



Request for Quotations

“Improving knowledge of litter sources and impact on marine ecosystems in TCNR” for the COMMON (COastal Management and MOnitoring Network for tackling marine litter in Mediterranean sea)

COMMON (A_B.44_0080)

Financed in the Framework of the ENI CBC Mediterranean Programme (03-09-2019/ 02-09-2022)



The enclosed document is prepared by Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (TCNR-COMMON/PP5)

June 2022 - Lebanon

I. Background

A. About ENI CBC MED

1. ENI CBC Med (the Programme) is the largest Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) initiative implemented by the European Union (EU) under the European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI). Through calls for proposals, ENI CBC Med finances cooperation projects for a more competitive, innovative, inclusive, and sustainable Mediterranean area.

B. About COMMON

3. The COMMON project aims at applying the ICZM principles to the marine litter management, improving the environmental performance of 5 pilot coastal areas in Italy (2), Tunisia (2) and Lebanon (1), testing a model that could be transferred to the whole Mediterranean area. Thanks to an improved knowledge of the marine litter phenomenon, specific training and capacity building activities addressed to local and regional authorities, MPAs, Turtles Rescue Centers and citizens, thematic awareness campaign and material, targeted networking activities at basin level, COMMON project will engage local communities in incorporating marine litter management and disposal in coastal planning with the ICZM approach. The project specific objective is to enhance the capacity of public authorities in the 5 selected areas to plan for sustainable management, use and monitoring of marine litter sources, treatment and consequences, employing an effective participatory approach involving relevant stakeholders and local communities.

C. About TCNR

4. TCNR is Tyre Coast Nature Reserve, located immediately south of Tyre city, South of Lebanon. TCNR is recognized as the most beautiful and largest sandy public beach in Lebanon. TCNR was created in 1998 by Law No. 708, and it is considered rare of its kind in Lebanon and subsequently has a great natural heritage value.

Its biodiversity derives from several elements that are grouped in a small terrestrial area of 3.8 km². TCNR also has a marine zone with a surface area (territorial waters) of about 113 km². It is characterized by the diversity of its ecological, marine, and coastal ecosystems. In addition, it is an important nesting site for migratory birds and two species of threatened sea turtles, within a diversity of ecosystems comprising a wide variety of flora and fauna species. The lands constituting the reserve, are divided into three zones:

Touristic zone, Agricultural & Archaeological zone, and Conservation zone. The natural reserve contains freshwater springs that outflow to the sea, thus creating a fresh/marine water interface, or Estuary. Both visitors and scientists recognize it as one of the most beautiful and scenic beaches in Lebanon, with the widest biodiversity.

II. Statement of Work

The aim of this call is to contract a team of experts in collecting tissue samples (blood and skin) from alive sea turtles and mussels across Tyre Coast Nature Reserve, and prepare the samples for

handling to the University of Siena to conduct the analyses at the “Biomarkers Laboratory and impact of marine litter”. This activity is under the scope of the COMMON project’s Work Package 3, Activity 3.1.2., which consists of sampling marine biota and analyzing their tissue content with nanoplastics.

A. Tasks to perform

The main responsibilities of the expert are the following:

- Using the COMMON toolkit, the expert will collect blood and tissue samples from alive sea turtles.
- The number of samples should be taken from: ≥ 5 sea turtles ≤ 10 , and 80 mussels (40 from Tyre, and 40 from another sea site)
- The expert is expected to collect the tissue samples from the sea with the help of a diver/fisherman, then bring the samples to the lab to conduct preliminary blood (only for the sea turtles’ samples) preparation (detailed lab work is described in a toolkit prepared by the team of UNISI/PP4 and will be provided to the expert upon winning the tender bid).
- Samples should then be handled in dry ice to TCNR’s project manager to transfer to Italy, Siena University for further (biochemical) analyses.

B. Qualifications and skills

- The expert should bear an advanced degree in one of the following domains: oceanology or marine biology, to be able to perform the tasks described above.
- The expert should present a proof of previous experience with sampling tissues from alive marine species and conducting some lab analyses on the collected tissue samples.

C. Terms of execution

- The expert should plan the execution of the mission, in close collaboration and coordination with the project manager.
- The expert should be equipped with all the needed equipment, tools, and utensils to perform the listed tasks above.
- The expert is expected to collect samples from 5 to 10 sea turtles and 60 to 80 mussels, no later than June 28.
- The expert should then perform preliminary lab analyses on the collected tissue samples (only for blood samples collected from sea turtles) and handle them to the TCNR-PM no later than June 30.

D. Application to the call

To apply to this call, the applicants are kindly required to submit two documents:

- 1- Technical offer:
 - a. certificates and proofs of qualifications and experiences of the experts.
 - b. the proposal/plan of work.
- 2- Financial offer: a quotation per sample of sea turtles (including field sampling, lab work, and cost of tools and materials).

Note: the financial offer should be inclusive of all the logistics and materials for conducting the tasks (boat fees, gasoline, travel to the pilot area, assistant fees -fisherman/diver-, utensils and materials, lab equipment and materials, and others if needed).

- 3- Applications should be submitted by email on the following addresses: tcr98@hotmail.com and nmsayleb@gmail.com, specifying: "sampling alive sea turtles". The deadline for applications is June 25, 2022.