

WCC-2016-Res-052-EN

Declaration of Astola Island as a Marine Protected Area

NOTING that there is no Marine Protected Area off the coast of Pakistan;

AWARE that fishing communities are suffering from a lack of fish stock owing to over-fishing by large trawlers that come within the 15-mile zone allocated for local fishing only;

FURTHER AWARE that the Government of Pakistan scheduled Astola Island as a Marine Preserve in 2007;

RECALLING IUCN's strong commitment to the conservation of marine species and habitats, as reflected in past Resolutions and Recommendations, such as Resolution 5.076 *Accelerating the global pace of establishing marine protected areas and the certification of their effective management* (Jeju,2012);

BELIEVING IN the importance of Marine Protected Areas for increasing marine biodiversity;

ACKNOWLEDGING that all stakeholders, governmental and private, must be on board from the beginning, with clear No Objection Certificates (NOCs) being issued by all Federal and Provincial Departments;

ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING both the need for fishing communities to thoroughly understand that a Marine Protected Area will eventually be for their benefit, and the need for alternative livelihoods to be encouraged and supported by all stakeholders, especially non-governmental organisations that work along the coast; and

RECOGNISING that sustainable funding mechanisms must be in place for at least ten years;

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

1. CALLS ON the Director General, Commissions and Members to support and endorse the establishing of Astola Island as a Marine Protected Area in Pakistan;
2. REQUESTS the Director General, with the assistance of Council, Commissions and Members, to assist both technically and intellectually with the methodology for establishing such a Marine Protected Area;
3. ALSO REQUESTS the Director General to encourage Members to support further research pertaining to a Marine Protected Area at Astola Island; and
4. URGES State and Government Agency Members in Pakistan to support the establishment of this Marine Protected Area and to help formulate effective legislation to protect the Marine Protected Area for at least five years from its inception in the field.

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.