

Press kit

1st European Conference of North-East Atlantic Marine Protected Areas Managers



Ile aux Oiseaux, Bassin d'Arcachon, France

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Conservation of marine biodiversity is a key concern in many countries which, to respond to it, have engaged in the creation of Marine Protected Areas (MPA). Marine Protected Areas encompass a variety of tools and approaches that need to be better understood to improve the action taken and assess how effective it is. With this aim, the countries on the North-East Atlantic seaboard, the UK, France, Spain and Portugal, set up a European cooperation project, MAIA – Marine protected areas in the Atlantic arc (2010 – 2012). The goal is to create an Atlantic marine protected areas network. This conference is the first meeting of MPA managers operating on the North-East Atlantic seaboard and a springboard for deciding on the future of the MAIA programme, a European project whose funding is about to expire.

First European conference: bringing together MPA managers in the North-East Atlantic

This first conference is organised by the project coordinator, the French *Agence des aires marines protégées*, within the framework of the MAIA European project, in connection with the institutional bodies of the partner countries. It is open to all stakeholders involved in the designation and management of Marine Protected Areas, institutions, professionals, users, scientists and non-governmental organisations. Approximately one hundred attendees are expected from the countries on the Atlantic seaboard.

Initiated in 2010, the cooperation project has developed the bases of a network between the four partner nations initially involved. At this conference, the work done over the three years will be presented and a first review of MAIA will be done to define directions for the future. An exhibition on the theme of networking and connections between protected sites



Visit to Dartmouth & Torbay in September 2011 (Devon, UK) © A. Eynaudi / Agence des aires marines protégées

in the Atlantic Ocean, developed with contributions from the MPA managers in the partner countries, will illustrate the wealth of expertise shared at the three technical workshops and the four field trips organised by the partners in three years. The managers of other MPA networks in the Mediterranean, the Caribbean and West Africa will come to share their experience of the benefits of such network dynamics. Representatives of international organisations (OSPAR¹, Regional Convention for the North-East Atlantic; IUCN², International Union for the Conservation of

¹ OSPAR Commission: www.ospar.org

² IUCN: www.iucn.org/fr/

Nature; ISA³, International Seabed Authority) and the European Commission⁴ will also be giving presentations. The aim is to define how to continue the development of this network, when the need to strengthen protection and management of the marine environment is reasserted both on an international and national scale.

“What do MPA managers expect of this developing network? How do we go beyond project mode while continuing to share technical expertise within the MPA network? This first conference lays the foundations for reflection on the future prospects of the MAIA network”

Amandine Eynaudi, MAIA Project Manager



Alongside the conference, on Wednesday 5 December, the Director of the *Agence des aires marines protégées* and the representatives of the partner countries will meet to define the framework in which to continue building the network.

Bassin d’Arcachon, the conference venue: a set of marine protected areas to be promoted

The choice of the Bassin d’Arcachon as the venue for this conference is symbolic of these commitments: under European conventions, the Bassin d’Arcachon is designated as a special protection area for birds and a special area of conservation for its natural spaces. A study has also been conducted to create a marine nature park.

³ ISA International Seabed Authority: www.isa.org.jm

⁴ The following departments of the European Commission (http://ec.europa.eu/policies/index_en.htm): DG Environment, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, DG Regional Policy

Building relations between managers, developing an MPA network

The exhibition by the RAMPAO network (West Africa), *D'un Banc d'Arguin à un autre* (From one Banc d'Arguin to another) reveals the bonds created by this twinning of Mauritanian and French marine protected areas. Not only is this true in terms of biodiversity and maritime natural heritage - an area which knows no administrative boundaries-, but also as regards technical expertise shared by managers of areas with similar features. This exhibition is open for the three days of the conference.

Don't miss

Make a note of the main events at the conference!



- Wednesday 5 December, at 4:30 pm: the Director of the French *Agence des aires marines protégées*, Olivier Laroussinie, will close this First Atlantic Arc MPA Network Conference and will present the Third International Marine Protected Areas Congress due to take place in Marseille in October 2013.
- Thursday 6 December: as part of the conference, outings to discover the outstanding natural heritage of the Bassin d'Arcachon will be organised for attendees.
- From Monday 3 December to Wednesday 5 December, the exhibition, held in a dedicated hall at the conference centre, will highlight the variety of categories of marine protected areas in the MAIA project partner countries:

opening cocktail on Monday 3 December, at 6:30 pm.

PRESS CONFERENCE

Monday 3 December, at 7:00 pm

Salle des ambassadeurs, Palais des Congrès d'Arcachon

MAIA: MPA network from Portugal to the UK

MAIA aims to **create a network of MPA managers and stakeholders**. By sharing experience and developing common tools, such a network is designed to achieve better MPA management and to assess MPAs and the network so that it is coherent and effective for real conservation of biodiversity. The network is also a source of proposals for MPA designation and governance on an international scale. For this first stage in the construction of the network (2010 – 2012), nine partners from four different countries cooperated.

UK

- JNCC, Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- Natural England
- The Finding Sanctuary project championed by South West Food and Drink

France

- Agence des aires marines protégées, project lead manager
- AGLIA, Association du Grand Littoral Atlantique
- CNPMEM, Comité National des pêches et des élevages marins

Spain

- Xunta de Galicia – Concelleria do Mar
- Universidad de A Coruña – Recursos Marinos y Pesquerías

Portugal

- Instituto Nacional do Recursos Biológico I.P.
- Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e da Biodiversidade, ICNB.



A geo-portal for marine protected areas in the Atlantic: www.maia-network.org

A web site for information-sharing and dissemination has been created and is available in four languages. Over 450 MPAs on the North-East Atlantic seaboard are described in it, in a standardised manner. A dynamic map tool can be used to consult this database which is a significant source of reference information. Eventually, once the database has been completed with a description of the vast majority of MPAs, it will be used for a first review of marine environment conservation and management on the seaboard.

The publication “Atlantic arc MPA network database: Development, state of play and outlook” will be handed out in the four languages during the conference.

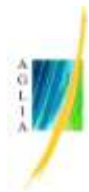
MAIA Partners involved in Marine Protected Area designation and management in 2010 - 2012



AGENCE DES AIRES MARINES PROTEGEES [France]

The French marine protected areas agency was established by law on 14 April 2006 as a public undertaking dedicated to marine environment protection. The Agency is based in Brest and operates under the Ministry for Ecology.

The Agency is lead manager of the MAIA project and in charge of 'work packages' 5 and 6: Project communication and coordination.



ASSOCIATION DU GRAND LITTORAL ATLANTIQUE - AGLIA [France]

The Association du Grand Littoral Atlantique brings together the Regional Councils and fisheries and ocean farming professionals from the four Regions on the Atlantic - Western Channel coast. The association works to promote fishing and aquaculture activities in the Bay of Biscay.

AGLIA manages 'work package' 1 of the MAIA project: State of play; knowledge-sharing between partners on Atlantic Coast MPAs.



COMITE NATIONAL DES PECHEES MARITIMES ET DES ELEVAGES MARINS - CNPME [France]

The CNPME is the national body of the marine fisheries and sea farming inter-trade organisation in France. It is a joint body comprising representatives of all marine fishery and sea farming professionals, from production to processing.



JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE - JNCC [UK]

JNCC is a public body responsible for nature conservation issues throughout the UK. As regards the marine environment, JNCC handles matters for the area beyond 12 nautical miles. JNCC is particularly responsible for the designation of new marine protected areas (Marine Conservation Zone - MCZ project).

JNCC manages 'work package' 4 of the MAIA project: Improving integration of stakeholders into the MPA designation and management processes.



NATURAL ENGLAND - NE [UK]

Natural England is a British public body in charge of nature conservation issues across the UK.

As regards the marine environment, NE addresses questions concerning the coastal area up to 12 nautical miles.



SOUTH WEST FOOD AND DRINK - SWFD [UK]

This non-governmental trade organisation develops strategic food and drink policies and aims particularly to promote the seafood product market. SWFD is one of the founding partners of the Finding Sanctuary project in the south-west of Britain. The project is now an official partner to the British government for MPA planning in the south-west of the country as part of the MCZ project (Marine Conservation Zone).



XUNTA DE GALICIA [Spain]

The Consellería do Mar de la Xunta de Galicia is the official body in charge of defining and implementing policies on fisheries, shellfish farming, aquaculture and marine protected areas.

The Galicia region heads up 'work package' 3 of the MAIA project: Defining and implementing management plans.



UNIVERSIDAD DA CORUNA [Spain]

The multi-disciplinary research group on marine resources and fisheries of the University of Coruña is responsible for monitoring several MPAs in Galicia. This laboratory has developed several cooperation projects with fishing professionals and other stakeholders to improve their involvement in the MPA designation and management process.



INSTITUTO DA CONSERCAÇÃO DA NATUREZA E DA BIODIVERSIDADE - ICNB [Portugal]

ICNB is the national authority in Portugal on nature conservation. It namely takes part in implementing policies in favour of biodiversity and nature and manages protected sites (land-based and marine).



INSTITUTO NACIONAL DOS RECURSOS BIOLÓGICOS I.P. - INRB I.P. / IPIMAR - [Portugal]

IPIMAR is the national Portuguese research centre for marine resources and fishing grounds. Part of the national biological resources institute, activity focuses on the management and operation of marine resources.

IPIMAR leads 'work package' 2 of the MAIA project: Developing shared monitoring strategies.

MAIA 2010 – 2012 Action Plan

Over the three years, technical workshops have been organised in each of the partner countries.

June 2012

MPA management plan development and implementation

- MAIA technical workshop, Galicia - Spain (2.5 days).
- Site visit in Galicia (0.5 days).
- Project technical and steering committee meeting (1.5 days).

September 2011

Integrating stakeholders into the MPA designation and management processes

- MAIA technical workshop, Totnes – UK (2 days).
- Site visit in the south of Devon (1 day).
- Project technical and steering committee meeting (1.5 days).

November 2010

Marine protected area monitoring strategies

- MAIA technical workshop, Sesimbra – Portugal (2 days).
- Visit to the Arrábida nature park (1 day).
- Project technical and steering committee meeting (1.5 days).

March 2010

- Kick-off meeting (2 days).
- Visit to the Iroise marine nature park (1 day).



MAIA is a European cooperation project mainly funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), via the European Commission's INTERREG IV B Atlantic Area programme, to meet one of the priorities: "protect, secure and enhance the marine and coastal environment sustainably".

Marine reserve of fishing interest (Reserva marina de interés pesquero), Ceidera, Galicia, Spain © A Coruña University