

2022 UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE
ONLINE STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING: INPUTS TO THE POLITICAL
DECLARATION ZERO DRAFT

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Written Statement
Maria Purificació Canals (MedPAN)

NETWORKS OF MPA MANAGERS' INPUTS

Thank you for holding this consultation. As President of MedPAN (Mediterranean Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers) and also representing several regional and national networks of MPA managers in the Atlantic area, involved in the Transatlantic partnership between networks of MPA managers, we would like to highlight the role and value of those networks of managers at regional, sub-regional and national levels as well as their cooperation at global level that needs to be further supported. Networks of MPA managers are successful in sharing knowledge and best management practices. Thanks to exchanges on common issues between managers dealing with different contexts, they generate creative and replicable solutions, they amplify actions and effectively share resources. They build “MPA communities” at all levels by strengthening and connecting MPA managers at national, supranational, and global levels enabling the ground implementation of international policies (CBD targets, SDGs,...). Currently, a group of 18 networks of MPA managers and MPA agencies cooperate through a common strategy in the Atlantic Region. They are joining efforts in addressing common issues to support MPAs technically, financially and strategically through their partnership under the EU Ocean Governance project, that intends to boost this cooperation and dynamics.

Considering the above, we would like to suggest additional text on this important cooperation of practitioners and the need to enhance it at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels. To do so, we would like to suggest additional language in the paragraphs 11.e and 12.b and a new paragraph on the UN Decade on ecosystem restoration that is also key for the success of the SDG 14:

New paragraph 10 bis or 11:

We also recognize the importance of the United Nations Decade of Ecosystems Restoration (2021-2030) and its aims to halt the degradation of ecosystems and restoring them to achieve global goals. We echo the rallying call for the protection and revival of marine and coastal ecosystems all around the world, for the benefit of people and nature. Only with healthy marine ecosystems can we address the climate-biodiversity-development nexus and secure human health. We acknowledge the critical work done by MPA managers and their networks and we commit to support and scale up their existing efforts and best practices exchanges to put the world on track for a resilient and healthy future.

Contribution to paragraph 11.e

Effectively planning and implementing area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning, through, inter alia, assessing their ecological, social and cultural value and applying the precautionary and ecosystem-based approach, in accordance with national legislation and international law. *Increasing exchanges and collaboration within and between communities of practices such as the MPA managers networks at the sub-national, national, regional, and global levels,*

Contribution to paragraph 12.b :

b. Enhance cooperation at the global, regional, sub-regional and national level in order to strengthen mechanisms for collaboration, knowledge-sharing and exchange of best practices *between marine practitioners, including MPA managers and* within marine scientific research, and to support developing countries in addressing their constraints in access to technology, including through strengthening science, technology and innovation infrastructure, domestic innovation capabilities, absorptive capacities and the capacity of national statistical systems, in particular in the most vulnerable countries, which face the greatest challenges in collecting, analyzing and using reliable data and statistics,

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