

**Keynote Christophe Lefebvre : Workshop on linking global and regional levels in the management of MPAs beyond National jurisdiction, 10-20 February, FAO, Roma**

**MPAs in the high sea from global to North East Atlantic regional scale**

The third international marine protected Congress (IMPAC 3) was held in Marseille , France, in November 2013, organized by the French marine protected areas Agency with IUCN. At IMPAC3, MPAS in the high seas was one of the key challenging topics of the Congress. IMPAC3 addressed MPAs recommendations to the WPC in Sydney, organized one year later.

In Sydney, IUCN has proposed the IMPANA Initiative which is an Agenda to build and strengthen current work on the global marine protected areas network toward 2020 ( the Aichi target 11) and beyond 2020 considering MPAS must cover on the long term 30 % of the global ocean, as recommended by WPC.

The Agenda shall assist governments and agencies in facilitating and completing the establishment of coherent, resilient and efficient networks of marine protected areas...and as well marine conservation measures at all scales, be they national, regional and global scales.

The development of this Agenda is coordinated by the IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme (GMPP), with contributions from the IUCN WCPA (World Commission on Protected Areas), supported by other IUCN Commissions, and implemented with the support of IUCN membership.

**The aims of the Agenda are two :**

- **Facilitating progresses to the establishment of new MPAS, including high seas**
- **Supporting effective management of existing MPAs**

Regarding MPAs in the high seas, IMPAC3 underlined some particular issues:

- Need of Improving knowledge of high-seas ecosystems through scientific research, considering 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.
- Defining an international legal status for MPAs in the framework of the project of High seas UNCLOS implementing agreement , and recognizing that the implementation of any future MPA protocol 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.

- Recognizing the role that regional fisheries-management organizations may assume in managing MPAs at the regional level.
- 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.
- Using all means, including education, to raise awareness of high-seas ecosystems in their full diversity,

The final Agenda will be presented at the WCC in Hawaii in 2016

From an IUCN point of view, NEA is a very demonstrative marine region....working on new perspectives on high seas Marine Protected Areas in the North East Atlantic shall request developing actions :

- Encouraging the cooperation between NEAFC and OSPAR on high seas MPAs strategy issue, accordingly to the achievement of Aichi target 11 jointly with the Aichi target 6 ( CBD SOI action Plan)
- Developing the multi and cross sectoral approach (IMO-ISA-NEAFC-OSPAR) on biodiversity Conservation and sustainable use of marine resource issues in the framework of the high seas MPAs designation process.
- Developing high seas MPAs management plans in a way of promoting the creation of a cross sectoral MPAs management and governance Committee, associating economically NEAFC, politically the OSPAR contracting parties, scientifically ICES, and technically by the establishment of a Regional Sea Marine Protected Areas Agency Partnership
- Facilitating the implementation of the EBSAs CBD repository by informing, inspiring and influencing simultaneously NEAFC and OSPAR Parties.
- Developing interregional cooperation between NEA and NWA to achieve the implementation of a North Atlantic coherent MPAs network, based on the cooperation of National MPAS Agencies on both side of the North Atlantic.

