

#### 4.032 Coordination of the *Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge*

COMMENDING the work of IUCN's Global Marine Programme and current regional and international commitments to conserve the natural environments and protect the livelihoods of small islands in the Pacific Ocean through, *inter alia*, the Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA), the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy (PIROP), and the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Island Region;

ALSO COMMENDING the work of many Pacific Rim states and countries to develop and implement innovative policies and programmes to address ocean health, conservation and management issues to reduce pollution and habitat destruction, and improve living marine resources, in light of the additional challenges of global climate change;

CONSCIOUS of the need to 'scale up' the number, scope and range of these programmes to improve the environmental health and economic livelihood of Pacific communities and peoples;

AWARE that the Pacific Ocean is the largest single geographic feature on Planet Earth, representing almost half the global ocean space and covering approximately one third of the Earth's surface;

NOTING that small island nations are particularly vulnerable to challenges presented by climate change, sealevel rise, ocean acidification, introduction of invasive species, pollution, overfishing, destructive fishing practices, Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing activities and seabed mining;

ALSO NOTING the need to develop and implement national and regional policies and programmes to anticipate and address such impacts and to control such activities, including through environmental impact assessments and sustainable use criteria;

RECOGNIZING that some of the threats to the longterm sustainability of the Pacific Ocean and its people are exacerbated by the activities of nations outside the Pacific region;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the health and wellbeing of the Pacific Ocean directly affects the economic and food security of nations beyond the Pacific islands and Pacific Rim region;

ACKNOWLEDGING the efforts of the Micronesia Challenge and the Coral Triangle Initiative to develop transboundary approaches to marine conservation in the Pacific;

CONCERNED however, that there remains a need for additional large-scale, collaborative, inter-connected, multi-jurisdictional marine conservation efforts in the Pacific Ocean;

AWARE of the many limitations of small Pacific island and lesser developed nations to manage and enforce marine conservation policies and legislation in their waters;

MINDFUL of the vast array of available private, governmental and multilateral funding possibilities in the Pan-Pacific region;

UNDERSTANDING that accessing new funding sources requires significant coordination, political advocacy and communication;

RECOGNIZING that the *Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge* presents an innovative approach to securing political will and thus, financial commitments from Pan-Pacific nations for conservation and protection of the Pacific Ocean; and

WELCOMING the establishment of an IUCN Regional Office for Oceania in Fiji and the opportunity this presents for more effective networking in conservation approaches in the island region;

#### **The World Conservation Congress at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October 2008:**

1. ENDORSES the concept of the *Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge* as an instrument for highlighting Pacific Ocean conservation and management issues throughout the Pan-Pacific region, securing strong financial commitments from new partners and donors, and developing a process to develop an integrated approach to Pacific Ocean conservation; and

2. URGES IUCN's members and partners, particularly those in and around the Pacific Rim, to participate in and support the *Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge* as part of their ongoing marine conservation initiatives;

**In addition, the World Conservation Congress, at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October 2008, provides the following guidance concerning implementation of the IUCN Programme 2009-2012:**

3. CALLS ON the Director General to explore mechanisms to provide Pan-Pacific coordination for implementation of the *Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge* and to ensure that this initiative is coordinated with IUCN's existing and proposed marine conservation activities.

State and agency members of the United States abstained during the vote on this motion.