*Session proposal for the 9th International Conference on Monitoring and Management of Visitors in Recreational and Protected Areas (MMV), Bordeaux, France, August 28-31, 2018.*

**International Collaboration for Tourism and Visitor Use Management – Russia, the United States, and the Global Community**

**Organized by**:

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Protected areas preserve and present the natural and cultural heritage of nations. Tourism and visitation to protected areas, both domestic and international, are primary mechanisms for connecting people to nature, history, and each other. However, tourism and visitor use can also compromise the missions and objectives of protected areas by pressuring and impacting the very resources and experiences that these areas were designated to protect.

While many protected areas and protected area systems face this challenge in common, national approaches to tourism and visitor management are based on particular cultural legacies, administrative contexts, and political realities. International collaborations can leverage the strengths, adapt the lessons, and address the weaknesses of individual national systems of resource protection and tourism/visitor use management frameworks. They can also serve as bridges to facilitate communication, scientific exchange, and mutual understanding among nations. This is especially true when international collaboration in other avenues are difficult or sensitive.

This session is organized by participants in a Russo-American bi-lateral collaboration and will be run as a hybrid panel/roundtable discussion during which:

* Participants in an innovative Russo-American collaboration will share the need for, approach to, and benefits of their bi-lateral activities.
* Participants in other international collaborations will share the structure, activities, and outcomes of their initiatives.
* Session attendees will be welcomed to ask questions about, seek input on, share experiences of, and propose ideas for bi- and multi-lateral international and interagency collaborations related to tourism and visitor use management in protected areas.