

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

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Terms of Reference (TOR) for the selection of an expert to  
provide technical assistance for the initial assessment of the 1.5-  
Degree Lifestyles Framework in the Catalan context

## 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.

The Barcelona Convention recognises Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) as a cross-cutting strategy to improve the environmental status and long-term resilience of the Mediterranean region. Within its Programme of Work 2026–2027, adopted at COP24 in Cairo, the Convention mandated MedWaves, the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for SCP, to further explore the nexus between Circular Economy and climate change mitigation, and to support Contracting Parties in developing systemic and socially inclusive transition pathways.

Within Programme 3, MedWaves supports contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention to achieve 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. In this context, incorporating consumption-based emissions is key to complementing traditional approaches focused exclusively on production and to promoting more transformative and effective action at territorial and community levels.

### About the 1.5-Degree Lifestyles Framework

To respond to this challenge, the Hot or Cool Institute has developed the 1.5-Degree Lifestyles framework, which translates the Paris Agreement targets into concrete, consumption-based carbon budgets at household and territorial scales. Using IPCC-aligned scenarios, the methodology analyses lifestyle footprints across key domains (nutrition, housing, mobility, goods, leisure, and services) identifies emission hotspots and proposes domain-specific reduction pathways. The approach defines a “safe consumption space,” grounded in principles of sufficiency and equity, that allows for dignified living standards while remaining within the remaining global carbon budget.

Building on this experience, and with MedWaves' support in 2025, a scoping mission was conducted in Barcelona to assess whether the methodology could be effectively adapted and operationalised at local and regional levels. The mission confirmed both the relevance and the opportunity to pilot the framework in Catalonia, or other cities/municipalities in the region. The territory combines a strong climate agenda, experience in participatory governance, and an active ecosystem of circular economy and just transition initiatives, making it a suitable testing ground to operationalise consumption-based mitigation strategies at the sub-national level.

To this end, MedWaves needs to procure external expertise to carry out the initial assessment for adapting the 1.5-Degree Lifestyles framework to the Catalan context. This assessment should identify and organise existing knowledge and data in the territory, as well as recognise emerging practices aligned with lifestyles compatible with the 1.5°C objective, providing a basis for considering how the framework could be applied in the Catalan context.

## 2. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The objective of this technical assistance is to support MedWaves in preparing an initial territorial screening for the application of the 1.5-Degree Lifestyles framework in Catalonia, by mapping, identifying and compiling existing information, data sources, territorial references, policy frameworks, and emerging practices relevant to consumption-based climate mitigation.

This work will provide a structured technical groundwork to better understand the existing conditions for applying a 1.5-degree lifestyle perspective in Catalonia and, where relevant, at the municipal level. It will identify available knowledge, relevant datasets, ongoing initiatives, institutional entry points, and practical examples that can serve as reference points for the subsequent application of the framework.

The assignment will focus on:

1. Organising existing references on carbon footprint and emissions-related work carried out in Catalonia at different territorial scales.
2. Compiling available data sources relevant to lifestyle-related carbon footprints, including data linked to key socio-demographic variables and municipal-level availability.
3. Identifying relevant initiatives, projects, policy instruments, and institutional frameworks connected to socio-ecological transition, sufficiency, circular economy, and just transition.
4. Recognising emerging community, social, and business practices that contribute to reducing material demand while improving wellbeing.

The technical assistance will be conducted remotely, with no travel-related expenses anticipated. The study might imply surveys, which will be carried out online.

## 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK

In the framework of this assignment, the expert/consultant shall carry out the following activities

### Activity 1. Planning and work plan

Initial coordination meeting with MedWaves to confirm the scope of the assignment, timeline, working arrangements, information sources, and expected outputs and the format of the expected deliverables.

#### Deliverables Activity 1:

- Work plan and timeline

#### Activity 2. Mapping of existing carbon footprint references and available data sources

This activity will map existing carbon footprint and emissions assessments carried out in Catalonia at regional and sub-regional levels, identifying available data, methods applied, and their compatibility with the 1.5 Lifestyle approach.

A2.1. Mapping of existing carbon footprint assessments in Catalonia and compiling key information on their scope, territorial scale, methodological approach, indicators, and data sources, in order to identify their relevance for a consumption-based lifestyle approach.

A2.2. Identification and compilation of available data for lifestyle-related carbon footprint work at different geographic levels in Catalonia, with attention to the availability of datasets disaggregated by key socio-demographic variables and to the identification of municipalities with sufficient data availability for possible local-level modelling.

#### Deliverables Activity 2:

- Baseline mapping report of existing assessments and methodologies
- Data availability matrix (regional and municipal level)

#### Activity 3. Mapping of related initiatives and policy frameworks

In collaboration with MedWaves, the expert will identify and compile existing initiatives, projects, and public policies in Catalonia that address socio-ecological transition, sufficiency, circular economy, or just transition, and other relevant areas connected to 1.5-degree lifestyles. This activity will include the mapping of the key actors active or relevant to the promotion of low-carbon and sufficiency-oriented lifestyles.

#### Deliverables Activity 3:

- Inventory of related initiatives and policy instruments
- Stakeholder map

#### Activity 4. Identification of emerging sufficiency-aligned practices

Identification and documentation of emerging sufficiency-aligned practices, including grassroots, community-based, social and business initiatives that contribute to reducing material demand while improving wellbeing.

The practices may include, among others, sharing schemes, repair and reuse networks, food cooperatives, housing cooperatives, community energy initiatives, low-carbon mobility models, local consumption initiatives, or other relevant examples connected to lifestyle changes and reduced material demand.

#### Deliverables Activity 4:

- Catalogue of emerging sufficiency-aligned practices
- Short briefs covering 5 to 10 selected examples

## 4. DELIVERABLES AND CALENDAR

The expert/consultant will start the work after the validation of their offer by the contractor.

Activity	Deliverable	Deadline
N/A	Complete the ToR and contracting process	1 week after the notification
1	Work plan and timeline	2 weeks after the notification
2	Baseline mapping of existing carbon footprint references and methodologies	End of September 2026
	Data availability matrix at regional and municipal level	End of September 2026
3	Inventory of related initiatives and policy instruments	End of October 2026
	Stakeholder map	End of October 2026
4	Catalogue of emerging sufficiency-aligned practices	End of November 2026
	Short briefs covering 5 to 10 selected examples	End of November 2026

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

## 5. MEANS OF WORKING AND ELIGIBLE COSTS

- The expert will begin the work upon the contractor's validation of the offer, which is expected to be completed by June 2026. The assignment is anticipated to be completed by December 2026.
- This work should be conducted through desk-based research, and it might include consultation with stakeholders through online means.
- Throughout the assignment, consistent communication channels will be upheld with the MedWaves team via email, video calls, and/or phone calls.
- The expert will work with his/her own means remotely.
- English and/or Spanish will serve as the primary language for communication. The deliverables will be submitted in English.

## 6. ELIGIBILITY

- Be an individual consultant, firm, association, university, or research centre. Note: This ToR is not a subvention but a provision of services.

- Be able to comply with the national fiscal context and rules for the receipt of international funds from Spain.
- 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.
- Proven experience in sustainable consumption and production, circular economy, climate mitigation, sufficiency, just transition or related fields.
- Proven knowledge of carbon footprint approaches, consumption-based emissions accounting, lifestyle-related emissions, or similar methodologies.
- Experience with territorial or municipal-level climate, sustainability, or socio-ecological transition processes will be considered an asset.
- Strong analytical, reporting, and organisational skills, with the ability to prepare clear and structured technical outputs.
- A high-level proficiency in English, both written and spoken, to ensure clear communication and effective document drafting.
- 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:

1. **Technical offer (maximum 4 pages):** The Consultant should develop a proposal, explaining the study methods, taking into account the activities and deliverables listed above.
2. **Financial offer (Annexed to this document):** 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. The offer must include the applicant's VAT number or TAX ID.
3. **Profile and project references (maximum 2 pages):** the expert should submit a brief explanation of the candidate (CVs shall be included as annex) and project references on the topic.
4. **Bank form** filled in, signed, and stamped by the bank (see form as Annex).

### 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 13.999 € (VAT excluded)

### Important information regarding the consideration of the added-value tax (VAT)

1. Applicants legally registered in Spain: This is a provision of services and therefore VAT applies. Offers must include Spanish VAT number, and financial offer clearly indicate total before VAT,

VAT amount, and total including VAT. This information should be equally reflected in the invoices.

2. Applicants legally registered in an EU Member State, other than Spain: they must be registered in the VIES registry (VAT Information Exchange System). Offers must include EU VAT number (including country code), and financial offer indicate total before VAT, along with the statement "both provider and client are registered in the VIES system and therefore VAT is not included in the offer". This information should be equally reflected in the invoices.

3. Applicants legally registered in an EU Member State exempt from VAT: they must submit official proof of exemption of VAT. Financial offers must include the statement "the provider is exempted of VAT as for [legal document]". This information should be equally reflected in the invoices.

4. Applicants legally registered in a non-member country of the EU: The provider is liable for paying taxes related to the provision of services as per tax regulations in its country. Financial offer must comprise that cost, and invoices submitted with all taxes included.

Offers must be sent to Alessandro Miraglia ([amiraglia@gencat.cat](mailto:amiraglia@gencat.cat)) and Arancha Jover ([aranchajover@gencat.cat](mailto:aranchajover@gencat.cat)) with the subject "Technical assistance for the initial assessment of the 1.5-Degree Lifestyles Framework in the Catalan context," before midnight on the **26th of June 2026**, midnight (CEST).

All candidates will be notified upon receipt 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

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](mailto:amiraglia@gencat.cat) or [aranchajover@gencat.cat](mailto:aranchajover@gencat.cat)

## 8. SELECTIONS AND PAYMENTS

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

- Submission and approval of all deliverables: 100% of the contract value

Payments will be made over a period of 60 days after the reception and validation of the invoice. The Contractor is not responsible for banking costs that might be applied by the consultant(s) bank, nor for changes in currency exchange.

# Annex: Offer template and bank form

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**Name:** XXXXXX

**Address:**

**Country:**

**Phone:**

**E-mail:**

**VAT Number/Tax ID:**

**To:**

**MedWaves**

**Agència de Residus de Catalunya**

**Passeig de la Zona Franca, 107**

**08038 Barcelona, Spain**

**NIF: Q-5856373-E**

**Offer nº XXXXX**

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

## Request of payment (Bank details)

### CREDITOR DETAILS

TAX ID	NAME
STREET	PD
CITY	COUNTRY

### PAYMENT DETAILS

NAME OF BANK
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SWIFT CODE
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ADDRESS OF BANK
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PD	CITY
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Hereby I declare that I'm the holder of the account above stated.

With the agreement of the Bank

CITY AND DATE

SIGNATURE/ STAMP

SIGNATURE/ STAMP

In compliance with the Personal Data Protection Regulations and thus, in accordance with the Spain Organic Law 15/1999, dated 13th December 1999, on the Protection of Personal Data (LOPD), we inform you that the contact details hereby provided are included in a file owned by the Waste Agency of Catalonia, based on C/Doctor Roux núm. 80, 08017 - Barcelona.

This processing is solely intended for the management of subsidies, aid, and associated resolutions.

You consent to the processing of your data under the terms set forth herein. The exercise of rights to access, rectification, cancellation, and objection may be carried out in accordance with the established legal terms by communicating with the Waste Agency of Catalonia.