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Direction de l'Environnement,
de l'Aménagement et du Logement

Interreg Caribbean CAMAC

EUROPEAN UNION

Public contract for intellectual services

Regional Activity Center for the wildlife protocol

Specially Protected Areas of the Greater Caribbean Region

Consultation letter

Contracting authority: DEAL Guadeloupe

Subject of the contract:
Assistance to SPAW RAC to build a survey protocol among Caribbean fishermen by local surveyors to collect data on fishing effort and megafauna

Created pursuant to Ordinance no. 2018-1074 of November 26, 2018 relating to the legislative part of the Public Order Code and Decree no. 2018-1075 of December 3, 2018 relating to the regulatory part of the Public Order Code.

1 Context

The SPAW RAC, the Regional Activity Centre of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife of the Cartagena Convention, is a technical center dedicated to supporting the United Nations Environment Programme - Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP) and the countries and territories of the Caribbean in implementing their commitments to protect biodiversity.

Based on the recommendations of the SPAW protocol signatory countries, the SPAW RAC and the Sanctuary Agoa (French West Indies) have developed the project CAMAC (Caribbean Marine Megafauna and Anthropogenic Activities, 2023-2027). The overall objective of this 5-year project is to strengthen cooperation, capacities and knowledge, in order to provide Caribbean decision-making bodies and environmental stakeholders with tools and recommendations aimed at reducing the impacts of human activities on large marine fauna in the region. The project will be carried out in an area encompassing all the EEZs of the Lesser Antilles, as well as those of the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica to the west, and the EEZs of the countries and territories of the Guyana Plateau to the southeast (see map below).

The project is organized into 4 main areas of work: 1) **Assessing the socio-economic and environmental issues linked to interactions between marine megafauna and fisheries**; 2) Strengthening networks for monitoring marine mammal and sea turtle stranding; 3) Raising awareness of marine megafauna conservation among young people in the Caribbean, and building skills in environmental education; 4) Enhancing knowledge of the biodiversity, abundance and distribution of marine megafauna in the Caribbean region.

The project is organized in two phases: phase 1 ended in December 2023. It focused on reviewing available information and data, developing collaborations with stakeholders in the region, and defining protocols and requirements for phase 2. Phase 2 will run from 2024 to 2027. It is dedicated to implementing the protocols defined during phase 1, in collaboration with the partners identified.

Within the framework of CAMAC's Axis 1, relating to interactions with fisheries, the following actions have been planned for the first year of the project, 2023: **1) creation of a scientific and technical advisory committee for this axis of work, including fisheries stakeholders**; 2) preparation of a mapped inventory of regional fishing activities and potential overlaps with marine megafauna, based on existing data; **3) identification of priorities for action, outline of protocols and partnership for phase 2**. Phase II of the project (2024-2027) will be thus devoted to enhancing knowledge of interactions between the region's fisheries and marine megafauna through surveys of fishermen and vessels.

During the first months of phase 1, SPAW RAC contacted the main national and regional fisheries management organizations in the Caribbean to present the project and survey the data available on the various fisheries in the region and their interactions with large marine fauna.

The purpose of this consultation is to provide assistance to the SPAW-RAC for:

1) **Identify 4 sites among those pre-selected at the end of phase 1[1] of the CAMAC project and assess the feasibility of surveys**
2) **Mobilize partners and stakeholders at identified sites to carry out surveys**
3) **Define a protocol survey for fishermen to collect information scientific that can at least be used tool by the byRA model**
4) **Validate the survey protocol, ensuring its technical and scientific coherence and feasibility within the identified sites and with the stakeholders involved**

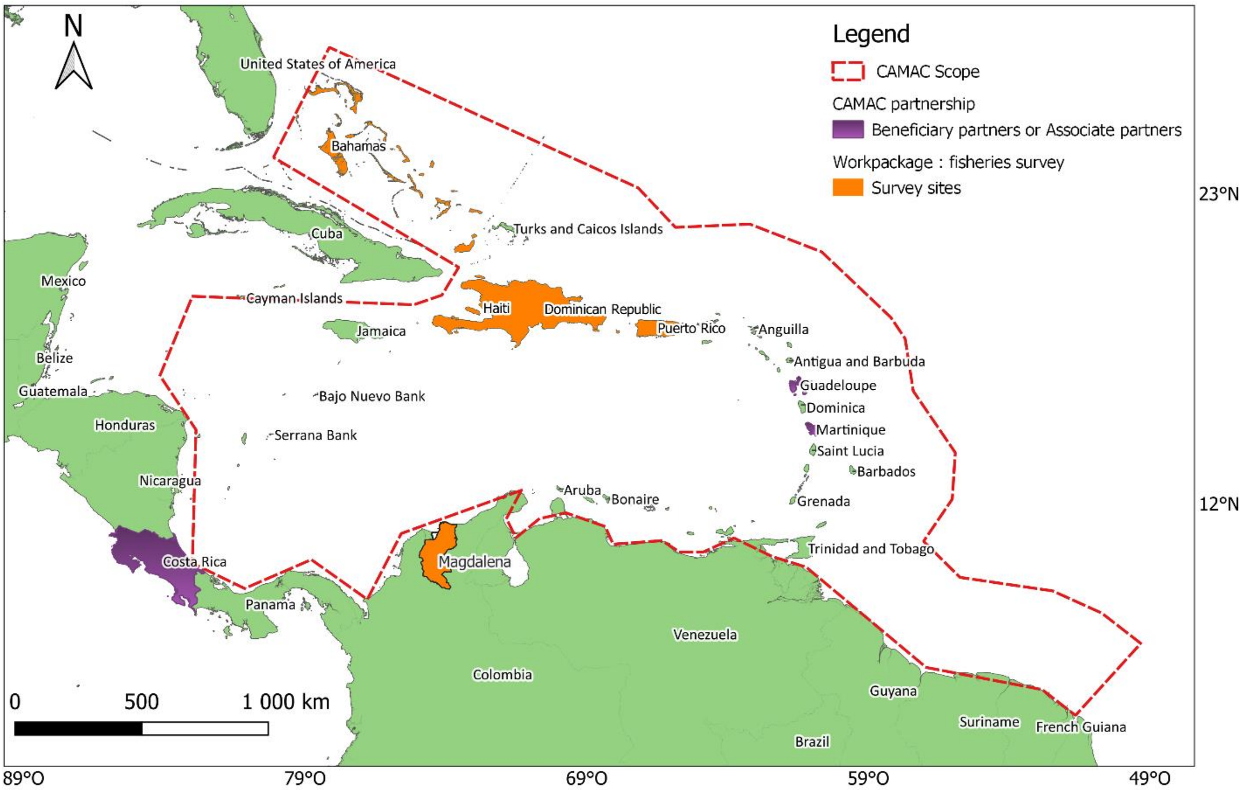

Figure 1: Project scope and pre-identified sites

2 Subject of the contract

2.1 Feasibility of surveys at pre-identified sites and mobilization of fishing industry partners

The contractor will co-organize with the SPAW RAC at least 6 online meetings with representatives of organizations Caribbean and organizations involved in bycatch reduction projects fisheries management, if possible, the CRFM, WECAFC, and the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations as well as the experts present at the CAMAC phase 1 closing workshop who drew up the list of pilot sites for this axis of the project.

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[1] Puerto Rico (small amount of data available, significant bycatch problem, several fishing communities, and local organizations have shown strong interest in the project), Dominican Republic (large coastal strip with significant and diversified fishing activity, good community megafauna and interactions contacted), Haiti (little information on fisheries, and none on bycatch, high abundance of megafauna species and high diversity, including shark nurseryLongiman), Magdalena Colombia and as a potential supplement the Bahamas (bycatch is a major problem), Dominica or Bonaire.

During these meetings, SPAW RAC will present the project and the consultant will co-facilitate discussions. The aim will be to gather proposals from partners to ensure that the actions planned for Axis 1 of CAMAC Phase II are as relevant as possible in meeting the target objective (to strengthen knowledge of interactions between fishing and marine megafauna by collecting data minimum for a byRA-type model) and the needs of partners

An in-depth study of the players and the feasibility of surveys in the pre-identified sites is expected. The selected territories are :

- **Puerto Rico** (small amount of data available, major bycatch problem, several fishing communities and local organizations have shown a strong interest in the project),
- **Dominican Republic** (large coastal strip with significant and diversified fishing activity, good megafauna community and interactions contacted),
- **Haiti** (little information on fisheries, and none on by-catches, high abundance of megafauna species and high diversity, including shark nurseries Longiman),
- **Magdalena Colombia**,
- and as a potential supplement the **Bahamas** (bycatch is a major problem), **Dominica** and **Bonaire**.

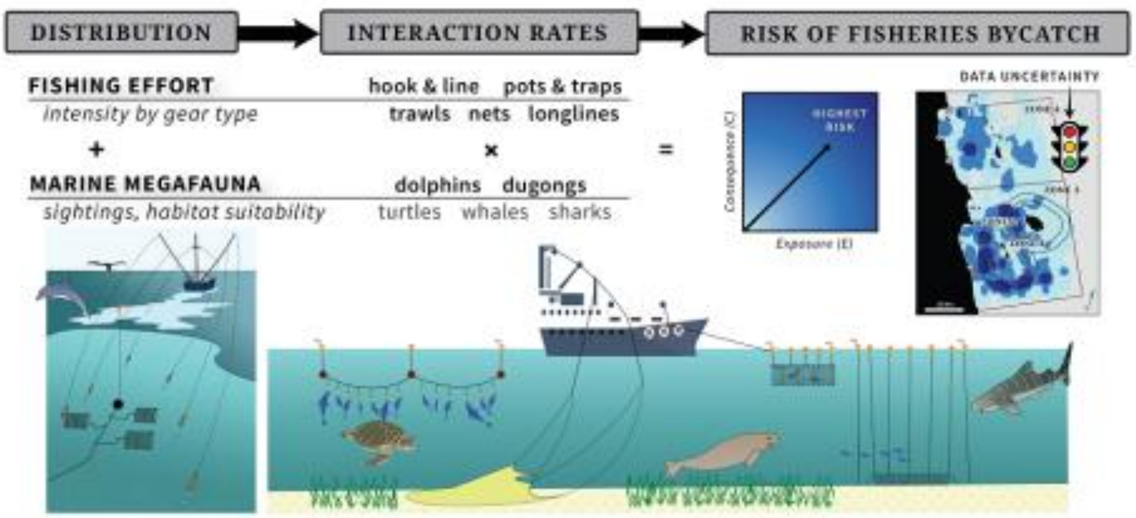
Lastly, the service provider will draw up a list of the organizations or individuals best placed to carry out the questionnaires among anglers in the validated pilot sites.

2.2 Support in drafting survey protocol for fishermen

The service provider will co-facilitate a round table on CAMAC axis 1 with SPAW RAC, in order to define the survey protocol and establish it in consultation with regional organizations and players.

A workshop on the survey protocol is scheduled for the first CAMAC project launch workshop, organized by the AGOA lead partner, to present the results of phase I of the project (assessment of available data), and to gather proposals from partners for drafting the protocol and adapting it for local fishermen.

The main aim of the fisher survey is to assess interactions between fishermen (collision on boat routes, bycatch, species entanglement in fishing gear and risks for fishermen, seasonality of encounters...) to finally identify areas with high/medium, low risk of encounters and impact for megafauna. To achieve this, the questionnaire must at least meet the requirements of the byRA tool, a statistical model for assessing bycatch risks developed by Ellen Hines et al., 2020 and described in its user manual (https://www.int-res.com/abstracts/esr/v42/p37-57/).



The data required to use the tool are maps containing data georeferenced on :

- the location of target species and at what period they have been seen
- the navigation route for fishing boats
- the fishing gear used and the period of utilization
- Assess exposure and consequences of encounters between target species and fisheries
    - These criteria were defined in phase 1 of the CAMAC project and may be revised in the light of discussions with scientific and fishing experts in the regions concerned.

Thus, after a thorough reading of the bibliography on the model byRA, and on the basis of the online meetings and face-to-face workshops planned in the pre-identified, the service provider will draw up, in collaboration with SPAW RAC and territories, a questionnaire for the fishermen to collect the data needed for the statistical analysis model to work properly.

This questionnaire will be designed to collect the important data for the model, but should also **include a socio-economic approach** in order to understand the issues surrounding bycatch and to assess the results in relation to the community context.

Particular attention will be paid to the approach of fishermen to ensure transparent communication and constructive exchange.

The questionnaire will be adapted to the local area, translated into the languages used, and will be based on the knowledge survey carried out in phase 1 of the CAMAC project.

2.3 Expected deliverables

The deliverables are as follows:

- Minutes of meetings and workshops attended by the contractor, highlighting key points for strengthening the CAMAC phase II project.
- A feasibility analysis of surveys to determine and validate pilot sites for this action
- A list of organizations or surveyors who can carry out surveys in the pilot sites
- A questionnaire protocol for fishermen to understand and analyze the risks of interaction between fisheries and marine megafauna
- An analysis of feasible statistical treatments and model robustness based on the expected results of the questionnaire

2.4 Skills required

The consultant should have excellent expertise in: fisheries management, interaction between large marine fauna and fisheries in the Caribbean, and working in partnership with fishermen. He/she should also have a very good level of English, so as to be able lead meetings in English and to contribute to the drafting of documents in English.

2.5 Work meetings

Throughout the project, working meetings face-to-face or videoconferencing will be held with the project officer at SPAW RAC.

The bid will include at least 9 meetings with representatives SPAW RAC : one at the start of operations, several from the mobilization of stakeholders and organizations at the pilot sites until the construction of the survey, and one at the end of the service.

3 Turn around times

The service will begin as soon as the contract is notified. Deliverables must be **finalized no later than 10 August, 2025.**

4 Contract response document

A short technical note including :

- a list of the applicant's staff, with a summary CV to assess the skills of the personnel assigned to the study.
- A description of the work planned, with a detailed timetable.
- A detailed estimate.
- RIB less than 3 months old

5 Terms of payment

Payment is to be made by bank transfer by administrative order on presentation of invoices in accordance with current public accounting rules. The sums due will be paid within 30 days from the date of receipt of the invoices or equivalent requests for payment.

An advance of 30% will be paid on signature and the balance of 70% will be paid on receipt of the last deliverable.

6 How to submit bids and deadline for receipt of bids

Bids must be submitted no later than **April 14th 2025 at 12:00PM,** (Guadeloupe time - GMT-4).

Once submitted, the offer cannot be withdrawn or modified. A candidate wishing to make a different offer from the initial bid must submit this new offer in accordance with the same administrative procedures.

Transmission by e-mail to amelie.tagliaferro@developpement-durable.gouv.fr and geraldine.conruyt@developpement-durable.gouv.fr (the offer must be received before the deadline for receipt of offers).

7 Information provided for a better understanding of the project

- CAMAC overview:
  - https://sanctuaire-agoa.fr/editorial/camac
- Report on the CAMAC phase 1 final workshop:
  - https://sanctuaire-agoa.fr/documentation/camac-1-report-final-workshop
- ByRA model :
  - https://www.int-res.com/abstracts/esr/v42/p37-57/
  - https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0237835
  - https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.11541
  - https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.776965
- Example of a fishing questionnaire created for the model: https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2021.776965/full#supplementary-material
  - The Supplementary Material for article « https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.776965 «