

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FOCUSING ACTION,
PICKING UP THE PACE
FOR OCEAN CONSERVATION

Ocean

Marine Protected Areas Universal Donor

IMPAC

3rd International Marine Protected Areas Congress
MARSEILLE, AJACCIO - OCTOBER 2013

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Foreword



The oceans cover 72% of the Earth's surface, and the High seas (Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction – ABNJ) represent almost 60% of the world's oceans and are at the heart of supporting life on Earth. Marine ecosystems provide vital services: securing food, developing economies and regulating the global climate, to name but a few. Oceans are the largest and oldest carbon sinks on Earth as 55 % of all biologically sequestered carbon is captured by marine organisms. Although more difficult to measure, other benefits; science, culture, education, recreation and well-being, are just as essential. Yet the oceans are under threat by multiple human and natural causes including overfishing, pollution, habitat destruction and acidification.

We urgently need to take action to protect the oceans and raise the awareness of political leaders and other key players as well as all citizens of the importance of looking after our future -- our Oceans -- by opening up discussions and building an ocean culture.



The Third International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC3), held in 2013, aimed **to deliver a new vision and new tools for achieving the goal of protecting 10% of the world's oceans by 2020**, as defined by the signatory Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Fulfilling this commitment cannot be done without taking users' needs and behaviours into account. Creating marine protected areas is an effective means of conserving the marine environment. Doing so takes values, determination, knowledge of marine ecosystems, and reliable conservation and restoration techniques. It's time to build bridges between all stakeholders and not only those directly involved in marine conservation, by having a cultural approach to reach each society around the world. Marine protected areas (MPAs) are in a key position to ensure such cooperation: they form a link between land, coastline and sea, between human and biological constraints and between humans and the sea.

To achieve this goal, IMPAC3 mobilized a unique and **wide range of expertise**, characterized by the diversity of participants including managers, scientists, policy makers, representatives from local governments and communities, civil society, artists and representatives from the business world. The Ajaccio Ministerial Conference for Ocean Conservation concluded the congress, confirming through the Message of Ajaccio the international political commitment to make progress and showing the way with the announcement of new initiatives for ocean protection. More than **1500 persons from 87 countries participated in this important event held both in Marseille and in Corsica.**

Julia Marton-Lefèvre
Director General of IUCN

Olivier Laroussinie
Director of the French MPA Agency

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia Marton-Lefèvre".

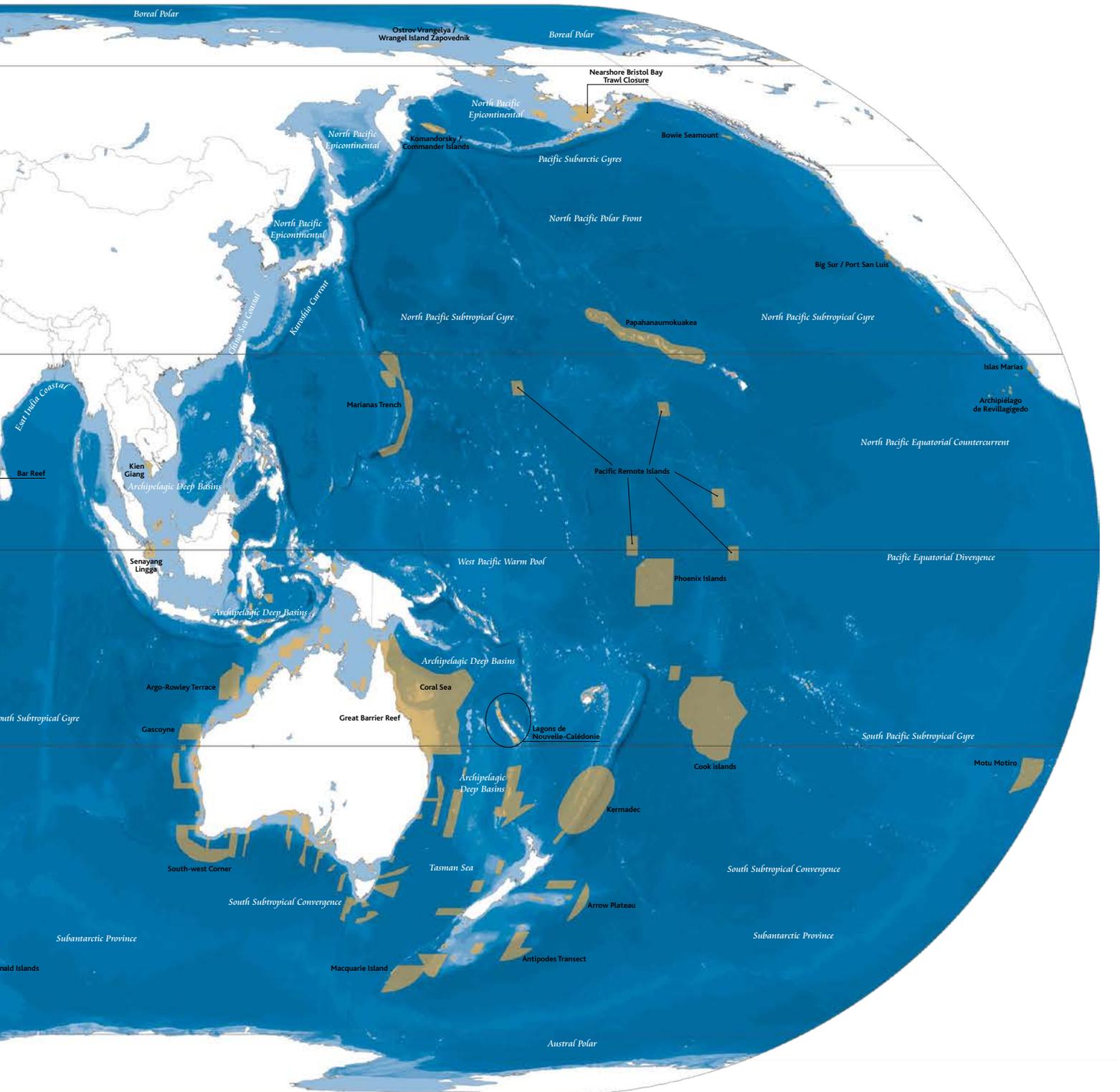
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Olivier Laroussinie".



OceanKind: more life + more knowledge

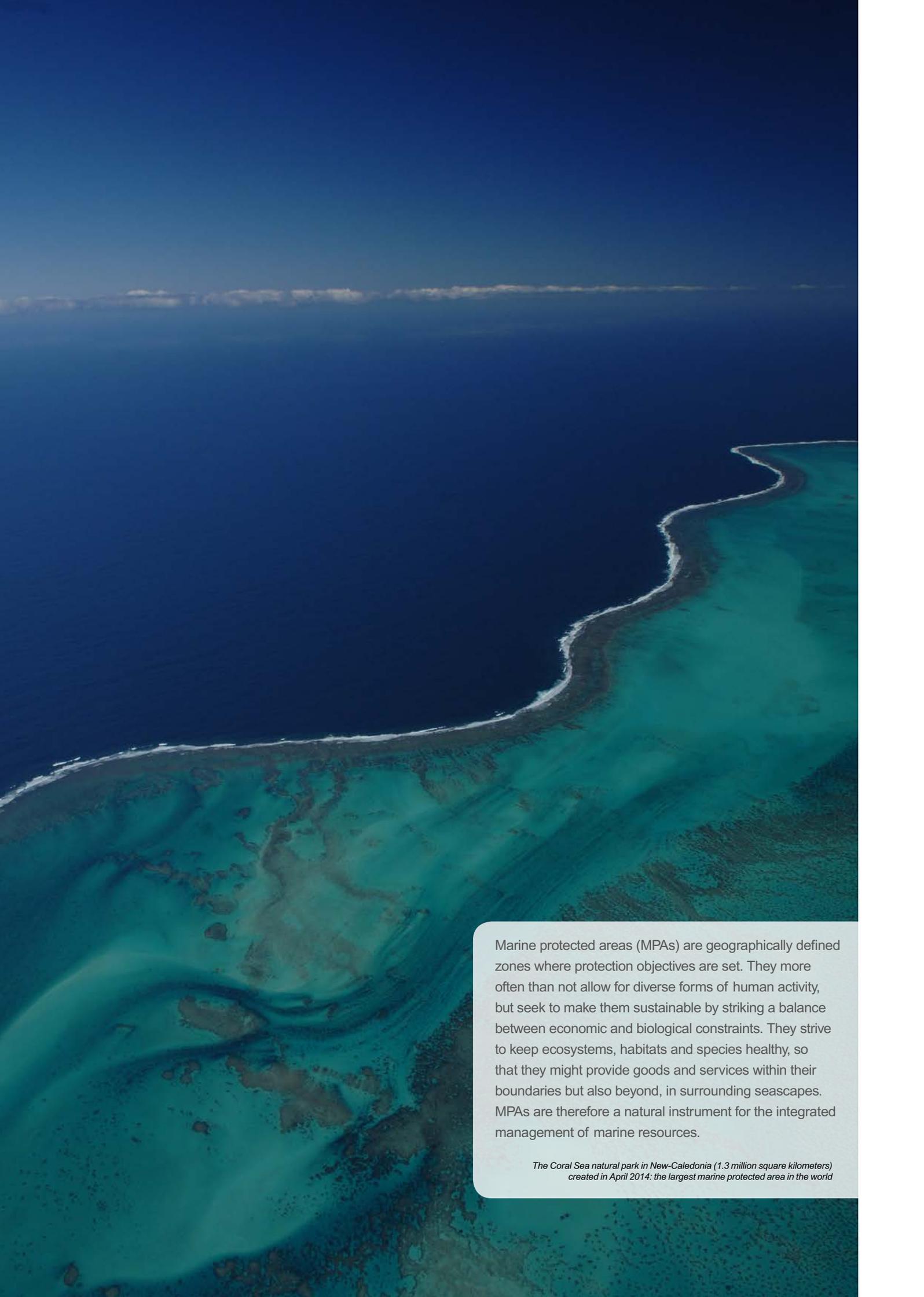
Marine Protected Areas

This map is the result of a study by the French Marine Protected Areas Agency for IMPAC3. It is not official. It takes into account official data from the WDPa and a number of other data concerning MPAs in the process of being designated. Official statistics on current coverage of MPAs is provided by UNEP WCMC • Marine protected areas: WDPa (02/2013), French MPA Agency (10/2013),



Knowledge + more solidarity + more resilience

Areas: 10%+ by 2020



Marine protected areas (MPAs) are geographically defined zones where protection objectives are set. They more often than not allow for diverse forms of human activity, but seek to make them sustainable by striking a balance between economic and biological constraints. They strive to keep ecosystems, habitats and species healthy, so that they might provide goods and services within their boundaries but also beyond, in surrounding seascapes. MPAs are therefore a natural instrument for the integrated management of marine resources.

The Coral Sea natural park in New-Caledonia (1.3 million square kilometers) created in April 2014: the largest marine protected area in the world

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● IMPAC3 background

IMPAC history, vision and principles

The IMPAC Congress was held for the first time in Geelong in Australia in 2005, successfully organized by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Parks of Australia. The second edition in Washington (USA), in 2009, was organized by NOAA.

IMPAC3, the third edition, was organized in France, in October 2013, in Marseille and Corsica (Ajaccio), by the French Marine Protected Areas Agency, under the leadership of IUCN, with considerable institutional support and with the strong involvement of the City of Marseille and the Corsica Regional Authority.

As significant recognition of IMPAC interest, the 77th Council of IUCN, held in 2011 in New Delhi, India, decided to support IMPAC3, recognizing the importance of the Congress as a milestone towards the Marine protected areas target defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya (COP 10 Aichi target 11).



The vision and the core principles for the IMPAC congresses consists of organising a high-quality and professionally-coordinated international event with the primary aim of allowing MPA managers and practitioners to exchange ideas and learn from others, in order to issue recommendations and assist in the establishment and ongoing implementation of a global, ecologically representative system of effectively managed and lasting network of MPAs, in coherence with the sustainable development of coastal and maritime activities. The above vision for IMPAC congresses recognises there are very few opportunities for on-ground MPA staff/practitioners (such as planners, managers and field staff) to exchange ideas and learn from others, linking knowledge and governance, whereas there are many other fora for the scientific aspects/research related to MPAs. In addition, policies commitment as well as the implication of all countries, especially developing countries, also remains a major issue for the IMPAC congresses.

Despite many advances made since IMPAC2 in 2009, the general findings regarding marine biodiversity remain a concern: a growing number of marine species are listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List, and many marine ecosystems are threatened, whether they be estuaries, mangroves, coral reefs or open-sea and deep-sea ecosystems.

IMPAC3 philosophy

The IMPAC3 philosophy was highlighted by the congress format and the commitment of Marseille City to engage in a dialogue with citizens:

- **the program was designed from the bottom up**, in order to best serve the interests of the MPA community
- **Marseille celebrated the cultural and natural heritage it owes to the sea**, in association with IUCN (French Committee). Under the banner “The Sea, Our Capital”, more than 90 events were staged in Marseille and its surroundings throughout September and October 2013. The focal point of this program was the “Pavillon M”, which during the congress hosted a whole week of marine-themed exhibitions and artistic happenings.

The challenge now is to make marine conservation relevant to changing political agendas and environments, and in particular through times of economic and social crises.

Immediately following the congress and for the first time, a high-level meeting, The Ajaccio Ministerial Conference for Ocean Preservation, with key decision-makers in Corsica, endorsed the main conclusions from the technical segment and put discussions and exchanges into action.

This high level policy meeting and the significant participation of developing countries, mostly from Africa, contributed considerably to the success of IMPAC3.

5 days at the Pharo Palace in Marseille: a pinch of salt in people's minds!

87 Workshops: 90-minute presentations, with an audience, by a panel of up to eight speakers

39 Knowledge Cafés: 90-minute round tables, with up to 10 participating speakers and no audience

26 Ocean+ Pavilion Presentation: visually rich presentations of broad interest

72 Posters

4 Midday Plenary Debate

9 evening side events

6 exhibitions

A short films seminar “Seeing is Believing section”

The Ocean+ Book Corner: words come alive in more ways than one, and you may meet authors!

And the WebTV helped participant catch up with sessions they could not attend, at www.oceanplus.tv

● Cultural and policy issues

Our Ocean...the “Oceankind”

The integration of a cultural and philosophical approach to policies and regulations of the use of oceans is essential. The ocean is a global public good belonging to humankind. The challenge is to engage the common responsibility of States towards conservation of oceans while taking into account **the needs and cultural specificities of the island and coastal communities that populate it, and the behavior of the users and professionals that exploit it.**

There is a need for a philosophical vision for a sustainable ocean that we could call “**Oceankind**”, a **cultural marine concept shared by mankind**. It represents a new paradigm for **preservation and management of marine life** with a view to maintaining the ocean’s integrity. Protecting the sea from the land means thinking differently about the ocean, not individually but collectively.

Efficient restoration and conservation require sharing of knowledge and cooperation between relevant stakeholders. To this end, awareness raising and education of all stakeholders are tools with the potential to reinforce their sense of **common responsibility** towards conservation of oceans, for today’s needs and for future generations. We need to build a **Blue Society** that is respectful of the oceans’ health and potential, to foster renewed governance in which all parties can intervene and contribute. MPAs are the demonstration that cooperation, action and sustainable management relying on the implication of all stakeholders and citizens can lead to new prosperity. Innovation and positive initiatives are essential to create this Blue Society, which puts the ‘culture of the sea’ at the heart of fair and sustainable development.

Political willingness

WORDS FROM THE OPENING CEREMONY

On Monday, Oct. 21, in Marseille, organizers, major partners and decision makers warned that protecting the oceans was a daunting yet vital task.

The following personalities from the political and institutional world urged participants to tackle it head-on with new solutions: **Jean-Claude Gaudin**, mayor of Marseille, **Pierre Ghionga**, President of the Corsican Environmental Authority; **Jihyun Lee**, Chief Environmental Officer for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity at the Convention on Biological Diversity, **delivered a statement by Executive Secretary Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias**; **Julia Marton-Lefevre**, Director General of IUCN, **Paul Giacobbi**, president of the French MPA Agency, **Frédéric Cuvillier**, Delegate Minister in charge of Sea and Fishing at the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, and **H.S.H Prince Albert II of Monaco**.

THE AJACCIO MINISTERIAL MESSAGE FOR OCEAN CONSERVATION

Immediately after 5 days of debates in Marseille, Mr. Philippe Martin, French Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, met in Ajaccio with 19 ministers from nations representing the world’s oceans.

Aside from France, French Polynesia and New Caledonia, the ministers in attendance in Ajaccio represented the following countries: Albania, Saudi Arabia, Belgium, the Comoros, Bahrain, Cyprus, Dominica, Guinea, Italy, India, Monaco, Nicaragua, the Samoa, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo and Tunisia.

Exchanges paved the way for a common declaration¹, based on the outcomes delivered by experts who met in Marseille over the course five days. Its signatories reaffirmed their determination to reach the target of covering 10 percent of the oceans with marine protected areas by 2020 (Aichi 11). Today, only 3 percent are protected. They committed to leveraging the means necessary to do so.



The Ajaccio Ministerial Conference. Ministers and representatives in meeting

1- See the declaration on pages 50-51 of this document

Institutional supports

The congress participants were honored by the presence of:

- HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco
- His Highness Prince Bandar of Saudi Wildlife Authority, Saudi Arabia
- Lisa Emilia Svensson, Sweden's Ambassador for Oceans, Seas and Fresh

The following organizations and institutions have been instrumental in helping build momentum and secure expert support. From the United Nations organizations and international institutions to civil society, IMPAC3 represented a real and fantastic momentum for fostering the creation of the MPAs network.

United Nations Organizations, Programs and Conventions

UN Development Programme (UNDP); UN Environment Programme (UNEP); Barcelona Convention (Mediterranean Action Plan); UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS); UN University (UNU); UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs; Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); Convention on Migratory Species (CMS); UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

Events

• UNESCO – World Heritage Convention

Second World Heritage Marine Site Managers Conference - 18-20 October 2013; Ajaccio, Corsica

• MPA Agency partnership

Second MPA Agency Partnership Summit: 28-30 October; Bonifacio, Corsica

International organizations

Institutional: World Bank and its Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO); Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Others: IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA); Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI); Global Ocean Forum (GOF)

Regional institutions, organizations and networks

European Commission (DG MARE, DG ENV); North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC); Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP); Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (MedPAN); Marine Protected Areas in the Atlantic Arc (MAIA); Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO); LMMA Network; Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SFRC); Réseau des Aires Protégées d'Afrique Centrale (RAPAC/ECO-FAC); Partenariat régional pour la conservation de la zone côtière et marine en Afrique de l'ouest (PRCM); European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD) Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA); Big Ocean

International foundations and NGOs

Fondation Internationale du Banc d'Arguin (FIBA); Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco; Conservation International (CI); The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Oceana; WWF





Day by day
overarching issues



More Culture

Opening Ceremony, the Ocean Opus

The ocean is also the cradle of an invaluable cultural, social and spiritual heritage. While physical environments have defined societies and cultures, the reverse relationship is increasingly true.

On an even broader plane, the congress will explore avenues to make us all more aware of our dependence on, and responsibility for, the oceans. However modest its contribution, **IMPAC3 aims to help usher humankind into Oceankind – a more sea-minded society.** Creating a worldwide network of marines protected areas implies a cultural, philosophical and social shift in our relationship to the sea: we need to augment humankind with Oceankind.

For its first European edition, IMPAC was organized on Mediterranean shores, cradle of civilizations, **to better underline the contribution the sea has made to human activities, and the interconnections between natural and human heritages,** cultural traditions and traditional knowledge of the sea, within the MPAs diversity. Starting on Mediterranean shores and gradually opening onto distant horizons, the program graphically illustrated the core issue at stake: **convincing nations that they must assume common responsibility for the future of the oceans,** while taking into account the needs of society.

This fantastic cultural and inspirational moment found an echo during the following 4 days congress with **the Ocean+ Pavilion** which turned the spotlight on the involvement of civil society – local communities, collectivities, users, industries – in innovative networks, often relying on new technologies. Among its guests were not only scientists but also sailors, divers, photographers and writers.

And just after the congress **the World Underwater Film Festival (WUFF)** took place from October 30 to November 3. By enabling spectators to experience the beauty beneath the surface, the WUFF encourages them to own up to their environmental responsibilities. Each fall since 1973, the world's greatest (sub) marine photographers and directors gather in Marseille. The festival's atmosphere was both festive and educational.

The opening ceremony

Hosted by **Denis Cheissoux** – environmental journalist, combined live performances, keynotes and film screenings, **for an inspirational and culturally diverse moment** with:

- **Street artists and DJs** of the Aquatic Project and comedians of the Lenche Theater
- **Choreographic interludes** by The Acontretemps Company
- **Musical Interlude** - Whale and Double Bass, by Bernard Abeille

The first day of the congress ended on rhythms mixing oriental and occidental influences to celebrate the musical diversity of the Mediterranean with a **concert by Heejaz and Mohamed Abozekry**, a famous oud player.

Major witnesses as special guests

reminded us of the key role MPA play in their own commitment to conservation.

- **Yann Queffélec**, writer and seaman, reflected on a society in tune with the Sea.
- **Christophe Lefebvre**, President of the French National Committee for IUCN, explained the concept of Oceankind.
- **Maurice Rurua**, President of Te Puna Reo association and member of the standing committee of the Marine Protected Area “PGEM of Moorea”, told a traditional folk tale of French Polynesia, or “Orero”.
- **The outlook of François Sarano**, French oceanographer and professional diver, on the biological marvels discovered during his dives all over the oceans.

- **Sandra Bessudoa**, French- Colombian biologist and general director of the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia, shared her commitment to the protection of Malpelo Island, and the species that live there.

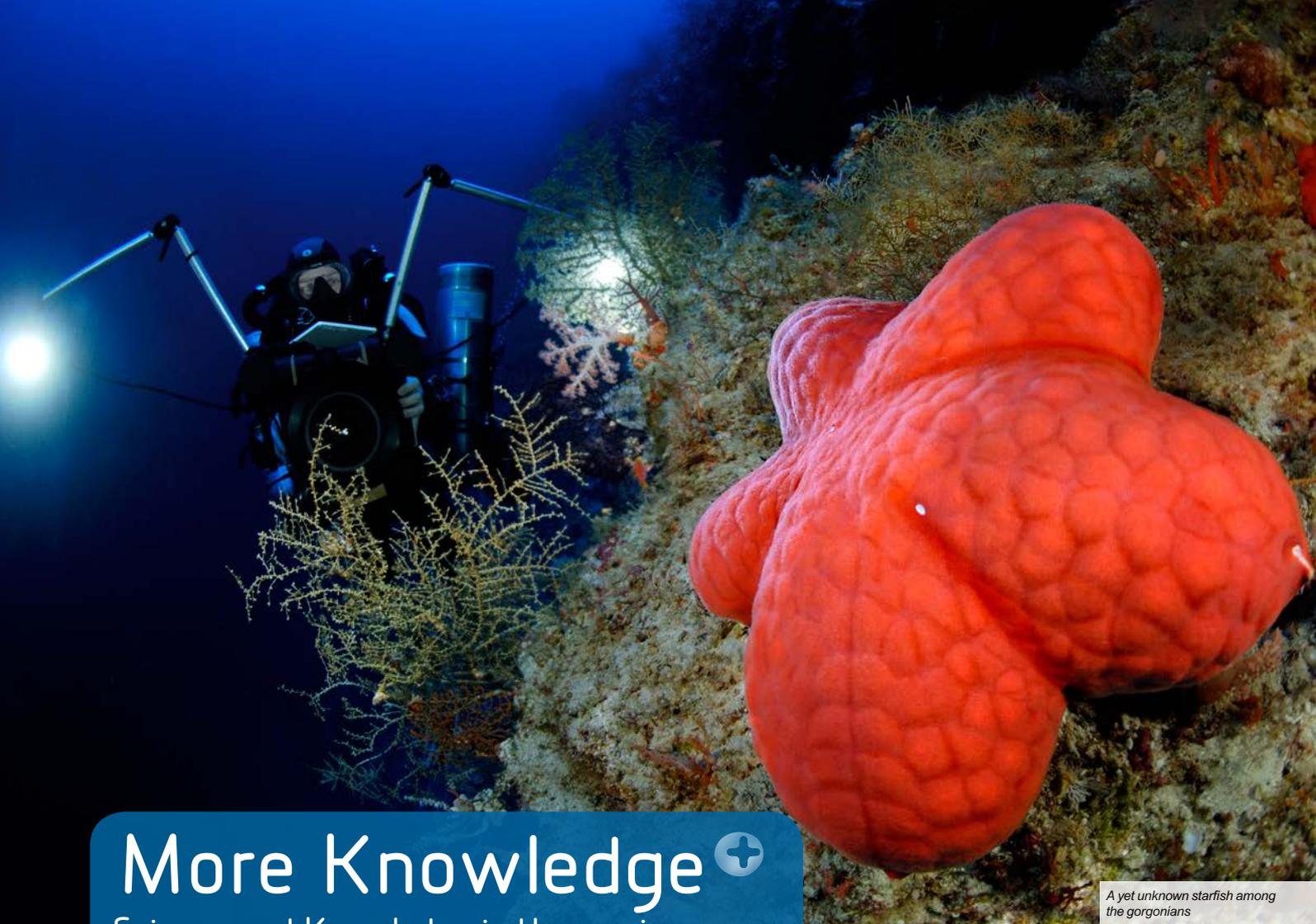
- **Gildas Andriamalala**, a representative of the fishing community of Andavadoaka, Madagascar, introduced his daily involvement with Blue Ventures, an NGO active in the creation of marine protected areas.

- **Daniel J. Basta**, director of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, introduced the Short Film Seminar staged during IMPAC3.

- **Philippe Vallette**, general director of Nausicaa (National Centre for the Sea) announced the 40th Underwater Festival.

- **Pisit & Ploenjai Charnsnoh**, founders of the Yadfon association, told of their field action with local communities for mangrove preservation in Thailand.





A yet unknown starfish among the gorgonians

More Knowledge

Science and Knowledge in the service of effective Management

“Exploration of the planet is not finished and oceans are a big part of this unknown world. As a trivial fact, knowing our Oceans better means having a better chance to conserve and protect them, and thus contribute to the sustainable development of human well-being”.

Strategies for setting up or managing MPAs should be based on the best available knowledge. MPA creation and management avail of a wide spectrum of scientific fields and knowledge, not only from a biological or ecological point of view but also in socio economic matters. The second day of the IMPAC3 offered a comprehensive overview and opportunities to exchange on the main developments in natural science and the contributions from the human and social sciences over the last few years, to highlight, understand and focus on what science and broader knowledge is needed for MPAs. MPA networks like Aichi targets are not only about number but also about effective management.

It also focused on how to fill the gap between theoretical approaches and scientists with managers, economic players, policy makers and the wider public to develop and strengthen the dynamics between all stakeholders. This lead to a discussion of experiences in leveraging science for enhanced management, decision-making and awareness raising.

Key questions

- What are the relevant scientific questions, which in turn generate knowledge that supports management actions?
- How to mobilize scientific research on issues that could be difficult to express by managers?
- How do we generate (identify, collect, process) knowledge which will be useful for MPA Management?
- How do we use and communicate knowledge for improving MPA management?
- How to link sciences and governance?
- What is the reasonable level of knowledge needed?
- Is the knowledge available useful for decision-making processes?

Recommendations

- **Strengthen the interdisciplinary dialogue**, including social sciences and even philosophy. Encouraging and building a permanent network of MPA specialists to go on working beyond the congress

- **Linking science and policy**: researchers and scientists are more often in direct contact with both communities and government authorities and can help improve communication between the different stakeholder groups. Ecosystem service valuation (ESV) provides new useful insights and guidelines for decision-makers, while enhancing interdisciplinary dialogue.

- **Advocating ocean conservation beyond the sphere of marine specialists**. All stakeholders must be involved early on in the design process for a new MPA, and be kept informed at every step. But while the bottom-up approach increases the social acceptability of MPAs, top down strategies vouch for overall coherence. As to the private sector, its engagement is much more than a necessary concession – it seeks acceptability and social license to operate and open access to a wealth of valuable industry-collected data.

- **Improve knowledge of ecosystems in the high seas**. Facing the fact that we have directly explored only a small percentage of the ocean floor and that we have an incomplete understanding of the operation and inter-connection of pelagic ecosystems, it is imperative to continue and to further oceanographic scientific research into the High Seas. In this sense, the CBD's work to describe areas of the ocean that fulfill the criteria of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas, can help to focus these efforts from the point of view of biodiversity research.



- **Developing standardized methods for surveying marine biodiversity globally**. To allow robust data comparison between the various techniques used, habitats and areas covered, surveys must be accompanied by the development of standardized software and models that facilitate the use of the data collected to feed into a global synthesis of the information.

- **Facilitating and encouraging participative approaches to enrich our knowledge**, to promote local practices and management and also to facilitate stakeholders' engagement in the MPA management process.

- **Putting together an improved toolbox**. New tools often rely on new technologies, but these can be expensive or might not be available in developing countries. There is a need for a better articulation between main actors (observers, operators, distributors, users) to design the scientific process for an effective operational, long-term and large-scale monitoring. The toolbox is often lacking when it comes to high seas tools.

- **Filling in knowledge gaps and scaling-up to the design of networks**. Discrete MPAs, large and small, must be integrated into a coherent whole. An effective network of MPAs must cover the complete range of migratory species. For some species, mobile marine protected areas are a possible solution (M-MPAs) – drawing inspiration from the new fisheries' practice of setting up "adaptive restricted zones" that move in time and space in response to both the movement of fish populations and the deployment and actual catch-rate of fishing fleets.

- **Accurately assessing the management of existing areas**. Today's methods are rarely adequate when it comes to assessing networks, as opposed to discrete areas. Too many MPAs are still devoid of any management plan. Mobilizing science in the broadest sense helps to find answers to management issues and can, to some extent, help educate the general public and decision makers and influence them.

● Conservation sciences in support of MPAs

The new challenge is to take into account, not only traditional theoretical scientific knowledge about biodiversity, but all useful and available knowledge from various disciplines and practices that can build expertise to support MPA management decisions.

Roles and effects of MPAs

Not all species or communities are equal and need different scales of protection. MPAs play specific roles and resilience factors should be taken into account as well as implementing monitoring programs to ensure ecological sustainability.

Establishing MPAs means successfully implementing resilience indicators to measure the MPAs' effects on both ecological and social issues. MPAs have different effects (both positive, neutral or negative) on species and communities depending on several factors such as life history, life stage or behavior of the species, the structure and dynamics of the diverse communities, or the level of enforcement.

To evaluate the effectiveness of MPAs, monitoring programs at large temporal and spatial scales that include all those aspects need to be implemented. These should provide very complete and coherent information not only for managing the MPA but also about the rest of the marine ecosystem. Choice of indicator species and techniques for MPA monitoring including all species, strategies and scales are fundamental. Despite the high quality and utility of the information derived from monitoring programs, there are several difficulties for scientists to undertake and lead monitoring programs, mainly because of lack of financial support and other institutional incentives.

Regarding climate change, special attention was paid to the existence of natural carbon sinks within MPAs, like in mangrove forests, salt marshes and sea-grass prairies. Awareness and guidelines for decision-makers and MPA managers on carbon storage incentives, from the field to the market, is urgently needed.

Biodiversity studies

Management of MPAs must be based on sound science, but also, management must inform what scientific questions are to be addressed.

As MPAs are not effective for all species or habitats in the benthic domain, it's necessary to determine which type or groups of species or habitats have similar characteristics and responses to protection. Then, these species or habitats need to be monitored to diagnose the effectiveness of MPAs for conservation of the whole benthic biodiversity. MPAs only work with effective enforcement and surveillance and therefore there is a constant need to find good descriptors and methodology related to species, habitats and function. But MPA managers need to gain not only an accurate understanding of the biodiversity but also of its interactions from local to regional.

Theoretical and modeling approaches clearly show that connectivity needs to be taken into account for MPA design and especially to optimize networks of MPAs. Approaching and evaluating connectivity with real field data remains a need. More data are required, within an integrative multidisciplinary research approach. Evidence accumulates that self-recruitment plays a significant role in re-building local populations. So, design and draft protocols must take into account connectivity and self-recruitment in population dynamics and integrate this information into the design of MPA networks. The general recommendation is to favor the concept of MPA networks in a global marine conservation plan.



The need to gain knowledge in the high seas and more generally in remote areas has been underlined as it's more difficult to collect samples and get data, and better use the existing information. The groundwork laid down by the CBD on EBSAs in all regions of the world ocean, should be the right basis for starting to create MPAs in the open ocean and deep sea under national jurisdiction, and beyond when appropriate.

● Establishing and managing MPAs at ocean scales

Strategies for setting up or managing MPAs are today mostly restricted to coastal environments. Protecting 10% of the oceans by 2020, as prescribed by Aichi Target 11, leads us to take a step back and view the MPA-creation process on an oceanic scale, with a truly planetary vision. This means striving to set up a governance system with the right level of responsibility that can take the right orientation/decision at the global level by considering all ecosystems and their complexity, including specific habitats, such as the deep sea or the Arctic.

Ocean-scale ecosystems

Specific biomes deserve specific approaches and methods for their conservation. This area tackles the challenge of creating and managing MPAs in deep seas, in pelagic waters, in Polar Regions and for migratory species.

Due to the complexity of oceanographic patterns in the open ocean and the permanent movement of these patterns, conservation in these open sea ecosystems needs to be approached on an open scale basis. Therefore, conservation and protection of ecosystems at Ocean-scale refers to our ability to assess representativity and connectivity and to define replication for underpinning the design of MPAs. Finally, analysis of ocean-scale ecosystems gives rise to a global shared vision for designing an ecologically coherent global MPA network, rather than building it up on a site by site basis. Global analyses and studies are required to show where MPAs need to be created to effectively contribute to a global network, which means promoting standardized use of data, reviewing existing sites, and funding large scale biodiversity inventories.

Ocean-scale MPA approaches

The ocean may be regarded as a barrier - isolating and separating countries from each other, but in some areas (e.g. for the Pacific Islands), the ocean plays a unifying role - bringing peoples and countries together for a common purpose, building a culture of peace and cooperation.

Keeping the global picture in mind is important when creating not only large MPAs but also smaller ones. Ocean-scale approaches are about utilizing MPAs of varying scales nested into networks to achieve conservation goals. Most smaller-scale MPAs are insufficient in size and habitat composition to be effective by themselves for biodiversity conservation (including fisheries replenishment). Nations should implement a suite of complementary sites of varying sizes with the intent that they work together in order to conserve biological resources, as well as support the socio-economic and cultural needs of relevant populations, especially indigenous peoples.

Large-scale MPAs automatically exist within an international context and are critical in efforts to meet global marine conservation targets.



These approaches broadly involve the research and practitioners' community, the decision-makers and authorities, citizens and the public at large, but may complicate the management and planning process due to competing interests, accommodating diverse perspectives, and allowing for additional time and energy required to resolve conflicts.

The main conclusions of the workshop "MPAs at large ocean scales: history, challenge and progress" underline important facts and the advantages of looking wider and more globally. Large scale MPAs

- represent a highly cost-effective alternative for conserving biodiversity,
- can achieve an economic goal from greater control on fisheries,
- can act as a means of perpetuating traditional ecological knowledge and ancient cultural practices
- can be part of a geopolitical strategy for coastal states that aim to "win on the high seas" in order to control and survey human presence and activities.

All large-scale MPAs should conduct an economic evaluation; this data should be utilized to assist emerging and future sites, as well as to further the development of best practice models of management.

● Tools and approaches to support MPAs

Facing the number and size of recently created MPA as well as on-going MPA projects, the provision of standardized ecological information to support the establishment of MPAs or their monitoring and assessment, is a pressing challenge. Rather than looking at single activity impacts, cumulative impacts need to be assessed, by crossing impacts on habitats, species and activities. Managers, advisors, scientists, private sectors and communities need to work together to ensure that the appropriate evidence base/data is gathered and ensure that management and enforcement is effective.

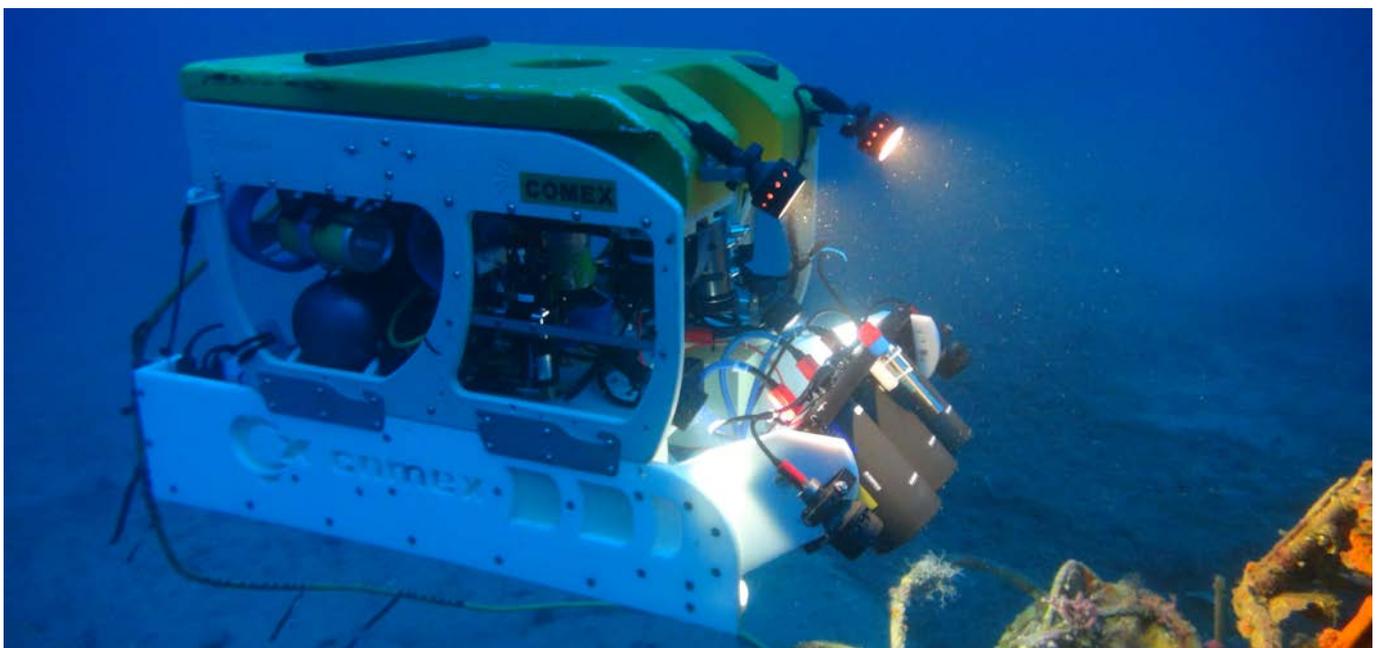
Survey techniques

Ecological information in support of MPA creation and management, successful monitoring of designated sites, requires appraising a wide array of biodiversity components at several spatial scales and in a monitoring (temporal) perspective.

A diversity of techniques is available, entailing different implementation costs and providing a variety of outcomes. Selecting the techniques to be used should rely on both the question to be addressed and the resources and expertise needed to collect and process information. There is a great need for combining the different techniques used by scientists from different disciplines sustaining a multidisciplinary approach. Also cooperation needs to be extended to practitioners, the industry, and other stakeholders including civil society. During IMPAC3, aerial and acoustic survey techniques, underwater videos, Argos supports, remote sensing from space and GIS were presented, highlighting the high value of new technologies (drones, Autonomous or Remote Underwater video) and the use of combined methods for designating and managing MPAs. A new fact is that besides the scientific value of the data acquired, these techniques could also provide efficient participative tools and powerful images, which can be used to help raise public awareness.

Although survey methods will almost certainly improve in the future, if we want them to be useful for MPAs, there is a need to:

- Develop software to process the data collected into models useful for management
- Be able to compare data collected now with future data, metadata on accuracy and bias is needed
- Share the data collected in full transparency, providing the level of accuracy and bias for each dataset as well as explaining any other limitation of the data
- Foster synergies among several techniques and integrate data within monitoring programs
- Train managers in these new technologies and associate them from the beginning of their deployment to insure that operational, technical and managerially efficient tools are developed
- Facilitate access by developing countries to the new technologies.





Inventories

Data collection and analysis, spatial scale, and dissemination of results have to be taken into account at equal importance for inventories.

When preparing inventories, different spatial scales must be considered, including information on inventories collected at different scales. Inventories should also take into account environmental variation (including seasonality) and human pressures, including biological information (socio-economic activities). The development of a habitat/species classification must be used across regions, but with enough detail to be useful locally. Historical time-series have a high value for understanding the past and the main changes coming, especially for many long-lived species. It has been highlighted that prior to launching new inventories, analysis of existing data should be accomplished.

To avoid creating a gap between scientists and decision-makers/managers, prior to starting inventories, managers need to define concrete, operational objectives for their MPAs, in an effort to keep science focused on the most pressing issues.

However many challenges remain to be addressed in order to improve the effectiveness of MPA inventories:

- Develop cost-effective methods for inventories (included remote areas), and find out how to fund the analysis of data fully integrated in management plan from the beginning
- Develop reliable modelling methods for describing species, habitat and activities, useful for adopting management decisions, including proper validation of models and measurements of uncertainty
- Integrate anecdotal information and traditional knowledge

Finally two main stages could be underlined on the process of doing inventories: first going from data collection to the generation of products (e.g. maps), which takes place in a more academic setting, and following that, where all products are synthesized and used to make policy decisions. Often, presenting the results in a manner understandable to all stakeholders and useful for management is as important as the inventory itself.

Impact assessment

Some activities may not represent a problem within MPAs but their effects have to be studied and their impacts estimated not only on their own but how they influence other impacts in the same or neighboring area. Careful mapping and understanding of political, social and economic systems and drivers will allow for a more realistic assessment of responses intended to protect ecosystem function at the MPA scale.

The issue is to have in each case the most sustainable development possible within an MPA, regarding cumulative impacts on habitats, species and other activities. Moreover integration of economic assessment into MPAs will show the general public, authorities and private sectors, how they will benefit from successful MPA implementation. So, close collaboration with all stakeholders, especially with industries and private sectors is a requirement.

Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) seem to be a good approach to improve MPA effectiveness. The influence of different uses and activities on marine ecosystems and how these activities interact are analyzed through their impacts and cumulative impacts. Uncertainties (especially recovery times), unexpected thresholds (evaluating “impact carrying capacity”) need to be taken into account.

An impact matrix is precise enough for initial assessment based on data collections, but managers and decisions-makers can't rely entirely on quantitative methods. Qualitative assessment is also required to complete the MPA assessment, and adjust the action plan as necessary. A perfect methodology for cumulative impact assessment doesn't yet exist to implement management actions, but this must not be an excuse for inaction. If information is lacking, action can be taken using the precautionary principle. In all assessment work, to go a step further, users should work on conceptual methods defining scenarios that explain uncertainty to stakeholders. This can avoid future crises and conflicts through introducing licensing, governance and effective regulations from the very beginning of MPA design. SEA, from a case-by-case impact study is often not sufficient to adopt appropriate action. It needs to be complemented with long-term and geographically relevant assessments providing a larger vision of the impacts, in order that they can be then translated into concrete management actions, acceptable by all stakeholders and underpinned by political will.

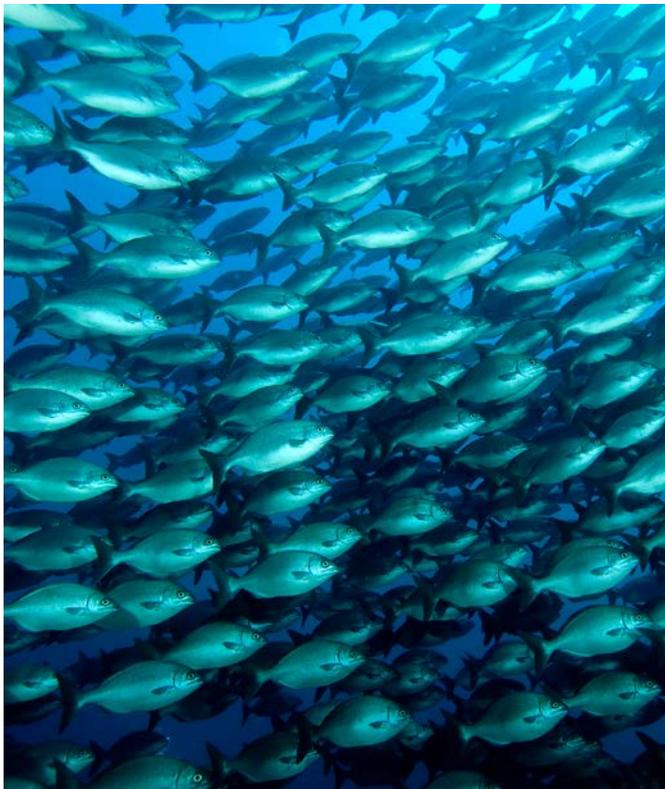
In the medium to long term, one of the most important challenges is integrating climate change into the planning and management action plans for MPAs, which in this context have at least to be adaptive.

● Socio-economics and MPAs

Preserving ecological resilience within MPAs and MPA networks is a valuable asset for ecosystem sustainability but also underpins a wide array of potential human benefits for people. The socio-economic value (and evaluation) of marine biodiversity is paving the way for a clearer definition of the concept of sustainable development of oceans, combining economic, social and biodiversity factors and integrating cultural values.

Cultural and traditional heritage and perspectives

Understanding the cultural values of different stakeholders and right-holders (including Indigenous Peoples and local communities) helps the negotiation process, and is essential for the good management and long-term success of MPAs. MPAs must be integrated into the traditional way of thinking.



Human values, culture, and socioeconomic aspects are as important to the success of MPAs as ecological elements. There are many different types of marine cultural values, which include natural, social, archeological, religious and educational values, among others, which are often interlinked. So the first challenge is to exchange and create a common language (e.g. western culture written and Pacific Islands oral culture) of cultural values to build a common marine culture and share a common vision on how to protect it.

In order to address the complexity of human and natural systems, it is important to involve experts from different disciplines (from natural and social sciences, and even from arts, as well as traditional knowledge holders and local experts) in MPA management.

Ethnology, local communities' knowledge, including traditional knowledge and folklore background, is an essential starting point and should be acknowledged. However, there are vital complements to this knowledge in the fields of biology, ecology and international experience that local managers should have access to and attention should be paid to ways of best presenting and disseminating this information.

In applying traditional knowledge, it is vital to respect the intellectual property rights of knowledge holders and to ensure that control of knowledge stays with its owners. Policies should consider intergenerational equity timescales, and value systems.

Moreover, the marine cultural values of an area could be a starting point for creating MPAs (ex of the WHS of UNESCO).

Ecosystem services

Marine protected areas contribute to essential ecosystem services. The wide range of benefits provided by the marine environment to human societies must be highlighted. This understanding leads human society to further discuss the value of MPAs, rather than their costs. It also facilitates human society's appreciation of the benefits, provides guides for negotiation and moves towards actions to be undertaken.

Unfortunately, we still lack a consistent way of measuring the human values associated with MPAs. This impedes our ability to design MPAs to meet human needs and it also makes it difficult to determine whether and how MPAs affect people. The European Union's Joint Research Commission and others are working to create a more standardized nomenclature for marine ecosystem services, especially those associated with MPAs. Additionally, projects like the VALMER project are using structured decision-making (e.g. the Triage approach) to work with stakeholders to determine which of the many possible marine MPAs should be quantified for use in MPA design and monitoring. There is a growing consensus that we need to better define and refine criteria to assess the value of ecosystem services inside MPAs – being as specific as possible about who benefits from MPAs. There also is a need for both monetary and non-monetary measurements of the contribution of ecosystem services including those that reflect jobs, lives at stake, nutrition, and cultural aspects. More research also is needed to understand how MPAs can actively manage ecosystem services,

which are not listed on the main international criteria (i.e. CBD criteria) to implement and manage MPAs.

While the importance of ecosystem services is recognized by more decision-makers and stakeholders, there is still substantial inconsistency between MPA managers about what data should be collected with regard to these services. As a result, we still know too little about how MPAs affect people and how they could be designed and managed to improve the well-being of people as well as ecosystems.

Participatory approaches

The social sciences play a growing role in the study, shaping and organization of MPAs. Geography helps to take a step back and consider issues at scales consistent with MPA design and management. Seascapes are an emerging subject and offer interesting perspectives. Sociology and anthropology interact with the very definition of MPAs, making them more efficient and people-oriented.

Local communities that often have a clear understanding of long-term changes are essential players in the creation and management of MPAs.

So these communities must be involved in the whole MPA creation process through consultations and participation in the governance mechanism. Their involvement reflects and builds upon native populations' long history of local and regional resource usage, as well as on their customary laws and control systems. This empirical knowledge, often shared through legends and stories must be used as well to design MPAs as inclusive structures and institutions.

There is a need to ensure better collaboration and participation of communities, and provide a link between communities and governments/decision-makers and transparency with regard to the objectives and trade-offs. To achieve effective participation, process is as important as outcomes. Supportive policies consist of a mix of bottom-up and top-down approaches, with a certain degree of decentralization required for communities to take leadership and receive tangible benefits. This could become a good strategy for obtaining local involvement and MPA acceptance.

But without building respectful long-term relationships between local communities and MPA managers, ensuring that the rights and needs of communities are adequately taken into account, and that benefits flow into communities, MPAs will not succeed. This will take both time and sustainable financing.





More Management

Tools for MPA Management and Enforcement

Over half of the world's population lives within 60 kilometers of a shoreline. It's our collective responsibility to continue to find the best conservation strategies and techniques to protect, preserve and manage these areas under human pressure.

It is clear that no single management approach that can provide the results demanded of a multiple-use, multiple-objective MPA. Management plans, or even zonal plans, alone are not achieving the results we are looking for. There is a need to intelligently assemble a framework of management approaches including management plans and zones, along with ecosystems approaches in sectorial policies. Within a very pressurized context, we need to pay specific attention right now to the High Seas, as resources become rarer from the shore and industrial and economic opportunities more and more obvious after the ABNJ areas. In accordance with Aichi Target 11, attention must be paid not only to the quantitative objective of protecting 10 percent of the ocean's surface, but also to the quality of that protection: marine protected areas must be "effectively and equitably managed".

Day 3 highlighted how to strengthen capacities and diversify management and assessment tools for improving effectiveness of MPA management, according to the political and socio-economic context. The new MPA paradigm is looking for biodiversity to im-

prove people's welfare and the ecosystem approach is widely recognized both in terms of conservation and management. Protected areas effectively governed and managed are a proven method to protect both habitats and species populations and provide important ecosystem services. Both management effectiveness evaluation and the management capacities are the pillars for progress and success. And many experiences and testimony showed that the most effective MPAs were those which closely associated socio-economic stakeholders in the definition of objectives, rules and measures to protect the sea.

Key questions

- How can management plans be further improved (including assessment)?
- How can they be enforced safely and consistently?
- How to improve effectiveness from a sustainable development point of view?
- What could be the mechanisms for financing and funding management?
- How to cope with changes?

Recommendations

- **Define MPA roles clearly** and communicate values to all stakeholders.
- **Share the results and assessment** and the related adaptive management.
- **Promote long term engagement in public consultations** with innovative governance to build MPA networks that will be complied with and will thus have the best chance of producing benefits.
- **Use monitoring-based indicators** to derive user-friendly diagnosis for managers and adapt management.
- **Promote promising tools** such as the green list to increase effectiveness and empower MPAs, but don't multiply new assessment methods, combine labels, ideas, opportunities.
- **Develop a high performing, professional MPA management system.**
- **Capitalize** on integrated ecosystem-based management.
- **Set effective MSP based on efficient and coherent tools** that allow multi-scale management system.
- **Enable conditions in each country/territory** to be better understood and defined in order to develop appropriate, sustainable and meaningful MPA financial systems that work and are culturally and socially acceptable (as well as economically sustainable), including trust funds, private sector and Payment for Ecosystems Services (PES).



● Managing MPAs

There is a clear challenge after decades of MPA management around the world for consistency, transparency, widening of decision-making process to stakeholders and coastal societies. Lessons have to be learnt to move further from individual and experimental approaches to a shared and coherent management system.

Management plan implementation

The management plan is a tool not an objective: it should be comprehensive and easy to use for all stakeholders.



The management plan's logical framework, which integrates various authorities, is established in consultation with stakeholders and includes monitoring plans in accordance with objectives and zoning plans. It should be designed to maximize the ecosystem service, and depending on MPA objectives, have a clear vision of principles for achieving the sustainable development of the area. It is important to integrate long terms objectives (15 to 30 years) and monitoring system and short terms objectives set out in a multi-year adaptive action plan.

The role and responsibility of states are fundamental in underpinning MPA development at national or regional level, by taking into account management plan framework from broader policies and having a broader vision. However, stakeholders' awareness and involvement are required from the beginning of the implementation process for the management plan to succeed. Good management plan implementation also requires compliance and control which could be the responsibility of the state or of the local authority in charge of the MPA.

Management plans, especially with multiple objectives as is increasingly common, have to be adaptive (ex. of the principle of temporary or mobile reserves) and integrate ecological consideration of socio-economic issues. So that they can change as unexpected contextual developments require, especially in large areas (as is the case for migratory species). Applying the concepts of **adaptive management** means incorporating new knowledge into management plans, leading by the ecosystem approach which fully reflects the complexity of MPAs by integrating the management of land, water and living resources for their conservation and sustainable and equitable use.

Adaptive management is based on monitoring the effectiveness of management and applying new knowledge, as necessary, to adjust management regimes and continue to support the achievement of the objectives of MPAs. The challenge is to develop in the same way (reporting and adaptive management) a set of "simple" indicators and harmonized for comparison at network scale but sufficiently specific and tailored to the particular management issues at stake in a given MPA².

The challenge for managers of MPAs is to combine this approach with other approaches and methods of management and conservation, as well as national policies and legislative framework policies.

Stakeholder engagement

Sharing management and development capacity for MPAs implies looking at and integrating the cultural specificities and the needs of local (island and coastal) communities, as well as the behavior of sea users and professionals who operate in these spaces and around MPAs.

This integrated management is essential to succeed in putting in place an innovative and effective governance mechanism, tailored to MPA objectives, which involve all local interests and manage conflicts between local communities. Using the ecosystem approach allows the links between the main components of the marine and terrestrial ecosystem. And marine socio-economy has to be taken into account in identifying the planning and management of areas under consultation and in collaboration with stakeholders, and raises awareness of decision-makers. This means making the function of and issues in complex ecosystems understood to everyone, which is a real challenge.

Long term engagement in public consultations is needed to build MPA networks that will be complied with and will thus have the best chance of producing benefits, in and outside the MPA zone.

Conservation decisions and activity regulation should be undertaken collectively, with real trust and an understanding of all issues for those stakeholders involved in the area and in connected areas. New indicators are then required to understand participation and measure the effects of the MPA, some even related to the social, economic or cultural effects. With a strong participative process, understanding the local and global objectives shared by all stakeholders, the principle of subsidiary could be applied where possible to move further in MPA stakeholder empowerment. The governance framework could precede the definition of conservation objectives, with the involvement of stakeholders at a very early stage.

Financing an MPA on a daily basis³

With shrinking budgets, managers need to be creative to reduce their costs, find alternatives to ensure funding for management as zoning and compensation packages.

At the MPA site level, a clear and well documented business plan needs to be developed based upon the agreed management plan as well as a comprehensive financial assessment. This exercise requires a workforce duly equipped with the skills needed to take advantage of the financing options. Pursuing the implementation of a **portfolio of financing options** necessitates extensive stakeholder engagement, enactment of policies, and creation of new legislation.

While governments must remain a pillar in MPA financing and guarantee equity sharing between public and private interests, it appears insufficient in many countries. And financing through the private sector represents a real potential for marine conservation. It is believed that biodiversity financing will increasingly rely on the private sector, either as polluter compensation or as beneficiary. Applied to marine ecosystems, the main ecosystem services provided are fish biomass, tourism landscapes, shoreline protection and bequest value. All of them create specific opportunities for private sector market based instruments. Another element of sound conservation financing explored was the optimization of management costs and revenues through sound business planning. One important challenge remains securing benefits from MPAs (such as entry fees...) for local management rather than providing the national budget. So, it is essential those benefits are monitored and audited to ensure that they are being delivered to partners as intended.

We are at a very early stage of adopting and using economic instruments for marine management and marine conservation financing, such as Fishery rights, Tourism payments by end-users and/or businesses, Conservation agreement experience, Exploratory Payments for Ecosystem Services - PES (e.g. coastal protection, sediment traps) or biodiversity offset mechanisms. The solutions implemented by blue carbon sequestration, through the mangroves, seagrass beds and salt marshes should be explored further and discussed as an economic and strategic tool that potentially generates revenue for the development of marine protected areas. The role of open sea blue carbon should be better understood to complete the picture.



2- Pelletier, Tempesta, Barnay

3- Quoted from the summary of the workshop "Private financing" for MPAs

● Increasing effectiveness

The last few years have seen a growing interest in developing standards for the assessment and certification of protected-area management, as well as for the professionalization of protected-area management skills. Both efforts are related and stem from a desire to improve recognition and rewards for effective, well-managed sites and for capacity-building among their staff.

Certification and standards

What strategies may be envisioned for delivering a global certification, taking into account the diversity of MPAs and ensuring compatibility with existing schemes?

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) has internationally recognized a set of **seven protected area management categories based on the conservation objective and not on the management regime**. But many MPAs do not “fit” into the IUCN definition of MPAs, or into any of the IUCN’s management categories, thus they are categorized as “undefined”, which does not help in managing those areas. So, there is a need for additional case studies to supplement those found in the IUCN’s Guidelines for Applying the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories to Marine Protected Areas and to better reflect the complexity of MPA structure including multiple zones with various objectives.

The World Database on Protected Areas can be improved upon to promote one centralized database instead of several databases. Furthermore, links were made to promising initiatives such as the Green List, where effective MPAs can be recognized by developing standards and certifications, for equitable governance and effective management based on a clear basis for protection and build capacities reinforcement programs. This can help differentiate between theory and practice when it comes to conservation objectives that are not reflected in management regimes, and focus on outcomes on social equity and successful conservation of natural values.

But the Green List process should remain related to others programmes such as the Blue Flag, Standardized Actions for the Effective Management of MPAs (ISEA) and other available tools.

On the other hand, effectiveness management requires qualified MPA staff. There are several initiatives pushing for improved professional development systems and programmes using a variety of tools (such as training, certification, standards and exchanges) to improve staff performance resulting in improved management outcomes. Different training throughout careers requires tailoring to regional or national contexts, and in that perspective self-evaluation of competencies must be viewed as an opportunity. Attention must also be paid to independent and permanent expertise for the entire marine region.

Assessment, monitoring and enforcement

The case study of leisure activities in MPAs is relevant to all of the questions that managers have to face to implement coherent and adaptive management.

Firstly, the management plan must clearly define long-term objectives for the marine ecosystem and a related monitoring and assessment system that could regularly and transparently report to stakeholders on the efficiency of MPA management. This integrative approach aims not to single out any activity in principle but to highlight the complexity of interactions between human activities and marine ecosystems. In that purpose, attention has to be paid to developing research into ecosystem monitoring but also into activities and their impacts. It mobilizes nature and human sciences and also opportunities for new technology. Accessibility to research outputs for managers should be enhanced using suitable tools, training programs, and regional and national capacity centers.

Thanks to dedicated tools and the media, stakeholders could be invited to participate in data collection and should have full access to the results of assessments. This could lead to better acceptance of necessary and adaptive measures, not only code of conduct (soft laws) but also regulation (hard laws).

Risk assessment methods conducted at local MPA scale and at MPA network scale should ultimately enable a well-proportioned and fair system of measures and allow better use of allocated funding.

On the contrary, a lack of transparency and sector-based management lead to bilateral compromises based on balances of power, without perceptible results on ecosystems functioning.



● From MPAs to MPA networks

Networks enhance discussions with all stakeholders. Linking MPAs is key to developing a global conservation strategy and meeting ecological objectives more effectively and more comprehensively than through individual sites. The notion of MPA networks reflects the high interconnection of marine ecosystems and the long range of migratory species.

Planning networks at various scales

MPA networks may be conceived from various perspectives, ranging from the ecosystem approach based on connectivity issues to broader human approaches relying on Marine Spatial Planning.

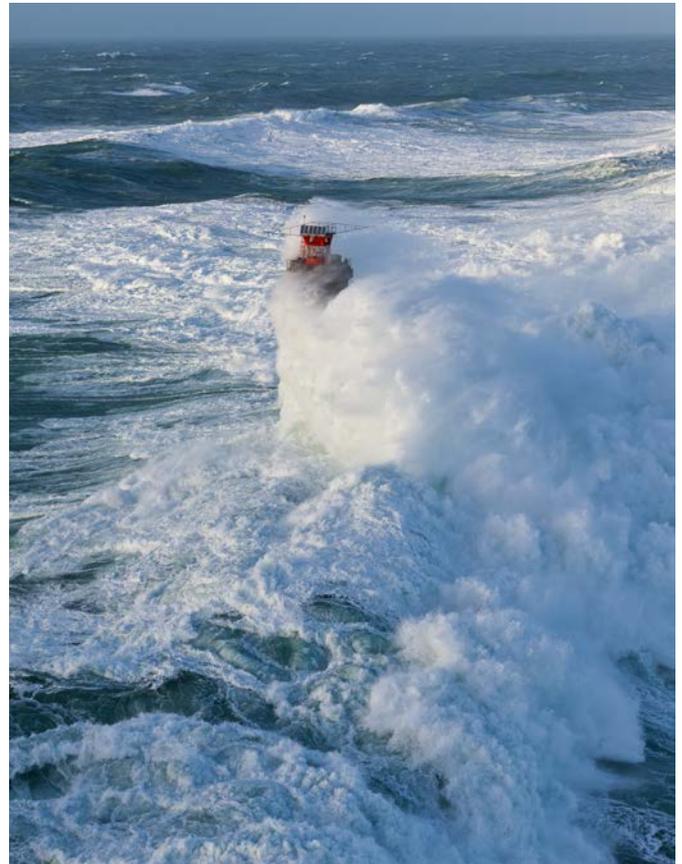
MPAs and MPA network planning requires the use of geospatial information about the distribution of human activities and natural resources in and around the ocean, to share a vision of objectives and outcomes from the local to the regional and if possible global. It must address trans-boundary gaps and issues, as well as ensure that deep-sea and ocean areas are included. Political will remains fundamental to success, and national policies and strategies must be defined to underpin the establishment of MPA networks.

Several innovative technologies (Marxan, Flexan, Web-GIS, Seas-ketch) assist and help managers in organizing, visualizing, analyzing, and discussing geospatial data in the context of MPA.

But there is a need and challenge to implement and integrate MSP tools more effectively and in a way that is useful for managers for planning MPAs at various scales: who should use these tools (scientists, experts, planners), when they should be used (pre-planning, planning, adaptive management), how these tools may be integrated, and what their potential costs are. Stakeholder involvement is important as it will improve chances for better data and effective enforcement. People in disparate geographic areas require tools that enable such collaboration to find common solutions.

These tools have also limitations, however, as they cannot capture certain values (e.g., cultural, spiritual), they should be used in combination with methods that incorporate personal and societal values in the design of MPA networks. All types of data have to be integrated (e.g., habitat data, genetic data, socioeconomic data, stakeholder-provided and expert knowledge, etc.), and a framework has to be developed for incorporating information about human-induced pressures and impacts at the appropriate spatial scale. This will maximize the potential for acceptability of the design to stakeholders.

New tools, such as the *SeaSketch web-based tool* for collaborative marine spatial planning, stand to rapidly accelerate the rate at which we can create custom geospatial planning tools that maximize stakeholder involvement. Some others such as the *Coconet Geodatabase* and the *Web-GIS* aim to be the first spatial planning application that incorporates connectivity through genetic and beta-diversity data, an often overlooked but highly significant element in effective MPA planning.



MPAs in an environmentally changing world

Planners must keep in mind the global context in which they are working, dominated by the menace of climate change.

A dynamic approach to integrating and anticipating major global changes such as climate change is possible by using more modelling tools and an adaptive approach at the regional scale to increase resilience. By protecting marine ecosystems and conserving essential ecosystem services provided by natural ecosystems, MPAs are part of the global response to climate change. The ecosystem approach provides an initial response to the consequences caused by climate change on the oceans (sea level rise, changes in ocean currents, ocean warming, acidification, etc.) and also allows **first mitigation** (carbon capture and storage) and adaptation measures to be considered.

In this context, long term monitoring has to be enforced in MPA to enable changes in management planning, depending on non-predictive and external changes.



More Partnership

Governance, Partnerships and Industry involvement

More than 3.5 billion people rely on the oceans for their living through fishing, tourism, trade, transport and energy, among other activities.

Various marine industries are expanding their operational 'footprint' in areas of high value for biodiversity and food security/livelihoods, including around existing or potential MPAs, both in waters under national jurisdiction and on the high seas. This trend coincides with the recognition by States as well as various companies, of the importance and potential of the seas, and the need to accelerate significantly the pace of MPA development to meet international science-based targets⁴.

In the context of an emerging blue economy, MPAs have a very special role to play in finding ways to reconcile economic opportunities and the well-being of societies. Collaboration between conservation and industry helps to reduce risks by developing good practices and can also encourage industry to integrate the mitigation hierarchy into their decision-making processes. Reducing the risk of external threats, such as human activities and climate change, to MPAs is urgently needed. Acting collectively is the only way to achieve it, through international and national legal

frameworks. And it will succeed with the input and participation in MPA governance of local communities, and more generally of all socio-economic stakeholders, the development and awareness of ecosystem-services valuation.

Key questions

- Do we have the right legal frameworks to promote collaboration between activities?
- How could we involve the economic sectors, from management to funding?
- How to facilitate the cross-sector dialogue to implement cross designation process?
- How can MPAs support livelihoods (including specific relation between fishing and MPAs)?
- Are MPA networks a part of integrated MSP process and ocean management frameworks?

⁴- Quotation from the workshop proceedings report "Working with big industries to conserve ecosystem services"

Recommendations



- **Identify areas that best safeguard ecosystem services** and better link to delivering social, cultural and economic benefits to communities, in addition to the biological and ecological criteria, to be integrated into the marine spatial planning processes.
- **Propose guidance and tools that support the engagement communities**, and more specifically fishing communities, as key partners in the governance and management of marine protected areas.
- **Empower and engage indigenous communities and local actors** in the implementation of MPAs to facilitate policy and decision making not only at local level but also at national level and by reciprocity.
- **Establish mechanisms and procedures for consultation** between stakeholders and users of the sea, information sharing, communication on the socio-economic and environmental protection issues, prior to the phase of negotiation and consensus about any proposed marine protected area.
- **Mobilize multi-stakeholder partnerships** to create synergies and a collaborative working mechanism toward achieving a shared common vision and goal of sustainable ocean development.
- **Engage the blue economic world**, in a partnership approach with all stakeholders and especially industry, to pursue a cross-sector approach and to facilitate the establishment of a governance system and the integration of marine protected areas in marine spatial planning at different scales areas.
- **Promote the concept of Blue society**, with a vision of the relationship between citizens and the sea, in which MPAs are central.
- **Strengthen mechanisms for funding** by seeking innovative solutions for sustainable funding and increasing synergies between funding programs of various donors (e.g. trust fund).
- **Develop incentives for the marine private sector** to invest in conservation and management of MPA resources according to blue growth.
- **Apply an action-oriented approach using a cross designation process**, and a holistic and integrated capacity-building framework to achieve a balance between conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.



● Governance, industry involvement and financing

Integrated and global approaches are the only ways to maintain the good sea status that is required for coherence between MPA design, management and sectoral policies.

Comparing governance frameworks and processes

Bottom up and top down governance approaches are both needed, as they are complementary. And for both, benefits for people and sustainable development are the issues, and trust building in implementing the governance system is the key. Amongst notable recent developments, the most promising is the increasing participation in governance of all stakeholders.

The process of creating and managing MPAs follows a series of steps, led by decisions related or not to local, national or regional strategies, or linked to field conditions (geographical or socio-political circumstances). Consistent long-term political commitment is critical for sustainable and efficient functional governance of MPAs and systems must guarantee accountability, such as sufficient resources (e.g finance).

The role of the state (and regulation) is important to ensure fair access to resources by local people (often community) within the aims of achieving site conservation objectives: it must be the link between local, regional and national levels, with the appropriate legal frameworks and the right enforcement systems. The ability of the state to respond to local concerns is a key condition to achieving the socio-ecological resilience of governance systems. The MPA implementation process has to be shared between a top-down approach (legislative driven) and a bottom-up approach (community driven) to succeed. There is increasing demand from all stakeholders to be involved from MPA designation to its development process, which must be organized within and outside the MPAs both for actors and activities. For this reason, institutional arrangements need to be designed to deliver participation in the governance of MPAs allowing representation of stakeholders and taking traditional governance systems into account. And discussions with all sector partners is required if possible, as understanding what is happening is the right way to get support from the whole population.

Enforcing governance at all scales means building trust with all stakeholders concerned by the MPA (local authorities, communities, private sectors....) and strong sharing and understanding of the MPA's objectives. This is the only way to try to cross global objectives with local ones, to result in a real territory project. And think a little more strategically and analytically on what is needed by governance to deliver resilient conservation objectives – usually for a number of sites.

Governance of MPAs in the high seas

MPAs in coastal areas and in the high seas require different approaches and solutions. In the high seas, commercial fishing companies are more common stakeholders but are not the only ones. Many other activities are regulated independently, with legal and institutional arrangements, by their own international and sectoral governance system. Strengthening the ability of actors in the High Seas and promoting inter-sectoral cooperation to develop the means and technologies required to manage MPAs is the only way to progress and combine protection and sustainable development for all activities, including emerging ones. Decisions should be made at a global level and supported by action at a regional level. Within the framework of the negotiations for a new implementing agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, a legal framework (including existing and new instruments) for facilitating the creation of MPAs in ABNJ is needed.

Working with industries

In many areas, existing and prospective industry interests are a major consideration in MPA development and management. This throws up many challenges, but can also create opportunities. Responsible management of the ocean is seen as being fundamental to achieving sustainable 'blue growth.' The relevant marine areas should be regulated, so that ocean resources are exploited in a sustainable and equitable manner.

Because the deterioration of marine ecosystems has multiple and complex causes, protecting the oceans necessarily requires collective involvement in ocean governance, based on a cross-sectoral approach in order to understand the overall multiple and complex factors in marine ecosystems degradation. Moreover, an integrated approach is necessary to put conservation and development on the same loop. The public sector has to act as a facilitator between industries and MPA managers to find good synergies and regulate activities at different scales when needed. A major improvement in marine spatial management, including for MPAs, would be early and open engagement by government in its decision-making processes for permit/acreeage releases (to take into account conservation, food security, livelihoods and other uses). This could help reconcile conservation and industry aspirations before heavy investment limits options.

Individual players need to assume their own share of responsibility by understanding the interaction between the different ecosystems and their activities. Strategies need to show that action is required to strengthen resilience and protect ecosystems where they remain intact. MPAs provide this opportunity and benefits, and could be real laboratories through their observation role that enables the impact of cumulated human activities and the effects that are generated through wise use to be evaluated. The challenge is to explore the conditions necessary to reconcile sectoral goals, including by reducing environmental impacts and risks, and encouraging long-term stewardship by industry. Therefore, MPAs should not be a license or excuse for weak implementation of existing sectoral management frameworks (e.g., control of marine pollution, high seas fisheries management).

Collaboration between conservation and industry based on trust, transparency and good will, helps to reduce risks by developing good practices and can also encourage industry to integrate the mitigation hierarchy into their decision-making processes by:

- Sharing information and increasing knowledge regarding common interests while implementing new activities
- Supporting the process for MPA creation / management and helping MPA managers better understand business processes and project lifecycles
- Engaging with conservation, research and monitoring
- Committing to collaborate with MPA managers and the conservation community for the entire lifecycle of activities.

Partnerships, subsidies and funding mechanisms⁵

Looking for a win-win situation is the key to improving both sustainable local development and biodiversity conservation. Even government and public sector funding should be the basis of funding for MPAs, and to guarantee equity sharing for ecosystem services. It's time to promote public/private partnerships. Economic actors should be more involved, while becoming more accountable for their practices.

There is typically no single solution to ensure MPA financial sustainability: various financing options are to ensure the long term sustainable financing of MPAs at different scales to meet different objectives.

First critical **enabling conditions for sustainable financing include dealing with long-term socioeconomic current and potential benefits** and the development of MPAs on the country level. All this should be expressed in **a clear financing strategy and business plan**. It needs to ensure there exists, or are plans to create, national and local capacity to mobilize and manage finan-

cial resources, appropriate legal and institutional mechanisms and a general governance system in place that is transparent, accountable, responsible and trustworthy. The diverse social, ecological and economic values of MPAs to the respective beneficiaries, whether local, national or international (or future generations), have to be well understood and explicitly communicated to stakeholders.

The main challenge for MPAs remains in ensuring a national commitment towards nature conservation and a guarantee of financial sustainability. Government support for establishing any new financing mechanism is crucial to ensuring long term financial support for recurrent activities, to attracting other funding, to supporting the development of appropriate legal frameworks and guaranteeing equitable sharing of MPA services or the uses of privacy management to avoid bilateral relations. Funding from government can come from various sources⁶. By the way, in most cases, conservation finance mechanisms such as conservation trust funds, debt swaps or payment schemes need to be implemented and/or established with clearance from government.

To ensure successful, long term financing, strategies have to be adapted to the MPA context, needs, and operational conditions and have to evolve with the life of the MPA. Relevant stakeholders (governmental authorities, local communities, users...) must be part of strategy development.

Ultimately, one of the key aspects of financial sustainability is developing a range of mechanisms, which complement each other and **ensure diverse funding sources**.



Some of the most common or emerging funding mechanisms presented during IMPAC are: Conservation Trust Funds (CTFs), Debt-for-Nature Swap, Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), Crowd Funding, Corporate Funding, Market-Based Incentives.

5- Based on the workshop "Tackling the MPA Sustainable Financing Conundrum"

6- The most common sources are agency core budgets and user fees, such as fees on mineral mining, commercial fishing licenses or tourism taxes.

● Stakeholder and community involvement

While MPAs primarily serve to conserve marine biodiversity, they play a number of other social roles. How can MPAs interact with wider society, by involving citizens, supporting local communities, and fostering initiatives in terms of communication and education?

Shifting towards more participation and consultation

Political will (including of local authorities) and ownership of local users is one of the most important keys for MPA management enforcement, and must be fostered with specific incentives aimed at empowering stakeholders.



Their participation is based on the history of populations and coastal areas and, reflects the use of local and regional resources, taking into consideration the customary laws and systems that regulate them. **A global framework**, with shared guidelines for the planning and work involved, should be developed prior to starting the process, in support of true participation and engagement for reflecting all these components. **An adaptive co-management approach** between the state and local management has previously been considered to offer good governance. Inherent in this approach is **the ability to be flexible** when either the ecosystem changes, or the social structure or economic incentives for exploitation change around the site. This could be a change in the status of social structures, (such as ageing populations); economic opportunities (such as increased fuel prices, job losses in other sectors driving increased natural resource use).

To achieve this, **early involvement of stakeholders at all stages** is essential, from site recommendation to planning, including them in the development of a long-term vision and objectives for MPAs/MPA networks. A thorough stakeholder analysis should be undertaken before the process starts, to ensure that the appropriate

representatives are identified. A good understanding of the ecological importance of a site and ensuring stakeholders' familiarity with the data and methods being used can help to reduce uncertainties about the process and the benefits of an MPA or MPA network. With all data available, identifying socio-economic issues impacting a site will help stakeholders understand the difficult choices that may have to be made and the impacts that an MPA might have on all those involved. Stakeholders themselves can provide a wide range of data and information to improve the process. Simulation and scenario-building can also help stakeholders understand the impact that an MPA and its management structure might have on their lives in the future.

Locally Managed Marine Areas

The goal is to understand why protection for use rather than against use, but sustainably use. Local people have to be proud of their MPAs and accountable for their sustainable development.

Locally Marine Managed Areas (LMMA) are more and more common in communities which are highly dependent on marine resources, as it means concrete benefits to the population. This is the most common example of good local governance. Through local consultation and shared governance, leaders and managers of marine protected areas enhance the ownership and understanding of these areas with populations, and thus tend to strengthen participation from local communities.

To succeed in LMMAs, the following are needed:

- Strong community involvement in management of coastal areas should be considered vital to Human Security (food, disasters, resource allocation etc).
- Explore establishing national and global policy and legal frameworks that are flexible and adaptive, to support the creation and scaling up of locally-driven management efforts.
- Government budgets should allocate core budget money to locally-driven marine and coastal management.
- More effort to assess and improve cost-effectiveness of support to locally-driven management and considerations of sustainable financing.
- Provide appropriate and targeted information, knowledge and capacity-building to communities.
- Local communities represented at all national and global levels, and networks are one important mechanism.
- Socio-economic and biological factors should be given equal weight in every stage of local management and planning.

MPAs for livelihood support

Livelihood is a critical issue in designing and implementing MPAs, especially in developing countries. It must be emphasized that MPAs secure the livelihoods of coastal communities that depend on marine resources but should also secure the livelihood of humanity by preserving common resources in the High Sea.

In developing coastal countries as well as on islands, local populations live and interact closely with endangered ecosystems and depend highly on the services that these ecosystems provide to sustain the development of their economies/activities. MPAs could be one management tool among others for empowering sustainable development and securing livelihoods. Many cases studies highlight better coastal resource management within MPAs for fisheries (fisheries are the first human activity in ABNJ). An MPA could increase fish abundance, richness, stability (etc), within its boundaries. By decreasing fishing mortality (and generating more adults), MPAs can also help to maintain the genetic biodiversity of exploited fish stock, especially when MPA networks are ecologically well-connected and located in the main spawning areas and the nurseries grounds. But many other activities such as tourism also depend on a good quality ecosystem.

MPAs should be established where people are likely to benefit from increased protection of biodiversity. Generating sustainable alternative livelihoods is often difficult, especially in small scale fisheries where fishing is not only a source of income but also a way of life. It must be ensured that the establishment of MPAs and other conservation measures involve communities and local populations, while respecting their rights and food security needs. It is then especially important to integrate MPAs into local activities in order to strengthen local development capacities by providing additional or complementary income sources, developing new skills, new products or innovative marketing and to make MPAs more acceptable.

Challenge

The international conservation community should not exclusively advocate large no-take areas, because doing so may jeopardize local food security and indigenous rights. Additionally, it is critical that large-scale MPA managers work to balance the needs of local communities with national government interests also regarding areas beyond national jurisdictions.



● MPAs in the wider society, MPA within MSP

The aim of marine spatial planning is to draw up plans to identify the utilization of maritime space for different sea uses to be compatible with marine ecosystem conservation. MPAs must not be considered just as remaining areas of the unused sea. That is why marine spatial planning may be the right leverage tool to integrate MPAs into an ocean management concern.

Communicating around MPAs

MPAs goals are often poorly understood as they are multiple and complex. Communication is a major point for making society understand by raising awareness and explaining hidden issues (far away from the coast, underwater: out of sight of citizens). Civil society must be mobilized to influence political decision-making by recognizing the world-heritage nature of these high-value ecosystems and the goods and services that they provide to human well-being.

The creation of marine protected areas is still subject to reluctance from political and economic actors. This misunderstanding is both cultural and social. That's why it is essential to promote MPAs **by communicating on the services and the philosophical, spiritual and cultural values of marine areas**. This way of thinking by associating all values of MPAs is rather new and offers a new perspective to managers and people working on implementing and promoting MPAs. The messages about MPAs have to be tailored to be easily understood by an intended audience and aim to show results and promote success stories. Moreover, MPA governance systems are very diverse but for all of them, more transparency is required to set the goals for MPAs and accountability regarding the full set of impacts and benefits.

Messaging and acceptance of new conservation initiatives, such as MPAs, takes time. Investing in sustaining awareness efforts over time with positive messages, repeating them among networks, citizens and public at large, using peer-to-peer communication whenever possible, are the best solutions. The last step is to generate a feeling of ownership within local communities and for stakeholders. Building awareness through communication, environmental education activities and cultural events is also important for ensuring continued engagement of community members. Moreover, initiatives in the High Seas and in remote areas, far away from our day to day activities and interests, also have to be reinforced by communicating around inspirational human stories (scientific expeditions in the Arctic, history of the Inuit etc.) or by using image-based technologies with beautiful and amazing pictures.

The UNESCO World Heritage Label is today the most famous flagship for promoting marine sites as it embraces ecological aspects as well as cultural ones, and could be understood and recognized all over the world.



Collaborative methods and tools

As everything is interlinked, MPAs are not enough to preserve and protect the ecosystem and cannot be considered in isolation. A strong governance model with national, regional, and local structures for delivery, management and monitoring, and strong community involvement in all phases is needed.

Collaboration is the key to improving MPA governance and strengthening the role of MPAs in society. A systematic understanding of how MPAs contribute to the protection and sustainable development of the marine environment, as well as the decision-making process in governance is needed from the beginning of MPA proposals. Providing appropriate and targeted information by fostering participation and knowledge exchanges between all stakeholders, and developing strong coalitions with users is the first step for empowering MPA creation.

MPA implementation with a planning approach (including perimeter, management guidelines specific and management board specific) has a much better chance of succeeding by combining community desires with science, national objectives and local needs, through discussions and an ownership-building process. Legal tools, such as the Marine Natural Park in France, and collaborative methods should lead to mapping of resource use, jointly planned management, and MPA zoning (including a 'no-take' area). Even if MPA implementation is mostly driven by a bottom-up approach consensus, state endorsement with relevant national statutes is required.

A prospective approach with mapping of biodiversity values, industry interests and food security as well as relevant resources for local population is a good way of describing areas of overlapping interests. This ongoing approach is expected to be useful for governments, industry, civil society and MPA managers to help drive marine spatial planning, and potentially reduce conflict between sectors by presenting options to achieve conservation at scale and provide wider context.

In some countries, national MPA agencies or departments are in charge of monitoring the whole process and locally assisting the MPA management board. The high value of these structures is now recognized for strengthening global MPA network creation.

MPAs as forums for stakeholder dialogue

Pressure for economic development combined with a strong ocean-protection ethic has led environmentalists, recreationalists and the public to push for a means of balancing economic, ecological, cultural, and social values.

Basically and historically, Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) has been viewed as a way of bringing in differing viewpoints through process design, tool development and product development by organizing the use of marine areas. It tries to reconcile the huge demands from many stakeholders and from industry. Nevertheless MSPs can also be seen by industries as a threat that prevents them doing what they wish to do.

Meanwhile, MPAs concentrate a wide range of activities and stakes (very intense maritime traffic, socio-economical stakes and typical environmental issues), but as it's at a smaller scale, this could avoid or initiate the dialogue. So, ecologically and socially coherent networks of MPAs should be key elements in underpinning the sustainable use of resources and allocation of space to minimize conflicting uses within MSPs.

MPAs can be considered as laboratories for implementing the

Integrated Maritime Policy, marine management and above all cross-border cooperation, taking into account the significant role of local authorities and national political considerations in those areas.

The aim is to integrate all concerns consistently within a global vision and link this vision to the decision-making process at the global level in order to be efficient. It's not only about dividing a geographical territory for both existing and futures activities, but about sharing a common interest and common resources through the sustainable growth of maritime economies and sustainable use of coastal resources, which require responsible management. It is clear that these challenges are different in various regions and that every area has its own culture and means of addressing them. Allocating resources or space is probably the most difficult and central challenge in natural resource and environmental management. To achieve it, the roles of all stakeholders must be clearly defined and whether participants are able to act as individuals or should be representing their sectors. The different roles of local, national and international stakeholders as well as MSP issues must be understood by all, to foster ownership of MPA implementation.

Some MPAs are organized to encourage this dialogue and vision through tools such as a management council, which is responsible for governance of the area, in connection with Government departments.

Addressing the challenges in MSP and MPA development is largely about planning and management processes. It is more political than technical, despite the proliferation of models, tools and technical solutions. These challenges are exacerbated by the realities of the time and costs involved in MSP and MPA development and implementation.





More Cooperation

Regional Approaches

Ecological and oceanographic dynamics supersede political boundaries at many levels, which arguably results in management and conservation of marine environments being even more complex than for the land.

The ocean is a large, complex and extremely diverse but highly interconnected system. Where challenges related to the inherent complexity of socio-ecological systems - i.e. overlap of institutional arrangements, transboundary issues, competing interests of multiple sectors, cultural diversity, etc. are difficult to solve, sub-regional and regional approaches and initiatives can provide useful platforms that can deliver marine conservation at scale. Moreover, in island archipelagos, the regional approach is the only way to address marine biodiversity conservation and networks of island actors are very important.

The international context supports regional dynamics. At the Rio+20 Conference meaningful engagements were made in international governance for ocean management (definition of international rules for the high-seas). But, even though the Regional Seas Conventions provide a necessary framework for political work, where they exist, an integrated approach for implementing

management measures and synergies between the Regional Seas Conventions, the Regional Fisheries Organizations, the International Sea-bed Authority still need to be improved. For example, most of the Regional Seas Conventions do not have jurisdiction over the high seas. The current juxtaposition of sectorial mandates creates difficulties in implementing management measures. In addition, while Regional Seas Conventions play a key role in facilitating and encouraging intra-regional networking, more efforts also need to be made on inter-regional cooperation.

Day 5 considered the regional significance of international targets and how regions contribute to global MPA targets, help to solve local issues and support local initiatives. Discussions stressed how regions can catalyze synergies to achieve targets through coherent, well-managed and efficient MPA networks but also through social network exchanging experiences and linking the actors. There was a strong cross-border focus.

Recommendations

- **Establish a global network of data and knowledge exchange process** across borders (especially for migratory and mobile species) by linking the various regional initiatives, whether from institutions, NGOs or socio-professional sectors, to develop synergies and complementarities between these networks of actors
- **Establish regional centres for common tools and expertise**, availability of data, monitoring and technical and scientific support for policies and programs for the integrated management of sea.
- **Develop approaches and frameworks to better include people perspectives and needs in representative networks**
- **Establish a common framework** to ensure that monitoring and management measures are comparable (standardize monitoring and assessment tools), and contribute to the coherence and efficiency of MPA regional networks.
- **Communicate better on “representativeness”** within the framework of MPA strategies of the Regional Seas Conventions to ensure proper resourcing and implementation of trans-boundary and/or transnational representative networks
- **Facilitate exchange of information** through social networks and building partnerships with experts, local communities, and MPA managers and decision makers at all stages;

Key questions

- How to facilitate regional and sub-regional approaches to create coherent and well-connected networks of marine protected areas?
- Which synergies to promote in order to reach targets, beyond borders?
- How to capitalize on regional networking using which skills and tools?
- How to make regional cooperation sustainable, by taking large marine ecosystem ecological services into account?
- How to cooperate with Regional Fisheries Organizations and other regional institutions on MPA targets within Regional Seas Convention activities?



● Advancing regional networks and their effective governance

Regional networks of MPAs are important for progressing toward ecological representativeness and coherence. It's also important to create and sustain MPAs managers' networks to ensure effective management and governance.

Ensuring ecologically coherent regional networks

The ocean is a highly mobile environment and the integration of ecological connectivity within MPA management is a multi-disciplinary and multi-scale challenge. The marine eco-regions scale is relevant to understand the coherence⁷ and consistency of a network, but also complex because it involves several players.



To ensure ecological coherence at regional level, the first step is to build a shared vision on the basis of a regional analysis vision and strategy for representativeness. Specific features such as species migrations and oceanographic corridors must be included in MPA network design for the sake of representativeness and coherence. To complement ecological coherence, it is also necessary to consider associated factors such as the diversity of human activities, the socio-economic local benefits, international investments and aid and trans-boundary issues, which are important within the governance frameworks. Cross analyses between MPA sites and species conservation units, as well as connections between sciences and sectors are required for designing and completing ecologically coherent networks of MPAs. Field data must be standardized and shared in order to build regional level models and to generate regional level knowledge and understanding. MPA regional networks have to be assessed taking into consideration all the life cycle of the species, in particular for migratory species but also the seasonal variations, and the impact of global changes. Assessing ecological network coherence and connectivity⁸ requires development of common criteria to ensure monitoring.

Jointly addressing common pressures and threats

Human activities are putting immense pressure on marine and coastal environments and climate change is altering current marine patterns (ocean warming combined with increasing ocean acidification, ice changes). While the benefits of local initiatives and networks are widely recognized, they are not well-equipped to address the breadth and the scale of marine conservation challenges and in particular the multiple threats and pressures.

To limit impacts on the ecosystem and strengthen resilience, management of all activities, at sea and onshore, must be addressed in an integrated and adaptive manner through a holistic approach. Adaptive capacity of local residents has to be considered as part of the process of resilience planning to be sustainable in the long term. In that context, cross-border cooperation, involvement of local authorities and all relevant stakeholders is critical, as well as shared and available data and monitoring processes.

In terms of spatial and inter-sector management, a first step is to reach consensus for proposing recommendations, in order to address recognised pressures and threats jointly. Taking mandatory measures requires overcoming obstacles arising from the fragmentations of competences at the regional level. Therefore it is important to implement a decision-making system at this scale. However sectoral approaches, such as Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA), are relevant for responding to specific threats.

Regarding the climate change context, MPA managers are agreeing on the importance of modeling impacts at a regional level.

For example in the Arctic, this may mean focusing on resilient areas of sea ice as target MPA regions capable of sustaining otherwise challenged ecosystems. It may also mean focusing on sectoral approaches, including new opportunities linked to climate change (such as increased shipping) to manage cumulative impacts.

Capitalizing on skills and tools for effective networks

To succeed in implementing effective regional networks, MPA managers need the support of peer networks for building their capacities.

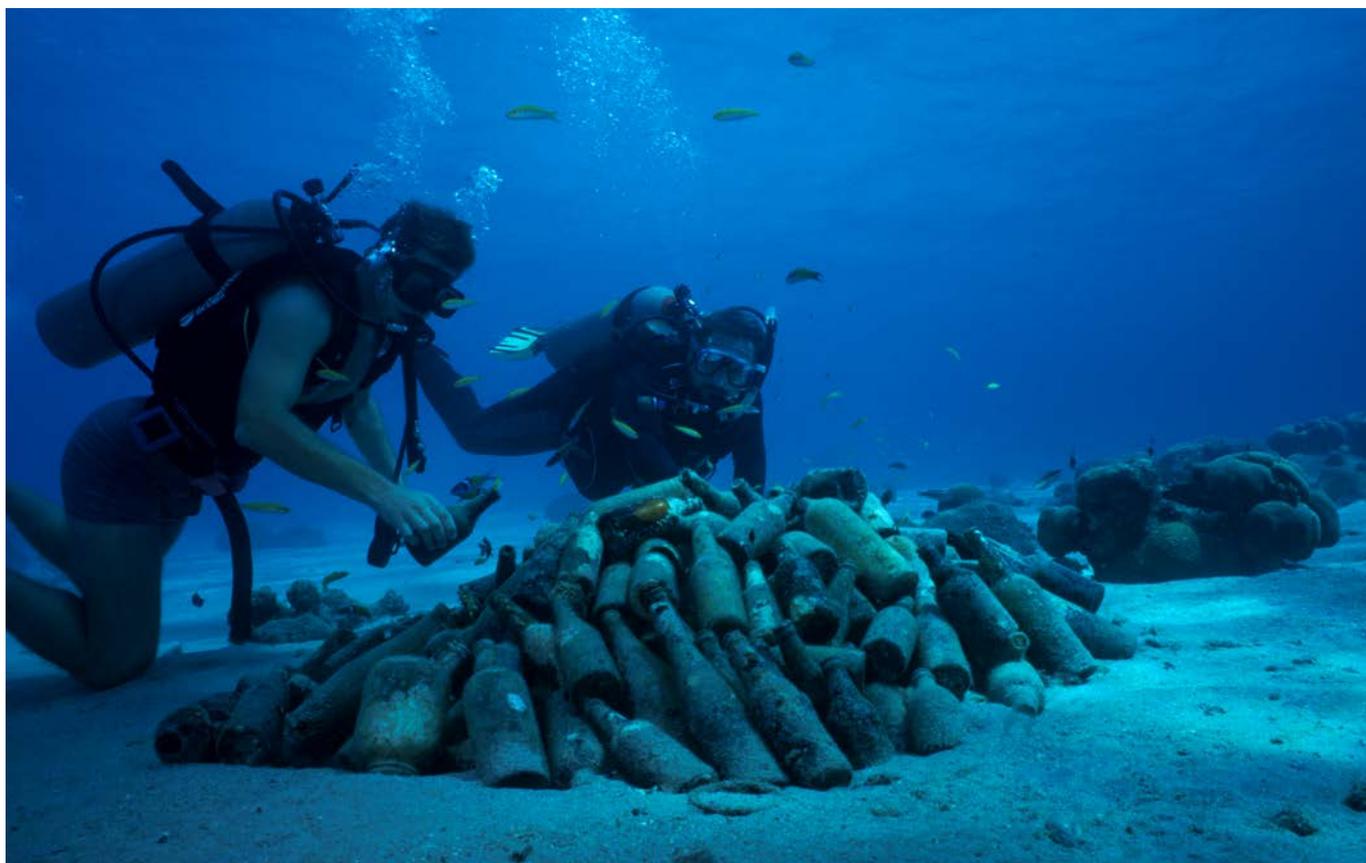
Capacity building mechanisms such as MPA managers' exchanges, mentor programs, training activities, skills implementation or networking activities are needed for capitalizing on skills and tools that ensure the efficiency of MPA management at regional level. Peer-to-peer learning and financial stability are prominent as fundamental elements of capacity building.

Regional approaches and capacity building should be introduced into programme frameworks to:

- Include professional career pathways to overcome lack of management competencies,
- Build professional practice standards,

- Enhance and consolidate platforms for knowledge sharing from peer to peer,
- Compile and disseminate information on MPA management including by best practices, success and failure stories for capitalization and exchanges of experience,
- Promote standardization of tools and methods,
- Create mechanisms for replication and amplification to scale up,
- Identify common criteria and methods for regional networking,
- Develop collaborative tools, for example to share information in real-time about marine mammal positions to avoid ship strikes, like the REPCET system.

Regional partnerships should also take advantage of existing valuable institutional tools for regional cooperation, such as the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation which serves as the legal entity for the International Marine Park of the strait of Bonifacio.



7- Ecological coherence has been evaluated against accepted metrics (i.e. adequacy/viability, representativeness, replication, connectivity).

8- Connectivity designates a wide range of biological flows, from passive larvae dispersal to cetacean migrations.

● Crossing boundaries cooperation and fostering regional synergies

Common initiatives, best practices and cooperation at regional level are essential to improve regional approaches to MPAs, before during and after their creation, in terms of both management and networking.

Leveraging regional strategies

Regional networks are growing and their development is a dynamic, iterative process. Challenges for leveraging regional cooperation include ensuring effectiveness of regional MPA networks.

Within the context of sustainable socio-ecological systems⁹, regional strategies should be based on a holistic strategy that addresses specific communities and their social needs. For most regions, ecological coherence of MPAs is elusive. There is a need for more interaction and cross-fertilization between the decision-making process and the scientific facts, and for more integration, consistency and complementarity between the actions that are implemented at different scales and the marine bio-geographic realities.

The success for integrated conservation and sustainable use of natural resources requires the resolution of governance issues at national, regional and international levels. This requires a strong analysis of national environmental governance, the identification of all the actors involved and their roles, and how top-down and bottom-up governance processes are likely to interact. Obtaining political buy-in and ownership from governments, strategic and long-term investments from public-private partnerships and bringing together all stakeholders including NGOs and academic institutions are some of the essential elements of successful regional initiatives that will create a visible change on the ground and deliver real benefits for local communities and national and international actors.

Overall, well-constructed regional initiatives based on a shared common vision of integrated management seem to be appropriate platforms for trialing solutions at a larger scale. This vision will then need to be translated into political decisions based on a clear strategy from the local to the international levels. Participative national-regional-international collaboration or mechanisms are needed to promote institutional arrangements and to engage actors across scales. And sub-regional approaches should be an essential step as are institutional arrangements between regions.

Well-established leading regional initiatives allow regions to collaborate whilst implementing a common regional framework (including assessment and action plans) that coordinate management effectiveness. Regional technical committees have been created in some regions to gather information to strengthen joint management. Involving foreign affairs and finance authorities is essential, as well as recognising the 'power' of regions to achieve collective 'buy-in' and the appreciation of regional frameworks by donors investing in MPA development.



Developing interregional cooperation

Individually, small or remote regions and islands have limited capacities and isolated solutions are often negated by the openness of the marine environment. Therefore cooperation and partnership is fundamental.

Cooperation and partnership may provide solutions to overcoming national problems by relying on international and regional organizations, to ensure that fundamental biological features are appropriately taken into consideration.

Regional Seas Conventions are well-established institutional frameworks for intra-regional and inter-regional cooperation. Civil society and MPA managers can also provide the impetus for regional projects. Official and unofficial networks are complementary and must be promoted in synergy.

Developing interregional cooperation is mainly done through regional agreements that commit countries to developing national programs to establish ecologically effective marine managed areas. But more synergy between major regional institutions and other regional players, including all sectors, is required and remains a challenge.

Programs must be launched to attract financial and human resources that support the strengthening of the national marine managed areas systems and the coordination of actions between countries that are ecologically connected and that share coastal and marine resources and threats.

Participation of MPA managers in regional cooperation and exchanges should be supported more since they are the living forces and daily actors in the MPA networks.

Practically, to develop interregional cooperation, the relevant national authorities need to work on the development and implementation of national harmonized measures associated with management assessment (indicators, dashboards, etc.). National MPA management authorities and international programs should contribute to develop and maintain user-friendly, data-rich websites and databases, and ensure that they are integrated in the world database of protected areas (WDPA).

Regional Seas Conventions play a key role in continuing to facilitate and encourage networking with a better understanding and integration of the continuum between MPA objectives and regional regulation. More inter-region cooperation needs to be fostered.

Integrating the high seas into regional networks¹⁰

Biodiversity is at significant risk in ABNJ, which represents the largest biome in the global ocean and on Earth. However, establishing MPAs in ABNJ remains a challenge, in particular for cooperation, compliance, and enforcement.

Initial promising steps at the regional level, such as those taken by the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, and the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Living Marine Resources (CCAMLR), provide experience and inspiration for other regional initiatives in ABNJ, and illustrate the potential benefits of developing a new, global legal agreement on ABNJ which could integrate MPAs' international legal status. States cannot unilaterally establish high seas MPAs and there is no mechanism for doing this except through regional organizations, e.g., through the Regional Seas Programmes. Notwithstanding promising initiatives¹¹, regional initiatives are limited geographically and legally.

So, there is a need for coordination and collaboration by all competent authorities at all levels in facilitating the development of internationally recognized and cooperatively managed high seas MPAs. In 2008, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) established seven criteria to be used in the description of ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs)¹² "in need of protection, in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats" ("the EBSA process")¹³.

On top of these interesting and ground-breaking initiatives, strengthening the regional governance of MPAs in ABNJ through the elaboration of an implementation agreement (IA) to UNCLOS is currently being negotiated by governments to fill the gaps in the existing framework¹⁴. Filling the gaps will require, among other things:

- the establishment of an explicit mandate for cooperation and coordination among sectoral and regional organizations
- a mandate to submit proposals for the establishment of high seas MPAs for international endorsement
- and mechanisms for global reporting.

The benefits at the regional level that could be expected for an IA on ABNJ is that an IA can provide the explicit mandate for regional organizations to establish MPAs in ABNJ and that it can stimulate the development of the regional dimensions for the conservation of marine biodiversity.

High seas include pelagic ecosystems (sunlit areas), bathypelagic ecosystems (the water column from a few hundred meters to several thousand meters) and benthic zones in their extreme diversity.

In order to be able to take protective measures for high-seas biodiversity, it is necessary to adopt a comprehensive legal instrument under the Convention on the Law of the Sea. This instrument would enable the creation and management of MPAs in ABNJ, recognizing that existing instruments for the high seas are partial sectoral instruments that prevent the establishment of MPAs in the full sense of their definition.

9- Food security, health, economic growth and political stability are at the forefront of national agendas, especially in developing countries.

10- Quoted from the "Summary report – WS addressing ABNJ" Prepared by Miriam C. Balgos and Gwénaëlle Hamon, Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy, University of Delaware and Global Ocean Forum

11- OSPAR network of high seas MPAs and the MoU called "Madeira process"; the UNEP WCMC initiative to test area-based planning methods for biodiversity conservation in ABNJ through a collaborative regional project (pilot areas are covered by the Permanent Commission for the South East Pacific - CPPS, Lima Convention)

12- EBSAs are identified based on information that includes: Physical oceanography, seafloor geology, biology (e.g., deep sea corals, fish stocks, species diversity), and geography in hundreds of GIS data layers submitted by Parties and organizations for consideration at the regional EBSA workshops.

13- By the end of 2014 it is anticipated that through the EBSA process, over 200 EBSAs will have been described, and a large percentage of the global ocean will have been considered by nine regional EBSA workshops.

14- Absence of a global framework to establish MPAs in ABNJ; 2) difficulties in establishing cooperation and coordination between different sectoral/regional organizations; and 3) important legal limitations of existing initiatives, for example, initiatives of Regional Seas Programmes will not be binding on non-contracting States.



Technical and practical expectations

Sciences, knowledge, data and mapping

In order to succeed in establishing MPAs and MPA networks from local to global scales, we clearly need to address knowledge generating and sharing issues, including where knowledge is particularly poor such as in the high seas. Interdisciplinary exchanges are fundamental, as well as sharing knowledge in a wider context with the general public, decisions makers, sectors and the community. In terms of research priority, the functionality of ecosystems and ecosystem services valuation (ESV) are keys for developing strategies for creating and managing MPAs (including high connectivity). Traditional and indigenous knowledge and participative monitoring are gaining wider recognition and must be taken into account at the early stages of MPA designation.

Engaging with the private sector is also necessary since it opens up access to a wealth of valuable industry-collected data. Based on available knowledge, up-dated and widely available maps and databases need to be rapidly developed. Data are also key in establishing new promising tools that tend to be developed for collaborative marine spatial planning and stand to rapidly accelerate the rate at which we can create custom geospatial planning tools.

Effective management

Management plans often have multiple objectives. They need to be integrated and adaptive to meet their objectives while coping with unexpected changes such as contextual developments, status of our understanding of activities, pressures and other external factors. They have also to include a clear sustainable financing strategy. This strategy will need to ensure that the national and local capacity to mobilize and manage financial resources, and an appropriate governance system exist. In order to succeed, management effectiveness needs to be assessed. But in many places, the capacity and resources for MPA evaluation are limited. A number of management effectiveness assessment methods already exist. They need to be better shared and implemented, and sufficient means and capacity should be provided especially for developing countries. The next step must be to develop methods to assess MPA networks.

Moreover, standards and certification processes are also necessary. One innovation discussed at IMPAC3, the Green List¹⁵ is a good example of promoting MPA benefits and encouraging good governance and management. It is also necessary to develop professionalization standards for MPA staff, and methods for predicting impacts which can inform management.

Finally, the management of high seas MPAs remains a big challenge due to the extent, considerable depth, and remoteness of high seas MPAs. The next step is to determine how the EBSA process can be used to support the identification and designation of MPAs. The management of these areas will need to tackle several challenges such as developing new technologies and mechanisms for collaboration and cooperation.

Ecosystem services and sustainable financing

The Aichi targets reference ecosystem services. This supports a paradigm shift from addressing the costs of MPAs to addressing their values. Ecosystem services must be well integrated into MPA management. This will lead to better appreciation of the benefits, more appropriate actions, and a sounder basis on which to discuss issues such as equity. Measuring and valuing ecosystem services help to raise awareness and build support to demonstrate the social and economic roles of MPAs in national development. Ecosystem services information must be used to prioritize management actions, and ecosystem services assessment to inform the choice of financing options, public, private or a mix of both.

Usually, the public sector provides the basic funding for MPAs. However in order to improve financing sustainability, the private sector should become an important financing partner while becoming more accountable for their practices and since they are benefiting from ecosystem services.

There is typically no single solution to ensure MPA financial sustainability. Financing options have to be closely tied to operational conditions, regulatory frameworks, and stakeholder buy-in. This fosters the need for innovative, sustainable financing solutions and synergies to optimize the returns from financing programmes run by various funders and donors such as the initiative aimed at the creation of a trust fund for the Mediterranean.



Governance and partnership

Sustainable and efficient MPA governance relies on consistent political commitment. Such governance should engage all stakeholders transparently in all negotiations and processes regarding governance decisions, from designation to management. The ability of the State to guarantee accountability and to respond to local concerns is also a key condition for achieving the socio-ecological resilience of governance systems. There is a shift to a better balance between a unilateral top-down process and a bottom-up process in order to promote better understanding and ownership of MPAs by stakeholders including the private sector. The appropriate government recognition of locally managed areas should be reflected in government policy and institutional mechanisms.

This includes also mechanisms to ensure that communities and other stakeholders are involved in ongoing feedback and policy development. Regarding the High Sea, there is no sound governance framework which is currently addressed at UNCLOS level. The solution would be an implementing agreement on biodiversity conservation in ABNJ.

Scaling-up MPAs and MSP

In terms of scaling-up marine protection, the challenge is in the appropriate application of size and scale, given the characteristics, needs, opportunities and vision of a given society, rather than choosing between large-scale versus small-scale marine protection. This needs partnership with all stakeholders including the private sector and industries, and earlier stakeholder involvement. Using regional-scale mapping of biodiversity values, food security and industry interests help to identify areas for priority MPA creation. Additionally, mapping values and identifying 'hotspots' can help to drive marine spatial planning, potentially reducing conflict between sectors and increasing certainty.

Taking into consideration existing and prospective industry interests in MPA development and management leads to many challenges, but can also create opportunities. By using spatial management measures such as MPAs within MSP, competing uses and conflicts can be managed and negotiated. MPAs need to be integrated into ocean management as an essential pillar of marine spatial planning, being at the heart of different scales of ocean management: scales couldn't be just geographic but should integrate many others items such as activities, legal frameworks, ecosystem values. MPAs and MPA networks have to be considered in an MSP process to maximize positive synergies and real benefits for conservation and sustainable development of many activities, as well as equitable and sustainable development.

Regional networking

In the aim of achieving Aichi target 11, it is recognized that MPA networks should be built on the basis of ecological representativeness and connectivity. The regional level is the most suitable approach to understand these ecological values and to facilitate human networking.

Regional networking provides added value by ensuring essential exchanges, collaboration, capacity building, by interlinking various regional initiatives and fostering synergies and complementarities between these networks of players. It also may support representation for communities in policy-making and governance processes.

The Regional Seas Conventions and other intergovernmental regional processes, such as regional fisheries bodies, provide the political and technical frameworks, where they exist, to strengthen the commitments of riparian States regarding biodiversity conservation. There is a need to develop more specific regional tools, such as protocols and appendices for MPA designation and management, including in ABNJ. Informal cooperation networks need to be encouraged so as to pool know-how and facilitate new actions that are consistent on a large scale. In this regard, one of the best examples is the network of marine protected area managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN)

The regional level is also the first necessary step for building the future global MPA network.

Communication, cultural awareness and outreach

Engaging civil society, economic actors as well as decision and policy makers, and involving local communities in responsible and sustainable behaviours towards the oceans, is essential. Communication, as a powerful tool for mobilization on MPAs, should be focused on ecosystem services and on the spiritual, philosophical and cultural values of MPAs, in order to generate a wider understanding and acceptance of the role of MPAs.

New communication tools supported by web development, high technology for gathering fantastic pictures, and all social networks, allow more exchanges between stakeholders within MPAs; but also amongst for those who do not live near the coast and still indirectly benefit from a healthy marine environment.

Mobilisation of citizens must be promoted by local initiatives for raising awareness about the importance of Ocean conservation for fostering local commitments, actions and behaviours.

Special attention must be paid to raising awareness of open sea ecosystems in their full diversity as they are essential to humanity, but more often unknown because of the distance and remoteness of these areas.

Facing changes including climate change

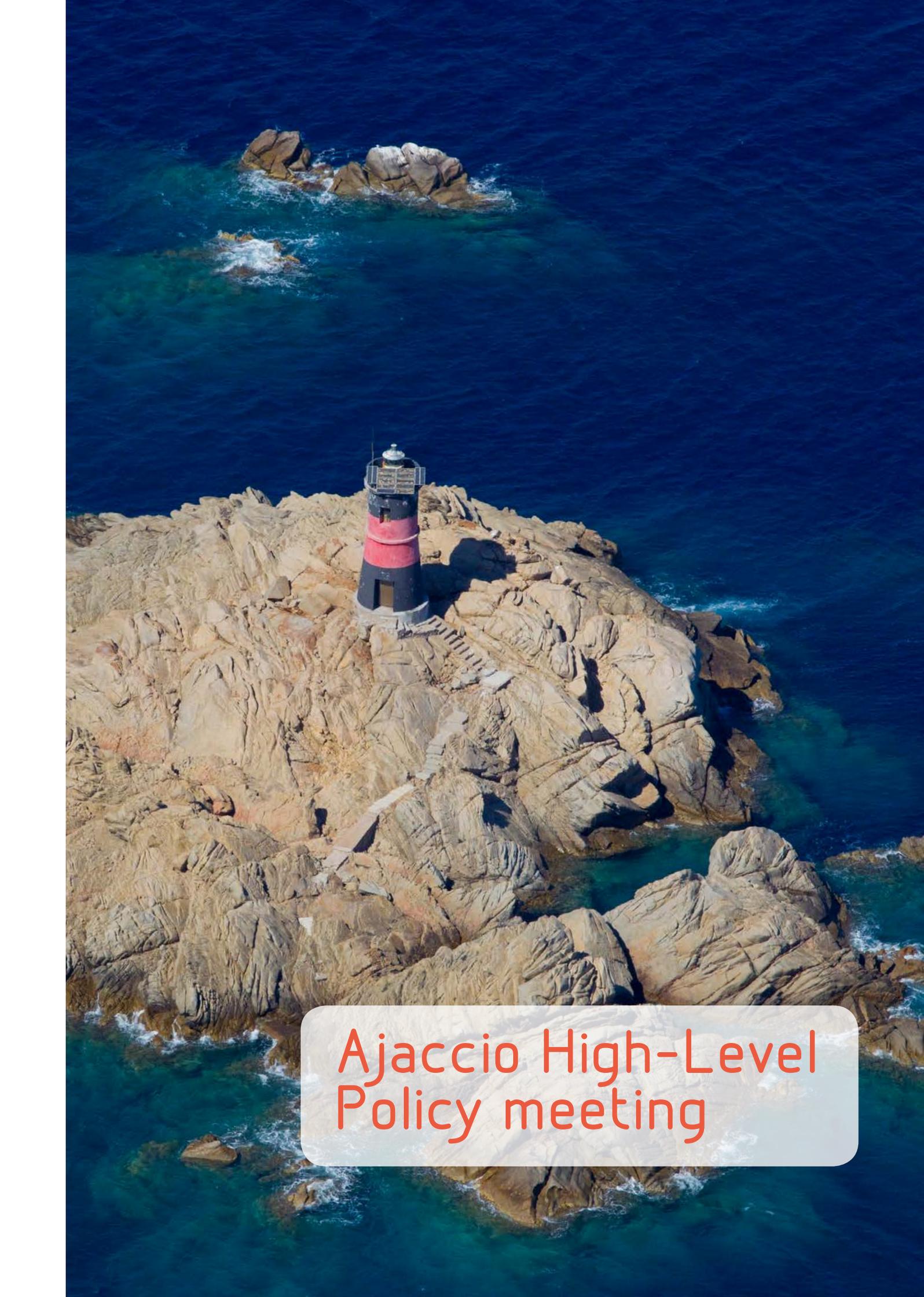
It is recognized that the ocean plays a fundamental role in climate regulation. Healthy ecosystems are key to regulating the climate. Against this background, MPAs have the potential to enhance resilience of marine ecosystems and therefore are fundamental for adaptation-based management of oceans.

Monitoring MPAs is a way to understand better the role of blue carbon and to anticipate global trends, such rises in sea level, ocean warming or acidification, etc, by providing data and supporting the development of models as tools for managing ocean conservation.

At scales, MPA networks help to scope a comprehensive adaptation assessment to address change issues and improve the use of modelling and adaptive-approach tools to increase ecosystem resilience.

Ocean acidification is happening at a fast rate, which at current levels, are possibly the highest in at least 300 million years. Climate change will alter the distribution of temperature in the oceans, therefore modifying species distribution. Of greatest concern are de-oxygenation, acidification, and warming, the combined impacts of these three stressors on ocean productivity and the ocean's ability to carry out its ecological functions, and overfishing.



An aerial photograph of a small, cylindrical lighthouse with a black base and a red upper section, situated on a rugged, rocky island. The lighthouse is surrounded by a network of stone steps leading up to it. The surrounding sea is a deep blue, with some white foam from waves crashing against the rocks. In the background, another rocky outcrop is visible in the water.

Ajaccio High-Level
Policy meeting

The Ministerial Conference, held in the presence of numerous government representatives, international institutions and NGOs, was structured around three roundtables, on the following subjects: the benefits and urgency of conserving the oceans, promoting the regional scale as the appropriate framework for effective action, and international initiatives needed to protect the high seas.

The Ajaccio Ministerial message underscores the urgency of conserving and managing the high seas sustainably. It calls for the international community to adopt the decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations before the end of 2014 allowing for the launch of negotiations on an implementing agreement of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea for the conservation and sustainable management of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdictions (ABNJs). ABNJs represent 64 percent of the oceans. Far from being barren expanses, they contain an extraordinary wealth of biodiversity, particularly on seamounts and in underwater canyons.

General Recommendations

The major outcomes of the congress are summarized under six general recommendations.

1. Mobilizing local and national networks, and binding them into a global network of marine protected areas, in order to make local approaches and global strategies converge.
2. Opening up to the private sector, through partnerships that will forward governance and support spatial planning processes. The high seas are also concerned by this necessity.
3. Urgently entering negotiations to reach an implementing agreement of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea geared towards the conservation of the high seas. This agreement must provide for the creation of high-seas marine protected areas with an international status. The congress recognized the importance of regional approaches (and stressed the importance of adopting two high-seas MPAs currently under consideration in the Antarctic Ocean).
4. The necessity for regional approaches, which constitute the appropriate scale to devise many solutions, particularly on governance issues.

5. The inadequacy of existing financing mechanisms: this finding of the congress requires that innovative, sustainable financing solutions be devised and that synergies be optimized between financing programs run by various funders and donors. In particular, the congress welcomed the initiative aimed at the creation of a trust fund for the Mediterranean.

6. Finally, the sea has cultural, philosophical and spiritual value. The congress stressed that taking this immaterial dimension into account is essential to engage society as a whole in the conservation of the oceans.

Specific Recommendations

Below are the specific recommendations pertaining to the focal themes of the Ajaccio Ministerial Conference.

Regarding the Benefits of Marine Protected Areas

- A fundamental benefit is that MPAs provide a reference point against which we can understand the impacts of our activities and what wise management could and should deliver – how can we restore if we don't know what healthy marine ecosystems look like?
- A second benefit is in support of ecosystem services – the wealth of obvious and sometimes less obvious benefits which the ocean environment provides us all in our daily lives. The Aichi targets now reference ecosystem services – there is an urgent need to build this into our thinking and actions. We can clearly see ecosystem services are in decline. The benefit is that this will move us from talking about MPA costs to talking more about MPA values. Flowing from this are a better appreciation of the benefits, more appropriate action, and a sounder basis on which to discuss issues such as equality.
- A third benefit area is management for resilience. When we look at the deteriorated state of the ocean and at downward trends, we need to have strategies and actions that rebuild resilience and protect it where still healthy. MPAs provide that opportunity and benefit.



- Fourth is the role MPAs should play at the heart of wider sea management and planning. On land we do planning as a matter of course. When we think of the ocean we need to build in MPAs as a fundamental basis of the marine planning framework – nesting them at the core of different scales in ocean management. They then underpin everything we do with the objective of ensuring ocean health is a cornerstone of moving forwards.
- And a fifth and fundamental point is a clear need to accelerate building the MPA network and all its benefits. Sharing knowledge in the form of best practices across regions and at global scales, to increase capacity in our community, and to reach out to new constituencies and sectors, is fundamental to future success. Sharing together, learning together, and benefitting together.

Regarding Regional Policies

- Developing specific regional tools such as protocols and appendices to the Regional Seas Conventions in order to reach the marine objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and particularly the Aichi marine targets.
- Developing the spatial planning of marine activities on a regional scale, based on an integrated ecosystem approach that underscores the socioeconomic dimension of marine protected areas.

- Interlinking various regional initiatives, whether led by public institutions, NGOs or sectoral organizations, and fostering synergies and complementarities between these networks of players.
- Creating regional centers that can deliver common instruments, enhance collective expertise, make data widely available, and provide technical and scientific support to policy-makers and marine integrated-management programs.
- Fostering, and capitalizing on, a diversity of cooperation ventures at the sub-regional scale so as to lend overall coherence to national strategies on marine protected areas; and integrating these sub-regional approaches into regional strategies, implemented through adequate cooperation instruments.
- Develop interregional cooperation so as to pool know-how and facilitate new actions that are coherent on a large scale, so as to reflect major natural cycles, the migration of marine species, and the interconnectedness of ocean ecosystems.
- Fostering a dynamic approach by taking into account and anticipating global trends such as climate change, and by making better use of modeling and adaptive-approach tools at the regional scale, in order to increase resilience.



Regarding the High Seas

- Using all means, including education, to raise awareness of high-seas ecosystems in their full diversity, i.e. pelagic ecosystems (sunlit areas), bathypelagic ecosystems (in depths ranging from a few hundred meters to several thousand meters) and benthic ecosystems.
 - Fostering the general realization that the high seas, which represent nearly 60 percent of the oceans, is the blue heart that supports life on Earth.
 - Improving knowledge of high-seas ecosystems through scientific research, given that only a small percentage of the ocean floor has so far been explored and that we still have a poor understanding of how pelagic ecosystems function.
 - Sharing existing knowledge, and in particular that gathered by fisheries and the deep-sea mining industry.
 - Applying adaptive-management principles by incorporating new knowledge into management plans. Lending more transparency to the processes for the identification of sites such as the CBD's Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) and the FAO's Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs), and harmonize these processes.
 - Defining a global legal instrument, within the framework of the Convention on the Law of the Sea, to create and manage MPAs in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), in recognition of the fact that current instruments for the high seas, being sectoral and partial, do not allow for the creation of MPAs in the full sense of the term. The question of MPAs may be envisaged as just one part of a broader agreement encompassing several aspects of high-seas conservation.
 - Recognizing existing MPA-creation initiatives in the high seas at the regional level (Regional Seas Conventions, e.g. OSPAR, Mediterranean; or alliances such as in the Sargasso Sea) while recognizing their vulnerability in terms of third-party effectiveness against those who are not part of these regional instruments.
 - Recognizing also the role that regional fisheries-management organizations may assume in managing MPAs at the regional level.
- Recognizing that the implementation of any future MPA protocol of the Convention on the Law of the Sea must be region-based and rely either on the Regional Seas Conventions, whose mandate must be enlarged, or, where these are missing, on ad hoc conventions, in particular when it comes to MPA designation processes, which must fit into the framework of marine spatial planning, and on their governance.
- Building capacities and promote cross-sectoral cooperation among all those active in the high seas.
 - Promoting cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration to develop the means and technologies required for the management of high-seas MPAs.
 - Engaging civil society transparently in all negotiations and processes relative to the designation, creation and management of marine protected areas in the high seas, in recognition that these ecosystems and the goods and services they provide are part our world heritage.





Beyond IMPAC3

From words to actions

Mr. Philippe Martin, French Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy : “I will rely on you to provide input for this unprecedented meeting and send us a clear message on operational priorities and possible solutions. Based on these elements, we aim to craft an ambitious and innovative political vision, leading up to initiatives of international scope”¹⁶.

● The Ajaccio Policy Statements

Based on the current rate of MPA creation, a full century would be needed to reach international ocean-conservation commitments. Achieving them in merely seven years requires decisive international action, the support of all coastal and marine stakeholders, but more than anything to encourage and engage Governments on the Aichi Target.

It is important to convince governments to take initiatives and to demonstrate political will, whether at national or regional level and to support them in order to reach the Aichi target 11 to have 10% of the oceans covered by MPAs by 2020.

The Ministerial Conference program addressed 3 key strategic areas:

- **Protection:** MPAs deliver a wide range of benefits for human and marine life, hence the urgent need to create and manage MPAs in a wise way
- **Conservation at scale:** promoting the regional scale as the appropriate framework for effective action
- **Aichi 11 in the high seas:** enhancing the achievement of MPA objectives through international initiatives.

The Ministerial Conference was also a key step in preparing the forthcoming political agenda, which notably includes the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the 12th Conference of the Parties to the CBD and the next Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention, to be held in Turkey next December.

16- Introductory words from Mr. Philippe Martin to IMPAC3 participants prior to the beginning of the congress in Marseille and the Ministerial Ajaccio Conference.

● Ministerial Message from Ajaccio

Recalling the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and in particular Part XII regarding the protection and preservation of the marine environment,

Recalling the conclusions of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, (Rio+20) adopted unanimously by the General Assembly of the United Nations, in particular paragraphs 162 and 177 regarding the importance of creating marine protected areas and the urgency of reaching a decision on the launch of international negotiations on an international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction,

Recalling the commitment of the international community as part of the ten-year strategic plan adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010, and in particular Target 11 (“Aichi target”).

We, Ministers, representatives of all the world’s main regions, meeting at Ajaccio on 26 October 2013,

● **Warmly welcome** the NGOs, scientists, managers of protected marine areas, the representatives of the local communities and companies who met at Marseille from 21 to 25 October 2013, whose conclusions comprised the basis for the reflections and recommendations of the ministerial session at Ajaccio,

● **Emphasize** that the good health of the oceans is essential for maintaining life throughout the world and that within them, protected marine areas, including highly protected marine reserves, play a crucial role in protecting marine biodiversity whose long-term survival is vital for sustainable development and the future of mankind,

● **Are concerned** that, with less than 3% of the oceans covered by protected marine areas, the required level of protection is far from being achieved, this percentage being even lower when only areas that are under effective management are accounted for.

Today, we launch the Message from Ajaccio, one of urgent action, mobilization and the desire to act together at all levels to meet the challenges:

● **We thus reaffirm our strong commitment** to strive to achieve the Aichi Target 11, recognized by the Rio+20 Summit, to establish by 2020 a network of comprehensive and coherent protected marine areas effectively managed and covering at least 10% of the oceans,

● **We emphasize** that these protected areas should cover the whole range of the ecoregions representative of the diversity of the oceans and to do so cover all relevant areas, in coastal zones and offshore, including the deep seas, whether they are located in areas under national jurisdiction or beyond national jurisdiction,

● **We encourage** the close association of all elements of civil society, science, local communities, NGOs and businesses in particular, to ensure that all the conditions required for the successful establishment and management of protected marine areas are put in place, and we welcome, at this occasion, the decisive and exemplary role of the managers of these areas.

● **We recognize** that MPAs have a prominent place in integrated maritime policies and in marine spatial planning. We encourage including nature conservation targets in activities developed at sea.

● **We affirm our desire** to develop sustainable financing mechanisms that meet the needs for the effective management of protected marine areas and welcome the launch by the governments of Monaco, France and Tunisia of such an initiative for the Mediterranean Sea.

● **We welcome** the Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO) announced at Rio + 20 as a tri-lateral public-private-civil society partnership that mobilizes knowledge and finance to accelerate the conservation and restoration of marine and coastal habitats, including MPAs and other area based measures agreed to in Aichi target 11.



● **We welcome and encourage** the development of initiatives by civil society that support the scientific work, the processes for creating protected marine areas and which provide backing to the managers. Besides financial support, we recognize that the involvement of civil society participates in creating a society that is fully aware of the importance of healthy oceans for mankind.

● **We also encourage** the systematic application of scientific guidelines for the establishment of representative networks of marine protected areas. In this regard, we support fully the work carried out as part of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA) with the objective that assessments be carried out for all regions of the oceans by 2014.

Since much has still to be learned about biodiversity in the high seas, **we support** the organization of systematic ocean inventory campaigns with the international pooling of data. In this respect, **we welcome** the Global Environment Facility's ABNJ programme which promotes innovative partnerships with the private sector and supports the development of scientific knowledge, and more widely the involvement of the GEF in the marine issue,

● **We support** the initiative for a sustainable ocean included in the Convention on Biological Diversity, which develops within a regional framework in particular, dialogue with the fishing community and more generally **we encourage** the organization of dialogue and joint action among all users of the sea as the preferred mode of action,

Since the initial responsibility for action lies at national level, **we undertake** to mobilize the necessary resources for this purpose. **We welcome** in this regard the new announcements, which will be included in the annex, made by States on the occasion of this ministerial session, covering all the oceans, enabling us to move significantly closer to the Aichi target and sending a strong signal of concerted international action,

In support of these measures, **we stress** the importance of providing technical and financial support, both bilateral and multi-lateral, to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, to assist them with their actions for protecting the marine environment, the establishment of marine protected areas and the sustainable management of fish resources,

Additionally, **we call** for the significant strengthening of regional conventions regarding seas, an essential level which allows the ecosystems to be dealt with coherently and action to be taken in a more effective way, by developing cooperation with regional fishery management organizations and all competent regional and in-

ternational organizations for managing human activities that have an influence on the marine environments,

● **We emphasize** that this regional level must also allow us to explore the question of the long-term financing required for managing the protected marine areas, in particular through enhancing the value of the protected ecosystems,

● **We call as an emergency** for the protection of areas beyond national jurisdiction, since these cover 64% of the oceans and contain a great wealth of biodiversity,

● **We welcome** in this regard, the initiative of the OSPAR Convention to define, in the North-East Atlantic, the first scientifically-based and representative network of protected marine areas in the high seas.

● **We solemnly call on** the Member States of the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), currently meeting in Hobart, to adopt the two proposals for creating networks of protected marine areas over nearly three million km² in the high seas which are currently submitted to them,

Real protection of high seas biodiversity however needs action to go further and reach a global scale to give a legal basis for the protection of the high seas. Should such a basis not be established, which enables genuine management measures to be taken, the initiatives taken will remain largely devoid of any effective impact,

Therefore, as approved at the Rio+20 summit, which stressed the urgency of the matter, **we solemnly call on** the international community to adopt before the end of 2014 the decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations allowing the launch of negotiations on an implementing agreement of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea for the conservation and sustainable management of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdictions, in order that two thirds of the oceans can finally be protected on a effective legal basis.

This process should ensure full transparency and active participation of the civil society, as agreed in Rio+20 as guiding principles for international environmental governance.

● **We thank** the French Agency for Protected Marine Areas and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature for organizing IMPAC 3, and also the City of Marseille and the Territorial Authority of Corsica for their exemplary involvement and welcome,

● **Finally, we express** our heartfelt thanks to CHILE for its proposal to host the 4th International Protected Marine Areas Congress in 2017.

● Announcements of several new MPA commitments

France

From Mr. Philippe Martin, Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy

- Joint creation, with Monaco, of a trust fund to support the financing and effective management of Mediterranean MPAs
- France's donation over the next two years of more than 20 million Euros (US \$27 million) to marine conservation projects worldwide, including in the Mediterranean, West Africa, Indian Ocean, Caribbean, and the Pacific
- The forthcoming designation of the Bay of Arcachon Marine Nature Park, located along the Atlantic coast of southwestern France
- The launch of a feasibility study on the creation of a marine park around Cape Corsica, on the island of Corsica
- The submission to UNESCO of a joint application with Italy to inscribe both the Strait of Bonifacio International Marine Park and the Maddalena Archipelago National Park, in Sardinia, on the World Heritage List.

New Caledonia

From Mr. Anthony Lecren, Minister of Economie and Sustainable Development

- Creation of the a natural marine park on the whole EEZ, that could be called Natural Park of the Coral Sea
French Polynesia From Mr. Tearii Alpha, Minister of Marines resources
- Creation of a large MPA (700 000km²) in Marquise Islands within the UNESCO designation as World Heritage Site
- Support innovative programmes, especially the first Educative MPA managed by a school

Seychelles

From Mr. Ronald Jumeau, Ambassador of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

- Operating a Debt Swap for creating 30% of MPAs. Half of it will be no-take zones. If negotiations go well with "le Club de Paris"¹⁷, it could be achieved in September 2014.

Comoros

From Mr. Abdou Nassur Madi, Minister of Environment

- Initiating a process of creating at least four new PAs, including MPAs by 2015, with the technical and financial support from the CNUD and the GEF
- Expanding the Marine Park of Moheli to land parts.

Spain

From Mr. Pablo Saavedra, Director General for the Sustainability of the Coast & Sea, Ministry for Agriculture, Food and the Environment

- With projects such as INDEMARES (Life+ European project), Spain is planning to have more or less 100 MPAs, which means 8% of its EEZ (compared to 0.5% today).

South Korea

From Dr. Bundo YOON, Director at the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries

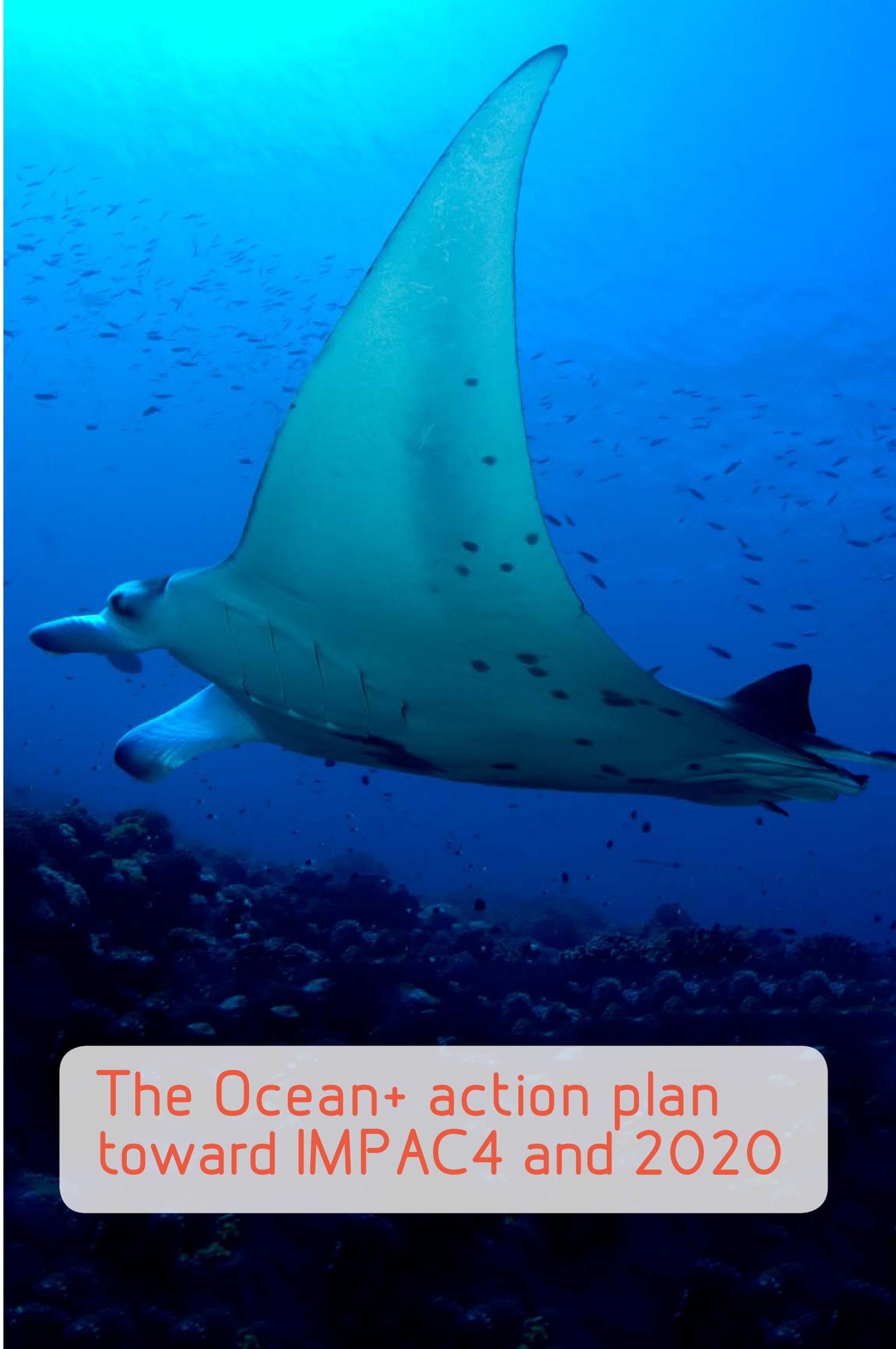
- South Korea should designate 3 news MPAs before the end of 2013.
- In addition, the number of MPAs in South Korean territorial waters will increase from 21 to 29 by 2017

Gabon

Sent prior to the Ajaccio Ministerial meeting as commitment for the Gabon

- Recalling of the ambitious project "Gabon Blue" (the fourth pillar in the framework of the Strategic Plan of the Emerging Gabon) announced in October 2012 by President Ali Bongo Ondimba): one goal of the project is to classify nearly 20% of the EEZ of Gabon in marine protected a significant part in National Parks areas.

17- The Paris Club (Club de Paris) is an informal group of financial officials from 20 of some of the world's biggest economies, which provides financial services such as debt restructuring, debt relief, and debt cancellation to indebted countries and their creditors. Debtors are often recommended by the International Monetary Fund after alternative solutions have failed.



The Ocean+ action plan
toward IMPAC4 and 2020

IMPAC3 helped accelerate the process of building the MPA global network. The Third International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC3) was a major event for MPA policy and actors. The main objective of the conference was indeed focused on the progress of the implementation of the Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity which is to cover 10% of the oceans with marine protected areas by 2020. This objective has been evaluated from qualitative and quantitative points of view.

Quantitatively, there is still a long way to go since there is still less than 3% of MPAs which are unevenly and unsatisfactorily geographical distributed. From a qualitative point of view, it is important to remember that Aichi Target requires that MPAs should be effectively and equitably managed, well-connected and part of an ecologically representative network. To achieve this, an action plan should be proposed at the next major international meetings, in particular at the CBD COP 12 in South Korea and at the World Parks Congress in Sydney. This action plan will be implemented as part of a new marine Agenda 2020 for the construction of a global network of MPAs.

The Bonifacio Marine Protected Areas Agency Partnership second Summit

The MPA Agency partnership is an informal forum of government agencies from around the globe, in charge of the designation, management, and operation of marine protected areas in their respective nations. The first summit was held in San Francisco in 2012 at the kind invitation of NOAA –Office of National Marine sanctuaries, and set up the basis of the partnership. The aims of the Partnership are the following:

- Exchanging technical information, experiences, and expertise;
- Coordinating and cooperating on joint solution-based projects designed to build and enhance the ability of each agency to meet its MPA mandates, and make a collective contribution to marine conservation on a global scale;
- Leveraging the identity of the agencies as a cohesive group to raise awareness of MPAs on a global scale; and
- Identifying opportunities to expand the scope and leadership role of this collective group to influence and create innovative approaches and results-based tools to help protect marine resources now and into the future.

The second summit in Bonifacio was organized within the framework of IMPAC3. The meeting was an opportunity to hear about national situations and exchange with observers from the CDB secretariat and IUCN. It was an opportunity to share the conclusions of IMPAC3 with respect to the activities of MPA agencies.

It looked also at contributions to the World Park Congress in 2014 and to the possible involvement of the partnership members toward IMPAC 4 (2017).

There were three main topics of interest listed in Bonifacio:

- The establishment of networks of MPAs, notably with incomplete scientific information
- Implementing management: monitoring and reporting (which should be management driven), evaluation of management (external evaluation)
- True values of MPAs for future societies, consequences for communication.



Meeting in Chile in 2017

IMPAC 4 will be the time to take stock of what has been achieved in ocean protection and, more importantly, where the community needs to focus its efforts after 2020.

So far the International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC) has been held in developed countries. For the first time, the fourth version of IMPAC in 2017, will take place in a developing country, Chile.

Along the Chilean coastline, the Humboldt Current Large Marine Ecosystem is one of the most productive ecosystems, responsible for about 20% of the world fisheries landings. Southern Chile harbors another world relevant marine ecosystem, the Cape Horn Current. The sustainability of fisheries represents one of the major world challenges, as total population is continuously growing while the global fisheries landings have stabilized on 80 million metric tons per year since 1990. The Global Ocean Health Index demonstrates that protein supply from marine resources for human consumption shows clear deterioration. The same trend occurs for non fisheries marketable products, such as ecosystems services associated with tourism and recreation. In this context, fisheries and aquaculture face a big challenge: becoming profitable industries within the limits imposed by natural ecosystems and avoiding deterioration of other ecosystem services, such as water quality, biodiversity and landscape quality among others. Moreover, only 3% of oceans are already protected, so increasing this coverage is urgent to meet the 11th Aichi target proposed for 2020 by the Biodiversity Strategic Plan.



In this context, an efficient system of conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems and resources is needed to make possible human life and economic development over time, as well as preserving ecosystem services provided by the ocean, minimizing the impact of a service over another and improving equity by avoiding externalities.

At this point, Governments in developing countries play a key role in achieving an appropriate balance between the market, the environment and community interests. Further, the Government should provide an adequate governance framework for coordinating the multiple uses associated with coastal and marine environments. IMPAC 4 will provide a great opportunity to analyze and discuss the advances made by developing countries. See you in Chile in 2017!



Major international time frame programmes

Looking ahead to IMPAC4 and the 2020 marine objective of the CBD, a program of actions based on the Ajaccio Policy message and IMPAC3 recommendations shall be implemented within the framework of the major international time frame program on marine conservation at global, regional, sub regional or national level. This program of actions is part of the International Marine Protected Areas Network Agenda (IMPANA), described below.

Particularly, the IMPANA Agenda will link and fill the objectives of the marine habitats action plan project of the Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO) to be developed under the leadership of the World Bank. It also calls to join the marine objective of the international waters component of the Global Environment Facility (GEF6); and UN regional environment programmes within the framework of the regional seas conventions agreements. Moreover, IMPANA is the right impulse supporting the sustainable ocean initiative of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SOI) to achieve the Aichi target 11, building the global marine protected areas network within 2020.

IMPANA also calls on international NGOs to develop marine protected areas operational projects or initiatives dedicated to the protection of large key marine ecosystem areas.

The International Marine Protected Areas Network Agenda - IMPANA 2020

IMPAC3 outputs give IUCN the opportunity to define a new Agenda to facilitate and complete the establishment of coherent and efficient networks of marine protected areas and marine conservation measures at local, national and regional scales. Accordingly to IMPAC3 recommendations, it is particularly important to develop more concrete and tangible actions urgently building the global marine protected areas network within 2020 and beyond. The objective of the Agenda is to give new momentum to the achievement of the marine Aichi Target 11 of the CBD.

The Agenda will capitalize on IMPAC3 benefits and implement the ministerial Ajaccio Message, with the Action Plan of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. IMPANA will generate or federate marine protected areas initiatives and projects. Coordinated by the IUCN Global Marine and Polar Program (GMPP), with the contribution of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), IMPANA will mobilize UN Institutional Organizations, International and national NGOs, IUCN membership, marine protected areas, national Agencies and also the private sector. IMPANA will also provide guidelines to the MPA community in facilitating project development for the identification and creation of new MPAs; improvement of scientific and technical knowledge for MPA management; training and capacity development; improvement of MPA management efficiency; integration of MPAs in broader marine conservation measures and MPA network development at national and regional scales. For this purpose, IMPANA will support and may coordinate fundraising efforts for MPA projects at local, national and regional levels.



MPANA programme Facilitating progresses – Inform, inspire, influence

- **Develop** communication tools, awareness and cultural outreach, to promote the socio-economic services of marine protected areas for biodiversity, human well-being and livelihoods.
- **Encourage** sharing of scientific and traditional knowledge, data, using miscellaneous maps and new technologies, defining protection measures for ecologically and biologically significant areas.
- **Influence** policy makers at all levels to commit MPAs strategies and others effective areas-based conservation measures integrating marine spatial planning processes in the framework of national and regional seas policies.
- **Achieve** a regularized, freely and widely accessible, and highly visible reporting process on the designation progress against the Aichi target 11 with MPA data and information freely accessible through IT routes thus enabling much more analysis and use of the WDPA information.
- **Celebrate** hope and build an engaged community, highly visible and forward-looking agenda of what needs to be protected, not just a focus what has been protected thus far.

Supporting effective management – Involve, improve, implement

- **Encourage** local stakeholders' involvement in management, develop governance systems, cross-sectoral dialogue and partnerships with sea users and sea industries at different scales
- **Provide** expertise, skills, know-how, training, technical cooperation, certification and professionalization to ensure management capacity and efficiency and to face changes by including marine in initiatives such as IUCN's Green List
- **Set up** a tool for assessing the achievement of the international targets at the regional and sub-regional levels.
- **Promote** innovative sustainable financing mechanisms, incentives and taxes, payment for ecosystem services, and synergies for funding (e.g. trust Fund).



Implementing and promoting the MPANA programme

The actions described above will be implemented in the context of regional, sub-regional or national operational projects or initiatives to be developed either in a bottom-up or top-down approach, funded and dedicated to the protection of large key marine ecosystem areas (e.g. Coral Sea in Oceania; Mozambique Channel in the West Indian Ocean; Coastal areas of South East Pacific Ocean; Coastal areas of West Africa, etc.). Synergies will be sought with on-going projects. The Agenda will be published and provide a phase-2 updated version of the original WPCA Marine Global Plan of Action for MPAs.



Keep tracking

Over 5 days, at the Pharo Palace in Marseille, a variety of players from international forums to local communities, exchanged available knowledge and practices, everywhere initiatives are emerging to protect resources and emblematic areas, the size of which ranges from of a few acres to several million square kilometers. These 5 days of congress in Marseille followed by the High Level segment in Corsica, were full of exchange, ideas, and commitment, between stakeholders who are not used to meeting, helping to shape projects for tomorrow and to imagine new solutions in terms of governance, technical innovation, know-how and communication techniques. This collective energy, materials and wisdom was recorded and led to a variety of valuable and inspiring supports from the congress and beyond that you will find below.

Oceanplus WebTV

aims to raise awareness of the services rendered by marine protected areas and oceans at large by gathering and highlighting all kinds of initiatives in favor of ocean conservation and management. The Ocean+ WebTV will continue at the World Park Congress in Sydney in November 2014. Our hope is that this platform will help us all to forge closer ties, in pursuit of better knowledge and effectiveness and will be an efficient tool for the MPA community.

Main IMPAC3 documents for downloading

- IMPAC 3 Executive Summary: <http://www.impact3.org/en/outcomes/executive-summary>
- IMPAC 3 proceedings (including the list of IMPAC 3 participants): <http://www.impact3.org/en/outcomes/proceedings>
- Building Networks of MPAs: new insights from IMPAC 3. Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems 24 (Suppl. 2): 1-245 (2014): <http://www.impact3.org/en/outcomes/aquatic-conservation-journal>
- The Ocean+ WebTV which focuses on marine protected areas and on marine conservation issues: www.oceanplus.tv





Ocean+ Solidarity Network

Generous partners of the Solidarity Network, below, ensured that participants from all kinds of institutions, all around the globe, including those on tighter budgets, were able to travel to Marseille. In doing so, they draw nearer the emergence of an MPA network representing all marine environments, under every sky.

- Agence française de développement (AFD)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- French Global Environment Facility (FFEM)
- Fondation Internationale du Banc d'Arguin (FIBA)
- Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco
- Partenariat régional pour la conservation de la zone côtière et marine en Afrique de l'ouest (PRCM)
- Global Environment Fund (GEF)
- Réseau des Aires Protégées d'Afrique Centrale (RAPAC/ECOFAC)
- Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SFRC)
- WWF

Friends

We finally wish to thank many institutions for the close relationships they developed with the French MPA Agency and/or IUCN in the course of preparing this Congress.

- Blue Coast Marine Park
- Calanques National Park
- Cassis Municipality
- Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (CEN PACA)
- Conservatoire du Littoral (CdL)
- Conservation International (CI)
- European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)
- French National Parks (PNF)
- Global Ocean Forum (GOF)
- Nausicaa National Sea Center
- Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN)
- UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Villa Méditerranée
- World Underwater Film Festival (FMISM)
- World Heritage Sites (WHS –UNESCO)
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Sponsors



GDF SUEZ



Parks Canada

Région



Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur



Organizations and institutional supports



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