

WCC-2012-Res-076-EN

Accelerating the global pace of establishing marine protected areas and the certification of their effective management

RECOGNIZING the significance of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020* and the Aichi Targets, and the renewed 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;

AWARE that the World Conservation Monitoring Centre reports that as of 2010, protected areas covered 12.7% of the Earth’s land area outside Antarctica but only 1.6% of the Earth’s oceans, including only 4.0% of the seas within national jurisdiction (0–200 nautical miles);

INCREASINGLY CONCERNED that marine biodiversity continues to decline in the face of direct and indirect anthropogenic impacts, including overfishing, habitat loss, pollution and climate change;

ANTICIPATING that as climate change continues, its impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystem services will also become more pronounced;

NOTING that MPAs, particularly those that are effectively managed, provide important social and economic benefits to neighbouring communities;

RECALLING item 4 of the Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD) *Programme of Work on Protected Areas* which commits the Parties to the Convention to assess and improve the effectiveness of the management of protected areas;

ALSO RECALLING that the Parties to the CBD, at the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, 18–29 October 2010, committed to assessing the management effectiveness of 60% of the total area of their protected areas by 2015, and to sharing their results in the database managed by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC);

FURTHER 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);

HIGHLIGHTING the importance of cooperation between MPAs to ensure the effective protection of highly migratory species in line with the conclusions made at the second Conference of the International Committee on Marine Mammal Protected Areas, Fort-de-France, France, 7–11 November 2011;

WELCOMING initiatives such as the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) international campaign on MPAs; Germany’s marine Natura 2000 network which covers around 45% of the German marine area; the CBD’s Sustainable

Ocean Initiative (SOI); the organization of the 3rd International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC 3); the IUCN initiative to develop an international certification system of protected areas to promote good management practices, and to integrate an objective for a system of certification and evaluation to ensure the implementation of effective marine protected coastal areas in IUCN's Global Marine and Polar Programme (2013–2016) strategic plan; the *European Marine Blue Belt* initiative to promote governance and management best practices in European MPAs; and regional initiatives such as the Micronesia Challenge, the Caribbean Challenge and the Coral Triangle Initiative that intend to expand and strengthen protected areas in these regions;

WELCOMING also activities undertaken by several regional sea conventions, in particular the Helsinki Convention for the Baltic Sea, where HELCOM Baltic Sea Protected Areas cover more than 10% of the marine area, and the OSPAR Convention for the Northeast Atlantic, where apart from 175 MPAs situated in national waters of Contracting Parties, six MPAs are located in areas beyond national jurisdiction;

ENCOURAGED by efforts to establish MPAs and WELCOMING the accelerated progress of the creation of MPAs and MPA networks at all scales;

CONCERNED by the fact that a great deal of work remains to be done, often due to lack of technical and financial means, to ensure the management, monitoring and effective enforcement of MPAs and that society's awareness of the issues confronting ocean health remains limited, and by the inadequate communication of the evidence supporting the role of MPAs as one important tool in an ecosystem-based approach to protecting marine and coastal biodiversity and maintaining ecosystem services and sustainable harvesting of living marine resources in the face of these impacts;

ALSO CONCERNED that these factors affect the public and political will to address ocean health and marine and coastal biodiversity challenges by applying appropriate conservation and management tools, including by establishing, expanding and effectively managing MPA networks;

NOTING that mounting evidence indicates that effectively managed MPAs, ranging from no-take reserves to managed multiple use zones, can help restore marine biodiversity and support sustainable marine economies including sustainable fisheries;

ALSO NOTING the growing scientific consensus underlining the importance of often including no-take reserves as one approach within MPA networks in order to maximize the protection that these networks provide to marine biodiversity;

RECOGNIZING the potential of market-based approaches to foster awareness of and support for MPAs that help provide measurable, ecologically sustainable fisheries and other sustainable economic activities both within and beyond their boundaries;

BELIEVING therefore that concerted efforts should be undertaken to improve public and political understanding of the relevance of MPAs, ranging from no-take reserves to managed multiple use zones, where appropriate, in protecting marine biodiversity, in supporting economic, cultural and social prosperity through the recovery and maintenance of marine biodiversity in and near them, and in mitigating the impacts of climate change on marine and coastal biodiversity; and

NOTING that the First International Marine Protected Area Agencies Summit, held in San Francisco, United States of America, in February 2012, concluded that demonstrating the relevance of MPAs to the conservation of the biodiversity of the oceans while also fostering

the sustainable use of living marine resources is a fundamental challenge that requires urgent attention;

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

1. CALLS UPON IUCN Members, including States, government agencies and non-governmental organization Members, as well as political and/or economic integration organizations, to champion the implementation of national or regional efforts to aspire to have the world's oceans and seas managed according to an ecosystem approach, and to meet Aichi Target 11 objectives with respect to marine conservation, including the establishment of coastal and marine protected areas and the implementation of other effective area-based conservation measures;
2. REQUESTS IUCN Members, including State, government agency and non-governmental organization Members, to work closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), national resource management agencies and relevant industries at international, national and regional levels to work together to establish representative networks of MPAs, ranging from no-take reserves to multiple use zones where the pressures of extractive use on marine species and habitats are minimized, consistent with international law, including customary international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and based on the best scientific information available, and to develop other effective management and protection tools to complement those efforts in the oceans, addressing areas within and beyond national jurisdiction as appropriate;
3. CALLS UPON members of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) to support and participate actively in global efforts to transform the manner in which the values of MPAs are communicated;
4. REQUESTS WCPA and MPA agencies to build awareness of the potential role of MPAs, ranging from no-take reserves to managed multiple use zones, in conserving marine and coastal biodiversity and contributing to a sustainable marine economy;
5. CALLS UPON WCPA and MPA agencies to work with relevant industries, the marketing sector, stewardship bodies, communities and indigenous peoples to demonstrate how marine and coastal biodiversity can be sustained and restored in MPAs to the benefit of extractive marine industries, communities, indigenous peoples, and consumers and to contribute to the ongoing health and resilience of the oceans; and
6. REQUESTS the Director General, in collaboration with IUCN Members and WCPA, to support the recommendations above and to jointly strive to achieve implementation of coherent, representative and effective networks of MPAs at all levels, as fundamental tools to give proper protection to species and to marine and coastal habitats, and resilience to marine ecosystems, by:
 - a. supporting global initiatives to programme the effective implementation of the Aichi Targets, by:
 - i. supporting CBD's SOI in order to effectively deliver on Aichi Targets 6 (sustainable fisheries) and 11 (MPAs);

- ii. supporting the 3rd International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC3) and the Second International Summit of Marine Protected Area Agencies which are to be held in October 2013 in France as structuring and determining steps to mobilize the international community and to reach Aichi Target 11; and
- iii. developing a realistic and coherent plan to achieve Aichi Target 11, submitted for discussion at IMPAC3 and presentation to the 2014 World Parks Congress;
- b. encouraging the designation and implementation of MPA networks with strong involvement of marine and coastal communities, by:
 - i. calling on States to focus on the creation of effectively managed MPA networks in order to achieve Aichi Target 11 and to ensure that some undisturbed ecosystems remain as reference areas in the oceans;
 - ii. calling on States to base the creation of the MPA networks on strong scientific considerations to ensure that the areas of importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services are effectively conserved and contribute to global objectives;
 - iii. calling on States to increase the establishment of MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures that are designed to conserve important ecosystem services, and provide benefits to human communities;
 - iv. encouraging the designation of marine and coastal protected areas as UNESCO World Heritage sites, National Parks, Biosphere Reserves, Ramsar sites and Geoparks;
 - v. encouraging the use of the Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA) repository and other relevant sources of information, to inform the identification of potential MPAs within and beyond national jurisdiction; and
 - vi. ensuring the integration of MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures into a larger seascape approach, including through marine spatial planning;
- c. promoting the regional integration of MPA networks, by:
 - i. promoting regional and transboundary cooperation, to specifically facilitate cooperative protection and management of neighbouring MPAs; and
 - ii. facilitating cooperation between States to suggest networking marine corridors, referred to as the “marine blue belt”, coherent and consistent zoning within large MPAs and between MPAs to take into account of mobile or migratory populations and to follow the ocean currents;
- d. reinforcing capacity building and professionalization of managers, including by:
 - i. strengthening existing programmes that provide capacity development to MPA managers such as the Reef Resilience network, developing a global programme for enhancing the professionalism of MPA personnel and MPA management using the MPA PRO model and the proposed Global Partnership for Professionalizing Protected Areas Management (GPPAM) initiative recognizing that these initiatives support existing professional associations and management organizations in formally using all elements of a profession and

that a shared global brand and recognized core standards would support regions to tailor and implement the programme;

- ii. calling on States to participate in regional MPA networks and to provide or obtain the necessary technical and financial resources, for example by creating national MPA agencies, establishing dedicated sources of funding for protected areas (such as Green Fee in Palau, or the dedicated trust funds for Micronesia and the Caribbean), to provide or assist in the task of setting up and managing MPAs, activities for the national MPAs network, monitoring, controlling and surveillance at sea;
 - iii. calling on States to establish appropriate funding mechanisms for the management of MPAs;
 - iv. encouraging networking among the managers of MPAs to share their expertise and management skills concerning regional marine ecosystems, and to disseminate their ecological knowledge and data; and
 - v. developing communication activities and cultural approaches to facilitate the involvement of stakeholders and marine users in MPA management actions;
- e. implementing management effectiveness assessment systems, by:
- i. putting in place a mechanism to monitor and evaluate management effectiveness;
 - ii. developing and testing an IUCN certification scheme for effective and equitable management of MPAs, according to the IUCN categories, building upon the IUCN Green List, and making sure to take into account the specificity of the marine environment;
 - iii. maximizing the synergies and opportunities presented by other certification programmes such as the Blue Flag and the Green Key to support conservation objectives in or near MPAs;
 - iv. encouraging marine management initiatives in large marine areas at both global and regional levels (involving the different ocean economy sectors); and
 - v. developing and distributing methodological tools for the implementation of MPA management plans, and evaluating the effectiveness and quality of management in annual score-cards, dashboards or other effective communication tools; and
- f. generating and sharing information on MPA progress and management effectiveness, by:
- i. compiling and analyzing, where feasible, all available information about management effectiveness of MPAs globally; and
 - ii. developing protected area maps and databases which clearly show which protected areas have full protection, which areas are partly protected and which areas are unprotected.

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.