

# CALL FOR PROJECTS

Involvement of Local Civil Society Organizations in  
the 2023 SPAMI Day Celebration

**Rules**

February 2023



Mediterranean  
Action Plan  
Barcelona  
Convention



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## Call for Projects

### Involvement of Local Civil Society Organizations in the 2023 SPAMI Day Celebration

#### I- Context

The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) was established in 1985 in Tunis by a decision of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols, to assist Mediterranean countries in implementing the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol). SPA/RAC is part of the United Nations Environment Programme's Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) system. Its mission consists in providing the necessary assistance to Mediterranean countries for the establishment and management of marine and coastal protected areas and the preservation of marine and coastal biodiversity.

The "SPAMI Twinning Programme" - Developing and strengthening effective management of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance - implemented within the framework of the cooperation agreement between the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security and UNEP/MAP, aims at developing and strengthening effective management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and particularly Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs). The activities are envisaged to develop twinning programmes between Italian SPAMIs/MPAs and other Mediterranean SPAMIs/MPAs, in order to promote networking and the exchange of good management practices. The Programme also aims to promote cooperation between Mediterranean SPAMIs by supporting the celebration of the SPAMI Day, which aims to share experiences and best practices between SPAMIs/MPAs, strengthen their capacities and encourage the involvement of local civil society organizations.

The SPAMI Day celebration was set up in 2022 and should be celebrated on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April of each year.

#### II- Objective

The objective is the involvement of local civil society organizations in the celebration of the 2023 SPAMI Day at their SPAMI level. Six (06) civil society organizations from Mediterranean countries having SPAMIs will be selected and will receive a grant to contribute to the celebration of the 2023 SPAMI Day.

#### III- Eligibility Criteria

The call for projects for the 2023 SPAMI Day celebration is open to all Mediterranean SPAMIs. Small grants will be awarded to representatives of local civil society

organizations working in collaboration with or having had the agreement of the SPAMI manager.

The candidate should be a local civil society organization (NGO, association, ...) involved in the management of one or more of the 39 Mediterranean SPAMIs.

The civil society organization that wants to apply for this call for projects must have a legal status that allows it to receive grants by bank transfer.

In order to ensure a successful implementation of the small project activities, the candidate will have to prove a transparent collaboration and communication with the authority in charge of the management of the concerned SPAMI.

The missions, objectives and activities of the applicant organization, especially those related to the concerned SPAMI, should be detailed within the application documents.

#### **IV- Themes and Eligible Activities**

The activities presented must be in line with one of the themes listed in the paragraph below. Any activity that cannot be connected to one of the following themes will not be eligible.

The contribution to the celebration of SPAMI Day 2023 will be made between 15 April and 15 June 2023 through the development of activities aiming at:

- raising awareness on the SPAMI List as a tool to promote cooperation between stakeholders in the conservation of biodiversity in the Mediterranean,
- promoting environmental education showing the importance of the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean,
- raising awareness on the concerned SPAMI, its natural and cultural heritage characteristics and the activities aimed at its conservation,
- promoting the sustainable development of socio-economic activities, in particular sustainable tourism and fishing, in and around the SPAMI.

The day of celebration of the SPAMI Day in the Mediterranean being the 15<sup>th</sup> of April each year, a relevant activity should be scheduled on that day (15 April 2023).

Projects must include a maximum of concrete, effective and coherent actions.

## V- Project Duration

The project's maximum duration will be **three (03) months maximum**. The projects are expected to start in March 2023.

## VI- Payments

For each project, the amount financed by the SPA/RAC will be **5 000 Euros**.

Co-funding to the SPA/RAC grant is mandatory. This contribution may be either (i) in kind from the applicant organization, (ii) self-financing or (iii) co-financing by other local or international financial partners.

The grant will be paid in two (02) instalments:

- 2000 € soon after the signature of the financial agreement, and
- 3000 € upon approval of the final report.

## VII- Applications

All eligible civil society organizations wishing to apply for this call for projects will have to (i) file a grant request, (ii) fill in the Grant Application Form (to be downloaded from this link: [https://hamdisouihhotmail-my.sharepoint.com/:b/g/personal/saba\\_guellouz\\_spa-rac\\_org/EaoUjdc4SiINryoJjld9A7EBtdtwUBFYOLMMzTj4e26jlQ?e=HI8xnO](https://hamdisouihhotmail-my.sharepoint.com/:b/g/personal/saba_guellouz_spa-rac_org/EaoUjdc4SiINryoJjld9A7EBtdtwUBFYOLMMzTj4e26jlQ?e=HI8xnO) ) and (iii) provide all supporting documents required hereafter (documents 3 to 5):

The application should include the following documents:

- 1- A written request for the grant.
- 2- The Grant Application Form completed, in PDF format, either in English or in French.
- 3- The agreement of the official/governmental SPAMI manager on the activities to be carried out.
- 4- The legal status of the applicant organization.
- 5- The latest activity report of the applicant organization.

Each organization can submit only one (01) application form under this call for projects.

Applications, including the Grant Application Form and the appendices, must be sent by **05 March 2023 (23:59 UTC+1, Tunis time) at the latest, deadline extended to 09 March 2023 (23:59 UTC+1, Tunis time), only by email to:**

[car-asp@spa-rac.org](mailto:car-asp@spa-rac.org)

Applicants will receive an email confirming the receipt of their application.

For any questions, please contact Ms. Saba GUELLOUZ, SPAMI Twinning Programme Officer, and Ms. Dorra MAAOUI, Communication Officer, at SPA/RAC, at the following emails: [saba.guellouz@spa-rac.org](mailto:saba.guellouz@spa-rac.org) ; [dorra.maaoui@spa-rac.org](mailto:dorra.maaoui@spa-rac.org).

### VIII- Selection Process

An internal ad hoc commission will be established in SPA/RAC for the assessment of project applications under this call for projects.

The commission will eliminate applications from organizations that are not eligible for a grant under this call for projects, and then proceed to the selection. The assessment will be made according to a grid of criteria that should lead to an overall score for each application file and a ranking of the candidates.

Applications will be rated on 10 points according to the following three criteria:

SELECTION CRITERIA		Maximum score
<b>Experience in the field</b>	1 point for each project or action carried out by the organization in the management and/or communication around the concerned SPAMI	<b>3 points</b>
<b>Relevance of the project</b>	0 to 4 points depending on the relevance of the proposed small project (average of the scores given by the different members of the commission)	<b>4 points</b>
<b>Themes / Activities</b>	1 point for each type of activity proposed in the proposed small project in line with one of the themes mentioned in Article IV of this call for projects	<b>3 points</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>10 points</b>

### IX- Implementation and Evaluation

The civil society organizations selected will sign a financial agreement with SPA/RAC. SPA/RAC can cancel the financial agreement of a given project if the project is not launched within one month after the grant signature. In such a case, the beneficiary is

required to reimburse the full first instalment to SPA/RAC. SPA/RAC could reallocate the funds to another project.

The organization should participate in an exchange workshop gathering all the small project beneficiary organizations under this call, by the end of the projects' implementation. Participation fees will be covered by SPA/RAC and are not to be included in the project proposal.

All projects will be subject to a middle and final evaluation. To this end, the organization will provide an interim report three months after the signature of the financial agreement, and a final technical and financial report two weeks after the end of the small project. SPA/RAC can assist project leaders with their self-assessment and reporting.

The organization shall keep accurate and up-to-date records and documents in respect of all expenditures incurred with the funds made available by SPA/RAC to ensure that all expenditures are in conformity with the provisions of the financial agreement. For each disbursement, proper supporting documentation shall be maintained, including original invoices, bills and receipts pertaining to the transaction.

SPA/RAC will directly monitor the project progress and may call on the support of a consultant, if necessary.