

Call for Joint Action by MPA networks

We, the undersigned, are committed to working together towards the common goal of building a transatlantic Marine Protected Areas network

The third International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC 3), in 2013, was the opportunity for four regional MPA networks - CaMPAM in the Caribbean, MedPAN in the Mediterranean, NAMPAN in North America and RAMPAN in West Africa - to begin to exchange ideas on how to collaborate to share experiences and maximise resources. This collaboration is currently reinforced by the European Union project, *Cooperation with Northern and Southern Transatlantic Dimension through MPAs*, which aims to stimulate exchange and the sharing of good practice to improve MPA management effectiveness. It was further strengthened at the UN Ocean Conference in June 2017.

In this context, the four regional networks, plus two national bodies responsible for managing MPAs – the French Biodiversity Agency and the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment through the Biodiversity Foundation - are developing a joint strategy to share experiences and tools to improve their capacities, as well as to explore options for long-term financing to ensure network sustainability at regional and national levels in the Atlantic.

We believe that through sharing transatlantic experiences, knowledge and technical and scientific information, we can build capacity and improve the effectiveness and sustainability of MPAs.

Networks of MPA managers, at national, sub-regional, regional or supra-regional levels are successful in sharing knowledge and best management practices through effective communication and capacity building. They allow for exchanges between managers with common issues in different local contexts, and generate creativity, problem solving and resource sharing.

We believe that ecological connectivity will be enhanced by strong human connectivity across the Atlantic.

MPA managers' networks are recognised as a **cornerstone of MPA performance**. They build “**MPA communities**” at all levels, by connecting marine planners and managers, decision-makers, scientists and other stakeholders, working towards the same overall goal of healthy, sustainable ocean and coasts.

We believe that the Call for Joint Action by MPA Networks at all levels will champion the current marine conservation challenges, especially the CBD Aichi Targets 11 and 6, the SDG14, as well as the Paris Climate Agreement.

Through a bottom-up approach, those networks are teaming up to keep the global, regional and national MPA agendas moving forward.

We believe that strong transatlantic MPA network should be actively promoted and financed to allow MPA managers to most effectively collaborate on actions to address the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

IMPAC 4 is a great opportunity to strengthen this effort. **We invite all of you - countries, managers, donors, scientists and others - to join this call and commit to support this networking approach and to spread it within and beyond the Atlantic to our global ocean.**