Call for expression of interest No Pelagos/EI/2022-01 to participate in Pelagos Agreement Working Groups
Valid from 05/02/2022 to 06/03/2022 included
Referring to Article 4 of the Pelagos Agreement, which states that “The Parties shall endeavour to take appropriate measures in the Sanctuary […] to ensure a favourable conservation status of marine mammals by protecting them and their habitat from direct and indirect negative impacts of human activities”;

Having regard to Pelagos Agreement resolution 8.1 on the Management Plan (2022-2027) adopted at the 8th Meeting of the Parties to the Pelagos Agreement held on 15 and 16 December 2021 in Rome, Italy;

Having regard to Pelagos Agreement resolution 8.2 on the work programme and budget for the biennium 2022-2023 adopted at the 8th Meeting of the Parties to the Pelagos Agreement held on 15 and 16 December 2021 in Rome, Italy;

Having regard to Pelagos Agreement resolution 8.4 on Pelagos Agreement Working Groups adopted at the 8th Meeting of the Parties to the Pelagos Agreement held on 15 and 16 December 2021 in Rome, Italy;

1. Context

The Pelagos Agreement on the creation of a Sanctuary for marine mammals in the Mediterranean Sea was signed in Rome on 25 November 1999 by France, Italy and the Principality of Monaco and entered into force in 2002. Its aim is to ensure a favourable conservation status of marine mammals by protecting them and their habitat from direct and indirect negative impacts of human activities.

2. General Goal

This Call for expression of interest aims at increasing and ensuring more important and transparent participation in the Agreement Working Groups (WGs) upon the entry into force of the Management Plan and the relevant Action Plan (2022-2027) of the Pelagos Agreement. The WGs will support the Parties, the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) and the Permanent Secretariat in achieving the Agreement’s objectives. They will be made up of individuals and experts from the public, private and “third” sectors acting on an individual or collective basis. In particular, the WGs will include experts and stakeholders operating inside and outside the Sanctuary to design and implement planned activities based on their expertise with an inclusive and participatory approach.
3. Role

The WGs will only play an advisory role. They shall report directly to the Permanent Secretariat and to the STC. Work results will be presented by their coordinators at STC meetings. The coordinators will be reimbursed for expenses incurred in attending these meetings.

4. Presentation of Working Groups and Monk Seal Sub-Group (composition, role, coordination)

a) WORKING GROUP ON SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEM STATUS ASSESSMENT — (Assessment WG)

Coordinator: to be identified through the expression of interest.

Composition: Permanent Secretariat, National Stranding Networks representatives, IGOs, NGOs, external experts (to be defined through the expression of interest) with different expertise (marine biologists, cetologists, veterinarians, economists, anthropologists, sociologists, etc.).

Role: the WG on Pelagos species and ecosystem status assessment, including human-induced mortality and fish stock assessment, and the assessment of the economic, social and cultural value of Pelagos will provide the STC, on referral by the Permanent Secretariat, with reports, notably on:

a. initial [retrospective] assessment of population and species status;
b. initial [retrospective] assessment of ecosystem status;
c. periodic species status assessment;
d. participation in the review of the Quality Status Report (2027) focusing on species and ecosystems.

The WG will provide expert support to the Communication WG in drafting awareness-raising materials and identifying events and activities in this area, where necessary.

Based on its assessments, the WG will work in coordination with the Impacts WG whenever necessary to promote a debate on specific pressures having a proven impact on Pelagos species and ecosystem.
b) WORKING GROUP ON THE FIGHT AGAINST POLLUTIONS (CHEMICAL AND NOISE POLLUTION, PATHOGENS, MARINE LITTER) AND MITIGATION OF HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY (COLLISIONS, DISTURBANCE AND INTERACTIONS WITH FISHERIES) — (Impacts WG)

Coordinator: to be identified through the expression of interest.
Composition: Permanent Secretariat, representatives of economic actors (shipping companies, fishers, seismic survey companies, yachting associations, etc.), NGOs, port authorities, representatives of Préfecture Maritime de la Méditerranée, representatives of the Reparto Ambientale Marino, representatives of Direction des Affaires Maritimes, representatives of Harbour Offices, representatives of local authorities (French departments, regions, Italian provinces, etc.), IGOs concerned, coordinators of projects funded by European and/or Mediterranean funds on mitigation measures, external experts (to be defined through the expression of interest) with different expertise (biologists, economists, sociologists, etc.).
Role: The WG on the fight against pollution and mitigation of human-induced mortality shall suggest possible management measures to be implemented or encouraged within the Sanctuary, with a view to:
   a. strengthening the fight against any type of pollution (including noise, marine litter and pathogens) by identifying the actors needed to generate change;
   b. mitigating human-induced mortality (with a focus on: interactions with fisheries and by-catch, collisions, disturbances, military exercises and geo-seismic surveys).

Special emphasis shall be given to actions in line with the decisions of the Barcelona Convention, the EU (MSFD relevant descriptors), the IMO, the GFCM and other organisations working on pollution and direct human-induced mortality (with a focus on collisions and by-catch).
The WG will also consider the recommendations submitted by the Assessment WG in this regard.
The WG will provide expert support to the Communication WG in drafting awareness-raising materials and identifying events and activities in this area, where necessary.

c) WORKING GROUP ON SPAMIS AND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS — (SPAMI/MPA WG)

Coordinator: to be identified through the expression of interest.
Composition: Permanent Secretariat, IGOs, NGOs, representatives of SPAMI, MPA and Natura 2000 Management Bodies inside the Sanctuary, external experts (to be defined through the expression of interest).
Role: the SPAMI/MPA WG is notably in charge of supporting the work of the Permanent Secretariat in:
   a. identifying any form of collaboration that could be developed between the Pelagos Agreement and Marine Protected Areas - in the broader sense - within the Sanctuary;
b. the periodic review of the Sanctuary’s SPAMI status (2025) with the support of national experts appointed by the Parties.

The WG will provide expert support to the Communication WG in drafting awareness-raising materials and identifying events and activities in this area, where necessary.

d) WORKING GROUP ON GOVERNANCE — (Governance WG)

Coordinator: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.
Composition: National Focal Points, STC Chairman, representatives of the relevant IGOs, external experts (max 3 to be defined through the expression of interest).
Role: WG on the vision of the Agreement, the consistency with other conventions mentioned in the Agreement or expertise on issues of interest to the Agreement and procedures.

This WG will work on:

a. the vision and consistency of Pelagos activities with the relevant policies and actions promoted under the Barcelona Convention, ACCOBAMS, EU policies and - as appropriate - issues related to other conventions listed in the Agreement (e.g., IWC, CMS, RAMOG) or competent on related issues (e.g., IMO, GFCM, etc.). The WG will work to harmonise and integrate Pelagos activities with the policies above, ensuring their implementation and avoiding overlaps;

b. drafting, amending and updating the Agreement’s administrative procedures, including working methods to improve governance. The WG may draw on procedures from other multilateral agreements to ensure efficiency, transparency and consistency in line with appropriate international standards;

c. any administrative, procedural and consistency issues that may arise from the work of other WGs.

The WG will provide expert support to the Communication WG in drafting materials on Pelagos vision to be used for awareness-raising purposes, where necessary.

e) WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATION — (COMMUNICATION WG)

Coordinator: DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.
Composition: IGOs, NGOs, a communication expert appointed by the National Focal Points, partners, stakeholders, representatives of research institutes, external experts (to be defined through the expression of interest).
Role: the WG on communication and training will provide support to the Permanent Secretariat in identifying appropriate activities to achieve the objectives of the Action Plan. It will also provide editorial support to the Permanent Secretariat.
**Monk Seal Sub-Group**

**Coordinator:** to be identified through the expression of interest.

**Composition:** Permanent Secretariat, IGOs, NGOs, representatives of MPAs where monk seals have been sighted inside and near the Sanctuary (Scandola Nature Reserve, Tuscan Archipelago National Park, etc.), stakeholders (Monk Seal Alliance representative, representative of the Oceanographic Institute - Foundation Albert I of Monaco), external experts on the species (to be defined through the expression of interest).

**Role:** the Pelagos Monk Seal SWG is in charge of supporting the Permanent Secretariat and the STC in the development of monk seal activities within the Sanctuary performed in the framework of the Management Plan 2022-2027. In particular, it will focus on:

- **Direction between France, Italy and the Principality of Monaco and management of “Pelagos Sanctuary” awareness-raising activities on the monk seal:**
  - suggest the best approaches to raise awareness among the key user categories in areas with historical caves such as artisanal fishers, boaters, divers; in all other Sanctuary areas: protected areas visitors, staff of local information centres, MPAs and parks staff, ferry companies, schools, etc.;
  - identify priority areas where dissemination efforts should be focused;
  - develop contents for educational materials (texts) and provide support in finding photos, videos, etc. for Pelagos communication campaigns;
  - define the necessary steps to provide information to the competent authorities in case of sightings (same procedure applied to “participatory science”) and for data management, validation and storage;

- **Coordination between France, Italy and the Principality of Monaco and management of training and monitoring activities:**
  - identify historical caves from bibliographic sources (universities);
  - define methods for caves control and characterisation (park and/or protected areas management body + university and research) and relevant training;
  - prepare a biannual report on the activities made and information gathered.

**f) Working Group on Regulatory Options (Laws WG)**

**Coordinator:** to be identified through the expression of interest.

**Composition:** Permanent Secretariat, IGOs, representatives of economic actors (whale watching operators, etc.), representatives of Préfecture Maritime de la Méditerranée, representatives of the Reparto Ambientale Marino, representatives of the Direction des Affaires Maritimes, stakeholders, external experts (to be defined through the expression of interest) mainly with legal expertise.

**Role:** the Laws WG shall assess possible regulatory options in line with Articles 8, 9 and the Declaration annexed to the Agreement to be adopted jointly by the three countries. The group will focus on:

- Article 8: the Parties “shall regulate the observation of marine mammals for tourism purposes”;
b. Article 9: the Parties “shall consult one another with a view to regulating and possibly prohibiting fast motor boat racing in the Sanctuary”;

c. Declaration: the Parties undertake to consider the “impact on marine mammals resulting from the use of seismic or acoustic detection and prospecting equipment and the exploitation of non-living natural resources”.

The WG will also explore legislative issues resulting from discussions in other WGs.

5. Kick-off meeting

A kick-off meeting of the Working Groups will be held during the 13th Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Pelagos Agreement in April 2022. Thereafter the WGs will be convened whenever necessary.

6. Modus operandi

The modus operandi will be defined by the WG coordinator on the basis of the needs and will mainly work with online meetings or by correspondence, in conjunction with the Permanent Secretariat. English will be the language used by the WGs. The organisation of face-to-face meetings involving costs for the Agreement shall be proposed well in advance and properly justified by the coordinator and shall be submitted to the National Focal Points of the Agreement for evaluation. The WGs - whose work has potential implications for the rules of the Agreement - will follow a specific working method identified by the Parties.

7. Duration

WG members’ and coordinators’ term of office shall end 30 days after receipt by the Permanent Secretariat of notification to that effect.
8. Applications

a. Application submission requirements

Each of the following documents is a prerequisite for the evaluation of the expression of interest:

- the application form to participate in Pelagos Agreement Working Groups, to be filled in at: https://form.jotform.com/212913913127351;
- a one-page CV;
- a letter of motivation and availability of half a page;
- a declaration of absence of conflict of interest for the entire duration of participation in the WG.

These documents shall be submitted in English by the deadline set in the call.
An expert/stakeholder can join one or several WGs at the same time.

b. Evaluation Committee

An Evaluation Committee will select the expressions of interest and identify the potential WG coordinator.
The Evaluation Committee will be made up of:
- the STC Chairman;
- the STC Heads of Delegation;
- the Agreement’s Executive Secretary.

The Agreement’s Executive Secretary will carry out a preliminary analysis of the expressions of interest received and will convene a meeting to select the WG members and coordinators.
The Evaluation Committee will inform non-selected experts/stakeholders of the reasons of its decision. The composition of the WGs will be made public on the Agreement’s institutional website.

9. Identification of WG members

WG members will be selected among those who have submitted their interest based on:
- profile/expertise;
- motivation.

The selection will be made by the Evaluation Committee in its absolute discretion based on the Evaluation Grid for the selection of WG members (Annex 1).
10. Role and identification of WG coordinators

Each WG coordinator is in charge of leading the work and ensuring its compliance with the Terms of Reference\(^1\) (ToR). When necessary, he/she may set a maximum number of members, while ensuring good stakeholder representation, and delegate the implementation of some activities to WG members. The coordinator will be selected among those who have submitted their interest to join the WG based on:

- profile/expertise;
- previous experience in WG coordination;
- motivation.

The selection will be made by the Evaluation Committee in its absolute discretion based on the Evaluation Grid for the selection of WG coordinators (Annex 2).

11. Remuneration

Participation to WG is free of charge.

12. Publication of the Call for expression of interest

This Call for expression of interest is published on the Agreement's tripartite website and social networks. It will be sent to partners and stakeholders for information and further dissemination.

13. Submission of dossiers

Interested candidates are requested to send their dossier (CV + motivation letter + declaration of absence of conflict of interest in English) at the following link: https://form.jotform.com/212913913127351 between February 5\(^{th}\), 2022 at 00:00 and March 6\(^{th}\), 2022 at 23:59 (UTC +1 hour).

The application of stakeholders and/or delegated parties shall be presented by the legal representative, who will appoint the person(s) joining the WG.

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\(^1\) The Terms of Reference of Pelagos Agreement Working Groups can be downloaded at: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7die663gsjw6c3t/AAADw2exqPlrthk7nu17djiwRq?dl=0
14. Additional information

For any further information or communication on this Call for expression of interest, candidates may send an email to the Agreement’s Executive Secretary at the following address: costanzafavilli@pelagos-sanctuary.org cc’d to: secretariat@pelagos-sanctuary.org

15. Data processing

Data shall be processed in accordance with the principles of fairness, lawfulness, transparency and in such a way as to protect the data subject’s confidentiality, without prejudice to the publication of WGs composition in the Agreement’s website.
Annex 1

Evaluation grid for the selection of Pelagos Agreement Working Groups members

Maximum score 100 points based on the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation criteria</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Profile/Expertise</td>
<td>... / 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motivation</td>
<td>... / 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>... / 100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex 2

Evaluation grid for the selection of Pelagos Agreement Working Groups coordinators

Maximum score 150 points based on the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation criteria</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Profile/Expertise</td>
<td>… / 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous experience in WG coordination</td>
<td>… / 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motivation</td>
<td>… / 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>… / 150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>