

WCC-2016-Res-050-EN

Increasing marine protected area coverage for effective marine biodiversity conservation

NOTING that the ocean covers 71% of the earth's surface;

CONCERNED that pollution, over-exploitation, warming, acidification and biodiversity loss in the ocean are occurring at rapid or unsustainable rates and human impacts have reached the distant polar regions and the high seas;

AWARE that effectively managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), as provided for in IUCN's Protected Area Management Categories and Governance types, including highly protected reserves, are important tools that help conserve the critical habitats, ecosystem services and biodiversity that support human life;

MINDFUL that scientific evidence supports full protection¹ of at least 30% of the ocean as reviewed² to reverse existing adverse impacts, increase resilience to climate change, and sustain long-term ocean health;

RECALLING the recommendation in the marine Cross-cutting Theme at the IUCN World Parks Congress (Sydney, 2014) to "urgently increase the ocean area that is effectively and equitably managed in ecologically representative and well-connected systems of MPAs or other effective conservation measures. This network should target protection of both biodiversity and ecosystem services and should include at least 30% of each marine habitat. The ultimate aim is to create a fully sustainable ocean, at least 30% of which has no extractive activities";

FURTHER RECALLING the 2014 World Parks Congress commitments by State Members, such as Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Comoros, Fiji, France (French Polynesia), Gabon, Madagascar, Russia and South Africa to expand their MPA coverage using the six IUCN Management Categories;

RECOGNISING the progress being made by States to establish large, highly protected marine reserves within their jurisdictions, efforts at the United Nations to create an instrument allowing for the establishment of MPAs in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and the commitment of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) to create a representative system of MPAs in its geographic area of competence;

ALSO RECOGNISING that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, acknowledges the importance of conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

CONSIDERING that the 10th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP10, Aichi, 2010) set Aichi Biodiversity Target 11³ for 2020; and

WELCOMING United Nations General Assembly Resolution 69/292 on the 'Development of an international legally-binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction', in particular, together and as a whole, marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits, measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, environmental impact assessments and capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology;

¹ Sciberras et al.: Evaluating the biological effectiveness of fully and partially protected marine areas. *Environmental Evidence* 2013 2:4

² O'Leary, B. C., Winther-Janson, M., Bainbridge, J. M., Aitken, J., Hawkins, J. P. and Roberts, C. M. (2016), Effective Coverage Targets for Ocean Protection. *CONSERVATION LETTERS*. doi:10.1111/conl.12247

³ Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Hawai'i, United States of America, 1-10 September 2016:

1. CALLS ON the Director General and all components of IUCN to promote and support the actions described in paragraphs 2-4 below;
2. ENCOURAGES IUCN State and Government Agency Members to designate and implement at least 30% of each marine habitat in a network of highly protected MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures, with the ultimate aim of creating a fully sustainable ocean, at least 30% of which has no extractive activities, subject to the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities⁴, by:
 - a. committing to work towards designating and effectively implementing at least 30% of their national waters as MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures, as provided for in IUCN's Protected Areas Management Categories and Governance types, by 2030; and
 - b. engaging constructively in establishing MPAs in areas beyond national jurisdiction, areas of joint international management and their own jurisdictions, including through:
 - i. the development of a new instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and that such a new instrument contains a robust mechanism for establishing effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of marine protected areas, including reserves; and
 - ii. the adoption of existing Southern Ocean and other MPA proposals in 2016 and the timely preparation and adoption of new MPA proposals by CCAMLR;
3. URGES IUCN State Members to accelerate progress towards achieving Aichi Target 11 by 2020 ;
4. ENCOURAGES the Parties to the CBD to consider a new process for developing post-2020 targets to increase the percentage of marine areas highly protected to 30% by 2030; and
5. REQUESTS all Members to support the achievement of the actions described in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 above.

State and agency Members of the United States abstained during the vote on this motion for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process.

⁴ The potential impacts of the motion on the rights and interests of indigenous peoples, and their conservation, economic, social and cultural traditions and aspirations, should be reviewed in a manner that allows participation consistent with both indigenous peoples' traditional decision-making process, and UNDRIP.