



THE 10x20 INITIATIVE

Conference on *Marine Protected Areas: An Urgent Imperative A Dialogue Between Scientists and Policymakers* Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rome (7–9 March 2016)

The [Government of Italy](#), the [UN Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#) and the [Ocean Sanctuary Alliance](#) recently organized the [international 10X20 conference](#) (7-9 March, 2016) to support the achievement of a globally agreed target to conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas by the year 2020 ([SDG 14, Target 5](#)). The first two days of the conference (chaired by [Ellen Pikitch](#)) involved 25 international experts in discussions on good practice for measures to designate and promote the effectiveness of marine protected areas (MPAs), focusing on science (led by [Callum Roberts](#)), governance (led by [Peter Jones](#)) and finance (led by [Rashid Sumaila](#)). During the third day, diplomatic representatives from 33 countries from around the world, particularly small island developing states along with 11 coastal states, joined the conference to agree a [Call to Action](#) and [Scientists' Consensus Statement](#). These outputs aim to provide a “road map” for moving forward on achieving the 10% marine protection target, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This will help guide national governments, United Nations agencies and other development agencies and donors in MPA projects around the world, promoting MPAs that are designated on the basis of the best available science, that are effectively and equitably governed, and that are financially sustainable and contribute to sustainable development.

The Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Paolo Gentiloni, opened the scientists-diplomats joint session. The Italian Minister of the Environment, Land and Sea, the Hon. Gian Luca Galletti, closed the event.

“The 10X20 Initiative was launched in October 2015 by the Government of Italy and by the Ocean Sanctuary Alliance to promote the achievement of target 5 of SDG14. A steering committee has been established as the instrument of advocacy of the initiative as well as a means for generating support for the voluntary creation of MPAs and a forum for exchanging knowledge and best practices. The Steering Committee brings together governments, international organizations, NGOs, foundations and private companies and is open to all Member States.”

This information bulletin can be [downloaded here](#)

PRESENTATIONS

[“How to design highly effective marine protected areas”](#) by Callum Roberts, Professor of Marine Conservation, University of York, UK

[“Governing marine protected areas: social-ecological resilience through institutional diversity”](#) by Dr Peter JS Jones, UCL

[“MPA Financing”](#) by U. Rashid Sumaila, Fisheries Economics Research Unit, The Global Fisheries Cluster, UBC Oceans and Fisheries, Vancouver, Canada

[Call to Action](#)

[Scientists' Consensus Statement](#)