

## 2.20 Conservation of marine biodiversity

RECALLING Recommendations 17.38 *Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment* adopted by the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the IUCN General Assembly (San Jose, 1988) and 1.37 *Marine Protected Areas* adopted by the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996), 19.46 *Marine and Coastal Area Conservation*, and 19.56 *Global Fisheries* adopted by the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994);

ACKNOWLEDGING the jurisdictional framework for the marine environment provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982;

RECALLING that Article 197 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 calls upon States to “cooperate on a global basis and, as appropriate, on a regional basis ... for the protection and preservation of the marine environment, taking into account regional features”;

RECALLING that the 1995 *Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity*, adopted by the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), reaffirmed that there is a critical need to address the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity;

RECALLING that the 1995 *FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* calls upon states to apply the precautionary approach widely to conservation, management, and exploitation of living aquatic resources in order to protect them and preserve the aquatic environment;

RECALLING that Decision 7/1(22) of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development encouraged States to establish and manage Marine Protected Areas, along with other appropriate management tools, in order to ensure the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable management and use of oceans;

RECOGNIZING that the biodiversity of the marine environment, both within coastal State jurisdictions and on the high seas, as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982, is an integral part of the natural and cultural heritage of the world;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that recent discoveries have demonstrated that seamounts support highly diverse fauna with a high degree of endemism, and that these faunas are little known and may be threatened;

CONCERNED that many marine ecosystems both within coastal State jurisdictions and on the high seas have become seriously degraded as a result of human activities and that the rate of degradation continues to increase;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the biodiversity of the oceans is extensive, including phyla not found on land, and that a significant portion of the oceans’ biodiversity can be found in areas far from shallow coastal waters and beyond the jurisdictional limits of coastal States;

RECOGNIZING that while knowledge of the resources of the high seas is limited, increasingly areas with significant biodiversity values and potential economic value are being identified that

would benefit from a conservation approach, whereby any use must be ecologically sustainable, and based on a precautionary approach to initial exploration and potential use, consistent with *Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*;

CONCERNED that there are limited international mechanisms to ensure sustainable management of living and non-living marine resources that straddle coastal State jurisdictions and the high seas, or that they are restricted entirely to the high seas;

OBSERVING that technology and capacity are rapidly developing to facilitate increased extraction of living and non-living marine resources;

BELIEVING that the marine environment of the high seas, including all living and non-living resources, is the common heritage of all people, to be used with judgement, and not to excess;

BELIEVING that, linked with common ownership, is a common responsibility to ensure the maintenance of marine resources for the direct benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations and to ensure that any use of marine resources is appropriate; and

RECOGNIZING that Marine Protected Areas, covering the full range of IUCN categories and providing for 'multiple use', can be valuable tools for integrating biodiversity conservation, responsible fisheries, mineral exploration and extraction, particularly sensitive sea areas, tourism, and scientific research in a sustainable manner;

The World Conservation Congress at its 2<sup>nd</sup> Session in Amman, Jordan, 4–11 October 2000:

1. URGES all countries that have not already done so to sign and ratify the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 and the UN Fish Stock Agreement, 1995;
2. REAFFIRMS IUCN's commitment to the creation of a representative system of Marine Protected Areas at regional and global scales to provide for the protection, restoration, sustainable use, understanding, and enjoyment of the marine heritage of the world in perpetuity;
3. RENEWS IUCN's recommendation that each national government should seek cooperative action between the public and all levels of government for the development and management of a national system of Marine Protected Areas;
4. CALLS ON the Director General to work with IUCN members and multilateral agencies to explore an appropriate range of tools, including high seas Marine Protected Areas, with the objective of implementing effective protection, restoration, and sustainable use of biological diversity and ecosystem processes on the high seas;
5. CALLS ON national governments, international agencies, and the non-governmental community to better integrate established multilateral agencies and existing legal mechanisms to identify areas of the high seas suitable for collaborative management action, and to reach agreement by consensus on regimes for their conservation and management.

*This Resolution was adopted by consensus. State and Agency members United States abstained from the adoption by consensus of this Resolution.*