

1.17 Coastal and Marine Conservation and Management

RECOGNIZING that the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) has entered into force and reaffirming that it provides the international basis upon which to pursue the protection and sustainable development of the marine and coastal environment and its resources, as stated in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21;

RECOGNIZING the new priority given to improving marine and coastal area management practices through such international initiatives, programmes and partnerships as Agenda 21, the Programme of Action of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Washington Declaration and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (LBA), the Jakarta Declaration of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the International Coral Reef Initiative;

AWARE that sustainable world fisheries, including environmentally sound aquaculture, contribute significantly to food supply and to achieving social, economic and development goals;

NOTING with concern that significant fish stocks are depleted or overexploited, and considering that urgent corrective action is needed to rebuild depleted fish stocks and to ensure the sustainable use of all fish stocks;

WELCOMING the adoption of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Vessels Fishing in the High Seas (1993) and the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (1995), as well as instruments such as the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995);

WELCOMING ALSO the successful adoption of the Rome Consensus on World Fisheries of the FAO Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries and the Jakarta Mandate on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity;

CONCERNED that the growing concentration of human population and economic activity in coastal watersheds will substantially increase human stresses on the coastal environment;

FURTHER CONCERNED that the major threats to the health, productivity, biodiversity, and economic value of the marine environment, including most of the pollution load of the oceans, result from human activities on land, in coastal areas and watersheds, destructive fishing practices and over-fishing;

AWARE that all living and non-living resources including coral reefs contained in Appendix II of CITES and associated ecosystems, mangroves, estuaries and sea grasses, which are among the most biologically diverse ecosystems on the planet, are in serious decline globally, primarily due to threats from land-based activities, destructive fishing practices and over-fishing;

CONSIDERING that integrated coastal area management is an important approach for conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal areas and has been recognized as such by Agenda 21, the international instruments mentioned above and the UN system generally;

RECOGNIZING IUCN's contributions to the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) Report #61 on the "Contribution of Science to Integrated Coastal Management" which provides a timely and innovative framework for identifying how social and natural sciences can efficiently contribute to effective coastal management;

RECOGNIZING that marine protected areas are a valuable tool of integrated coastal area management protecting critical coastal and marine habitat for food security, ecotourism and jobs, and human health and culture;

RECOGNIZING also the IUCN/World Bank/Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority pioneering study on a global representative system of marine protected areas and regional implementing efforts;

CONCERNED that there does not exist a sufficient understanding nor an adequate database to accurately predict the future state of the marine and coastal environment and thus to determine wisely the appropriate balance between economic development and environmental stability;

WHEREAS strong scientific programmes are necessary to generate knowledge needed to develop long-term policies to mitigate undesirable effects;

WHEREAS Agenda 21 calls for the collection, analysis and distribution of data and information from the oceans and all seas through the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS);

WHEREAS the IUCN is a co-sponsor of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, a key component of the International Coral Reef Initiative and of GOOS;

AWARE that IUCN has been a partner in the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) since its inception and is a member of the ICRI Coordination and Planning Committee and that a fundamental ICRI priority is to achieve tangible, positive and measurable effects on the health of coral reefs and related ecosystems and on the well-being of the communities which depend upon them;

REAFFIRMING the principles in Recommendation 19.46 of the 19th Session of the IUCN General Assembly, on Marine and Coastal Area Conservation;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the decisions of the fourth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 which addressed the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, implementation of fishery agreements, international cooperation and coordination, and protection of the oceans;

The World Conservation Congress at its 1st Session in Montreal, Canada, 14–23 October 1996:

1. CALLS UPON all States, international agencies, the private sector, the scientific community and non-governmental organizations to:
 - a) endorse the Washington Declaration and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (LBA);
 - b) endorse the Call to Action of the International Coral Reef Initiative including developing national and local coral reef initiatives, promoting capacity building and strengthening research and monitoring to improve understanding and management of these fragile resources;
 - c) accelerate implementation of the Global Ocean Observing System, as a prerequisite to effective marine resources and coastal area management;
 - d) encourage governments that have not yet done so to sign, ratify, implement and promote awareness and understanding of international fisheries agreements noted above and all stakeholders to implement the recently adopted international instruments in order to rebuild fish stocks throughout their ranges of distribution and protect fish habitat;
 - e) endorse the Jakarta Mandate and in particular the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity that encourages “the use of integrated marine and coastal area management as the most suitable framework for addressing human impacts on marine and coastal biological diversity and for promoting conservation and sustainable use of this biodiversity”.
2. REQUESTS IUCN members, the Commissions and the Director General, within available resources, to:
 - a) utilize integrated coastal area management as a framework for programme development within IUCN programmes and Commissions, using the GESAMP, LBA Global Programme of Action and other approaches as appropriate, to provide a sound, scientific basis for addressing ecosystem management;
 - b) give priority to capacity-building in the preparation and implementation of national programmes for marine and coastal area management to strengthen the implementation of the Washington Declaration and the LBA Global Programme of Action, the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Jakarta Declaration of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Coral Reef Initiative;
 - c) promote education and outreach to foster sustainable coastal communities as part of the International Year of the Reef (1997) and UN Year of the Oceans (1998);

- d) determine an appropriate role for IUCN in facilitating implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing and consider identifying an appropriate role for IUCN in cooperating with FAO and IMO regarding the introduction of alien species;
- e) promote ecosystem management, especially in the context of integrated coastal and marine management, including transboundary coastal and marine ecosystems and resources, for example large marine ecosystems;
- f) assist small island developing states in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;
- g) as part of the LBA Global Program of Action:
 - i) encourage local, national and regional application of the methodology to address pollution of the marine environment from land-based activities;
 - ii) determine how IUCN Commissions and programmes can best contribute to the implementation of the proposed clearinghouse of the LBA Global Program of Action which will be a referral system through which decision-makers at the national and regional level are provided access to current sources of information, practical experience and expertise relevant to developing and implementing strategies to deal with the impacts of land-based activities;
- h) in support of the International Coral Reef Initiative to:
 - i) increase IUCN's participation as a leading partner in the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network with IOC, UNEP, and WMO and to join in supporting its implementation regionally and nationally in order to obtain the quantitative environmental data which are needed to understand the causes of degradation of coral reefs, the ocean's most fragile and most biologically diverse ecosystems and hence improve management measures;
 - ii) actively promote conservation and sustainable use of marine ecosystems, particularly coral reefs, mangroves and sea grasses, in part by expanding its partnership with ICRI through:
 - improved internal integration and coordination of IUCN Commissions and programmes, field offices and member activities as they relate to coral reefs and related ecosystems;
 - promotion of communication among local and regional stakeholders to facilitate new partnerships and information exchange, building on shared experiences and lessons learned;
 - assistance in the implementation of the ICRI International Framework for Action in order to support local and national actions to reverse the decline of coral reef ecosystems while supporting sustainable communities;
- i) in support of wider international cooperation to:
 - i) support the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development urging improved UN system-wide coordination on ocean issues and in that regard to enhance IUCN collaboration with UN agencies such as UNEP, FAO, UNESCO, UNDP, IMO and other relevant bodies such as the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, and with agreements such as UNCLOS;
 - ii) work with such funding institutions as the World Bank Group, the Global Environment Facility and the regional multilateral development banks and others to implement IUCN's Marine and Coastal Programme and relevant Commissions and facilitate implementation of national obligations and best practices enumerated in the international agreements and programmes of action agreed since the adoption of Agenda 21;
 - iii) work with the Secretariat and Contracting Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity to encourage the formation and the work of the Expert Panel on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity to address marine biodiversity issues addressed in the decisions of the Conference of the Parties;
 - iv) within the context of UNCLOS, promote the establishment and effective implementation of marine protected areas where such areas contribute to protection of marine and coastal ecosystems and strengthen

sustainable development through joint action of IUCN members, Commissions and regional working groups, in particular, looking toward the development of a globally representative system of marine protected areas;

- j) promote implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in partnership with the Ramsar Bureau, in particular through the protection of listed Ramsar sites.