

Marine Protected Area Agency Partnership

To strengthen the global MPA network by 2030

September 2021

Ocean protection highlights at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille

From 3 to 11 September 2021, the world of conservation along with key stakeholders and policy-makers met in Marseille, France, to discuss progress and set future priorities for nature conservation. In total, the IUCN World Conservation Congress gathered 5700 participants on-site and 3500 online. In addition, 25 000 visitors enjoyed the free-access exhibition space.

During the Congress, the Union's 1300+ government, non-governmental and indigenous peoples' Member organisations vote on major conservation issues. As the only decision-making platform involving both government and civil society, the Congress is instrumental in shaping the world's conservation and sustainable development agenda.

For the first time, one of the major themes of the Congress was devoted to the ocean. The time is ripe to bring priorities of the MPA Agency Partnership to the forefront of global conservation by 2030.

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Contributions from:



This newsletter, as part of the International Marine Protected Areas Network Agenda (IMPANA), allows the dissemination of activities and shared experiences for a global and connected network of MPA managers. #IMPANA

IMPANA NEWS

FROM SCIENCE TO POLICY - 13 Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) identified in the Southern Ocean, in support to the CCAMLR' Scientific Committee works.

In one of the world's richest marine mammal areas, an international group of scientists determined new [IMMAs in the Extended Southern Ocean Region](#), featuring habitats for species such as humpback, minke, blue, southern right and fin whales, as well as crabeater, leopard, Weddell, Ross, southern fur and southern elephant seals, New Zealand sea lions and killer whales. These results will be presented to the CCAMLR' Scientific Committee in October 2021, as part of an *Information Paper* authored by the French Biodiversity Agency (OFB), the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) ([SC-CAMLR-4](#), Agenda item 4. Spatial management). The IMMAs are identified according to specific criteria that capture critical aspects of marine mammal biology, ecology and population structure including vulnerability, distribution, abundance, special attributes and key life cycle activities. Although IMMAs are not MPAs, they are already being used as a spatial data layer in the implementation of area-based management tools (ABMTs) and spatial conservation measures: MPAs in Vietnam, Bangladesh and potentially Mozambique; for marine spatial planning (MSP); and in consideration for future EBSAs and KBAs. In addition, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) is using IMMAs plus shipping data to identify and address ship strike issues. The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) has adopted a resolution (UNEP/CMS/Resolution 12.13) calling on its country members to promote and use IMMAs.

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Minke Whale in Ross sea IMMA ©R.L.Pitman

Regional MPA Networking

THE SPAW PARTIES ENHANCE SUSTAINABLE NETWORKING FOR MARINE MAMMALS CONSERVATION IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION

The three-year Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network (CARI'MAM) project started in 2018 and will end in late 2021. The project is funded by the EU, led by the Agoa sanctuary (French Antilles) and by the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW) of the Cartagena convention. Its aim is to strengthen the conservation of marine mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region through increased cooperation between countries and territories.

Considering the good results of the CARI'MAM project and network, the SPAW contracting parties decided, during the 11th meeting of the Contracting Parties (11th SPAW COP, July 2021) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, to examine the feasibility of supporting a Marine Mammal Regional Activity Network (RAN), a sustainable network that will be endorsed by the Caribbean countries through the SPAW protocol governance. Save the date! The CARI'MAM results restitution will take place on-line on 15 November 2021.

For more information, please contact:
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COASTAL MPA RESILIENCE PLATFORM

The **Resilience Partnership** is a component of the EU-funded Ocean Governance project, which includes actions addressing MPA networks, marine mammals management and ecosystem restoration in SE Asia.

The objective of the Resilience Partnership is to share experiences, tools, and approaches between MPA managers, regarding:

- **MPAs management strategies to cope with rapidly changing environments and contexts,**
- **Approaches developed by MPAs and local contexts,**

- **Approaches developed by MPAs and local partners to contribute to the resilience of coastal areas.**

Working since 2016 with partners from Atlantic countries (Brazil, Gabon, Mexico, Portugal, Senegal, USA), The Resilience Partnership has developed a toolkit for assessing the MPA resilience capacity, based on innovative criteria. The R-SAT (Resilience Self-assessment Tool) is one of the multiple resources offered by the recently launched Coastal Resilience Platform <https://coastal-resilience.online>. A National MPA resilience assessment programme is already in progress in Senegal and with the Western Africa MPA network. Other national programmes are currently under preparation (Brazil, Mexico, and USA- NAMPAN).

These efforts will also contribute to implement recommendations of the **Resolution on coastal resilience RES-030-WCC-2020**, prepared with the support of the Resilience Partnership, and voted in 2020.

For more information, please contact: jj.goussard@eco-evaluation.org

MPAAP Members experiences

ESTABLISHING MARINE PARKS IN AUSTRALIA'S INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORIES

In 2021, the Australian Government announced the intention to establish marine parks around Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands, in Australia's Indian Ocean Territories (IOT). These two areas are the only bioregions within Australia's National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (NRSMPA) where large-scale marine parks have not been established. Once established, they could protect up to 744,000 square kilometres of ocean and increase marine park coverage from 37 up to 45 percent of Australia's waters. Together with IOT's terrestrial national parks, these new marine parks will support contiguous protection of these regions, that are renowned for their significant marine and terrestrial biodiversity values (including endemic, migratory and endangered species), as well as diverse and vibrant cross-cultural communities.

A marine park proposal has been prepared that describes the design of these two marine parks,

which were co-designed with local communities using participatory planning processes. An initial \$5.4 million has been allocated to support community engagement in marine park management and research activities, once they are established.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS OF THE NATIONAL NATURAL PARKS OF COLOMBIA

Planting of Mangrove seedlings at the “Corkwood Sanctuary” – National Natural Parks of Colombia- South America.

The mission of the “Corkwood Sanctuary” is to undertake conservation and restoration of coastal ecosystems in the Caribbean, such as mangroves and corkwoods associated with the Magdalena River Delta Marshes. With the participation of local communities, we plan to plant 40,000 mangrove and cork seedlings this year using an active restoration mechanism.



Mangrove seedlings ©Parques Nacionales Columbia

Participatory census of the Pink Flamingo at the “Flamingos Sanctuary” – National Natural Parks of Colombia- South America.

Pink flamingos (*Phoenicopterus ruber ruber*) come seasonally for migration at this Caribbean Sanctuary in Colombia. In May this year, 4,205 flamingos were found (3,607 adults and 598 juveniles). These are record data for the last 9 years! It was important for indigenous communities to learn more about this species and the monitoring methodology.

Good Maritime Practices Certification for Sailors and Captains at the “Rosario and San Bernardo Corals National Park” – National Natural Parks of Colombia- South America.

The mission of the “Rosario and San Bernardo Corals National Park” is to protect the most extensive coral platform in the continental Caribbean of Colombia, along with coastal mangrove forests, and seagrasses.

On September 2019, 38 sailors and captains who operate private vessels, and that transit the National Corals Park, were trained and certified in good maritime practices on marine signaling, environmental education and solid waste management. This should help minimize the environmental impacts on the marine ecosystems. This process was led by the National Park team, with contributions from the Coastguard, the local Environmental Corporation, Tourism agencies, hotel chains and the FAO.



2019 Good Maritime Practices Certification participants @Parques Nacionales Columbia

Humpback Whales Season at the “Uramba National Park” –Pacific region of Colombia- National Natural Parks of Colombia- South America.

Humpback Whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) migrate to the Pacific region of Colombia during the second half of the year, from August to October. The “Uramba National Park” is a key site for the reproduction and breeding of these whales. The National Park Team monitors the population structure, and estimates the abundance and pressures to which they may be exposed during sighting by tourists.



Whale watching Uramba National Park ©Parques Nacionales Columbia

For more information:

<https://www.parquesnacionales.gov.co>

“Protecting the ocean is a matter of intergenerational justice, preserving its integrity is essential for the future of humanity.”

Peter Thomson, UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Ocean,
7 September 2021, Marseille

“Restoring Ocean Health” was one of the 7 main themes of the IUCN World Conservation Congress. It was the first time at an IUCN Congress that ocean conservation was put on the front stage.

Healthy oceans are at the heart of livelihoods for many, a source of sustenance, and key to a stabilised climate regime. The theme focused on addressing the following: limiting harmful human activities, such as overfishing and pollution, will help build the resilience of marine ecosystems and communities dependent upon them. How can we better address pollution, notably plastics and chemicals, and improve marine spatial planning to ensure that the diversity of marine life is sustained?

Two plenaries (opening and closing) were dedicated to this theme. Mrs Annick Girardin, Minister of the Sea, France, delivered a strong message at the ocean theme opening plenary. She was part of an impressive and diverse panel of speakers such as, Mr Jakob Granit, Director General, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, and Chair of CCAMLR.

The ocean closing plenary, entitled a Blue Breakthrough, featured messages of achievements, innovation and hope from a diversity of speakers, including H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, Ambassador Peter Thomson (UNSG's Special Envoy for the Ocean) as well as from NASA astronaut Dr Jessica Meir (through video message).

Among the virtual possibilities offered by the Congress, one Conservation Action Café was dedicated to ocean issues and focused on high seas, deep-sea mining, noise & marine pollution and bottom trawling.

In total, 72 ocean-related events were also organised during this international summit including 23 at the Ocean & Islands pavilion. All sessions that took place in the Ocean & Islands Pavilion can be replayed on [this link](#).

The Congress is also the place where motions are voted and provide resolutions and recommendations to steer the work of the Union and influence societies to achieve key conservation objectives. All motions dedicated to the ocean were adopted, including:

[WCC-2020-Rec-112-Planning of maritime areas and biodiversity and geodiversity conservation](#)

[WCC-2020-Res-113-Restoring a peaceful and quiet ocean](#)

[WCC-2020-Res-055-Guidance to identify industrial fishing incompatible with protected areas](#)

[WCC-2020-Res-032-Ocean impacts of climate change](#)

[WCC-2020-Rec-126-Reinforcing the protection of marine mammals through regional cooperation](#)

[WCC-2020-Res-128-Acting for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in the ocean beyond national jurisdiction.](#)

The 137 Marseille Resolutions and Recommendations adopted through electronic vote in October 2020 and during Congress in September 2021 are accessible [here](#).

The Congress is composed of the General Assembly, the Forum and the Exhibition. Election of the President of IUCN, elections of the Commission chairs and of the IUCN regional councillors for each region take place at Congress every 4 years. Detailed results of the elections can be found [here](#).



Events calendar

3–11 September 2021, Marseille, France -
IUCN World Conservation Congress
([IUCN WCC](#))

11-15 Oct. 2021 & 18-29 Oct. 2021, Hobart,
Australia – **Meetings of the Commission for
the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living
Resources** ([SC-CAMLR-40](#) & [CCAMLR-40](#))

29 November – 1st December 2021,
Monaco - **The 2020 Forum of MPA in the
Mediterranean** ([read more](#))

7 - 12 March 2022, Kigali, Rwanda – IUCN
Africa Protected Areas Congress ([APAC](#))

22-24 March 2022, La Rochelle, France -
**EU-LIFE PLATFORM MEETING:
EU biodiversity strategy for 2030:
Strictly protected areas** (for more info,
please contact:
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1-8 September 2022, Vancouver, Canada
- **5th International Marine Protected
Areas Congress** ([IMPAC5](#))

11–24 October 2021, Kunming, China -
15th meeting of the **Conference of Parties
of the Convention on Biological Diversity**
([CBD COP 15 – Part One](#))

1–12 November 2021, Glasgow, United
Kingdom
**COP 26 – 26th Conference of Parties of
the Convention on Climate Change**
([UNFCCC – COP26](#))

2021

2022

25 April-8 May 2022, Kunming, China - 15th
meeting of the **Conference of the Parties
to the Convention on Biological Diversity**
([CBD COP 15 – Part Two](#))

22 June – 1st July 2022, Lisbon, Portugal –
2022 UN Ocean Conference, Co-hosted by
Kenya and Portugal ([2022 UN Ocean](#))

Have a look at the MPAAP Member country profiles!

New webpage housed by IUCN: <https://www.iucn.org/mpaap>

Contact: marine@iucn.org

MPAAP members are regularly exchanging information on their MPA Program(s) including main challenges and key priorities. Contact information can be found on the link above. Strongly encouraged to have a look.

The current MPAAP Secretariat is represented by NOAA (USA). For further information or to request to join please contact: Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov and/or Gonzalo.Cid@noaa.gov

#MPAAP