



MedWaves, the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for SCP

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Terms of Reference (TOR) for the selection of an international expert to provide technical assistance for the preparation of a study report on the nexus between Sustainable Consumption and Climate Change Mitigation.

1. Background

About MedWaves, the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for SCP

MedWaves is a centre for international cooperation on development and innovation based on the sustainable consumption and production approach (hereinafter SCP). It is attached to the Catalan Waste Agency (Agència de Residus de Catalunya, referenced as ARC). The Centre is one of the Regional Activity Centres established in the framework of UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan (hereinafter UNEP/MAP), the programme of UN Environment established to support the member countries of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean. Since 2009, the Centre also operates in support of the Stockholm Convention, an international agreement involving 180 countries to fight against the generation of persistent organic pollutants, highly polluting and toxic substances. MedWaves has the mandate from the Barcelona and Stockholm Conventions to provide assistance to their Contracting Parties in fulfilling their commitments under those treaties, particularly through the support to the countries to shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns and circular economy. In the performance of its mandate, MedWaves fosters the introduction of solutions on eco-innovation, marine litter/plastic pollution prevention, circular economy and safe alternatives to toxic chemicals through the provision of advisory services, technical assistance, innovative training materials, networking services and accompaniment in the implementation of measures. MEDWAVES also leads a comprehensive support programme for the creation and development of green, circular business models and enterprises.

Why an analysis on the nexus between Sustainable Consumption and Climate Change?

The UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027 (MTS) devises climate mitigation and adaptation as a core strategy towards a prosperous and sustainable Mediterranean.

The global context for the development of the MTS includes a number of processes, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework currently under negotiation, the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), all relevant to climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

The vision of the MTS is the following:

Progress towards a healthy, clean, sustainable and climate resilient Mediterranean Sea and Coast with productive and biologically diverse marine and coastal ecosystems, where the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and its SDGs are achieved through the effective implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development for the benefit of people and nature.

The MTS Programme 3 “Toward a Climate Resilient Mediterranean” builds on the extensive knowledge gathered in the Region on the issue of climate change impacts on the marine and coastal zone, further explored by the 2020 Mediterranean Experts on Climate Change and Environmental Change (MedECC) First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) and the 2020 State of Environment Report.

Programme 3 directly contributes to a number of global and regional objectives and targets including the SDG's and the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It also considers the resolutions UNEA in particular UNEA 4 (2019) resolution on Ecosystem-based adaptation which stresses ecosystem-based adaptation as a mechanism to reduce vulnerability to climate change and subsequent vulnerabilities in areas such as food security, water, health or biodiversity. It is also fully in line with UNEP's 2022-2025 MTS Climate Action Programme. Within Programme 3, MedWaves will support contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention to achieve the Outcome 3.4. Mitigation of Climate Change progressed through Circular Economy, increased resource efficiency and carbon neutrality business strategies.

This Outcome aims at supporting climate change mitigation efforts by exploiting the positive nexus between sustainable production and consumption and action-led societal transformation. To this end, Circular Economy, industrial symbiosis, eco-innovation and value co-creation will be fostered through a number of activities targeting primarily the private sector, including entrepreneurs and small businesses, with the aim to support circular economy entrepreneurs and business ventures to address climate change mitigation, increased resource efficiency and reduced emissions and to promote tools for improved measurement frameworks and consumption-based accounting.

In addition to technical solutions, social and ecological effect have to be explored to ensure the transition to a climate-neutral Circular Economy do not cause negative effects and actually contribute to fair equitable socioeconomics.

To this end MedWaves needs to procure external expertise and know-how to make the case for a Sustainable Consumption and Production as a key driver for climate change mitigation strategies, promoting a clear understanding of how sustainable consumption-oriented policies and citizen-led actions can lay the basis for fast mitigation solutions.

Audience and Use

The final report and analysis shall be a public document MedWaves uses to engage a number of stakeholders to fulfill its mandate to mainstreaming SCP in the Mediterranean.

Primary audience will be:

1. Partner organizations and practitioners
2. Public decision-makers
3. Private sector representative

The report will be the third of different tools MedWaves will use to highlight the contribution of CE and SCP to climate change mitigation strategies¹.

¹ The second working paper on the nexus between a Just Transition to Circular Economy and Climate Change mitigation is currently on-going. The first working paper published in 2023 can be found here:

[Report_CircularEconomy_ClimateAction](#)

2. Study Objective

The objective of this working paper is to explore and analyse the critical interlinkages between sustainable consumption patterns and climate change mitigation, with a particular focus on how shifts in lifestyles, production systems, consumption policies and behaviours can contribute to limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, in line with the Paris Agreement. The study will aim to:

1. Assess the climate mitigation potential of sustainable consumption practices across key sectors.
2. Map policy levers, behavioural insights, and systemic enablers that facilitate or hinder the adoption of low-carbon consumption patterns at individual, community, and institutional levels.
3. Identify equity, justice, and inclusion considerations, highlighting how sustainable consumption strategies can support climate goals while ensuring fairness, especially for vulnerable and low-income populations.
4. Synthesize international case studies and best practices to demonstrate how sustainable consumption policies and initiatives have contributed to measurable climate outcomes.
5. Provide strategic recommendations for policymakers, civil society, and private sector actors to integrate sustainable consumption into national and regional climate strategies, with an emphasis on just transitions and systems-level change.

Study Methods

The working paper will adopt a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative research tools to explore the interdependencies between sustainable consumption and climate change mitigation. The methodology will include the following components:

1. Literature Review and Theoretical Framing

- Conduct a comprehensive review of academic literature, IPCC reports, UNEP publications, and relevant policy documents.
- Frame the study within key concepts such as the 1.5°C lifestyle, planetary boundaries, circular economy, just transition, and sufficiency.
- Identify knowledge gaps in the current understanding of the consumption–climate nexus.

2. Sectoral Analysis and Case Study Mapping

- Examine high-impact consumption areas (e.g., food systems, transport, housing, clothing, digital consumption) using existing emissions and lifestyle carbon footprint data.
- Assess sector-specific mitigation potentials and co-benefits through scenario modelling.

3. Policy and Systems Analysis

- Analyse existing policies (local, national, and regional) to identify how sustainable consumption is integrated—or could be better integrated—into climate strategies.

The study will be desk-based; no travels-related expenses are forecasted. Interviews, if any, will be conducted remotely.

Supporting larger studies or researches will also be possible, clearly pointing out in the technical offer the larger scope of the work.

3. Description of the work

In the framework of this assignment, the international expert/consultant firm shall undertake the following activities:

Activity 1: Inception Phase

Conduct an initial kick-off meeting with the contracting authority to confirm objectives, scope, and expectations. Refine research questions, geographic focus, and finalize the methodological approach.

Deliverables:

- ToR review

Activity 2: Desk Research and Literature Review

Review key academic, institutional, and policy literature on sustainable consumption and climate mitigation. Identify and synthesize major conceptual frameworks, policy trends, and knowledge gaps.

Deliverables:

- Literature review

Activity 3: Sectoral and Case Study Analysis

Identify and analyse consumption domains with high mitigation potential (e.g. food, mobility, housing). Conduct at least one (1) Mediterranean case study illustrating successful sustainable consumption interventions and their climate impacts, including social and redistribution aspects.

Deliverables:

- Analytical Matrix + Case Study profiles

Activity 4: Stakeholder Consultation (optional)

Conduct interviews, surveys, or focus groups with key stakeholders (e.g., policy-makers, civil society, private sector, youth) to capture diverse perspectives on enablers and barriers to promoting sustainable consumption for climate goals.

Deliverables:

- Stakeholder list and insights report (optional)

Activity 5: Policy Review

Map relevant policy instruments and assess their integration of sustainable consumption.

Deliverables:

- Policy mapping and recommendations

Activity 6: Drafting the Working Paper

Synthesize all findings into a coherent narrative that bridges theory, practice, and policy recommendations. Addressing issues of equity, justice, and system-wide transformation will be strongly encouraged.

Deliverables:

- First Draft of the Working Paper

Activity 7: Validation and Finalization

Present the draft to MedWaves and a reference group for feedback and incorporate feedback and finalise the document.

Deliverables:

- Final Working Paper.

Activity 8. Drafting an opinion article for communication and dissemination purposes.

The expert/consultant will be required to provide with ready-to-use material for communication and dissemination objectives.

Deliverables:

- A long-read article for MedWaves website (and joint dissemination). The article is expected to be no shorter than 1.500 words.

4. Deliverables and calendar

The expert/consultant **will start the work after the validation of their offer by the contractor.** The contract can cover a maximum period of 365 days starting from the validation.

Activity	Deliverable	Deadline
1	ToR review	1 weeks after the notice
2	Literature review summary	2 weeks after the notice
3	Analytical Matrix	10 weeks after the notice
	Case Study profiles	

4	OPTIONAL DEVELIVERABLE	-
5	Policy mapping and reccomendations	12 weeks after the notice
6	First Draft of the Working Paper	16 weeks after the notice
7	Final Working Paper	20 weeks after the notice
8	Long-read article	20 weeks after the notice

All the deliverables will have to be presented in English and validated by the Contractor. Failure in submitting deliverables or not reaching enough quality may result in a reduced budget allocation. In addition, regular calls will be organized with the Contractor.

5. Means of work and eligible costs

This work should be conducted through literature review and consultation with stakeholders. Equipment, consumables, travel should be included in the financial offer as a lump sum. Travel to and from Barcelona to participate in activities relevant to this assignment will be discussed and validated by the contractor.

6. Eligibility

Applicants must fulfill the following requirements:

- Be an individual consultant, firm, association, University, research center or Think Tank.
Note: This ToR is not a subvention but a provision of services.
- Be able to comply with national fiscal context and rules for receipt of international funds.
- Have a bank account whose holder name must be the same as the applicant.
- Partnership and subcontracting are allowed, provided that the legal applicant entity has a substantial role in implementing the assignment. The applicant will be the only legal entity with which the contract relation will be established.
- Clear understanding of SCP and Circular Economy principles.

- Proved experience in research activities in contribution of private sector to climate change mitigation.
- Fluent communication in English and excellent writing skills.
- Knowledge of the UNFCCC role and governance and Climate Action and Mitigation objectives.

7. How to apply and selection process

Candidates should submit the following documents:

- Technical offer (maximum 5 pages): the Consultant should develop a research proposal, explaining the study methods and proposing an initial Table of Content.
- Profile and project references (maximum 2 pages): the consultant(s) should submit a brief explanation of the candidate (CVs shall be included as annex) and project references on the topic.
- Financial offer: the consultant(s) should state the personnel dedication expressed in days (1 day = 8 working hours) as well as a lump sum for other costs related to the implementation of work. **Please see Annex 1 as a reference.**
- Bank form filled in, signed and stamped by the bank (**see form as Annex 2**).

Offers must be sent to Arancha Jover (aranchajover@gencat.cat) and Alessandro Miraglia (amiraglia@gencat.cat) with the subject “Technical Assistance Sustainable Consumption & Climate Change” **before midnight of the 21st of May 2025 (CET).**

Important:

The header of the **technical and financial offers** must clearly note the candidate data (Name, address, country, telephone, email and fiscal identity number or other official number) and those of the Contractor: «MedWaves, the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for SCP / Agència de Residus de Catalunya / Passeig de la Zona Franca, 107 / 08038 Barcelona/ NIF: **Q-5856373-E**».

The maximum amount per offer is 13.990 euro (+VAT).

All candidates will be notified the reception of the offers.

Offers will be assessed according to the following criteria and scores:

Points	Criteria
Maximum 40 points	Quality of the technical offer to meet the work objectives
Maximum 20 points	Financial offer

Maximum 40 points	Profile and project qualifications
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The Contractor may contact candidates to convene an interview to facilitate the evaluation.

If you have questions concerning these ToR, please contact: amiraglia@gencat.cat.

8. Selection and payments

The winning candidate will be notified by email on the selection of the offer. From that moment on work can start according to the calendar. Payments will be done as it follows:

- Submission and approval of Deliverables under activity 7: 100% of the contract value

Payments can be done in a period of 60 days after reception and validation of the invoice*. The Contractor is not responsible for banking costs that might be applied by the consultant(s) bank, neither for changes in currency exchange.

**Please note that the study will have to be assessed and validate by an internal expert appointed by the Catalan Department for Ecological Transition.*

Annex 1: Example of financial offer

From:
Name:
Address:
Country:
Phone:
E-mail:
VAT n° or Tax ID:

To:
MedWaves
Agència de Residus de Catalunya
Passeig de la Zona Franca, 107
08038 Barcelona, Spain
NIF: Q-5856373-E

Offer n° xxxxxxxxxx

- 1) **Objective:**
- 2) **Tasks description:**
- 3) **Implementation schedule:**
- 4) **Budget:**
- 5) **Bank Details:**

