

WCC 2016 Rec 109 - Activity Report

Period covered *

2017

Geographic scope

Hawai'i, USA (and Oceania/Pacific)

In implementing this Resolution your organization has worked/consulted with...

- IUCN Members **Yes / No**
 - The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i Conservation Alliance, National Tropical Botanical Garden, Kua' Āina Ulu 'Auamo, Conservation International, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Fiji
- IUCN Commissions **Yes / No**
- IUCN Secretariat **Yes / No**
 - IUCN Oceania Regional Office, IUCN Washington D.C. Office

Other non-IUCN related organisations

UN Development Programme; Global Island Partnership; University of Hawaii; Kamehameha Schools; State of Hawaii; Counties of Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, and City of Honolulu; Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Oahu Economic Development Board; Castle Foundation; Hawaii Pacific University; Hawaiian Airlines; Waikiki Improvement Association; Ulupono; Precovery Labs; many other statewide partners.

QUESTION: Implementation - Indicate and briefly describe any actions that have been carried out to implement this Resolution

Scientific/technical activities category : As a network-based partnership that supports the Aloha+ Challenge, Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) completed sustainability indicator development for the Aloha+ Challenge Dashboard. The Dashboard, an open-data platform to measure progress and provide accountability on the statewide sustainability commitment for 2030, includes locally appropriate goals, targets, and indicators that align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

HGG worked with partners to update data for the existing four goals on the Dashboard - Clean Energy, Local Food, Natural Resource Management, and Solid Waste Reduction – and worked with over 100 stakeholders to develop the final installments on the Green Workforce and Education and Smart Sustainable Communities goals. This entailed an in-depth multi-stakeholder process convening technical experts, civil society, government officials and private sector partners to develop and build consensus around statewide targets, measures, and content for the online Dashboard: (1) convening technical and content experts; (2) developing indicator inventories; (3) drafting and circulating an online network survey for broad cross-sector input; (4) co-convening Statewide Measures Meeting with county partners; (4) vetting and

refining recommendations with technical, policy, and decision makers; (5) collecting data and populating Dashboard population with community resources; and (6) confirming political alignment with state and county priorities. After convening stakeholders, key technical activities included data collection and synthesis, data visualization and mapping, and technology research on diverse sustainable development metrics.

Education/communication/raising awareness category: Following the IUCN World Conservation Congress, Hawai'i continued the drumbeat of communications, education, and awareness on integrated sustainability. Hawai'i's legendary voyaging canoe, Hōkūle'a, carried the inspiring message of "Mālama Honua, to Care for the Earth" across the globe during the three-year Worldwide Voyage that culminated in June 2017.

During the homecoming of Hōkūle'a, Hawai'i hosted the World Youth Congress with 150 delegates from over 50 countries. The Congress utilized the Aloha+ Challenge framework as a localized model to discuss place-based implementation of the UN SDGs across the diverse home countries of students; youth delegates identified sustainable development priorities and challenges specific to their countries, building on Hawai'i's approach of setting goals and targets that align with local culture, values, and priorities. Facilitated sessions on the Aloha+ Challenge informed the 2017 World Youth Congress recommendations to the United Nations.

An international student design challenge to "Make the Ala Wa Wai Awesome" engaged hundreds of students, schools, community members, and media to create integrated resilience designs, as part of the advancing the Aloha+ Challenge goals. In addition, a cohort of student interns designed awareness campaigns on the Aloha+ Challenge, including outreach materials, social media, and creative challenges.

The Aloha+ Challenge was highlighted internationally as an island model for sustainable development implementation at the United Nations World Ocean Summit, High-Level Panel Forum, United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP23), and other events by the Global Island Partnership and other entities. This paralleled Island Resilience Initiative communication with islands practitioners on the Aloha+ Challenge model in workshops, consultations, and presentations.

Fundraising category: The Global Island Partnership and Hawai'i Green Growth partnered with the United Nations Development Programme to scale island sustainable development models, including the Aloha+ Challenge, through the Island Resilience Initiative. As part of this effort, partners raised \$300,000 to support the Island Resilience Initiative's work to build capacity for localized SDGs in small island developing states. This funding is directly engagement for island communities through the Island Resilience Initiative.

Policy influencing/advocacy category: The Aloha+ Challenge continued to have strong political support from the State, all four Counties, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Legislature.

The statewide political coherence for the high-level 2030 sustainability goals is unprecedented, and the joint leadership commitment by elected officials is a key component of the scalable model outlined in the resolution. Key activities in 2017 included working closely with state and county partners to transition the Aloha+ Challenge with the new administrations priorities and ensure continued support for integrated sustainability issues.

HGG convened partners to identify a joint 2017 legislative and policy agenda to advance the Aloha+ Challenge sustainability goals. HGG partners selected top priorities based on partner-agreed criteria that priorities must cut across environmental, economic, and social pillars of sustainable development, have a significant impact, and have broad support across sectors. The partnership supported the following joint policy priorities for 2017:

- Climate change legislation to enact the Paris Agreement in Hawai'i state law
- Biosecurity & Invasive Species, including the Biosecurity Plan, vector control positions, and funding
- Fresh Water Security, including watershed protection funding and water conservation measures
- Native Hawaiian community-based grant and sustainability programs

The Hawai'i State Legislature enacted legislation to adopt the Paris Agreement into state law; this was signed by the Governor and endorsed by all four County Mayors. Hawai'i became the first state in the nation to align with the Paris Agreement through legislation, which was a significant milestone in Hawai'i's sustainable development and climate policy.

Convene stakeholders/networking category: Convening stakeholders and network coordination are cornerstone implementation activities of WCC-2016-Rec-109. The Island Resilience Initiative convened stakeholders from Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, and Palau to initiate a peer-learning network; at the same time, the HGG partnership completed the following activities this year to implement the Aloha+ Challenge and ensure local action:

- Continued coordination of the HGG statewide network of 100 diverse organizations and individuals across government, private sector, and civil society to advance the Aloha+ Challenge. The group set 2018-2020 priorities, with the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress as a key milestone to accelerate implementation on local and global sustainable development goals.
- Convened two hundred diverse cross-sector stakeholders to co-develop shared targets, indicators, and metrics on Hawai'i's sustainability goals for the online Aloha+ Challenge Dashboard. This includes Smart Sustainable Communities and Green Workforce and Education goals, which align with SDGs 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 13, featuring data across affordable housing, greenhouse gas mitigation, resilience, health, workforce, education, and livability.
- Launched the Ala Wai Watershed Collaboration, a network of over thirty diverse stakeholders that are committed to building environmental, community, and economic resilience in a watershed area highly vulnerable to catastrophic natural disasters and climate change impacts. The group is implementing a ridge to reef watershed resilience project that

could be scaled to other communities, and support innovative finance, green infrastructure ecosystem restoration, and disaster risk management.

- Coordinated the Hawai'i Sustainability Business Forum, a high-level group of private sector CEOs that catalyze tangible projects that address triple bottom line principles.

Capacity Building: As a first step towards implementing the WCC-2016-Rec-109, Hawai'i announced a partnership with the Global Island Partnership and United Nations Development Programme on the Island Resilience Initiative (IRI) to scale the Aloha+ Challenge with other island communities. The first action steps on this resolution began with islands, as they are often most vulnerable in the face of global challenges, and can serve a microcosm for developing and scaling integrated solutions. In 2017, IRI worked with Fiji, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands and other island champions to build capacity for local SDG implementation.

The first phase of IRI focused on identifying, strengthening, and building local public-private partnerships that could coordinate system-level island initiatives. In addition to this, IRI began to initiate localized SDG frameworks, with a view to establishing and tracking progress on localized 2030 goals. IRI specifically engaged island partners, hosted workshops, and held consultations focused on building the multi-stakeholder partnership to coordinate local SDG efforts and the Dashboard.

Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge was a key island model used by IRI to facilitate best practice sharing, given Hawai'i's established public-private partnership sustainability entity – Hawai'i Green Growth- and the extensive Dashboard in place to track progress.

QUESTION: Results/achievements of the actions taken

Hawai'i has significantly increased momentum on sustainable development locally and globally since hosting the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress, when the IUCN adopted WCC-2016-Rec-109 "*Aloha+ Challenge Model for Sustainable Development.*" In 2017, Hawai'i became the first state in the US to enact legislation aligning with the Paris Agreement on climate change; the legendary Polynesian voyaging canoe Hōkūle'a completed the Worldwide Voyage across the earth's oceans with the message of "Mālama Honua, To Care for our Earth"; and island communities used the *Aloha+ Challenge* as a model for place-based initiatives on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Hawai'i has a deep understanding of sustainability, grounded in a legacy of Native Hawaiian culture and nature-based innovation. Hawai'i's systems approach to resource management – mālama 'āina - is embodied by the global SDGs and balances focus on environmental, social, and economic priorities. It is both a responsibility and privilege for Hawai'i to partner with communities across the globe to collectively build a more sustainable future for "island earth". WCC-2016-Rec-109 provides a platform to share lessons learned and scale models that can support implementation of SDGs that are aligned with local values, cultures, and contexts.

Through work on the Island Resilience Initiative with the Global Island Partnership, IUCN members and offices, and other entities, at least three other islands are utilizing the Aloha+ Challenge as a model to inspire and support work on SDGs in their specific context. The pilot initiative with IUCN Members Fiji, Palau, and the Republic of Marshall Islands catalyzed further collaboration across sectors, silos, and stakeholders on sustainable development, and identified initial local priorities that aligned with the SDGs. This has helped increase local capacity to implement the SDGs, and created an initial peer-to-peer network that support long-term action by and with IUCN members. Building on this initiative, Hawai'i is engaged in dialogue with international partners to catalyze a resilience and sustainable development project pipeline, specifically focusing on vulnerable, urban areas. Hawai'i's capital Honolulu was selected to as part of the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities Network, to share best practices and scale models, including on the Aloha+ Challenge and resilience strategy development. The Julie Anne Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability (GIOS) Arizona State University partnered with HGG to study Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge as a global sustainability model, and continues to be a partner to engage students on scaling sustainability solutions.

The completed Aloha+ Challenge Dashboard is a statewide accountability mechanism that further advances WCC-2016-Rec-109. The Dashboard serves as a model to track SDG implementation, and lays a foundation for community-driven data initiatives that can be scaled with other islands, communities, and regions. This platform continued to be a key element in the Island Resilience Initiative, and supported IUCN member partners in identifying potential mechanisms to track progress on localized goals. In Hawai'i, development of the Dashboard involved several hundred stakeholders and built stronger partnerships statewide; it serves as a long-term mechanism to provide statewide political coherence on 2030 goals, ensure transparency and engage communities.

In addition to partnering internationally, Hawai'i advanced WCC-2016-Rec-109 locally through collaborative partnerships to ensure the Aloha+ Challenge accelerated tangible action. In order to be successful in scaling models, it is critical for Hawai'i to ensure the Aloha+ Challenge continues to have strong momentum through public-private leadership and advances tangible action. As part of this effort, HGG serves as the backbone organization for the Aloha+ Challenge, and catalyzes action across a network of government, private sector, and civil society partners to drive sustainable development outcomes. Through collaboration across diverse sectors in 2017, the partnership demonstrated considerable results in kick-starting implementation on WCC-2016-Rec-109.

HGG partners launched two major public-private initiatives after the IUCN World Conservation Congress – the Sustainability Business Forum and the Ala Wai Watershed Collaboration. The Ala Wai Watershed Collaboration is comprised of diverse public, private, and NGO partners committed to formed to address environmental, disaster and economic risks and build community resilience in Hawai'i's most densely populated and polluted watershed. The Ala Wai Watershed, which includes global tourism destination Waikīkī, generates approximately 8 percent of Hawai'i's GDP, 7 percent of the state's employment, and 9 percent of state tax

revenues. The area is highly vulnerable to sea level rise, climate related severe weather events and catastrophic natural disasters, including hurricanes and floods; a single category 4 hurricane cause an estimated \$30 billion in direct economic losses. The group successfully formed a multi-stakeholder initiative to restore the watershed and initiated development of an innovative public-private partnership, such a new Watershed Improvement District and Community Investment Vehicle (CIVic), to holistically manage the watershed and generate new revenue for climate resilience. This can watershed-based model can be applied to other cities and communities around the world.

The Sustainability Business Forum (SBF) brings together private sector CEOs of Hawai'i businesses that are committed to triple bottom-line values to advance the Aloha+ Challenge. The diverse forum of private sector leadership agreed to a shared vision, mission, major priorities to advance the Aloha+ Challenge. The group advanced early action on establishing market-based mechanism approach to mitigating carbon, commissioning key reports to evaluate policy, financing, and potential pilot projects to inform a carbon-based market in Hawai'i. These initiatives are part of an effort to build a long-term pipeline for innovative financing and sustainable development projects that can support implementation of the Aloha+ Challenge and SDGs (WCC-2016-Rec-109) by providing tangible examples for other islands, communities, and other sub-national contexts.

HGG convened set the following 2018-2020 priorities for joint action to guide implementation on the Aloha+ Challenge through 2020, looking to the next IUCN World Conservation Congress as a key milestone: 1) catalyze at least two major cross-sector initiatives that help achieve sustainable development goals; 2) engage communities and students through the online open-data Dashboard to empower and accelerate statewide action; 3) build pathways to cultivate next generation local and global leadership on sustainability solutions grounded in systems-thinking and traditional knowledge; and 4) increase Hawai'i's resilience to climate change and natural disasters to meet the Paris Agreement, and develop an innovative and holistic resiliency model in the Ala Wai Watershed.

QUESTION: Identify and briefly describe what future actions are planned for the implementation of this Resolution

Scientific/technical activities category: Build out the Aloha+ Challenge Dashboard to better engage communities and students through data, institutionalize the platform for statewide use through 2030, and serve as a model for other communities tracking SDGs internationally. This includes working with partners and students on technology innovation to develop community-driven data capabilities.

Education/communication/raising awareness category: Identify key international opportunities for Hawai'i delegations to highlight leadership and share best practices with partners on sustainable development, conservation, and climate change through the Aloha+ Challenge. In addition, expanding the Communications Working Group with diverse partner experts is key a strategy to support increased outreach and education on the Aloha+ Challenge.

Policy influencing/advocacy category: Future policy work will focus on strong alignment between the Aloha+ Challenge and the UN SDGs to help support long-term political leadership on sustainable development principles. The Hawai'i State Senate has focused the 2018 legislative program on local SDG implementation through Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge; this action by Hawai'i's leadership demonstrates strong progress and commitment to implement locally, and reinforces WCC-2016-Rec-109.

Convene stakeholders/networking category: Future steps include a strong emphasis on action and tangible initiatives, specifically through the Ala Wai Watershed Collaboration and Sustainability Business Forum. As two distinct stakeholder networks, the entities will undertake ambitious projects that advance multiple Aloha+ Challenge goals, such as carbon offset initiative and an innovative watershed improvement district financial model.

Capacity Building: IRI will continue to build capacity with Fiji, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands through further strengthen the local public-private partnership entities, and identify locally appropriate goals and metrics that intersect with SDGs. The second IRI phase will focus on development a future pipeline for resilience projects and innovative financing, and the launch an island peer-learning network on SDGs implementation.

What challenges have you encountered in implementing this Resolution and what measures have you taken to overcome them?

Implementation of WCC-2016-Rec-109 required coordination capacity to work with local, national, and international entities. These challenges were addressed through strategic partnerships, including work through the existing Global Island Partnership to engage diverse IUCN members and partners on scaling local SDG models. HGG looks forward to partnering more closely with the IUCN to implement WCC-2016-Rec-109.