

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### EXPERT CONSULTANT ASI-II DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

#### **BACKGROUND**

Through Resolution 8.10 on the ACCOBAMS Long-Term Monitoring Programme (LTMP), Parties committed to facilitating the implementation of regular basin-wide synoptic surveys to ensure systematic monitoring of the distribution, density and abundance of cetacean populations in the ACCOBAMS Area.

Building on the success and impact of the first iteration of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI), the ASI-II project has been under development since 2023, with the Secretariat, the LTMP contact group, and the Scientific Committee fully engaged in advancing this initiative towards its implementation.

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this consultancy is to provide expert advice, technical, and administrative support to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat for the development of ASI-II.

#### **CONSULTANT'S MISSION**

The consultant will be responsible for the following tasks:

##### **Phase 1: Preparing for UNOC3 and Initiating ASI-II Organisation (February - June 2025)**

- Support the preparation of an ASI-II launch side-event during UNOC3.
- Assist in preparing documents for the upcoming ACCOBAMS LTMP Group meeting in March 2025.
- Provide an ASI-II progress update for the next extended bureau meeting (April 21-23).
- Reactivate the ASI contact point group (or LTMP group) to provide an overview of the situation in each Mediterranean zone country (permits, logistics, security).
- Provide administrative support for the development of ASI-II.
- Perform other tasks such as making contacts, writing letters, and emails.

##### **Phase 2: From UNOC3 to MOP9 (July – November 2025)**

- Support the preparation of ASI-II, including:
  - Revising the ASI-II Mediterranean Action Plan (retro-planning, budget).
  - Preparing drafts for calls for tenders, MoUs, contracts, templates, and recruitment calls for ASI project officer(s).
  - Reviewing and supporting protocol development and design.
  - Coordinating the group of ASI contact points (or LTMP group) for an overview of the situation in each Mediterranean zone country (permits, logistics, security).
  - Summarising and drafting research permit applications in the survey area.
  - Writing project proposals for fundraising.
- Support the preparation of LTMP and ASI-II documents for MOP9.

##### **Phase 3: Post MOP9 (Conditioned by MOP Decisions: November - December 2025)**

- Finalise and submit permit applications.
- Identify scientific teams and monitoring platforms (plane, boat, tender launch, contract, etc.).
- Organise training for observers.

## **BUDGET**

The maximum budget for consultant services is €25,000, including VAT. Disbursement will be subject to the acceptable completion of the mission outlined above.

## **SPECIAL CLAUSE**

**The implementation of the ASI-II project depends on obtaining the necessary funding. Consequently, phase 3 of the consultant's mission is conditioned by the decisions taken at MOP9, particularly regarding the secured funding.**

## **REQUIRED PROFILE**

- **Education:** Master's degree (minimum) in a relevant field.
- **Experience:** Minimum of 15 years of experience in a position related to marine conservation ecology.
- **Project Management Skills:** Proven expertise in managing complex projects involving multiple stakeholders and geographical areas, as well as in fundraising and event organisation.
- **Scientific Monitoring:** Proven experience in organising scientific monitoring campaigns in the marine environment related to conservation ecology.
- **Regional Context Knowledge:** Excellent understanding of the institutional framework and network of players in the ACCOBAMS area, particularly in marine conservation ecology and environmental monitoring.
- **Institutional Experience:** Significant experience in intergovernmental organisations and organising institutional meetings.
- **Rigor and Administrative Management:** Demonstrated ability to ensure budgetary and financial follow-up of projects with a rigorous and methodical approach.
- **Languages:** Fluency in French and English is essential; knowledge of another language of the Parties to ACCOBAMS would be an asset.

## **ADDITIONAL ASSETS**

- Previous experience with ACCOBAMS.
- Knowledge of cetaceans and methods for monitoring marine populations in a multidisciplinary, multi-species approach.

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

- Detailed CV - presentation of the consultant's background and relevant experience as regards the objective of the mission, including a list of projects and publications in relation to the tasks to perform.
- Technical offer - detailed description of the work to be carried out during the mission (maximum 3 pages).
- Financial offer - detailed budget proposal, with the number of working days per task and the daily rate applicable, based on the maximum budget available.

## **SUBMISSION**

Interested consultants are invited to submit their applications to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat ([secretariat@accobams.net](mailto:secretariat@accobams.net)) with a copy to the ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary ([msalivas@accobams.net](mailto:msalivas@accobams.net)). Please ensure that applications are submitted **no later than 12 March 2025**.