

WCC-2012-Rec-171-EN
Australia's proposed marine reserve network

RECOGNIZING the significance of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020* and the Aichi Targets, and the commitment embodied in Target 11 to achieve conservation of “at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas”, and that these areas should be “of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services”, “ecologically representative and well-connected”, but also “effectively and equitably managed”;

NOTING that the international target set in 2002 by the World Summit for Sustainable Development for the establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs) has not been met;

RECALLING several IUCN Recommendations and Resolutions urging Member States to create and effectively manage networks of MPAs, in particular Resolutions 1.37 *Marine Protected Areas* adopted by the 1st IUCN World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996), 2.20 *Conservation of marine biodiversity* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), and 4.045 *Accelerating progress to establish marine protected areas and creating marine protected area networks* adopted at the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008);

RECOGNIZING the recent announcement, in 2012, of the Australian Government's intention to establish the largest proposed national network of marine reserves in the world as an important and historic step forward for marine conservation;

ACKNOWLEDGING that these declarations will provide a major contribution to Australia, as a signatory, honouring the 2020 Aichi Targets, especially Target 11;

RECOGNIZING that these declarations are based on many years of scientific assessment and community consultations under a bipartisan commitment of Australian governments to a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system;

RECOGNIZING the scale of protection that will be offered by this move is unparalleled and is vital to ensuring the long-term health of Australia's unique marine life; and

CONSIDERING these proposed marine reserves are currently the subject of a final round of public comment as part of the process for proclaiming them under Australian legislation;

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Jeju, Republic of Korea, 6–15 September 2012:

1. CONGRATULATES the Australian Government for its landmark announcement to establish the largest national network of marine reserves in the world, one of the most significant advances for marine environmental protection in Australia's history;
2. URGES the Australian Government to proclaim the network of marine reserves swiftly; and
3. URGES the global community to support similar initiatives that establish networks of marine reserves, informed by sound science and in accordance with IUCN's vision and mission.

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 Resolutions Process.