



CONNECT

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
ON MARINE PROTECTED
AREAS

**GRAN CANARIA
2025**

PROGRAM
22 MAY 23



HOTEL CRISTINA BY TIGOTAN LAS PALMAS

c/ Gomera, 6 • Las Palmas de Gran Canaria



REGISTRATION

<https://mpacanaryislands.org/>



LIB Leibniz Institute for the Analysis
of Biodiversity Change

 **ULPGC**
Universidad de
Las Palmas de
Gran Canaria

 **Fundación
Universitaria
de Las Palmas**



PROGRAM 22 MAY

14:00 h

START TIME



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SESSIONS ON MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN THE CENTRAL EASTERN ATLANTIC

13:30 - 14:00 h

Reception and Accreditation

14:00 - 14:30 h

Opening Ceremony

Presentation of the MPA Canary Islands Project and of the Congress –
Octavio Llinás, General Coordinator

Authorities' Welcome

Introduction: Former European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries –
Maria Damanaki

Block 1: MPA Status – Challenges and Opportunities

14:30 - 15:30 h

Session 1: Ocean Protection – An International Perspective

Regional Lead, Blue Nature Alliance – **Sarah Elsaid**

Challenges and opportunities for the implementation of 30x30.

Director of the European Program (Oceans 5) – **Marta Marrero**

Challenges and opportunities for private philanthropy in Europe.

Regional Director, Government of the Azores – **Rui M. Martins**

Defining MPAs: challenges and opportunities. The Azores as a success story.

15:30 - 16:45 h

Session 2: MPAs in the Canary Islands

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) – **Elisa Carbajo**

Technical Strategy for MPAs towards 2030.

Director, Marine Protected Areas Program (MITECO) – **Francisco Guil**

Current status of marine protected areas in Spain and in the Canary marine district.

Directorate General of the Merchant Navy (DGMM) – **José Casado**

The Canary Islands Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA): characteristics and evolution.

National Parks Autonomous Agency (OAPN) – **Dolores Rollan Monedero**

Values of Mar de las Calmas near El Hierro and the process for declaring it a national marine park.

16:45 - 17:00 h

Coffee Break



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Block 2: MPA Management

17:15 - 18:15 h

Session 3: Experiences and Success Stories

Director, Galapagos Program, Jocotoco Foundation – **Eliecer Cruz**
Establishment of the Hermandad Marine Reserve, management plan, and funding mechanisms.

Marine Ecology and Conservation, University of Murcia – **José Antonio García Charton**
Marine reserves along the Murcia coastline: outcomes and key success factors.

Head of Technical Unit, Ciudad del Mar, Las Palmas de G.C. City Council – **Andrés Caballero**.
Coastal Governance: Eco-tourism micro-zones at Las Canteras.

18:15 - 19:30 h

Session 4: Social Participation Experiences

Director, Marilles Foundation – **Aniol Esteban**
Advancing 30x30 and 10x30 goals in the Balearic Islands and Spanish Mediterranean.

Irish Wildlife Trust – **Donal Griffin**
Promoting MPAs in Ireland.

Gran Canaria Island Council – **Francisco González**
Proposal for the Guguy Terrestrial-Marine National Park, Gran Canaria, Spain.

Oceano Azul Foundation – **Emanuel Gonçalves**
Roadmap to 30x30: Marine Protected Areas Case Studies from Portugal.

19:30 h

Cocktail and Refreshments

PROGRAM 23 MAY

09:00 h

START TIME

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09:00 - 09:15 h

Opening of the 2nd day and Day Objectives,
Councillor for Environment, Climate, Energy and Knowledge, Cabildo de Gran Canaria
– **Raúl García**

Block 3: Social Interaction and Perception

09:15 - 10:15 h

Session 5: Multiple Uses of Marine Space

University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria – **Ricardo Haroun**
Marine spatial planning and marine protected areas.

Directorate General of the Merchant Navy (DGMM) – **José Casado**
The IMO's role as a regulatory body for PSSAs: Associated Protective Measures and Special Areas.

Nord University, Norway – **Mark John Costello**
MPA myths and misunderstandings.



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10:15-11:15 h

Session 6: Interaction with Fishing Activity

University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria - **José Juan Castro**
Insights into the role of marine reserves in fisheries management.

Global Fishing Watch (GFW) - **Luca Marsaglia**
The Global Fishing Watch Program.

Director General for Maritime Policy and Sustainable Fisheries - **Sergi Tudela**
Participatory marine governance and spatial planning: A decade of co-management experiences in Catalonia.

11:15-11:45 h

Coffee Break

11:45-12:45 h

Session 7: Emerging Activities

Enerocean - **Pedro Mayorga**
Synergies between environmental monitoring and floating wind energy projects.
The case of W2Power in the Primavera Project.

Esteyco - **Imma Estrada**
Development of WHEEL technology for floating offshore wind. Respect and commitment to the sea.

Underwater Gardens - **Mark García / Durán Hurt**

12:45-14:30 h

Session 8: Citizen Engagement – Round Table

MPAs in the Canary Islands: Frontline perspectives from NGOs involved in their protection - **Carlos Mallo**

Angel Shark Project - **Eva Meyers**

Oceana - **Michael Sealey**

WWF - **Beatriz Ayala**

ZEC Consciente - **Cristina Camacho y Carmen Gloria**

ADS Biodiversity - **Ana Liria**

MPA Managers Network for the Mediterranean - **Puri Canals**

Innoceana - **Karina López**

14:30 h

Closing of the Congress

Organized by: **MPA Canary Islands Project**

Dr. Octavio Llinás / Sr. Vicente Marrero / Dr. Ayoze Castro / Sra. Eva Meyers / Sr. Héctor Toledo

Dr. David Jiménez / Sra. Evelyn Ravelo



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