



In the wee hours of early Saturday morning March 4th, 2023, on the floor of the United Nations, I had my doubts. The fate of the treaty to protect the largest habitat on Earth—the high seas—and nearly twenty years of hard work were playing out in tense meetings between a small number of bleary-eyed diplomats. One moment a deal felt close and the next agonizingly far away. I watched the sun rise across the East River and saw the weary and worried faces of my colleagues. Time was working against us. Finally, in a last ditch, make-or-break effort on Saturday night, the UN delegates reached an agreement. We all rejoiced—"hallelujah" flashed on the group chat as High Seas Alliance colleagues scattered across the globe got the news.

Without supporters like you stepping forward with the conviction that we want our ocean wildlife protected, we could not have done this. Together, with hard work and commitment, we succeeded!

In the time between these two landmark meetings, we gathered with over 2000 colleagues at the International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5) in Vancouver, Canada, where, still buzzing with the news of the Global Biodiversity 30x30 target, we announced three new Blue Parks. Our Blue Parks Network now includes 27 outstanding MPAs spanning 2.7 million square kilometers (1 million square miles) across the waters of 22 countries.

These Blue Parks protect critical marine ecosystems, revitalize ocean health, and benefit the well-being of local communities. Blue Parks membership recognizes outstanding efforts by governments, conservation organizations, MPA managers and local communities working to protect ocean wildlife. It is the tangible part of ocean conservation that we strive to catalyze while fighting for global agreements. These Blue Parks provide the conservation we want to deliver under the Global Biodiversity Framework and international efforts to protect the high seas!



To be sure much work remains, despite these incredible steps forward. The voyage to protecting 30% of the ocean is going to be long. These efforts will only succeed if nations formally ratify the high seas treaty and agree to protect wild ocean places like the Emperor Seamounts or the Lost City.

Conservation can move slowly and then suddenly, unexpectedly fast, blazingly fast. More progress on ocean conservation has been made in the past three months than at any other time in my career! We are excited and energized following a recent run of game-changing news for our ocean. In December, the United Nations adopted the 30x30 goal-to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030-as part of the Global Biodiversity Framework. We have been championing this goal since 2015, and now with the historic agreement at the United Nations to protect high sea biodiversity we have the wind at our backs and an unparalleled opportunity to advance conservation.

Marine Conservation Institute promises to stay at the forefront of MPA advocacy efforts. With our supporters and allies in the fight for our Blue Planet, we will continue to make our vision a reality—a network of highly protected Blue Parks across 30% of our ocean

> Lance Musen President & CEC

Spotlight on Success

of ocean protected

Conservation

CBD COP15 Global Biodiversity Framework **Montreal, Canada** December 2022



UN Ocean Conference

Lisbon, Portugal

June-July 2022

& 2022 Blue Park Awards



High Seas Biodiversity Treaty **UN, New York, USA**

March 2023



5th International MPA Congress & 2023 Blue Park Awards Vancouver, Canada February 2023



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Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are the most cost effective tool to safequard and replenish our ocean

All MPAs are not created equal-more than 80% are "paper parks" that fail to protect biodiversity. Many lack effective management and compliance strategies or fail to regulate destructive extractive activities like bottom trawling and offshore oil drilling...

Recognizing and incentivizing conservation success

Providing a science-based standard for MPAs, Blue Parks ensure design, regulations, management and community engagement work together to return measurable benefits. In partnership with the Blue Endowment Fund, awards are now accompanied by cash prizes.

Science-based evaluation criteria

A Science Council, comprising international and interdisciplinary marine scientists with MPA expertise, decides which MPAs earn Blue Park Awards using science-based criteria.

A commitment to the future

By accepting a Blue Park Award, communities, managers and governments own the responsibility to safeguard marine biodiversity and our living planet.

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Indonesia

Raja Ampat Islands

Marine Conservation Area

Blue Park Awards incentivize conservation success by recognizing exemplary MPAs that deliver true and



Building a global network

"Blue Park" for their outstanding conservation efforts, covering roughly 2.7 million square

The Blue Parks standard is a quide star for MPA success

Blue Parks build a needed bridge between the lackluster quality of existing protections and the biodiversity conservation that we need for a revitalized ocean with at least 30% protection in quality MPAs.

Blue Sparks are the Blue Parks of tomorrow

Our scientists are working with aspiring marine protected areas around the world to empower them to live up to their promise and become tomorrow's leaders in ocean conservation. Blue Sparks Action Grants will launch in 2023 thanks to the Blue Endowment Fund!

Blue Spark Update

Santuario Piedra del Viento

Chile: Central Coast, O'Higgins region

Fundación Rompientes and local community groups achieved formal Sanctuary designation in 2022. Coupled with recent wins before the Chilean Supreme Court, Piedra del Viento serves as a regional example of how community-led conservation can prevail ners and government inaction.

Gitdisdzu Lugyeks MPA

Canada: British Columbia, Central Coast

The 2023 Blue Spark designation for this Indigenous-led protected area reflects the leadership and commitment of the Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation and indicates that the protected area is making progress towards earning a prestigious Blue Park Award for conservation excellence.

Blue Park Blue Spark

2022 & 2023 Blue Park Awards

Three new Blue Parks were welcomed into the network at the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, in July 2022 from Colombia, Indones and the Philippines.

Conservation

Institute

An additional three Blue Parks were inducted at IMPAC5 in Vancouver, Canada, representing

Brazil, Panama and the UK. These six new Blue Parks together protect almost one million square kilometers of ocean, nearly doubling the size of the network.

the world is a great honor for us and motivates us to

Tupinambás

Ecological Station

Alcatrazes Archipelago

Wildlife Refuge

Cordillera de Coib

Pitcairn Islands

Marine Protected Area **United Kingdom**

Managed Resources Area

Old Providence **McBean Lagoon National Park**

Colombia

Apo Reef Natural Park



Reality Check: Only 8% of the ocean is in any kind of MPA, and less than 3% is highly protected

We need to accelerate the pace of place-based conservation to meet global conservation targets such as 30x30. Nations are pursuing ambitious global conservation goals and use protected area coverage as a key indicator of success. Although there are more than 17,000 MPAs, they cover less than a tenth of the ocean with only 2.9% of the ocean fully or highly protected.

Clarity and transparency in MPA reporting

The Marine Protection Atlas (MPAtlas) has fully implemented The MPA Guide. Marine Conservation Institute has worked with a global team of scientists and conservationists to lay out a credible framework for accountability and provide consistency when assessing efforts to plan, establish and manage MPAs. The MPAtlas team and our international collaborators are compiling a comprehensive database of MPA Guide assessments,

underpinning all MPAtlas data services. As of spring 2023, over 90% of the ocean area within MPAs has been assessed by the MPAtlas team, with over 99% coverage in countries such as the United States.



Protection levels and stages of establishment

The Atlas allows users to envision how much of the ocean is currently fully to highly protected, see where MPAs are not yet implemented, and much more. Since launching in 2012, the Atlas has focused on tracking where strong protections for marine life have been successfully enacted on the water, where it matters to marine life.

Tracking Global MPA Impact

Marine Protection Atlas brings together the best available information on MPAs to hold governments accountable to their commitments and enable the conservation community to work together to protect 30% of the world's ocean by 2030.

805

1173

MPA GUIDE Draft Assessements 90%

99% **USA MPA Footprint Assessed** BY THE **NUMBERS**

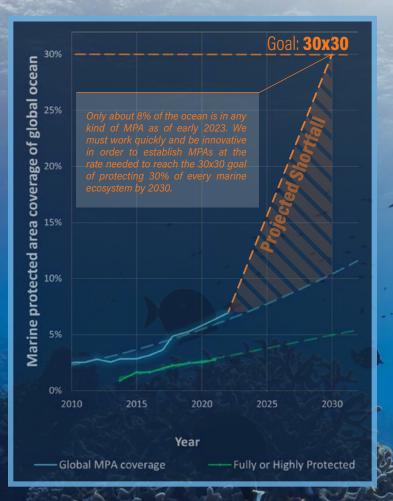
Footprint Assessed 2.9%

GLOBAL OCEAN Fully/Highly Protected

8.2% GLOBAL OCEAN







The MPA Guide provides a scientific framework for categorizing MPAs using consistent criteria based on establishment stage and protection levels that reflect their conservation benefits. It is intended to motivate more meaningful protection. Governments and MPA planners can use the MPA Guide to better understand how their MPA regulations affect conservation outcomes.





Sullivan-Stack, et al. 2022. Frontiers in

The US is close to achieving 30x30 but has a long way to go to improve the quality, quantity and

representativeness across all regions

Marine Science.



Avoiding the misuse of Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMS) in the wake of the blue economy

Claudet, et al. 2022. One Earth.

DONA BERTARELLI

OECMs represent unique opportunities to achieve conservation agendas. However, potential misuse by governments and economic sectors could compromise the outcome of these efforts.

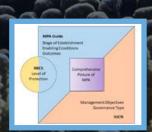
Marine Protection Atlas proudly supported by **(** OCEANS 5



Global ocean protection: quality is lagging behind quantity

Pike, et al, in press.

Much of the ocean area currently deemed "protected" remains unimplemented or allows human impact incompatible with the conservation of biodiversity.



Applying Marine Protected Area Frameworks to Areas beyond **National Jurisdiction**

ocito, et al. 2022. Sustainabilit

The MPA Guide reinforces the mportance of a holistic and precautionary governance structur for MPAs on the high seas.

Recent **Publications**

> THE WINSLOW FOUNDATION

Emperor Seamounts

NW Pacific

Extending over 2,000 km past the Hawaiian Islands lies a chain of more than 80 underwater mountains. The nutrient-rich waters of the Emperor Seamounts support vast biodiversity, tunas and whales swim above their summits, and the skies are filled with seabirds. Sponges and corals, including black corals dating back 4,200 years, make beautiful forests of fans, trees, whips and other forms, providing shelter for countless species.



These two unique chains of submarine slopes and summits are separated from South America by the rich, cold waters of the Humboldt Current and the yawning abyss of the Atacama Trench. They provide critical habitats and migration corridors for at least 82 threatened or endangered species, along with many others of ecological and economic importance. The Salas y Gómez and Nazca ridges are still largely ecologically intact, but they will only remain so with our help.

Protecting Vulnerable and Important Areas in the Deep Sea & on the High Seas

Explorers have been astounded by the richness and haunting beauty of deep-sea wildlife at deep sea features such as vents, ridges and seamounts—ancient underwater volcanoes that support endangered whales and sea turtles, unique anglerfish, rare deep water corals and sponges, octopus, and many other species. Seamounts serve as fueling stations for migratory species like seabirds and sharks. The deep sea is one of the least protected ecosystems on Earth, and we work with global coalitions from the coast of California to the deepest depths of international waters to address threats and protect these biodiversity hotspots.

Marine Conservation Institute is a founding member of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition and High Seas Alliance. Thanks to conservation provisions in the new treaty, we will be able to advocate for strong and lasting protection for the precious gems of the high seas.

Seamounts, Deep Sea & High Seas

For more than a decade now, Marine Conservation Institute has worked with partners to assemble scientific data. We have already identified a number of these important places where we are working to establish marine protected areas in the coming years.

Calling for a Deep Sea Mining Moratorium

The deep-sea mining industry is champing at the bit to start, in advance of adequate science and safeguards. Monstrous machines are being built that will grind up the seafloor and vacuum up huge swaths of the seabed to suck up minerals and polymetallic nodules. In so doing they will destroy all living things in their path and kick up massive sediment plumes in one of the deepest and most fragile ecosystems on the planet. Once they start, million-year-old ecosystems will be lost forever, and we won't know the full scope of the loss until the damage is already done.

The good news is that, with advances in battery technology, we don't need to mine the deep sea. Many governments, manufacturers and retailers are beginning to listen to the coalition's call for a moratorium on deep-sea mining. Much work remains to defend the deep, and we need your support now more than ever.

DECADES IN THE MAKING:

A Historic High Seas Biodiversity Treaty

The high seas is the largest habitat on Earth and home to millions of species, yet just 1% of its area is protected. The new treaty will provide a path to establishing MPAs in these waters. It is also a key tool for meeting the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework target of protecting at least 30% of the world's ocean by 2030.

A few highlights of the treaty:

- We now have the missing tool to establish MPAs and other areabased conservation tools through a process of negotiation that encourages consultation and cooperation with existing decisionmaking bodies.
- Environmental Impact Assessments must be performed for new activities on the high seas likely to produce adverse impacts.
- New rules direct the costs and rewards from new fields of scientific discovery to be shared equitably; developing countries will receive assistance with research funding, capacity building and the transfer of technology.

Scientists' Warning of an Imperiled Ocean



A recent paper by Marine Conservation Institute scientists, published in *Biological Conservation*, calls on upon humanity to recognize the damage that we are collectively doing to our global ocean, and urge the world to take immediate and transformative actions to safeguard and restore a healthy ocean.

BACKGROUND: In 1992, the Union of Concerned Scientists published the "World Scientists' Warning to Humanity" spelling out the alarming trajectory of human activities around the world. In 2017, more than 15,000 scientists from 184 countries signed a second warning letter to humanity to caution against our continued destruction of global ecosystems. In the recently published publication in *Biological Conservation*, we reaffirm this message with a warning specifically focused on the ocean.

US Marine Conservation Policy Advances

 Protected the last 10% of Oculina deep sea corals off the coast of central Florida from the threat of imminent shrimp trawling in June 2022.

Marine Conservation Institute lead a coalition that successfully urged the chief of NOAA-Fisheries to deny a request to trawl there by the local fishery management council.

 Strengthened the draft Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary management plan in July 2022.

With the Florida Keys Restoration Partnership, we drastically improved upon earlier drafts and will strive to ensure that areas of the sanctuary can recover from ocean warming and excessive use.

 Presidential memorandum and petition for important regulatory changes to strengthen the marine sanctuary program in October 2022.

The program must be reformed to accomplish its stated purpose of conserving marine life in the most important places in US waters.

 Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Act introduced in the Spring of 2022.

After passage in the House Natural Resources Committee in December, the act will be reintroduced in early 2023. This bill will authorize government spending on rescuing and rehabilitating stranded sea turtles, putting saving turtles on the same footing as rescuing and rehabilitating marine mammals.

 Advocated for protection of Rodriguez Seamount off central California in fall of 2022.

We testified at public input meetings for the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary for special protections for Rodriguez Seamount within the proposed boundaries, which we believe will be granted. Proposed expansion of sanctuary around Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument.

The Biden-Harris Administration proposal calls for a sanctuary to overlay the existing monument and extend to the full 200-mile limit around each island, adding 700,000 sq km to the ocean protected by US marine protected areas. Dr. Lance Morgan remarked, "The new sanctuary will provide protection for wondrous marine life, large seabird populations, migrating and nesting sea turtles and numerous seamounts. while contributing towards achieving the President's goal of conserving 30% of US lands and waters by 2030."

US Policy & Advocacy

"To achieve the high level of conservation needed to protect marine life and restore our ocean the sanctuary must provide a high level of protection and eliminate commercial fishing in line with the existing monument. We have been working with NOAA and Fish & Wildlife Service for over a decade to create a management plan for the Pacific Islands monument, and the addition of the Sanctuary program's management expertise creates a strong template to model protections for other US marine sanctuaries"

Lance Morgan, PhD



Staff

Samuel Georgian Michael Gravitz Sarah Hameed **Jamie Hamilton Nikkie Harasta Hannah Hindley Jessica MacCarthy Russell Moffitt Joan Montgomery Lance Morgan Angela Nardo-Morgan Beth Pike Madeleine Serkissian Joshua Zampetti**

Interns

inspiring the next generation of ocean scientists and advocates

Alexandra Azevedo Viktoria Balogh Emma Calhoun Nicolas Colletier David Derrick Sarah Goh **Elena Jaxtheimer Amy Jones Tifany Koniezna Menelas Kosadinos**

Alea Laidlaw Ethan Machemer Jericha Major Courtney Milley Elisabeth Minnick Tess Noone Patrick O'Donnell Laura Osborne **Kellie Rana Caroline Ronveaux**



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(ordered left to right)





2022 Community Engagement Fellow Martha Eimba

Conservation Institute through a Community Engagement Exchange program sponsored by the US Department of State host organizations. Back home, Martha is a director of Sea Women of Melanesia, where she helps indigenous coastal and island peoples by empowering women and girls to build resilient and sustainable communities while implementing climate for generations to come.





We are grateful to the following for their generous support in 2022:

Foundations

AE Family Foundation Paul M Angell Foundation **ARGONAUTICA ARIA** Foundation Arntz Family Foundation Marc & Lynne Benioff Dona Bertarelli Philanthropy Blue Sea Waves Foundation Clif Family Foundation Naomi & Nehemiah Cohen Foundation

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The Winslow Foundation

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Ethan Burns

Elizabeth Campbell Rhonda & Ken Campbell James Carlton Penelope Chandra-Shekar Erin Channell Kurt Cholak Stephen Coates Haley Cohn **Kevin Connolly** Gary Cucchi Dianne de la Cuesta John Deere Eric Downing Kate & Phil Eagles Sylvia Earle Linette Edison Ron Eichner Jeanne Everett David Feinman Heather Forrester Vedang Gaonkar Anna Gaw Caitlin Given Kristina Gjerde Jeff Gold & Carol Nimick Kelly Goldman Mark Gonzalves Marsha Gross Sarah Hameed The Estate of Dixie Hartness Paul & Christine Hatab Jessica Hildebrandt Mark Hixon Ulrich Hofmann Doug & Susan Hood

Michael Hsu Matt Humphreys Jack Hynes Jack London Yacht Club Meg Jeffrey Kramer Johnson Danielle Van Kampen-Swick Bob Kerr & Linda DiSantis Isaac Khan Murray & Jeanie Kilgour Jennifer & Kyle Klopfer Pete Klosterman André Knapen Kelsey Kobayashi Kat & Bernie Krause Matthew Lee Jeff Loth Victoria & Eric Lustbader Christopher & Lindsay Ly Apurva Mathad Sara Maxwell Elvse Mav Teresa McGlashan James McKowen Bill & Trigg McLeod Michael McNamara Jack McSpadden Lucy Morgan Rizwan Muieebuddin Heidi Munson Christopher Nardo Betsy Naumburg & Carl Hoffman Carol Newman David Nothhelfer Karen O'Neill Steve Olson Lowenna Ovens Kevin & Nancy Padian Jason Peers Sarah Pitts Hannah Price Nancy Putnam Burgess Raby Katrina Ramsell Ashley Reese Eva Roberts

Alice Horowitz

Maia Rosenthal Kevin Rosser James Rutledge **Dorothy Salvato** Kayla Sando SAP Timothy Schenck Laura & Robert Schermeister Diane Shepherd Dan Silver Brandon Skelton Shellev Soble Steve Soltz

John Spoden



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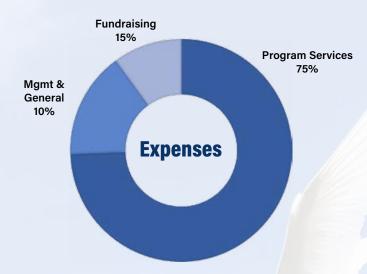


Financial

Statement

Year ending December 31, 2022





Revenues

Total Support & Revenue	\$1,418,053
Other Hevenues	φ(13,734)
Other Revenues	\$(13,754)
Program Contracts & Fees	\$136,872
Contributions	\$349,105
Grants	\$945,830

Expenses

Program Services	\$945,830
Fundraising	\$349,105
Management & General	\$136,872

Fotal Expenses \$1,296,	171
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Platinum Transparency **2023**

Candid.

We are a platinum-level GuideStar charity

Marine Conservation Institute holds a commitment to transparency and accountability.



Our work is made possible through

Partnership with

Bitonga Divers / Inhambane Bay **Blue Climate Initiative Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Charles Darwin Foundation** EarthEcho **Earth Law Center Friends of NOAA Global Conservation Global Ocean Trust Heirs to Our Oceans** Linking Tourism and Conservation

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Oregon State University
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Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy
Fundación Rompientes
Save the Waves Coalition
SeaLegacy

SevenSeas Media Sin Azul No Hay Verde

SkyTruth
Turtle Island Restoration Network

WildAid - Marine Program
Wildlife Conservation Society
UN Environment Programme & World

Conservation Monitoring Centre

UN Ocean Decade

Marine Conservation Institute is saving wild ocean places for us and future generations. I am proud to support their Marine Protection Atlas and their goal to highly protect 30% of our ocean in this decade.

- Dona Bertarelli



