



Request for Quotations

“Monitoring of Floating Micro & Macro Litter” for the
COMMON (COastal Management and MOnitoring
Network for tackling marine litter in Mediterranean sea)

COMMON (A_B.44_0080)

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

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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 monitoring floating litter (macro and micro) in the marine zone facing Tyre Coast Nature Reserve, and conduct preliminary analyses on the collected micro plastic samples.

This activity is under the scope of the COMMON project's Work Package 3, Activity 3.1.2., which consists of monitoring marine floating litter (macro and micro).

A. Tasks to perform

The main responsibilities of the expert or team of experts are the following:

- Using the COMMON toolkit, the team of experts will conduct a series of marine sampling and monitoring of floating litter.
- The number of samples is set to 3 sites facing TCNR, over 3 transects (1.5 nm, 3 nm, and 6 nm), to be taken twice (once during the wet season, and again during the dry season). The total number of samples becomes 18.
- The map of sampling sites and transects/distances from the shoreline will be provided to the team of experts once selected and appointed for the task.
- The team of experts is expected to use their own equipment and materials for the monitoring of floating litter including recording sheets printed on waterproof paper. For micro litter sampling, the needed equipment and utensils should be also secured by the team of experts, including among others, the manta net with wings and cod end (mesh size 200 μm or 300 μm); oceanographic flowmeter; a cool box to be used as sample container (the complete list of equipment and utensils needed, will be provided along with the floating macro litter monitoring toolkit).
- During the microlitter sampling with the Manta, the team of experts will monitor the floating macro litter visually and record their findings using the COMMON toolkit (data sheet) to prepare their findings' report.
- After the sampling of micro litter, the team will conduct preliminary micro litter separation (organic from plastic), sorting (size, color, shape) and reporting (micro plastic reporting data sheet).
- Samples should then be shipped to Italy, to Siena University for further (chemical) analyses.

B. Qualifications and skills

- The experts should bear an advanced degree in one of the following domains: oceanology, marine sciences, environmental engineering, environmental sciences, or other similar specialties in the marine environment domain, to be able to perform the tasks described above.
- The experts should present a proof of previous experience with planning for and conducting floating micro and macro litter monitoring and analysis.

C. Terms of execution

- The team of experts should plan the execution of the mission, in close collaboration and coordination with the project manager who will accompany the team in the sampling and monitoring mission.
- The team of experts should be equipped with all the needed equipment, tools, and utensils to perform the listed tasks above.
- The team of experts is expected to conduct 18 sampling missions, executed on two runs: 9 during the wet season (beginning to mid-April 2022) and 9 during the dry season (August 2022).

- The team of experts should then perform preliminary lab analyses on the collected micro litter samples.
- The team of experts will prepare and dispatch the dried samples to Italy, to the work package 3 leader (University of Siena, coordinator of the floating litter monitoring activity) within September 2022. The address will be shared upon the selection of the team of experts and contracting it for the task.
- Finally, the team is expected to prepare and submit a full report (scientific and narrative, including the field filled data sheets and lab results) to the project manager within October 2022.

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.
- c. List of equipment and utensils ready to use during their mission.

2- Financial offer: a quotation per sample for conducting the following tasks:

- a. sampling of floating micro litter (2 seasons x 3 sites x 3 transects = 18)
- b. monitoring of floating macro litter accompanying the sampling of floating micro litter (18 units).
- c. preliminary lab analyses of collected samples of micro litter (separation, sorting and listing of micro plastic).
- d. shipment of the dried samples to Italy.

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, manta rental, onboard equipment for the micro litter sampling, assistants' fees, utensils and materials, stationery and printouts, lab equipment and materials, and others if needed).

3- Applications should be submitted by email on the following address:

nmsayleb@gmail.com, specifying: "Floating litter monitoring". The deadline for applications is March 20, 2022.

E. Evaluation of applications

Applications are evaluated based on the evaluation of the technical offer (80% of the grade considering: proven experience in conducting floating litter monitoring and analysis, availability of the needed equipment and utensils, strength, and meticulousness of the working plan proposal), with the lower financial offer (20% of the grade).