

VOL. 5 | APRIL 2022

BLUE PARKS BULLETIN

Quarterly updates about the Blue Parks network and other Marine Conservation Institute happenings



Meet the 2022 Blue Park nominees!

Marine Conservation Institute is pleased to introduce four nominees for the 2022 Blue Park Award:

- Raja Ampat Islands Marine Conservation Area (Indonesia)
- Apo Reef Natural Park (Philippines)
- Karimunjawa National Park (Indonesia)
- Old Providence & McBean Lagoon National Park (Colombia)

We plan to announce the 2022 Blue Park Awards at the UN Ocean Conference, which will take place in Lisbon, Portugal at the end of June.

Upcoming Conferences: Will you be there?

Will a representative of your MPA or government be attending the UN Ocean Conference (Lisbon in June), Blue Climate Summit (French Polynesia in May), or the 5th International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC5) (Vancouver)? Let us know! We would like to include your Blue Park or Blue Spark in our plans.

OVERVIEW:

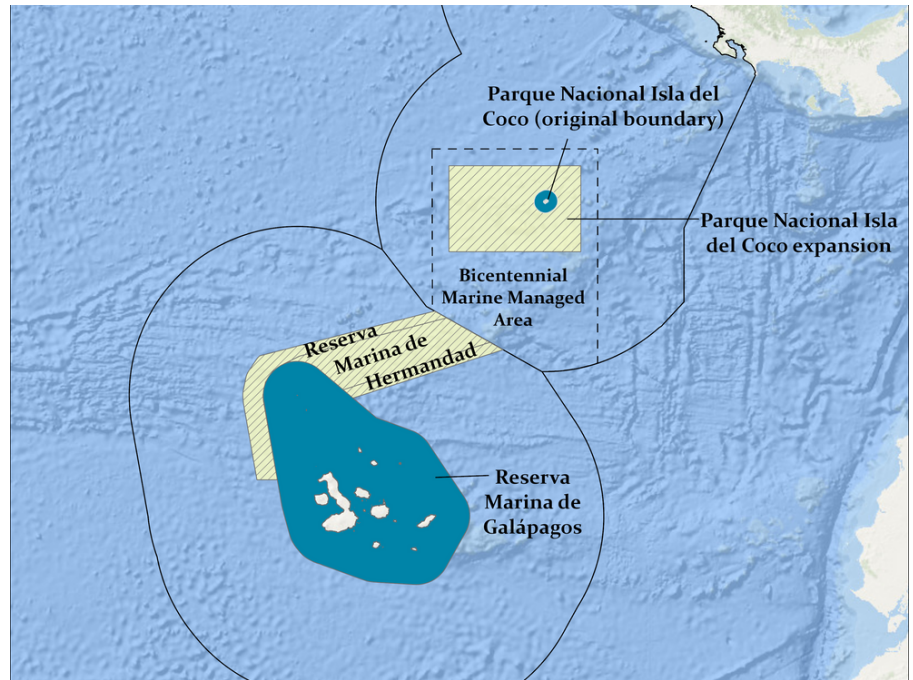
- Meet the 2022 Blue Park nominees!
- Blue (S)Parks: A beacon of hope in the Eastern Tropical Pacific
- Ilhas Selvagens celebrates 50th anniversary with MPA expansion!
- Featured Blogs
- Featured Article: Green Turtle Population Recovery at Aldabra Atoll
- Featured Social Media Post

Keep in Touch!

We would love to hear from you! Have any news you would like us to share? In need of information, feedback, or resources? Have a suggestion? Contact us! We want to continue to support our outstanding Blue Parks, so don't hesitate to contact us at blueparks@marine-conservation.org.

Blue (S)Parks: A beacon of hope in the Eastern Tropical Pacific

Blue Parks and Blue Sparks in the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP) are proving themselves as true champions of ocean protection and progress. In November, at the 26th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26), Panama, Ecuador, Colombia and Costa Rica made history by announcing the creation of the **Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR)** initiative—an expansion of protections that will bridge marine protected areas (MPAs) across national boundaries, creating a “mega MPA” that would protect one of the world’s richest and most biodiverse regions—and could become, if designed and managed effectively, the planet’s largest interconnected network of Blue Parks.



Quick to follow through, in December, Costa Rica expanded the fully protected **Cocos Island National Park** from 2,034 to 54,844 square kilometers and the Bicentennial Marine Managed Area, a multiple-use area, from 9,649 to 106,285 square kilometers. Taken together, these expansions increase Costa Rica's marine protection from 2.7% to nearly 30%. These expanded protected areas aim to protect shallow seamounts and promote connectivity.

In January, Ecuador designated **Reserva Marina de Hermandad**, a 60,000 square kilometer ocean corridor that connects Ecuadorian and Costa Rican waters. The marine reserve includes 30,000 square kilometers where all extractive activities are prohibited, and 30,000 square kilometers of buffer zone where longlines are prohibited.

Taken together, these historic milestones will create a protected 'highway' critical to migratory and pelagic species. We applaud these designations and look forward to continued progress in the ETP!

Ilhas Selvagens celebrates 50th anniversary with MPA expansion!

Off the northwestern shores of Africa, Madeira’s Ilhas Selvagens—the Savage Islands—are rugged and remote, inhabited only by park rangers, nesting seabirds, and endemic geckos. For 50 years, the islands have been safeguarded as a marine protected area, one that earned a Blue Park Award in 2018. In February, coinciding with the MPA’s 50th anniversary, the President of Madeira made a landmark declaration that officially expanded the reserve from 95 to 2,677 sq km. This makes the Blue Park the largest fully protected marine reserve in the North Atlantic—a victory that sets a compelling conservation example for other nations to follow.

In this extended reserve—which encompasses a radius of 12 nautical miles around the Selvagens Islands—all species are now fully protected against all extractive activities including, fishing and mining. We applaud Ilhas Selvagens on this achievement and 50 years of outstanding protection!

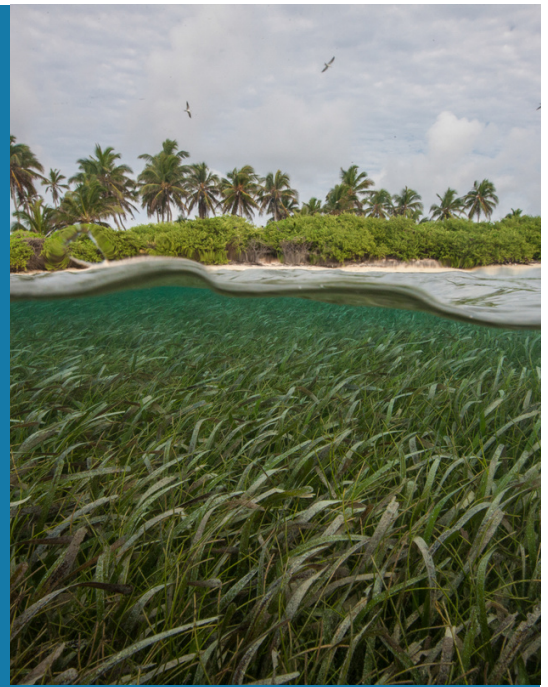
Featured Blogs

[A map can reveal the real-time status of ocean protection around the world. How does it work?](#)

[A Blue Park Becomes the Largest Fully Protected Marine Reserve in the North Atlantic](#)

[Bottom Trawling Threatens Rare Coral Reef Ecosystem – Again](#)

... and [many more!](#)



Featured Journal Article

Green turtle population recovery at Aldabra Atoll continues after 50 yr of protection (Pritchard et al. 2022)

Aldabra Atoll (Republic of Seychelles), a Blue Park, has offered the longest continuous protection for nesting green turtles anywhere in the Western Indian Ocean since 1968. This article documents the continuing recovery of green turtles by estimating clutch production during nesting seasons over 50 yr of monitoring.

Download the article [here](#).

Featured Social Media Post

savingoceans @savingoceans · Apr 11

Progressive, measurable, and impactful commitments for ocean sustainability are a central part of #OurOcean conferences. @savingoceans is pleased to announce a new voluntary commitment for #OurOceanPalau @OurOceanPalau @saltylance



Reminder: Access to Blue Parks Communications Materials

Looking for logos, maps, brochures or other media materials to highlight your Blue Park Award? You

have access to a folder of content on [Box](#) that you can freely use in fundraising, outreach, or other materials! If you are interested in materials that are not currently available, please reach out to us at blueparks@marine-conservation.org.

Follow us at @savingoceans on Instagram and Twitter and on Facebook at /MarineConservationInstitute! We often use #BlueParks for posts related to Blue Parks.

