

Request For Quotation (RFQ)

Expenditure and Revenue Verification for the ENSERES
ENSERES (ENhancing Socio-Ecological RESilience in
Mediterranean coastal areas)



ENSERES (C_B.4.4_0023)

Financed in the Framework of the ENI CBC Mediterranean Programme (01-03-2022/ 30-09-2023)

The enclosed document is prepared by Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (TCNR/ENSERES-PP3)

I. Background

A. About ENI CBC MED

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. The Program has a budget of €209 million, out of which €188 for projects. The current Program phase starts from 01-10-2021 until 30-09-2023 and the Managing Authority (MA) is the Autonomous Region of Malaga in Spain (ETC-UMA). The amount of budget managed by Tyre Coast Nature Reserve TCNR under ENSERES project is a total of € 71.600.12 EUR.

B. About ENSERES

The project ENSERES (ENhancing Socio-Ecological RESilience in Mediterranean coastal areas) is funded by the European Union under the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation program ENI CBC Med. The project is led by ETC-UMA and executed in partnership with Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (TCNR), the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC, based in Tunisia), MedCities (Mediterranean Cities Network, Spain), MedPAN (Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Network, France), the MedSea Foundation (Italy), and the Sfax Municipal authority in Tunisia. ENSERES will help to exchange techniques for better management knowledge across the Mediterranean shores. It will provide management tools for improving the ecological and social resilience of coastal communities in the Mediterranean area.

C. About TCNR

Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (TCNR) is located south of Tyre city, south of Lebanon. TCNR is recognized as the most beautiful and largest sandy public beach in Lebanon. It was created in 1998 by Law No. 708. TCNR 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 threatened sea turtles, within a diversity of ecosystems comprising a wide variety of flora and fauna species. The lands constituting the reserve, amount to an area of 380 ha divided into three zones: Touristic, Agricultural & Archaeological zone, and Conservation zones. The natural reserve contains freshwater estuaries and springs that outflow to the sea, thus creating a fresh/marine water interface. 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

A. Important Notes

- The objective of this Request for Quotation (RFQ) is for PP3 to select a Financial Auditor for ENSERES project in Lebanon, following the National Procedures of ENI CBC Med. 6. Once selected and before signing the contract, the Financial Auditor has to be endorsed by the Control Contact Point (CCP) of ENI CBC Med in Lebanon.
- CCPs are appointed in each participating country to support the Managing Authority (MA) in the control tasks related to project expenditure verification.
- CCPs endorse the Auditors selected by the Lead Beneficiary and Partners and check the Expenditure Verification Reports (EVR), if needed.
- The proposers are invited to carefully read this document.
- All information included in all the pages of this document, are an integral part of this RFQ.
- Throughout the document, ENSERES will be referred to as “the Project” and TCNR as “PP3”.

- The Grant Contracts foresee two types of reports: Interim and Final. Each report has a specific goal with a narrative and a financial section.
- PP3 submits a "Progress" report each semester (total 2 progress reports), then an "Interim" report first year and a "Final" report by the end of the Project implementation period (total 1 final report). All reports provide narrative and financial information.
- Only Interim and Final reports (total 2 reports) are supported by auditor's reports (Expenditure Verification Reports – EVR).
- The reports are addressed to the MA via the proper channels.

B. Responsibilities

- The tasks of the Auditor appointed by PP3 would include the following:
- Working with PP3 and government agencies to ensure to research and solve problems and develop policies and procedures that comply with the current legislation.
- Recording, reviewing, and interpreting data to determine the effectiveness of operations.
- Check the related documents and accounting on avoidance of possible double funding.
- Verify the adequacy of supporting documents.
- Check the record-keeping and archiving rules for the documentary evidence related to the implementation of the Project.
- Notify irregularities and suspicion of fraud or corruption, as the case may be.
- The selected Financial Auditor will verify the expenses declared in the project activities, according to the Program rules and procedures and the requirements of the Grant Contract of the project, to be issued as an Expenditure Verification Report (EVR).
- EVR is the document issued by the Auditor appointed by PP3 for the verification of expenses.
- The financial Auditor must ensure to carry out an onsite verification as needed and at least once during the verification of each EVR, in order to verify the original supporting documents, the procurement procedures, the outputs of the Project, the evidence of services, works, equipment, and the adequacy of the accounting systems. A list of Project outputs will be produced and signed by the auditors as attachment to the EVR.
- The expenditure verifications shall be carried out according to formats and checklists agreed upon with the MA, and their outcome will be the EVR that will be attached to each payment request following the initial pre-financing. The Financial Auditor will have to verify the analytical report expenditure by expense, indicating for each individual expense, the compliance or not, the amount of ineligible expenses and the reasons for non-eligibility, if any.
- The Financial Auditor will have to verify the compliance with the auditing rules and complete all the needed documentation.
- The Financial Auditor may need to process the model forms online through the Management Information System (MIS), if requested, as a final result of the verification.
- The Financial Auditor is responsible for performing the agreed-upon procedures with due care and full respect of the Code of Ethics, as well as submitting the reports to PP3 with its annexes, according to the templates and procedures established.
- PP3 is responsible for providing the Financial Report, as well as giving access to its accounting, supporting documents and Project documentation and physical investments to the Auditor.
- Should the MA have any doubt concerning the findings indicated in the EVR, the Auditor will receive a request for clarification via PP3, which will be answered in a maximum of 7 calendar days.
- The MA may carry out quality control of the work carried out by the Auditor, including the examination of the working papers, at any moment during the execution period of the Grant Contract.

C. Implementation of Tasks and Audit Duration

The start date for implementation shall be the date of signature of the contract by both parties.

The EVR shall be delivered to PP3 within 30 calendar days from submission of the financial report by PP3.

Only Interim (1) and Final (1) reports are supported by auditor's EVR.

The table below shows the deadlines of submission for the Project EVR:

Type of the report	Months Covered by the Report – Reporting Period	Deadline for Submission of EVR
Interim 1	1-6	2 months after the end of the reporting period
Final	17-21	2 months after the end of the reporting period

III. Requirements for Quotation

A. Qualification of the Auditor or the Audit Firm

The expenditure verification required by ENI Implementing Rules (Article 32) shall be carried out by private external audit firms only.

The Financial Auditor/Auditing Firm must be registered at the Lebanese Association of Certified Public Accountants (LACPA) according to the requirements set by ENI Implementing Rules (Article 32) and in compliance with the national requirements.

B. Documents to be submitted with the Quotation

- Company profile (short info up to 1 page).
- Copy of Company's Registration Certificate.
- Copy of Certificate of Affiliation to the LACPA
- The documents shall be signed and stamped by a person duly authorized to bind the Auditor/Audit Firm to the contract.
- Copy of the current document, signed with the initials on each page, indicating the full understanding of, and agreement on all the clauses of this call.

C. Submission Details

The deadline for submission of quotation is 10 work-days from its notices publishing.

Any quotation received after the mentioned date and time will be rejected.

Submittals (hard copies) must be delivered to PP3 office at the following address: Nabih Berri St., TCNR office, next to Rest House, face to the Public Garden, Tyre, Lebanon.

PP3 may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of proposal and quotation, in which case all rights and obligations of PP3 and the applicants subject to the previous deadline shall thereafter be subject to the deadline as extended.

For all questions, comments, suggestions, and clarifications regarding this proposal, communicate with PP3 ONLY by email to the TCNR project's manager and inacial officer: ali.abdreddine@hotmail.com, and tcnr98@hotmail.com

D. Quotation Details

- The quotation must be submitted in Euro and exclusive of VAT.
- The period of validity of quotation is 90 days and it starts on the submission deadline date.
- In exceptional circumstances, PP3 may request the Applicant to extend the validity of the quotation beyond what has been initially indicated in this RFQ. The Applicant shall then confirm the extension in writing, without any modification whatsoever on the quotation.
- At any time during the validity of the quotation, no price variation due to escalation, inflation, fluctuation in exchange rates or any other market factors shall be accepted by PP3 after it has received the quotation.

IV. Evaluation Criteria and Selection of Auditor

Offers will be reviewed based on the following:

- Completeness and compliance of the quotation with the minimum specifications described above.
- Full compliance to this RFQ requirements and conditions and lowest price.
- Full acceptance to the Contract terms and conditions.
- Compliance with the requirement of Affiliation to the LACPA.

Once selected and before signing the contract, the Financial Auditor has to be endorsed by the CCP of ENI CBC Med in Lebanon.

V. Contract and Payment

The contract may be canceled if the delivery/completion by the Auditor is delayed by 30 calendar days.

As a result of the quality control, the MA may request to PP3 the early termination of this contract. Such termination shall be free of charge for the project partner (PP3).

The contract will be in Euro.

All payments under the contract will be made in Euro (or its equivalent in U.S. Dollars) via a bank transfer or in cash (according to availability).

The contract amount shall be disbursed upon achievement and approval of the corresponding milestones in accordance with the below table:

Milestone	Payment percentage
Interim report 1	50%
Final report	50%

The table below shows the processing time needed for some of the Auditor's activities.

Activity	Maximum Allowed Processing Time
Time The contract may be canceled if the delivery/completion of any of the tasks by the Auditor is delayed by 30 calendar days	30 calendar days
The EVR shall be delivered to PP3 within 30 calendar days	30 calendar days
The Auditor shall respond to any clarification request from PP5 within a maximum of 7 calendar days	7 calendar days

VI. General Terms and Conditions

A. Settlement of Disputes and Applicable Law

The Parties shall use their best efforts to settle amicably any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of, or relating to this Contract or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof. In case amicable efforts fail, the settlement of disputes will take place in the courts of Beirut according to Lebanese laws and regulations.

B. Data Protection

Any personal data included in the contract shall be processed with the Regulation (EU-2016/679) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 (GDPR - General Data Protection Regulation) on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data. The data shall be processed solely for the purposes of performance, management and monitoring of the contract by the Lead Beneficiary/Project partner without prejudice

to possible transmission to the bodies charged with monitoring or inspection in application of and the to rectify any such EU law.

The Auditor shall have the right to access his/her personal data data. address The Auditor shall undertake to adopt technical and organizational measures to the risks inherent in processing and in the nature of the concerned personal data access to the data to staff strictly needed to perform, manage and monitor this, and limit contract.