



Agence des aires marines protégées



3<sup>rd</sup> International Marine Protected Areas Congress  
MARSEILLE & CORSICA-FRANCE 21-27 OCTOBER 2013

Press release

● Brest, Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> August 2013

## IMPAC3: The programme is now online

The third International Marine Protected Areas Congress due to take place from 21 to 27 October in Marseille and Corsica, is now approaching. Publishing the programme on [www.IMPAC3.org](http://www.IMPAC3.org) is a new milestone towards the Congress, paving the way for registrations (discount applicable until 20 August).

### ● Unprecedented success in the call for papers:

In response to the call for papers, some 700 contributions were collected from across the oceans. Unsurprisingly, the host country France was the biggest contributor, accounting for about a quarter of abstracts received. The rest of Europe provided another quarter, followed by the Americas (approximately 20%), Africa and Asia (approximately 10% each), and countries in Oceania and the Pacific (another 10%). Between 100 and 200 files were submitted for each of the four days, with scientific aspects and management tools inspiring the highest number of responses. The day dedicated to governance, interaction with users and industry involvement accounts for about 150 abstracts. This confirms the ambition of the Agence des aires marines protégées (Marine Protected Areas Agency) and the IUCN, the Congress organisers, to open up this international meeting to sea users and economic stakeholders.



Photo: Ville de Marseille

Around one thousand participants are expected at Pharo Palace in Marseille.

## ● More about the programme

This is the basis on which Impac3 organisers chose to develop the programme, proposing a structure combining different types of conference sessions every day: plenary sessions, workshops, knowledge cafes, films, presentations at the Congress Ocean + Pavilion and theme-based evenings.

- **Knowledge, 22 October, Palais du Pharo, Marseille:** This day will be an opportunity to assess progress made in knowledge of the marine environment for the benefit of MPAs and the involvement of the scientific community. Experience and knowledge will also be shared during the day to leverage insights for decision-making, enhanced management and public awareness.
- **Tools for protection and MPA networks, 23 October, Palais du Pharo, Marseille:** Beyond the quantitative target of creating 10% of MPAs across the oceans by 2020 (Aichi Target), this day will focus on the quality of management and protection offered by the different categories of MPA worldwide, the effectiveness of existing networks and the scope for progress and improvement in terms of management strategies, tools and plans.
- **Governance, partnerships and industry involvement, 24 October, Palais du Pharo, Marseille:** Because marine ecosystem deterioration has numerous and complex causes and because the objectives of protecting the marine environment are inseparable from the expected benefits for humans, their protection requires collective efforts and involvement of users of the sea, particularly industries.
- **Regional approach and networks, 25 October, Palais du Pharo, Marseille:** The last day of technical debates will focus on sharing experience of MPA network creation and management, and on how to strengthen and structure these networks on an international, regional seas scale.

## ● Congress opening and closing

- **The Mediterranean sea and services rendered by the oceans to mankind will be at the heart of the conference opening day, on 21 October at the Palais du Pharo, in Marseille.** Together with the organisers, elected representatives of Marseille and Ajaccio, the Congress partner cities, will be greeting the one thousand international participants expected. On this opening day, major speakers will address the issue of involvement in MPA protection and management. The five days of technical conference sessions will end on October 25 with a plenary session proposing conclusions and recommendations.
- **The political conference to be held at the Ajaccio Conference Centre, Corsica, on 26 October,** will be attended by the French Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, Mr Philippe Martin, and two hundred key figures (Ministers and representatives of major international institutions such as the UN, the World Bank, etc.). The round tables organised during the day will be an opportunity for the leaders to express their views of the recommendations made by the Technical Congress in Marseille. Discussions will focus on how the different countries can coordinate and strengthen their efforts, with the support of global players, to reach 10% of MPAs across the oceans by 2020.

[www.impact3.org](http://www.impact3.org)

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