



Participation of MMMPA to the Third International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC3)

21-25 October, 2013, Marseille, France

MMMPA Early-Stage Researchers attended the Third International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC3), which took place in Marseille from October 21 to October 25, 2013. IMPAC is the most important congress on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), organized every four years and brings together major maritime stakeholders from around the globe to assist in the conservation and sustainable development of the oceans. Participants represent public management and planning agencies, research institutions, non-governmental organizations, coastal or island communities, and sea-related industries, from fishing to cable laying, mining, shipping and tourism.

IMPAC3 aims to deliver a new vision and new tools to achieve the goal of protecting 10 percent of the world's oceans by 2020. Therefore, the main focus of the meeting was to:

1. Exchange MPA planning and management expertise and know-how;
2. Develop cooperation and capacity building among MPAs;
3. Promote global and regional networking;
4. Use the web to connect stakeholders;
5. Integrate MPAs with the rising Blue Economy;
6. Foster public interest in MPAs and contribute to the emergence of a Blue Society.

MMMPA researchers presented their first results in several workshops ranging from socio-economic to ecological aspects of MPAs. In particular on 22nd of October MMMPA participated in:

- The Workshop entitled "Assessing the impacts of commercial fishing" where MMMPA presented a theoretical framework and risk assessments related to the coralligenous environment and fishing activity in Portofino MPA were discussed. Markantonatou V., Ramirez- Zapata P., Huete-Stauffer C, Marconi M., Cappanera V., Papadopoulou N., Cerrano C. "A DPSIR framework to evaluate the effect of fisheries on coralligenous in Mediterranean MPAs".
- The Workshop entitled "Studying species in MPAs: benthic species and habitats" where MMMPA presented a recent study on the perspectives for conservation and restoration of Mediterranean marine forests and the role played by MPAs in this

context. In particular, It was highlighted the urgent need for an integration of *Cystoseira* protection in the MPA decision processes, for large-scale management plans and for increasing public awareness on their importance.

Gianni F., Bartolini F., Airoidi L., Ballesteros E., Francour P., Guidetti P., Meinesz A., Thibaut T., Mangialajo L., “The potential role of Marine Protected Areas in the conservation and restoration of Mediterranean marine forests”.

MMMMPA also participated with posters entitled:

- “A framework to analyse and promote social capital to achieve effective governance of marine protected areas in the European Mediterranean”. Katie Hogg, Pedro Noguera Mendez, María Semitiel García
- “How to build a cost-effective Ecopath model useful for Marine Protected Areas’ managers”. Giulia Prato, Didier Gascuel, Audrey Valls, Patrice Francour
- “Initial Training Network for the Monitoring of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas: Summer 2013. MMMMPA secondment activities at Tavolara and Punta Coda Cavallo MPA”. Tavolara- Punta Coda Cavallo MPA and MMMMPA project.

MMMMPA also participated actively in several other workshops, round tables and knowledge café that took place during the conference, with issues related to ecological, socio-economic, connectivity, planning and monitoring, development of innovating tools and techniques, management and financing strategies for supporting adaptive and effective MPA management at local, regional and global scale.

MMMMPA researchers also participated to the young professionals’ meeting organised for the first time at an IMPAC event by the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Young Professionals Specialist group. Key young people’s priorities for the future of marine conservation were :

- The facilitation of leadership by youth through a greater support of young people involvement in marine conservation and especially in the establishment and management process of Marine Protected Areas, complemented by the need to improve young people’s accessibility to financial resources.
- The need for increasing public awareness on MPAs through broad environmental education campaigns, for better collaboration between natural and social sciences in marine conservation and for cross cultural and international collaborations leading to international platforms for knowledge and data sharing.
- - The implementation of adaptive management practices and long term funding for MPAs in order to achieve the CBD Aichi target 10% of MPAs coverage by 2020.

“A New Generation of Marine Conservation” declaration was produced as part of a paper trail of statements produced by young people at various conferences, an on going process that

will culminate in the Young Peoples' Pact for Parks, People, and Planet to be presented at the World Park Congress in November 2014 in Sydney, Australia.

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 and implementing agreement of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea geared at 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 stresses the importance of adopting two high-seas MPAs currently under consideration in the Antarctic Ocean.
4. The necessity of regional approaches, which constitute the appropriate scale to devise many solutions, particularly on governance issues.

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