

WCC-2016-Res-091-EN
South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary

RECALLING that, pursuant to Article 65 of the Convention on the Law of the Sea, coastal States have the right and the duty to ensure protection of their cetacean species;

NOTING IUCN's previous support for the Indian Ocean and Southern Ocean sanctuaries (Recommendations 18.34 *Cetacean conservation and the International Whaling Commission moratorium* (Perth, 1990) and 19.64 *Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary* (Buenos Aires, 1994));

CONSIDERING that whale-watching tourism provides economic and social benefits to many coastal communities and countries;

EMPHASISING that healthy whale populations help to maintain necessary ocean balance by providing ecological services such as keeping fish stocks healthy, cycling nutrients and removing carbon dioxide thus minimising the effects of climate change;

RECOGNISING that Argentina, Brazil, Gabon, South Africa and Uruguay have submitted a proposal and management plan for consideration at the 66th International Whaling Commission (IWC) to establish a whale sanctuary in the South Atlantic;

BEARING IN MIND that Argentina, Brazil, Gabon, South Africa, and Uruguay have already taken national measures to protect whales in their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs);

NOTING that the IWC Scientific Committee at its last meeting in June 2016 agreed that the information provided in the proposal was comprehensive and that an adequate review of the scientific aspect of the proposal had been performed; and

AWARE that the adoption of this sanctuary will, at least in part, fulfil the request of operative paragraph 6 of IUCN Recommendation 18.34 which called "for the IWC to consider the creation of other sanctuaries within a comprehensive system for the conservation of whales";

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

1. SUPPORTS the establishment of a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary under the auspices of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) as proposed by Argentina, Brazil, Gabon, South Africa and Uruguay;
2. CALLS UPON all members of the IWC to support the proposal to establish a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary at the 66th meeting of the IWC in Slovenia in October 2016; and
3. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General to convey this recommendation to the Secretary of the IWC and, in particular, requests that the IUCN representative at the 66th meeting of the IWC in Slovenia in October 2016 make known IUCN's support for this proposal.