

WCC-2016-Rec-112-EN

Development of offshore renewable energy and biodiversity conservation

RECALLING that the fight against climate change involves a fundamental reform of global energy policies;

RECALLING that these energy policies must first and foremost be based on energy savings, energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy;

CONSIDERING that projects based on the development of renewable energy sources pose fewer risks to the environment than other means of production based on fossil fuels, although they can also have a major impact on ecosystems; and

CONSIDERING that the different types of offshore renewable energy (including wind, wave, salinity gradient, ocean thermal and tidal energy technologies, and explicitly excluding technologies extracting fossil fuel resources) will require greater support to achieve commercial readiness to effect an appropriate response to economic, social and environmental issues;

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Hawai'i, United States of America, 1-10 September 2016:

ASKS States and competent authorities to:

- a. undertake to minimise the impact of these technologies on marine and coastal ecosystems and landscapes;
- b. integrate biodiversity conservation into all energy plans and programmes;
- c. foster effective governance for the implementation of offshore renewable energy projects by:
 - i. planning and integrating these projects within regional approaches;
 - ii. closely associating all civil society stakeholders, notably nature conservation organisations and the managers of natural areas;
 - iii. improving the governance of ocean space in parallel with the development of the strategic planning of coastal and marine areas; and
 - iv. developing regulations adapted to the specificities of offshore renewable energy, in order to allow for their rapid development in accordance with the principles of sustainable development;
- d. improve knowledge of the cumulative effects of offshore renewable energy and other activities on natural environments and on the technically and economically feasible energy potential; and
- e. implement a strategy for the development of offshore renewable energy (including, for example, adequate funding mechanisms), which takes environmental issues into account throughout the entire life cycle of the project, and subject this strategy to rigorous strategic environmental assessment.

State and agency Members of the United States abstained during the vote on this motion for reasons given in the U.S. General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process.