



We recognize that reaching the marine 30x30 target (

) requires the establishment of MPAs beyond national jurisdictions. The BBNJ Agreement, adopted in June 2023, represents an important opportunity to work together regionally to identify areas that connect the conservation and socioeconomic interests within and outside of national jurisdictions.

We recognize the importance of MPAs as a tool to support the livelihood of coastal communities. We must develop collaborative management approaches to facilitate the inclusion of communities in the designation and management of MPAs.

Countries must create co-management mechanisms to fully involve Indigenous communities in the establishment and management of MPAs. Traditional knowledge and cultural values are important considerations in the process of achieving conservation goals.

We understand the importance of establishing effective Networks of MPA Managers as collaboration structures that can bring additional value to the conservation actions of individual MPAs. Local and regional Networks of MPAs can facilitate cost-effective capacity building and knowledge sharing activities, promote joint external fund-raising, promote public-private partnerships, support enforcement and monitoring activities, support research, and promote common management and conservation activities based on the connectivity of marine species and ecosystems.

There is significant interest in generating clean energy. Care must be taken to ensure that fulfilling net zero policies does not come at the cost of the achievement of conservation benefits from MPAs and MPA networks.

Marine spatial planning efforts should include conservation goals aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets, and consider how MPAs can play a key role in achieving those goals.

Countries and organizations should develop a platform that allows science diplomacy – the process of using science to inform policy decisions – to be used nationally and internationally in marine conservation.

