



# ***Statement of Requirements for hosting the International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC)***

## **I. About the International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC)**

Since 2005, a global community of marine protected area managers and practitioners have come together once every four years at IMPAC, an international congress on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) convened under the auspices of IUCN, IUCN WCPA and the host country.

IMPAC aims to share knowledge and experience and join efforts to strengthen best practices in the establishment and management of MPAs, for the effective conservation of marine biodiversity, and the natural and cultural heritage of the ocean. The four previous IMPAC meetings were a tremendous success with high attendance rates, taking place in Geelong, Australia (2005), Washington, D.C., United States of America (2009), Marseille, France (2013) and La Serena, Chile (2017). In February 2023, IMPAC5 will take place in Vancouver, Canada after a delay caused by the global pandemic.

The number of participants and representatives from states and organizations, has grown and gathered momentum, making IMPAC the world's premier forum, both technically and politically, to promote MPAs as a key instrument for ocean conservation and sustainability. The conference acts as a catalyst for resource mobilisation whether private or public or blended finance for MPA creation and effective management and often serves as a platform for new national commitments.

Since IMPAC3 in Marseille, the IMPAC congresses have hosted a High-Level Segment, where high-level representatives of political, scientific, philanthropic and NGO institutions and organisations meet right after the congress to discuss the outcomes from the event and agree on a joint declaration to support the global MPA agenda.

IMPAC is a forum for MPA practitioners, managers, private sector, advocates and scientists, to gather the global MPA community in talks, posters, seminars, panels, training and capacity-building sessions, side events, knowledge cafes, and similar activities, as well as ocean- and MPA-related cultural and social activities. In addition, IMPAC includes an Exhibition, where businesses, partners, and academia host pavilions, booths and events. The Exhibition is open to congress participants and the general public, allowing exhibitors the opportunity to showcase their research, innovative work and other activities to the broadest congress audience. In addition, several central open presentation areas or “Central Stages” accommodating up to 150

people are included in the Exhibition zone or within large pavilions. The hosts of the exhibitions and pavilions, can host their own activities, in coordination with the host country.

IMPAC is not a statutory congress like the IUCN World Conservation Congress, and so is not mandated to conclude formal resolutions or recommendations binding on IUCN. The outcomes and recommendations of IMPAC can be channelled through relevant forums including as motions to the World Conservation Congress, and other organisations and processes. The objectives, programme and components of IMPAC are set by the IMPAC International Steering Committee. The host country is responsible for developing the overall programme in consultation with the International Steering Committee.

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### **II. Roles involved in organising IMPAC**

The IMPAC International Steering Committee - comprising of the host country, previous host countries, WCPA Marine and IUCN Ocean - guides the planning of IMPAC. WCPA Marine and IUCN Ocean Team, together with the Congress Executive Director from the host country, serve as contact points for the management of the congress. IMPAC is co-hosted by the host country and IUCN, and co-chaired by the host country, IUCN Ocean Team and WCPA Marine.

### **III. Selection process for IMPAC6**

The selection process consists of two distinct phases to allow candidates enough time to submit their proposals and to provide IUCN and WCPA with the appropriate information to enable an in-depth evaluation leading to a decision.

This Statement of Requirements (SoR) guides interested national governments (Candidates) to prepare a bidding document (full Proposal). The first phase (Phase 1) of the selection process is for candidates to express interest in hosting the sixth International Marine Protected Areas Congress in 2026 ("IMPAC6"). This is followed by a second phase (Phase 2), which is the preparation of the full proposal and supporting documents.

**Phase 1 – Expression of Interest** - interested national governments represented by mandated organisations (Interested Parties) are invited to express interest in hosting the Congress by submitting an expression of interest (EOI), demonstrating how they will meet the Requirements outlined below. Only Candidates meeting all Requirements will be invited to participate in the second phase of the selection process, and to submit a full written Proposal (Full Proposal). Preference will be given to countries and regions that have not previously hosted an IMPAC conference.

**Phase 2 – Full Proposal** - The International Steering Committee will send detailed and specific questions to complement the proposal for the Congress to all Candidates retained after Phase 1, to complement the EOI presented in Phase 1, and offer support for developing the full proposal by inviting them to an information session to enable them to best prepare their submission, including guarantee and government support letters in time for the deadline. Final Candidates will be selected based on the analysis of this Full Proposal.

The International Steering Committee will decide the Host Country and the hosting agreement will be negotiated with IUCN.

All Candidates are required to adhere to the Code of Conduct as presented in Annex I throughout the entire process.

## **Phase 1 Expression of Interest to host IMPAC6**

This section outlines all requirements for Interested Parties, demonstrating how they will meet these requirements by the deadline stipulated, in order (if they wish) to be considered as a Candidate. The EOI must include answers to the following questions below using [this form](#).

- Why do you want to host IMPAC6?
- Who will be the host (National Government or sub-national or organization)? If the latter, which Government or management agency would be supporting the application?
- Which agency/organisation would be the lead on behalf of your country? What other agencies/organisations would likely be involved?
- What is the likelihood of National government support to host IMPAC6?
- Would you consider a co-host arrangement? If so, do you have a particular country/region in mind?
- Where does the country stand in terms of global targets regarding marine protected and conserved areas (local, national, regional) and longer-term plans for the 2030 agenda and the CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework?
- What is the intended location for the event? (i.e. preferably with a marine focus) (see Annex II for Venue Requirements)  
Can the venue guarantee a hybrid format? If so, how will online participation from differing time zones be accommodated?
- What are examples of similar-sized events held previously in that city/location?
- What are the possibilities for associated field trips?
- Any other matters considered relevant to the proposal?

## A. Proposed timeline

The following dates will be important for the selection process of IMPAC6:

Step	Date	Activity
Phase 1	01 August 2022	Open call to participate in selection process for Congress issued
	03 October 2022	Deadline for Interested Parties to submit Proposals for Phase 1, answering requirements outlined in this SoR.
	10 October 2022	Detailed Statement of complementary information requirements sent to all Candidates who meet high-level criteria with invitation to prepare a full proposal.
	17-24 October 2022	Virtual information session for Candidates to ask questions about the Full Proposal process.
Phase 2	15 November 2022	Deadline for Candidates to submit Full Proposals with all respective guarantees and government support letters
	30 November 2022	Final decision communicated.

## **IV. About IUCN**

**IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (“IUCN”)** is a membership Union uniquely composed of government, civil society and indigenous peoples’ organisations. IUCN provides knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN has evolved into the world’s largest and most diverse environmental network.

Harnessing the experience, resources and reach of more than 1,700 Member organisations and the input of more than 17,000 experts, IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. Our experts are organised into six Commissions dedicated to species survival, environmental law, protected areas, social and economic policy, ecosystem management, and education and communication. A seventh, devoted to addressing the climate change crisis is currently being set up.

Through their affiliation with IUCN, Member organisations are part of a democratic process, meeting every four years at the IUCN World Conservation Congress to set priorities, agree on the Union’s work programme and discuss and approve Resolutions, which lay the foundations for the global conservation agenda.

Our Member organisations are represented by the IUCN Council – IUCN’s principle governing body. Headquartered in Switzerland, the IUCN Secretariat comprises around 900 committed staff in more than 50 countries.

Between the IUCN World Conservation Congresses, IUCN and the World Commission of Protected Areas (WCPA) – one of the six commissions of IUCN - organises the IUCN World Park Congress (WPC) and the International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC), as well as various regional congresses on protected and conserved areas.

The WCPA has the mission to develop and provide scientific, technical and policy advice and advocate for global and national systems of marine, freshwater and terrestrial protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) that result in successful outcomes for the conservation of biodiversity, based on principles of sound design, good management and equitable governance. The objectives of the WCPA for the period 2020-2024 are:

## **V. About IUCN Ocean and WCPA Marine**

The Head of the IUCN Ocean Team in the IUCN Secretariat and the WCPA Vice Chair for the Marine Theme co-lead the organisation of the IMPAC congresses together with the IMPAC Steering Committee.

IUCN's ocean ambition is characterized by three interlinking work areas - knowledge, policy and impact - that underscore our mission: By 2030, a healthy ocean that supports people and nature, governed by strengthened national and international legal frameworks financed with sustainable investments that restore ocean and coastal biodiversity and associated services for future generations.

The IUCN Secretariat will contribute to this vision by aiming to achieve the following three Impact Targets:

1. The loss of marine species and decline of marine ecosystem integrity is halted, and restoration initiated.
2. Uses of marine natural resources generate overall positive biodiversity outcomes and sustain livelihood benefits for coastal communities.
3. Ocean and coastal processes are maintained as a key foundation for planetary stability.

The WCPA Marine Theme has the following objectives:

1. Help governments, agencies, organisations and individuals to plan, designate and implement MPAs, and MPA networks with the goal to protect at least 30% of the ocean;
2. Ensure better application of the best science, technical and policy advice on MPA and MPA networks;
3. Generate, synthesise and disseminate guidance and knowledge on MPAs;
4. Develop enhanced capacity at different levels to address the variety of challenges that funding and implementing effectively managed MPAs can present;
5. Foster innovation to come up with exciting new solutions and ideas to tackle current and futures challenges;
6. Inspire the next generation of MPA leaders and practitioners.

## ANNEX I

### **Code of Conduct.**

All Candidates will be treated equally and fairly.

#### **I. Obligations of Host Country Candidates**

1. Until the deadline for submission of the Proposal, no public promotion of the Proposal by the Candidate is permitted.
2. After the submission of the Proposal and prior to the final decision, Candidates must not disclose or promote any details of their Proposal publicly (including to IUCN staff or IUCN Council members) other than to the members of the designated evaluation team from the IUCN Secretariat and WCPA. The Candidate may only promote the fact that they are bidding for the Congress without disclosing any technical or financial details of their Proposal.
3. The Candidate is to refrain from lobbying any IUCN staff, WCPA members, Council members, Members or Commission Steering Committee members in favour of their Proposal.
4. Gifts and Hospitality: No individual representing the Candidate in the bidding process including but not limited to employees, directors or other representatives should accept or offer gifts, hospitality or benefits of any kind that might be seen to compromise their integrity or to be benefiting the person offering the service or the recipient personally and/or at the cost of IUCN's reputation. However, small gifts with no material value may be received or offered in appropriate situations provided there is no appearance of corruption, fraud or conflict of interest.
5. The Candidate may not negotiate or sign contracts or agreements with IUCN offices or departments, which could be seen as affecting IUCN's impartiality regarding the selection process.
6. All Candidates must be honest and fair in their dealings with all parts of the Union and IUCN will not tolerate any level of fraud or corruption.

#### **II. Obligations of IUCN Secretariat and WCPA**

1. No IUCN Council member may obtain property, financial advantage or any other benefit including but not limited to soliciting or accepting any gift, hospitality or value in kind (directly or indirectly) from any individual representing the Candidate in the bidding process including but not limited to employees, directors or other representatives of the Candidate that could be seen as affecting the person's impartiality with regard to the selection process in line with the Code of Conduct for IUCN Councillors and the IUCN anti-fraud policy.
2. No IUCN staff member nor member of the evaluation team may obtain property, financial advantage or any other benefit including but not limited to soliciting or accepting any gift, hospitality (other than for the site inspection) or value in kind (directly or indirectly) from any individual representing the Candidate in the bidding process including but not limited to employees, directors or other representatives of the Candidate that could be seen as affecting

the person's impartiality with regard to the selection process in line with the IUCN Code of Conduct and Professional Ethics for the Secretariat and the IUCN Anti-Fraud Policy.

3. No IUCN office or department may negotiate or sign a contract or agreement with the Candidate, which could be seen as affecting IUCN's impartiality with regard to the selection process.

4. No IUCN Council member, no member of a Commission Steering Committee nor any IUCN staff member may provide support to a Candidate in preparing their Proposal. Feedback provided during the site inspection (e.g. on misunderstandings of IUCN's requirements, or IUCN's misunderstanding of the host destination's offer, or clarity on missing elements from the initial Proposal) is acceptable.

5. Information and answers to questions about the selection process and requirements for hosting the Congress shall exclusively be sent to or by the IUCN Global Events and Convenings Unit to ensure that information is both accurate and shared with all Candidates.

6. IUCN Council members with a nationality or residency in the same country as a finalist country should recuse themselves from the decision-making in Council.



## ANNEX II

### Venue requirements

Minimum space requirements:

Any Interested Party needs to demonstrate that the proposed host venue possesses an adequate number and size of rooms and informal spaces to accommodate the “minimum space requirements” as described in this section.

The Venue should accommodate 3,000 to 5,000 onsite participants with adequate rooms and facilities for all Congress events. The Congress is a large, multi-track event that requires different types and styles of rooms to accommodate large plenaries, oral and panel sessions, roundtables, knowledge cafes, training sessions, and other session formats. All session rooms require appropriate staging, soundproofing and state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment and should ideally be pillar-free.

It is highly desirable that all Congress events and functions are hosted in one single, state-of-the-art venue. In the event that the opening ceremony and/or reception or other elements of the Congress are proposed to be held elsewhere, the Candidate is required to provide a detailed proposal for a secondary venue with comparable equipment and facilities, and one that is in close proximity to the main Congress Venue. Details on equipment and services needed for all spaces will be provided during Phase 2 of the selection process.

The minimum space requirements for the Venue are as follows:

#### a) Congress Opening ceremony

1 very large session room or auditorium (with interpretation cabins) for ideally up to 4,000 people, but at a minimum 2,000 – 2,500 Participants, in theatre style. The room must be equipped for livestreaming. (It is possible but less preferable to have this ceremony at a different venue).

#### b) Conference rooms

At least 10 conference rooms of minimum capacity of 150 participants, to carry out parallel talks, training and capacity building sessions, roundtables, knowledge cafes or similar, all equipped with standard technology.

#### c) Exhibition

Large exhibit hall of 5000 – 10000 square meters minimum for small, medium and large exhibition, with easy access to the rest of the Venue and pillar free as much as possible. Ideally, the exhibition area should be accessible to the general public without registration, without making the rest of the Venue accessible to them. Height of ceiling should be above 4.50 metres (ideally above 7 metres for special installations).

The following areas in the exhibition hall will be at the cost of the Host Country:

- 3 open presentation areas (“Central Stages”) each accommodating up to for 150 Participants in theatre style with silent sound system; equipped for livestreaming
- 1 large Host Country Pavilion in a prominent location

d) Informal areas

- i. Space to hold welcome reception for 2,000 – 4,000 people (in or outside the Venue).
- ii. Food and Beverage areas: space for restaurants, self-service/snacking areas throughout the Venue to ensure that all Participants have the ability to purchase and consume food during break-times (note: ideally, catering services / food and beverage areas should also be included in the exhibition hall)
- iii. A VIP Lounge and 3 sound-proof VIP meeting rooms, as well as one office (100m<sup>2</sup>): high quality lounge area that is secured (limited access only);

e) Press

- i. Fully equipped Media centre with separate media lounge (500m<sup>2</sup>), sound proof interview rooms, facilities for television and radio journalists to support editing and broadcasting, satellite or adequate high-speed internet feeds enabling secure Internet-based broadcast without interfering with the congress Internet access requirements as well as the rest of the Venue, branded backdrops in each room.
- ii. Press conference room for 150 – 250 Participants in theatre style, with interpretation cabins

f) Offices

- i. Offices for IUCN staff (500 m<sup>2</sup>) in access-controlled area
- ii. 3 private meeting rooms close to staff offices (capacity of 10 – 40 people)
- iii. Offices for Host Country staff
- iv. Offices for all suppliers and service providers (PCO, AV, IT, security, interpreters, F&B, exhibition)

g) Additional spaces

- i. Service areas: Speaker Preview Room; Business centre; Prayer rooms; First Aid Centre; Nursing room, Relaxation area
- ii. Space for registration as well as info desks, payment desk, Mobile app Help desk, travel agent help desk, and hotel and tourism desks (at least 800m<sup>2</sup>)
- iii. Storage for suppliers and exhibitors

h) Additional requirements

All rooms, offices and areas in the Venue as listed above, need to be fully equipped with furniture, AV and IT equipment, electricity and plugs, lighting, air/conditioning or heating (as

necessary), as per requirements to be established by IUCN.

The Venue has to have an adequate electricity infrastructure to ensure that all electrical devices required for a Congress of this size can be plugged in and work smoothly; a back-up system is needed in case of electricity failures.

The entire Venue requires the following internet infrastructure:

- High-speed wireless internet with a minimum of two different internet lines by two different providers for backup purposes with each a bandwidth of a minimum 4Gb/s;
- Enough Wi-Fi hotspots setup across the entire Venue to support the needs of the Participants with simultaneous connection with a minimum of 2Mbps upload and download per device; the Wi-Fi hotspot coverage per room should handle at least 3 times the capacity of the room without any interference; at least 3 parallel SSIDs (Service Set Identifiers) should be setup for staff, media, public
- High-speed cabled internet and electricity drops for all offices, podiums in session rooms, as well as media centre
- Cell phone 4G and 5G (if locally available) coverage by minimum 2 operators over the entire Venue.

In addition, the Venue should ideally not have exclusivity rights granted to suppliers (AV, IT, interpretation, hosts, etc.) or else guarantee competitive pricing and quality for all exclusive services.

Submission requirements:

- a) Demonstrate that the proposed host Venue possesses an adequate number and size of rooms and informal spaces to accommodate the “Minimum Space Requirements” as described above;
- b) Provide a list of all additional meeting space and capacity within or nearby the proposed Venue that is also included within this Proposal, beyond the “Minimum Space Requirements”, if applicable;
- c) Provide as an Annex, the general floor plans of the Venue including, but not limited to, the session rooms, offices, open areas, technical zones and the exhibition area with definition of structure/security limitations, maximum height, freight entries, storage facilities;
- d) Provide as an Annex, a table (e.g. MS Excel) with all rooms listed in point a) and b) specifying room size and capacity in different set-ups;
- e) Provide as an Annex, some pictures showing rooms and space allocations from a variety of events previously held in the Venue.

Customised renderings specific to the IUCN Congress are not required at this stage of the selection process, but will be required in Phase 2.