

4<sup>th</sup>

# International Marine Protected Areas Congress

*La Serena - Coquimbo, Chile  
September 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017*

*Save the date!*

Since 2005 a global community of managers and practitioners of marine conservation have come together once every four years at IMPAC, an international congress on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). IMPAC aims to share knowledge and experience, and join efforts in order to strengthen best practices in the application and management of MPAs, for the effective conservation of marine biodiversity, and the natural and cultural heritage of the oceans.



International  
Marine Protected Areas  
Congress Chile 2017

IMPAC4  
Chile 2017

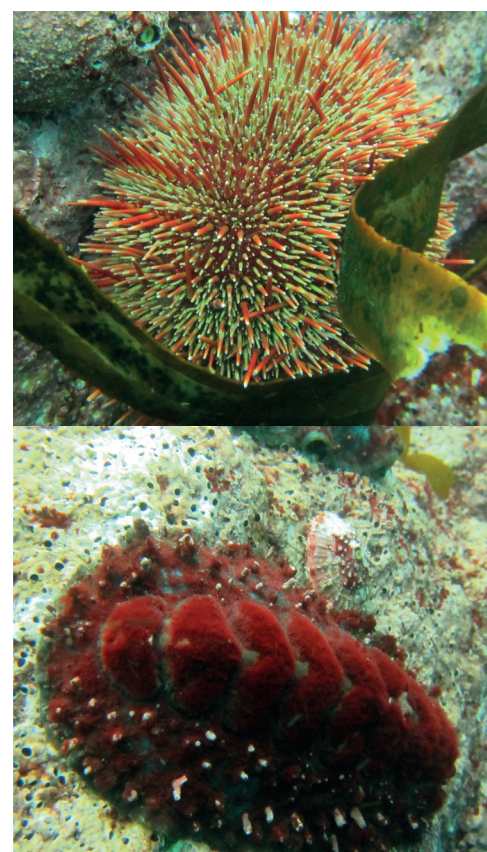
[www.impact4.cl](http://www.impact4.cl)

Photographs: Jennifer E. Caselle.

The three first IMPAC meetings were a tremendous success with high attendance rates, taking place in Geelong, Australia (2005), Washington, D.C., United States of America (2009), and Marseille, France (2013). Over time, both the number of participants and representatives from various states and organizations, have grown and also gathered momentum, making IMPAC a highly relevant platform both technically and politically to promote MPAs as a key instrument for ocean sustainability.

Chile has the pleasure of hosting IMPAC4, which will take place from the 4th to the 8th of September 2017 in La Serena-Coquimbo.

In recent years Chile has established several large coastal MPAs, which have highlighted Chile's commitment to the continual protection of marine habitats. In addition, by dedicating time and resources toward the effective management of MPAs, and developing best practices in the oceans, Chile takes on a firm commitment toward conservation and the sustainable use of marine ecosystems, in order to develop a vibrant coastal community for all those who benefit from Chile's rich marine biodiversity.



IMPAC4 is one of the definitive key opportunities for experts working in the field of marine conservation to assemble prior to reaching deadline for the Aichi Targets in 2020. It will be an important opportunity to evaluate and review how MPA practices fulfil Target 11, and furthermore to synergize MPA management techniques with the advances in Goal 14 of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals – "Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources" – that will be analyzed in Fiji in June 2017.

It is expected that IMPAC4 in 2017 will inspire a new generation of MPAs leaders, with an emphasis on involving the younger generations, integrating and connecting significant actors in MPA expansion over global oceans, and boost innovative ideas and initiatives on community participation and populations in MPAs, networking, collaboration, integration, and science, on all scales and magnitudes. Additional to the essential themes and issues addressed in France, 2013, we foresee a deeper discussion in emerging issues such as the role and contribution of MPAs to ecosystem & social resilience, ocean recovery, and rebuilding of fisheries; conservation in polar & temperate seas; MPAs

& climate change; MPAs & marine spatial planning; MPA challenges in the developing world, and many more.

Chile strongly believes that MPAs are unique, complex and changeable ocean spaces – where the genetic, cultural and spiritual values of marine biodiversity, encounter human life and activities. The complex interrelations between humans and the ocean can draw both negative impacts as well as positive benefits, which further impels Chile to be part of the effective management of these oceanic areas for holistic coexistence with human beings based on respect, in order to secure benefits and maintain their brilliance for the generations to come. Based on this idea, IMPAC4's slogan is Marine Protected Areas: bringing the ocean and people together.

We hope that the international MPA community will have a productive and rewarding meeting in La Serena-Coquimbo, Chile in September 2017, and that we can count on you all for a successful and momentous IMPAC4.

*Photographs: Jennifer E. Caselle.*

**About the La Serena-Coquimbo:** both cities are the main metropolitan area of the semi-desert region of Coquimbo, in the North of Chile. Located 470 km North of Santiago, La Serena and Coquimbo are the gateway to the Atacama Desert. La Serena is the second oldest city of Chile and Coquimbo an old fishing and trading port. Rich in history and colonial architecture are located by the Pacific Ocean, and close to sandy beaches, fishing villages, valleys, The Andes, astronomic observatories, local MPAS and much more.

More info:

<http://www.visitaserena.cl/or> <http://chile.travel/en/where-to-go/atacama-desert/la-serena-and-coquimbo>

*See you soon in Chile!*

For more information contact us emailing to [impac4@mma.gob.cl](mailto:impac4@mma.gob.cl)

