveraging funds by mobilizing other philanthropist organisations*
- *Helping coordinating efforts on monk seal conservation*
- *Disseminating information and raising awareness on the issue through the MSA partners' networks*

The MSA plans to launch a call for collaborative project proposals in April 2020. To do so, MSA partners wish to identify all the actors (NGOs, MPA managers, Research Institutes, Governments, tourism sector, etc) involved in one way or another in monk seal conservation and to know the type of activities they are carrying out (education, conservation actions, research, etc.). As of today, we know of a dozen organisations working in the Mediterranean and Atlantic which are part of the “expert group”, but there are surely other ones to be included.

It is important for the MSA to know the exact situation and to make sure that it includes all the actors and has a global overview of the true priority needs for the species, whilst taking into account all the existing tools and efforts.

Scope of work

The completion of this study will provide two critical pieces of information needed to appropriately design and manage the Monk Seal Alliance’s activities (mainly call for proposals and expert collaboration).

First, actors working on monk seal protection will be identified. Information on their activities should be detailed in order for the MSA to know if they are primary stakeholders which should be included in the expert group and/or if they could be potential beneficiaries of the call for proposals. *Refer to “Component 1” for more details*

Second, if applicable, information on the type of research, monitoring and data each actor/organization is collecting, storing and sharing (if relevant) will be identified. This is necessary in order to better understand how the MSA could envisage to encourage data-sharing amongst all organizations for better conservation efficiency. *Refer to “Component 2” for more details*

The geographical scope of the study should include all countries where **breeding is occurring** and where monk seal **sightings have occurred** (source SPA/RAC, UNEP CMS):

- Greece
- Turkey
- Cyprus
- Madeira
- Mauritania
- Spain
- Italy (including Sardinia)

- Croatia
- Albania
- Syria
- Lebanon
- Israel
- Egypt
- Libya
- Algeria
- Tunisia
- Morocco

Useful links :

<http://www.rac-spa.org/>

<https://www.cms.int>

<https://www.researchgate.net>

There are 2 main components for this service:

COMPONENT 1: Identification of the actors and activities carried out

Over the last decades, many NGOs and research organizations have worked on monk seal conservation. Donors have supported many projects, particularly in Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Mauritania and Madeira and have identified the main experts and contributors. MSA partners wish to identify all the actors (NGOs, MPA managers, Research Institutes, Governments, tourism sector, etc) involved in one way or another in monk seal conservation and to know the type of activities they are carrying out (education, conservation actions, research, etc.).

The objectives of component one are to :

- Identify organisations working on monk seal (NGOs, Research institutes, Marine Protected Areas, Governments,...)
- Identify, for each country, if an action plan has been developed and assess the state of implementation.
- Identify past-current-future projects and activities carried out as well as the sources of funding. The organisation's collaboration with other institutions and their capacity to carry out projects should also be defined and evaluated. Difficulties in implementing action plans should be analysed when relevant.

Outputs

The service will provide the following outputs:

1. An « identity card » including the above-mentioned information for each organization
2. A map illustrating the organizations' areas of action and identifying the protected areas where monk seals are present or have been sighted, and helping to detect possible gaps (i.e., areas containing monk seal habitat currently not being researched or protected).
3. The study will highlight the different sources of funding (national/donors/self-financing) in order to better target MSA's financial support.
4. Based on the projects and financial partners, establish a list of potential funders which could be interested in joining the MSA.
5. Prepare, facilitate and conduct a networking session and technical workshop bringing together all the identified experts and stakeholders.

COMPONENT 2 : Assessment of the type of monitoring and data available

In recent years, monk seal populations seem to be expanding. Some individuals have been sighted in areas where they had not be recorded for various years (ex. in Albania, Montenegro). But with a lack of data exchange and common monitoring methodology, it is difficult to know if those individuals are traveling far from their colonies or if they are settled populations. By sharing data from population monitoring, it would be much easier to

understand population dynamics and analyse the need to implement transboundary protection measures.

The expert group members as we know it today work mostly on photo identification, camera surveillance (in caves) and satellite tagging (to a lesser extent). Their monitoring of population mainly consists of collecting photos and we have no knowledge of an effective database (other than photo archives kept by each organization) or common methodology. Most of them seem to agree on the need to have a common identification tool but data is not shared as of today.

The service will thus describe the monitoring design and protocols implemented by each organization with the aim to assess the needs and possibility of creating a common methodology/tool. Depending on the information from the study, the MSA could envisage to fund a pilot project on the design of a common monitoring method and data sharing (e.g., preparing a monitoring manual and creating a common tool where all the photo id will be uploaded and visible to any expert).

Outputs

The service will provide the following outputs :

1. A study to identify which organizations are monitoring monk seal populations, and where, describing the monitoring design and protocols used, what type of data they are collecting, how they are storing the data (tool).
2. Once all the information is gathered, an analysis and proposal of the type of collaborative tool which could be developed to agree on a common monitoring approach and share data. An assessment of the cost of developing such activities as well as potential technical partners should be included.
3. Map of the areas currently monitored (output 1) to identify gaps.

Key elements for the methodology

Targeted countries : Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Madeira, Mauritania, Spain, Italy (including Sardinia), Croatia, Albania, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco. Priority will be given to countries where colonies are established.

1 field visit/per country targeted

1 networking and technical workshop

Approximate maximum budget

Maximum € 90,000 inclusive of all taxes (including VAT) for component one and two of the study

In addition to the fees, this budget includes expert mission trips and administrative costs (telecommunications, secretariat...) and costs of local experts if needed.

Study steering and responsibilities

This study is under the responsibility of the Monk Seal Alliance's coordinator, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.

The supervision of the consultancy will be done jointly by an Advisory Committee formed of members of the MSA and a scientific partner.

Supplied items

The MSA will provide contacts with the identified experts and the Mediterranean MPA managers.

The bibliography listed below will be given to the consultant.

- SPA/RAC regional strategy
- UNEP CMS regional strategy
- Monk seal expert meetings' minutes
- National action plans for Greece, Turkey, ...
- Identified existing experts and projects related to monk seal conservation

Format of deliverables

All documents will be submitted **in English and French**. Logos to be included will be provided by the MSA.

Preliminary calendar

The study will be conducted in 3 steps.

Step 1 Kick-off meeting (mid-September)

The final calendar will be set up during the kick off meeting. A list of targeted countries, pre-identified organizations and MPAs will be presented, discussed and approved.

Step 2 : Service in Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Madeira, Mauritania, Albania

Components 1 and 2 to be assessed between September to November 2019.

Final outputs have to be delivered before end of December 2019.

Draft versions for comments need to be delivered in advance to guarantee a 10-day period for comments.

Step 3 : Service in other targeted countries : Spain, Italy, Croatia, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco

Components 1 and 2 to be assessed between November 2019 to January 2020.

Final outputs have to be delivered before end of February 2020. Draft versions for comments need to be delivered in advance to guarantee a 10 days period for comments.

The networking and technical workshop will be organized first quarter 2020 (tbc).

Bids

Bids must be emailed to Auriane Pertuisot apertuisot@fpa2.org by **September 4th, 2019 by midnight (CET time)**. Bids have to be signed by an authorized representative of the bidder. Proposals and questions can be submitted in English (preferably) or French.

The consultancy will be executed by an expert with in-depth knowledge of conservation issues and transboundary collaboration.

The candidate must submit technical and financial budget specifying the countries and areas targeted. A breakdown of fees and reimbursable expenses must be presented in the budget.

Desired Profiles:

- At least 10 years of relevant experience are required
- Experience in transnational conservation
- Expert (s) in stakeholder involvement and collaborative projects
- Experience in data analysis
- Expert (s) in training

Each application must include:

- CV (s) of the expert (s) and references (related to each of the components of the study) especially in the Mediterranean
- The proposed methodology
- The completion schedule (specific to each objective)
- The bid estimated budget detailing the allocation of funds to different tasks and for each Objective and including, without limitation, personnel, travel, communication and logistics, and all equipment and / or supplies.

The candidate (consisting of one or more experts) must answer all the objectives stated in the brief. The candidate may subcontract one of the objectives to another provider (consisting of one or more experts). In this case, the applicant must submit a CV and references of the proposed subcontractors.

Selection criteria

Understanding of the scope of work, issues and ToRs (5 pts)

Methodology and tools provided (5 pts)

Expertise and Relevant experience (5 pts)

Cost (5 pts)

A selection panel will evaluate the quotes/proposals received in relation to the stated criteria above.

After the evaluation has been completed the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation will notify successful and unsuccessful bidders. A fixed-price contract will be established with the successful bidder in Euros.

Chronological List of Proposal Events

RFP published	July 15th 2019
Deadline for written questions	August 13th 2019
Proposal due date	September 4th 2019

Contact : apertuisot@fpa2.org