



Statement of the Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (MedPAN)

Thank you Chair. Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This statement is made by the Mediterranean Network of Marine Protected Areas (MedPAN) in the framework of the European Ocean Governance partnership between networks of MPA managers, as a response to the call of the Ambassador Peter Thomson to stop the decline.

Increasing the number of MPAs is widely seen as a priority to achieve CBD Targets and the UN SDGs. However, is not only about the quantity but the quality. All over the world, many MPAs lack of effective management, financial resources and adequate governance.

We would like to highlight the role of networks of Marine Protected Areas managers at regional, sub-regional and national levels as well as their cooperation at global level. All together, they represent a critical Blue Belt that gathers an active community of practice and connects ground conservation action with global policies.

The success of the SDG 14 cannot be without acknowledging the terrible but although the powerful human factor. If this Conference is seeking to propel much needed solutions and is aiming at starting a new chapter of global ocean action, it should harness the numerous solutions of this blue belt.

Networks of MPA managers are a cornerstone to support healthy marine ecosystems, thriving communities and accelerate the implementation of SDGs. When empowered, they can be the game changers. Those networks improve practical skills of managers through knowledge, best practices and solutions sharing. They address common conservation and management issues within the broader landscape and seascape.

They build “MPA communities” at all levels by connecting MPA managers, scientists, authorities, stakeholders, and donors. They enable the creation of these needed linkages between MPA actions on the ground and decision-making processes.

Through the EU Ocean Governance project, networks of MPA managers within the Transatlantic region and beyond (South East Asia, Pacific, Western Indian Ocean...) have defined a joint strategy to build capacities, support knowledge sharing, policy implementation and fundraising.

The ocean needs innovative cooperation approaches and our community is already paving the way with a new Global Alliance for Marine Protection that gathers networks of MPA managers, conservation trust funds and their networks. This new Alliance aims at boosting solutions for effective and sustainably financed MPAs.

We invite all of you to support and take advantage of MPA networks of managers to reach the ocean targets. Thank you very much.

Mrs Maria Purificació Canals Ventín, President of MedPAN