



Further information is available on the project website:
transatlanticmpanetwork.eu

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A PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY BUSINESS
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THE EU TRANSATLANTIC MPA PROJECT

The European Union set up the Transatlantic MPA Partnership project to promote cooperation between managers of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in countries and territories around the Atlantic Ocean.

Building new transatlantic partnerships to improve the effective management of MPAs in coastal and offshore areas will contribute to EU commitments to tackle global biodiversity loss, support climate change adaptation, and respond to EU internal policies on the environment, regional cooperation and the maritime dimension. It will also deliver on two EU external policy priorities: to improve international ocean governance to ensure that oceans are safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed; and to build a new type of transatlantic partnership, which includes all four continents of the Atlantic rim.

WHY MPAS?

The EU and its fellow parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity have committed to protect 10% of their marine and coastal areas through the effective management of Marine Protected Areas by 2020 (Aichi Target 11 within the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020), an objective endorsed by the Regional Seas Conventions.

MPAs are an important tool to manage and enhance marine ecosystems while overseeing sustainable human activities compatible with conservation objectives. However, while their number has increased rapidly around the world in recent years, many designated MPAs lack clear conservation objectives and effective management measures. The project will seek to address this situation through a variety of activities to improve the management of MPAs in the Atlantic area.

SCOPING STUDY AND TIMELINE

The project began in early 2016 and will end at the end of 2017. In its first year, the project team conducted a survey of MPA managers and reviewed existing data and scientific literature about the several thousand existing protected areas in 64 countries and 31 overseas territories along the Atlantic coast and offshore - including terrestrial protected areas located on the coast. Based on this work, they will produce a scoping study to provide a global picture and mapping of marine conservation practices and systems in the Atlantic.

THREE TWINNING PROJECTS

The research also led to the identification of themes for three twinning projects, which were developed in late 2016 by the project team's MPA experts, supported by an international advisory board.

The twinning projects were designed to address common challenges faced by MPA managers, and to contribute to management effectiveness for improved conservation of marine ecosystems. Partners represent MPAs, MPA networks and other management authorities in Africa, Europe, North America and South America, who meet for workshops and other shared activities. The three twinning projects are as follows:



NETWORKS TWINNING

Cooperation and common strategy between MPA networks of managers in the Atlantic region



RESILIENCE TWINNING

MPAs and coastal resilience, coping with rapid changes



MARINE MAMMALS TWINNING

Marine mammals' protection, a way to enhance transatlantic cooperation between MPAs



NEW JERSEY, USA
Jacques Cousteau
National Estuarine
Research Reserve

USA
Stellwagen Bank National
Marine Sanctuary

PORTUGAL
Northern Littoral
Natural Park

FRANCE
Agence française pour
la biodiversité

MEDITERRANEAN
Mediterranean Network of Marine
Protected Areas Managers

NORTH AMERICA
North American Marine
Protected Areas Network

PORTUGAL
Azores Marine Park

SPAIN
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries,
Food and Environment

MEXICO
Cozumel Biosphere
Reserve

CARIBBEAN
Caribbean Marine Protected Areas
Managers Network and Forum

WEST AFRICA
Regional Network of Marine Protected
Areas in West Africa

SAINT-MARTIN, FRENCH ANTILLES
Agoa Sanctuary

REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE
National Directorate of
Environment

GABON
· Akanda National Park
· Pongara National Park
· R. Walker Arboretum

BRAZIL
Abrolhos National Park

NETWORKS TWINNING

The Networks Twinning project aims to improve cooperation between networks of MPA managers in the Atlantic region. Among its activities, the project will: identify network actions that support effective management of MPAs; showcase the value of working at a transatlantic scale, raise the profile of networking, and contribute to mobilising resources for the future; draft and develop a joint strategy; connect with MPAs that are not yet linked to any existing network; and reinforce national MPA networks and promote new regional MPA networks.

Partners in the Networks Twinning project include: the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network and Forum (CaMPAM), Mediterranean Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers (MedPAN), Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa (RAMPAO), North American Marine Protected Areas Network (NAMPAM), Agence française pour la biodiversité (AFB) (the institution responsible for France's national MPA network); and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and the Environment of Spain, through the Biodiversity Foundation.



RESILIENCE TWINNING

The Resilience Twinning project is developing cooperation between marine and coastal protected areas on the Atlantic rim to boost resilience to coastal changes such as rapid population densification and climate impacts. It will examine existing strategies and approaches designed to respond to changes to the environment due to the growing pressure on resources and assets in coastal zones and to climate change, as well as the role of MPAs in reinforcing the resilience of surrounding coastal territories and areas.

The project will also consider issues to support future management planning, such as: how MPAs can contribute to building resilient coastal territories; strategies that can be applied to anticipate changes and adapt proactively to cope with these changes; how pressures due to the multiplication of coastal defences and coastal hardening can be managed to avoid adverse effects on natural coastal ecosystems; and research approaches that might be developed to contribute to knowledge of climate change effects.

The core partners in the Resilience Twinning project include the Abrolhos National Park, Brazil; Akanda National Park, Pongara National Park and R. Walker Arboretum, Gabon; Cozumel Biosphere Reserve, Mexico; Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, USA; and Northern Littoral Natural Park, Portugal.



MARINE MAMMALS PROTECTION TWINNING

The Marine Mammals Protection Twinning project is working to enhance understanding about whales in the Atlantic Ocean and to promote collaboration between MPAs. An existing whale protection programme for humpback whales in North America and the Caribbean contributes to improving management of this species, from feeding and nursery grounds in the US Gulf of Maine to breeding and calving areas in the Caribbean. However, there is currently very little communication with other areas of the whales' Atlantic range: notably a breeding area near Cape Verde and feeding grounds stretching to the north of Iceland and Norway.

The twinning project will promote collaboration across this wider area – on research, monitoring and outreach programmes – with the aim to contribute to better collaboration throughout the Atlantic. Partners in the marine mammals twinning project include: Agoa, an MPA devoted to marine mammal conservation, French West Indies; Marine Mammal Sanctuary, Bermuda; Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, USA; Azores Marine Park, Portugal; and the National Directorate of Environment, Republic of Cape Verde.

