

## **MAPPING AND MONITORING OF CRITICAL MARINE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (MSFD) AREAS**

### **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

Reference information:

- EEA PT02 PA objective – Good environmental Status in European marine and coastal waters
- EEA PT02 PA expected outcome #2 - Improve monitoring of marine waters
- Output 2A - Mapping and monitoring of critical areas carried through
- Call nr 2 – Mapping and monitoring of critical MSFD areas
- Description – Seabed and habitats mapping; compiling data related to MSFD relevant descriptors; identification of key-species or association of species as ecological indicators and analysis of the feasibility of the assessment criteria of MSFD Good Environmental Status to the national waters, and improvement of those criteria

### **1. AREA OF INTERVENTION:**

It will be composed by campaigns including the deployment of arraying instruments to be used by different marine vectors for monitoring and surveillance of marine water and target ecosystems, and the acquisition of relevant ecological, chemical and physical parameters. Instruments to be used by different marine research institutions to identify key aquatic species for which there are information gaps in domains like distribution and population status.

### **2. OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES FOR THE PROJECTS:**

The Directive 2008/56/EC, of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 17 of June, or Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), transposed into national law by the Decree-law n.º 108/2010, of 13 October, modified and republished by Decree-law n.º 136/2013, of 7 October, establishes a framework of Community Action within the Member States that shall take necessary measures to achieve or maintain the Good Environmental Status in the marine environment until 2020.

Within the aim of this Directive, it's essential to develop marine strategies in order to obtain and maintain the good environmental status and to guarantee the sustainable use of goods and marine services, safeguarding, the potential for uses and activities of present and future generations. The preparation of those Marine Strategies includes the proposal of a Monitoring Plan (PMo), to the continued assessment of the environmental status of the marine waters and periodic updating of the environmental targets, and of a Program of Measures (PMe), with the aim to achieve or maintain the good environmental status. Those Programmes have being available in a version for public consultation since July of 2014 (<http://www.dgrm.min->

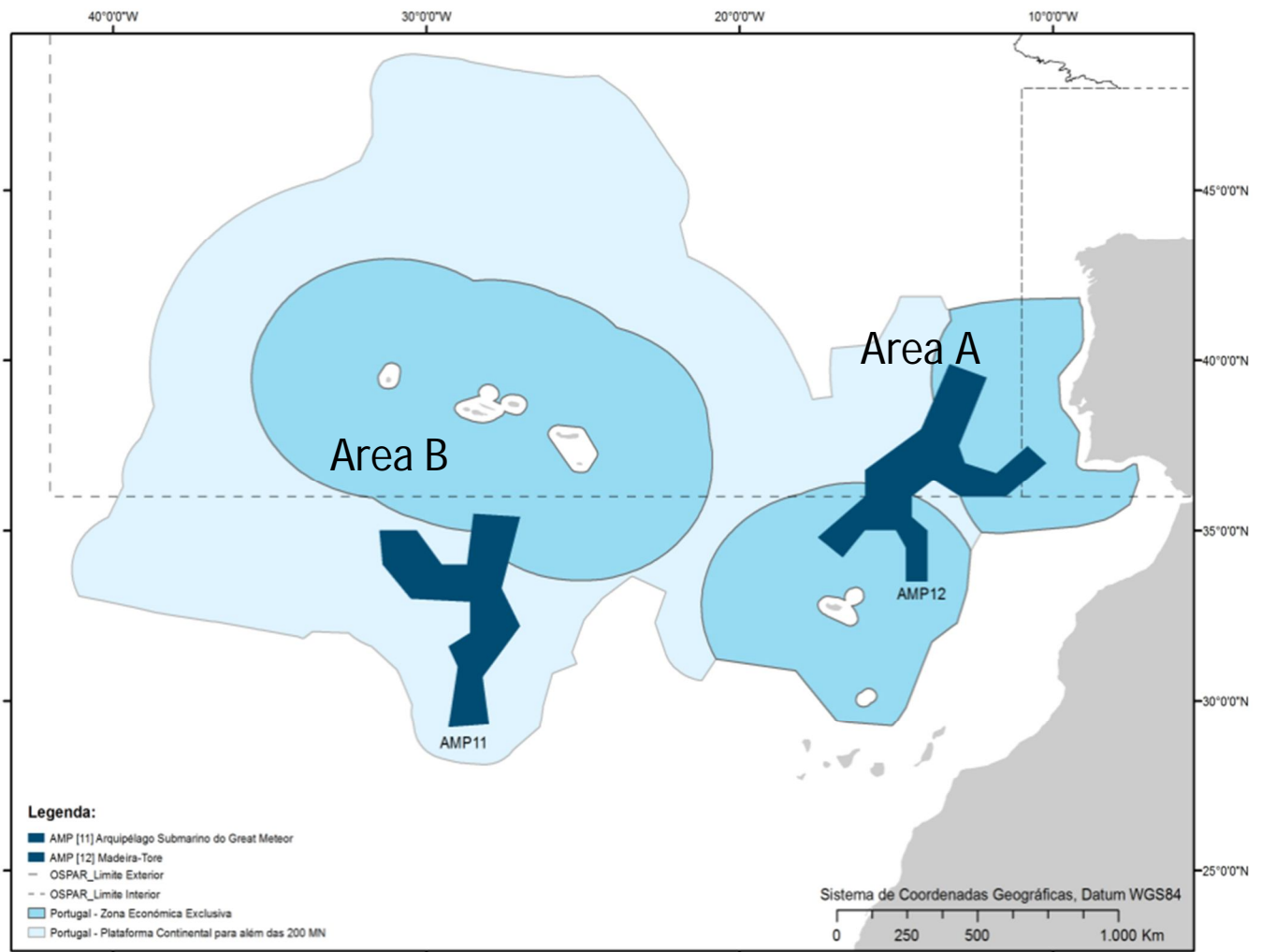
[agricultura.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=dgrm&xpgid=genericPageV2&conteudoDetalhe\\_v2=3039719](http://agricultura.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=dgrm&xpgid=genericPageV2&conteudoDetalhe_v2=3039719) ).

In the version of PMe available for public consultation it ´s established that to preserve natural patrimony and the economic activities linked to the Portuguese seabed, intends to create new marine protected areas of large dimension, delimited in deep ocean zones, that covers properly one of the most important oceanic habitats: the OSPAR seamounts habitat.

Portugal considers to designate two large Marine Protected Areas (MPA), that includes two of the most seamounts ´ complexes: 1) between mainland territory and Madeira, including the Madeira-Tore geological complex, with the seamounts Tore, Ashton, Ormonde and Gettysburg (Gorringe bank), Josephine, Hirondele II, Lion, Unicorn, Seine, Dragon (AREA A); 2) south of Azores, on a widest area that includes seamounts Atlantic, Tyro, Plato, Cruiser, Irving, Hyeres, Plateau, Great Meteor, and Small Meteor (AREA B)

(See Fig.1).

Fig. 1 – New Oceanic Marine Protected Areas



Ref.: Based on MAM, SRMCT, SRA (2014). Estratégias Marinhas para as Águas Marinhas Portuguesas. Diretiva Quadro Estratégia Marinha. Programa de Monitorização e Programa de Medidas. Versão para consulta pública. Ministério da Agricultura e do Mar, Secretaria Regional do Mar, Ciência e Tecnologia, Secretaria Regional do Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais. Julho 2014

It's also intended to include a new marine area into Natura 2000 network. This Site of Community Importance will be designated in MPA Madeira-Tore within the 200 NM limits, where exists seamounts with habitats and species that can be classified under the Natura site, namely the Gorringe bank or the seamount Seine, formations with habitats in the photic zone.

For the sub-division of extended continental shelf, the Initial Report, produced to the accomplishment in Portugal of the articles 8º, 9º and 10º of MSFD, only reported the marine protected areas in the continental shelf beyond the 200 NM, recognized under the OSPAR Convention, to which Portugal has assumed the compromise to protect and preserve the marine environment, soil and sub-soil. In this Initial Report to the subdivision of the extended

continental shelf has been stated that the available data to the assessment areas do not allow to perform the indicators assessment for descriptors of state and to establish the baselines conditions. This situation unveils the importance to increase the knowledge in the subdivision of the extended continental shelf in the context of MSFD obligations.

It's defined as "MSFD Critical Area", for this purpose, each one that comprises both MSFD critical domains below:

- areas of high potential biodiversity and on which present knowledge is scarce, intending to focus on the functioning and characterisation of deep seas ecosystems. Cumulatively the area to consider as priority should be under the frame of the obligation of Portugal to foreseen measures of spatial protection that contributes to coherent and representatives networks of marine protected areas that covers adequately the diversity of their ecosystems, as determined n.º 4, of the article 13.º of MSFD (critical domain from the geographic point of view – Area A, Area B, Subareas of Area A and Subareas of Area B. Each of these Areas, or Subareas, selected to be characterised it is considered a critical domain);
- relevant descriptors of DQEM has being the related to biodiversity, namely D1, D3, D4 and D6, namely in the situations where the initial characterization developed in Portugal to the accomplishment of articles 8º, 9º and 10º of MSFD evince insufficient data and information (each descriptor is considered a critical domain).

It's mandatory that each project presented to this Call includes the area of Madeira-Tore (Area A), duly to the international compromises assumed for the Josephine Mount, and complementarily should include the area of Great Meteor (Area B).

The projects to select should contribute to the follow indicator:

### ***1) Mapping and monitoring of critical MSFD areas carried through***

**Indicator#1** – Number of critical MSFD domains covered by mapping and monitoring initiatives within the programme.

**Target:** 3 critical MSFD

As referred each project should contribute to the results that it is intended to obtain measured through the Indicator#1. For this purpose each project should include and indicate at least 3 critical domains that will be covered by the actions to develop, being mandatory indicating the critical domains from the geographical point of view and critical domains from the point of view of MSFD descriptors, covered by the characterization and mapping to develop.

For the purpose of proposal's analysis the following information should be presented:

- The justification of the campaigns in the context of the MSFD application in Portugal, namely the contribute to the fulfillment of the established in Pmo and Pme of Marine Strategies sent to public discussion;



- Team description, that should be multidisciplinary in the areas of marine sciences, and foster collaboration between different agencies;
- Cruise proposal including a description of the methodology adopted to define actions to be developed, as well as the methodology adopted to define all other actions proposed including processing and managing data and information that can be obtained.

It's mandatory to include workshops discussion with academia, while open process of public discussion, in relation to results that has been presented.

Each proposal should present the following products:

- Diagnostic report on scientific data and information available for the selected areas;
- Campaign(s) report(s);
- Report with the process of the involvement and discussion with the scientific community and conclusions on the scientific added value of the campaign results;
- Report with the assessment of the suitability of the criteria and methodological standards for the assessment of good environmental status in respect of the national marine waters, for each considered descriptor, as defined in the Decision of the Commission 2010/477/EU;
- Report with the discussion on the possibility of integrating characterized and cartographed areas in Natura 2000 network;
- Proposal for a Plan(s) of Resources Sustainable Management;
- Communication Plan adapted for the nature of the project seeking to transform the project inclusive and contributing to the enlarged sensitization, in terms of the target audience and problematic associated to the deep sea.

The proposal of a Plan of Resources Sustainable Management should include the following points:

- Characterization of the gears and fishing efforts at the local;
- Characterization of other human activities in the area;
- Identification of potential ecosystem services and relation to the human well-being;
- Identification of potential management measures of human activities in the area, present and potentially future, considering the justification of the cost-benefit analysis of the proposed measures.

The applications shall contain a publicity plan in line with Annex 4 to the EEA Grants 2009-2014 Regulation.

Projects are limited to the extension of 12 months, however the projects must be completed no later than April 30, 2016, the last date of eligibility for projects (see Chapter 9).

### **3. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:**

For the purpose of this call are eligible proposals of oceanographic campaigns with the aim to:

- Work on gathering scientific data and information already available about the selected areas
- Cartography and characterization of seabed and respective habitats in MSFD critical areas, as established in the definition of “MSFD critical area” for the purpose of this Call
- Data compilation related to descriptors relevant to MSFD, as established in the definition of “MSFD critical area” for the purpose of this Call
- Identification of key-species or associations of species as ecological indicators
- Identification of the trophic interactions
- Data collection and information compilation that allows the assessment of the suitability of the criteria and methodological standards for the assessment of good environmental status in respect of the national marine waters, for each considered descriptor, as defined in the Decision of the Commission 2010/477/UE Characterization of the interaction, and resulting effects, between the deep sea ecosystems and the overlying water column ecosystems
- The collection of any other data that can be considered important to the accomplishment of deliverables requested on this Call.

### **4. AVAILABLE FUND:**

The total amount available to the present Call is € 2.352.941.

### **5. MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNTS FOR EACH PROJECT:**

Min: € 350.000

Max: € 2.352.941

### **6. GRANT RATES EEA GRANTS:**

The funding rate will not exceed 85% of total eligible project costs.

The remaining costs shall be provided or obtained by the Project promoter. The project promoter must demonstrate their co-financing ability through a document evidencing the financing capacity.

The project grant rate shall be set at a level that complies with the State Aid rules in force and takes into account any and all other forms of public support granted to projects and/or the Project Promoter or partner, where relevant.

## **7. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS:**

The call is open from 2014/11/05 and remains open **until to 23:59:59 TMG 2015/01/05**.

## **8. ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANTS AND PARTNERS:**

Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in the respective Beneficiary State as well as inter-governmental organisations operating in the Beneficiary State are considered eligible applicants of projects.

Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organisations, all of whose primary locations are either in the Donor States, Beneficiary States or a country outside the European Economic Area that has a common border with the respective Beneficiary State, or any inter-governmental organisation, actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project, are considered eligible partners.

## **9. PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURES:**

From the date the Programme Operator signs the granting decision **until April 30, 2016**.

## **10. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURES:**

Expenses that comply with Articles 7.2 to 7.5 of the Regulation of the EEA Grants 2009-2014 Regulation are considered eligible. (<http://eeagrants.org/Results-data/Results-overview/Documents/Legal-documents/Regulations-with-annexes/EEA-Grants-2009-2014> )

For calculation of **overheads/indirect cost**, please see the - Guidelines - Methodology on the calculation for the flat rate to be applied to indirect eligible costs (overheads)

[http://www.dgpm.mam.gov.pt/Pages/eea\\_grants\\_documentos.aspx](http://www.dgpm.mam.gov.pt/Pages/eea_grants_documentos.aspx)

## **11. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS:**

Applications must be submitted, in Portuguese or English, to the Programme Operator by the deadline stipulated in paragraph 7., in digital format, by email, to the following address: [eeagrants@dgpm.mam.gov.pt](mailto:eeagrants@dgpm.mam.gov.pt), using the standard application form and having attached all documents that constitute the application folder (i.e. list of documents to be submitted by the beneficiary and demandable on application).

In addition, all original documentation, in paper form, must be conveyed to the address identified in paragraph 16. of this Call, with the application form duly signed and stamped.

In case there is a difference between the digital version and paper copy, the digital version shall prevail.

The application form and the list of all documents to be submitted are available in [www.dgpm.mam.gov.pt](http://www.dgpm.mam.gov.pt) (“EEA Grants” sub-menu)

It is suggested that before submitting your application to read the information on the EEA Grants Fund 2009-2014, available through the “EEA Grants” sub-menu on the DGPM website, namely, the following documents:

- Regulation of the EEA Grants 2009-2014

<http://eeagrants.org/Results-data/Results-overview/Documents/Legal-documents/Regulations-with-annexes/EEA-Grants-2009-2014>

- Project Promoter´s Procedures Manual

[http://www.dgpm.mam.gov.pt/Pages/eea\\_grants\\_documentos.aspx](http://www.dgpm.mam.gov.pt/Pages/eea_grants_documentos.aspx)

- Guidelines - Description of the Selection Procedures

[http://www.dgpm.mam.gov.pt/Pages/eea\\_grants\\_documentos.aspx](http://www.dgpm.mam.gov.pt/Pages/eea_grants_documentos.aspx)

- Guidelines - Methodology on the calculation for the flat rate to be applied to indirect eligible costs (overheads)

[http://www.dgpm.mam.gov.pt/Pages/eea\\_grants\\_documentos.aspx](http://www.dgpm.mam.gov.pt/Pages/eea_grants_documentos.aspx)

## **12. SELECTION AND DECISION PROCEDURES:**

Only the applications meeting the conditions in accordance with national and Community legislation, the Rules of the EEA Grants 2009-2014, the Project Promoter´s Procedures Manual and with this Call are acceptable in this procedure.

The project’s selection and approval process is carried out in two sequencing phases, as follows:

### **1st phase – Administrative Checks**

- **Correct preparation of the application process** - verification whether the application, in particular the Application Form, has been correctly completed and whether all required and mandatory annexes have been attached thereto.
- **Administrative and eligibility compliance** – verification of compliance with administrative and eligibility criteria.

**2nd phase - Selection** - The final score will be assigned to the project by applying the selection criteria approved by the Programme Operator and published in this Call for Proposal.

All sequencing phases are qualifiers.

During these phases there will be a communication with applicants and appeal's processes whenever the applications don't comply with the necessary and mandatory framework requirements.

Each application will be scored on a scale of 0 to 5 points, according to the selection criteria set out in paragraph 13. of this Call for proposal.

The selection criteria allow assessing the applicant's ability to complete the proposed action, namely the:

- **Operational capacity** of the applicant and partners: professional and/or institutional competencies, qualifications and requirements needed to implement the project;
- **Financial capacity**, ensuring this way stable and sufficient financial flows to maintain its activity throughout the period during which the proposal is being carried out and to participate in its funding;
- **Technical Capacity**, the project quality and its contribution to the objectives, as well as the programme outcomes and respective outputs.

Two independent and impartial experts shall (separately) score the project in accordance with the selection criteria provided in paragraph 13. of this Call for proposal. For the purposes of ranking the projects, the average scores awarded by the experts shall be used.

In case the difference between the scores given by the two experts is higher than 30% of the highest score, a third expert shall be commissioned by the Programme Operator to score the project independently. In such cases the average score of the two closest scores shall be used to rank the projects.

The Programme Operator provides the Selection Committee with the list of ranked projects.

The Selection Committee shall review the ranked list of projects and, and may modify the ranking in justified cases. The justification for the modifications shall be detailed in the minutes of the meeting of the Selection Committee. In case a project is rejected as a result of such amendment, the affected applicant shall be informed in writing regarding the justification for the amendment. The Selection Committee shall submit the list of recommended projects to the Programme Operator.

The Programme Operator shall establish whether the election process has been conducted in accordance with the EEA Regulation and if the Selection Committee's recommendations comply with the rules and objectives of the programme. Following such verification the Programme Operator (Decision Body), based on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, shall make a decision regarding which projects shall be supported. In case the Decision Body modifies the decision of the Selection Committee, it shall inform the Selection Committee and provide it with a justification.

Project selection shall be done by **open competition**, ie, applications that meet the required minimums are ranked in descending order according to the scores from the assessment of selection criteria provided in paragraph 13. of this Call for proposal. The applications with the highest scores within the financial allocation for each call will be awarded grants.

Applications that have sufficient quality, but are not awarded granting because of the limitations in funding set by each call, should be put on a ranked reserve list.

In case funds are uncommitted, a second call may be launched and shall make available any remaining funds for re-granting.

Applications scoring **lower than 2,5 points** will not be selected for awarded granting.

Further details are provided in paragraph 13. of this Call for proposal.

### 13. SELECTION CRITERIA:

#### *a. Selection Criteria*

In the selection of applications relating to the types of projects provided for in paragraph 2 of this call will be applied taking into account the assessment criteria and weightings, as the following table:

Selection Criteria	Weighting (W)	Indicative aspects	Criteria Classification (CC) (points)*	Global Score
<b>1. Contribution to achieving the Programme's objectives and expected outcome(s) and outputs</b>	<b>30%</b>	Demonstration of the contribution for the overall objectives, outcomes and outputs of the Programme: a) Achieving and sustaining the Good Environmental Status (GES) in the European marine and coastal waters? (25%) b) Strengthen bilateral relations (25%) c) Demonstration of the contribution of the project to the Programme's expected outcomes and outputs? (50%)	25% * CC1a  25%*CC1b  50%*CC1c	
<b>2. Technical coherence and understanding</b>	<b>30%</b>	a) Identification and understanding of the specific needs the proposal is intended to solve? (20%) b) Demonstration of solid knowledge and experience relevant for the development of the project accordingly with the objectives which aims to achieve? (20%) c) Qualification of the team members in the subject matter of the present call for proposals and of the proposed project, as demonstrated by relevant academic qualifications and sufficient (for senior	20%*CC2a  20%*CC2b  20%*CC2c	

		members this would mean several years) relevant professional experience? (20%)		
		d) Identification of distinct, relevant and realistic deliverables? (20%)	20%*CC2d	
		e) Feasibility, clarity, logic and coherence of the proposal? (20%)	20%*CC2e	
<b>3. Approach and added value</b>	<b>20%</b>	a) Measures proposed to involve stakeholders, ensuring visibility of the project? (35%)	35%*CC3a	
		b) Complementarity with the projects identified in the National Ocean Strategy 2013-2020 Action Plan - Mar-Portugal Plan – Programmatic Area/Ocean - Action Programme “Marine Strategy Framework Directive”; Programmatic Area/Governance – Action Programmes “Administration”, “Education, science and technology” and “Identity and Culture”? (35%)	35%*CC3b	
		c) Relevance of expected results and potential impact in terms of stimulation of best-practice, innovation and demonstration? (30%)	30%*CC3c	
<b>4. Financial coherence and availability</b>	<b>20%</b>	a) Feasibility of proposed project in terms of coherence of resources and timetables? (25%)	25%*CC4a	
		b) Demonstration that the project is implemented with the aim of achieving economic efficiency? (25%)	25%*CC4b	
		c) Budget: consistency of the expenditures with the foreseen activities? (25%)	25%*CC4c	
		d) Clearly state the co-financing requirements? (25%)	25%*CC4d	

*Score CC	Meaning
0	no contribution
1	very poor
2	poor
3	adequate
4	good
5	very good



### ***b. Classification of each selection criteria***

Accepted applications will be classified according to each criteria on a scale of 0 to 5 points.

### ***c. Final Classification***

The Final Classification (FC) of each application is based on the scale of 0 to 5 points for rating criteria aggregation, using the following formula:

$$FR = W_1 * (25\% * CC_{1a} + 25\% * CC_{1b} + 50\% * CC_{1c}) + W_2 * (20\% * CC_{2a} + 20\% * CC_{2b} + 20\% * CC_{2c} + 20\% * CC_{2d} + 20\% * CC_{2e}) + W_3 * (35\% * CC_{3a} + 35\% * CC_{3b} + 30\% * CC_{3c}) + W_4 * (25\% * CC_{4a} + 25\% * CC_{4b} + 25\% * CC_{4c} + 25\% * CC_{4d})$$

Where:

-  $W_1... W_4$  = Weighting Criteria

-  $CC_{1a}... CC_{4d}$  = Criteria Classification

(The classification will be established to 2 decimal places without rounding)

The application to be submitted under this call may be subject of an approval only if its final classification is **higher or equal than 2,5 points**, resulting from the application of the selection criteria and methodology presented.

The application who obtains a final score **lower than 2,5 points** will be excluded for the purpose of granting financial support.

Funding of applications also depends on the total available amount previously established in the paragraph 4. of this call.

Applications that meet a final score **higher or equal than 2,5 points** are ranked in descending order according to the scores from the assessment of selection criteria within the financial allocation available.

## **14. NOTICE OF DECISION TO BENEFICIARY:**

The communication on the final decision of the applications will be made to the beneficiary within 45 working days after the deadline for submission of applications specified in paragraph 7. of this Call.

The Programme Operator shall notify applicants regarding the results of the selection process within 10 working days and publicize the results on websites where the advertisement was released.

## 15. PAYMENT FLOWS:

Following the granting of financial support, and after signing the Project Contract by both parties, the Programme Operator may make payments to beneficiaries in the following ways:

- **Advance payment:** Each promoter of the project, after the signing of the project contract, may receive an advance payment to cover the period until the next interim payment that in normal circumstances should not exceed 10% of the total grant amount, depending on the liquidity needs. Exceptionally, and in duly justified cases, this percentage can be increased up to 25%. The project promoter must provide an indicative estimate of expenditure to be carried out to prove the amount of the Fund requested. An advance payment is disbursed within 20 working days after the project contract has been signed.
- **Interim Payment:** Promoters shall present interim payments quarterly. The interim payment is made by the expenditures proposed for the current reporting period, and the difference between the proposed expenditures and the amount of expenses actually incurred in the previous period. The deadlines for the submission and review of quarterly reports will be defined in the financing agreement for the project.
- **Final Payment:** The sum of the advance and interim payments cannot exceed 90% of the total project grant at any time during project. The payment of the final balance will be disbursed within 30 calendar days after the approval of the final report.

## 16. CONTACTS:

E-mail contact for information and submission of application:

[eeagrants@dgpm.mam.gov.pt](mailto:eeagrants@dgpm.mam.gov.pt)

Address:

Direção-Geral de Política do Mar - Ministério da Agricultura e do Mar

Av. De Brasília, n.º 6 – 1449-006 ALGÉS - PORTUGAL

Phone number: (+351) 218 291 000