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Advancing conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in the ocean beyond national jurisdiction

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Submitted by: Submitted 1 month 6 days ago by Andrew.WETZLER.

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Status: Submitted

Original language of the motion as submitted: English

Author's contact: lspeer@nrdc.org

Background information 

1. Does the proposed motion:

Correspond with the purpose of motions as defined in Rule 48bis:

Yes

Propose an amendment to either the draft IUCN Programme 2021-2024:

No

Address issues pertaining to the governance of IUCN?:

No

2. Specify which IUCN constituents (Members or components of IUCN) or third parties (Rule 54 (b) viii.) referred to in the operative paragraph(s) of this motion have:

Been consulted during the development of this motion:

International Fund for Animal Welfare (United States of America)
Marine Conservation Biology Institute (United States of America)
The Nature Conservancy (United States of America)
The Pew Charitable Trusts (United States of America)

Collaborated in the development of the motion:

Marine Conservation Biology Institute (United States of America)
The Nature Conservancy (United States of America)
The Pew Charitable Trusts (United States of America)

Provide any additional information about consultations carried out/ collaboration with IUCN constituents in the development of this motion, in particular if consultations had the purpose of identifying solutions that might address the underlying issues. (Rule 54 (b) x.) :

Additional consultations were carried out with government and non-government IUCN constituents in the development of this motion.

3. Before submitting this motion, have you searched the IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations Platform to ensure that this motion does not repeat previously adopted Resolutions or Recommendations?:

Yes

Please specify, what is new, over and above previously adopted Resolutions and Recommendations and state which Resolutions / Recommendations:

WCC-2016-Res-047, which passed at IUCN WCC in 2016, called on states to convene an intergovernmental conference on the elements and to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS. States agreed to convene an intergovernmental conference in 2017 and the first three sessions were held in 2018 and 2019. The fourth and final session is scheduled in 2020 and this motion calls on governments to complete their work to develop a treaty and ensure the final text includes provisions to fulfill its conservation and sustainable use objectives.

4. Please indicate whether the proposed motion has been discussed in one of the Regional Conservation Fora held in 2019 or - where applicable - in a meeting of the National Committee(s) of the country(ies) concerned? (Regulation 66ter):

Yes

Please specify in which:

Yes, motion was discussed at the IUCN marine forum held in February 4-6 2019 in Washington, D.C.

5. Does the motion focus on local, national or regional issues?:

No

6. Does the proposed motion concern issues arising in a State or States outside the proponent's State/Region?:

Yes

Please ensure that the motion is co-sponsored by at least one IUCN Member, eligible to vote, from the Region with which the motion is concerned. (Rule 49bis):

Brazil

Costa Rica

New Zealand

Switzerland

United States of America

Preamble



The preamble explains in a succinct way the rationale for the motion and substantiates the action(s) called for in the operative part. :

NOTING that marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) comprise nearly two-thirds of the world’s ocean and provide incalculable ecological, economic, social, cultural, scientific and food security benefits to humanity;

CONCERNED about rising threats to marine biodiversity in ABNJ, including climate change, ocean acidification, deoxygenation, overfishing, habitat destruction, and chemical, noise and plastic pollution;

NOTING that highly protected marine protected areas (MPAs) and prior environmental impact assessments (EIAs) are critical tools for safeguarding marine biodiversity, but less than one percent of the ocean in ABNJ is highly protected and uniform EIA requirements are lacking for ABNJ;

WELCOMING the decision by the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution 72/249, 2017), to convene an intergovernmental conference from 2018-2020 to develop an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in ABNJ;

RECALLING previous relevant IUCN Resolutions, outcome documents, and recommendations, including Resolutions 47 and 50 from IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016, which called on States to support a robust new Agreement and designate and implement at least 30% of each marine habitat in a network of highly protected marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures by 2030;

RECOGNISING that international law, as reflected in UNCLOS, provides the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out;

Operative paragraphs



The operative section of the motion specifies the position of Members and contains the action(s) that they are agreeing to take.:

1. ENCOURAGES States, to develop an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in ABNJ, to:

a. Complete their work by December 31, 2020;

b. Ensure the final text provides for:

i. Rapid identification, establishment, and management of an ecologically representative, well-connected, and well-managed network of highly and fully protected MPAs in ABNJ through a transparent, science-based process;

ii. Rigorous, integrated, independent, science-based assessment, management, and monitoring of the individual and cumulative effects of human activities and climate change on marine biological diversity in ABNJ;

iii. A decision-making body, a scientific advisory body, and effective decision-making and dispute resolution provisions;

iv. Strategic environmental assessments;

v. Ensuring if environmental assessments find an activity poses significant adverse effects to ABNJ, such activity is managed to prevent such impacts or not permitted to proceed;

vi. Effective monitoring, compliance, and enforcement;

vii. Effective capacity building and transfer of marine technology; and

viii. Fair and equitable sharing of monetary and non-monetary benefits from marine genetic resources from ABNJ;

2. ENCOURAGES IUCN members to actively support and promote these objectives;

3. CALLS ON the Director General, Commissions, and Secretariat to provide technical support and to promote and support these actions.

Proponents and co-sponsors



You are submitting this motion on behalf of:

Natural Resources Defense Council [United States of America]

Co-sponsors:

Australian Marine Conservation Society [Australia]

Conservation International [United States of America]

43575

- Environment and Conservation Organisations of New Zealand [New Zealand]
- Environmental Law Institute [United States of America]
- Environmental Law Program at the William S. Richardson School of Law [United States of America]
- Fundación MarViva [Costa Rica]
- Instituto O Direito por um Planeta Verde [Brazil]
- International Fund for Animal Welfare [United States of America]
- Marine Conservation Biology Institute [United States of America]
- Preserve Planet [Costa Rica]
- SYLVIA EARLE ALLIANCE (DBA MISSION BLUE) [United States of America]
- The Nature Conservancy [United States of America]
- The Pew Charitable Trusts [United States of America]
- World Wide Fund for Nature - International [Switzerland]

Information required for the implementation of the motion ∨

1. Provide:

a) An overview of the activities and estimated resources needed to implement the motion (these can be human or other resources, but expressed in USD). Also include an estimation of the resources pledged (in USD), including by the proponent, co-sponsors, or third parties.:

Activity	Estimated financial resources required (USD)	Estimated financial resources pledged (USD)
Field activities	0	0
Scientific activities	50000	50000
Education/ communication/ raising awareness	100000	100000
Fundraising	10000	10000
Policy influencing	20000	20000
Convening stakeholders/ networking	2000000	2000000
Capacity building	100000	100000
Other	200000	200000
Total	2480000	2480000

Rate here to which degree the resources required for the implementation of the motion have been estimated and committed. During the online discussion of motions, proponents of motions will be able to update this

information and rating, while IUCN Members will be able to pledge or commit their contribution to the implementation of a motion.:

D: Motion can be implemented within the regular budget and resources available to the Member or component of IUCN (Secretariat, Commission, etc.) which is called upon to implement the motion.

b) Description of the contributions which proponent and co-sponsors intend to make towards the implementation of the motion: (Rule 54 (b) viii.)

Proponent	∨
<p>IUCN Member: Natural Resources Defense Council [United States of America]</p> <p>Proposed actions: Capacity building</p>	

Co-sponsors	∨
<p>Co-sponsor: The Pew Charitable Trusts [United States of America]</p> <p>Proposed actions: Capacity building</p> <p>Co-sponsor: Marine Conservation Biology Institute [United States of America]</p> <p>Proposed actions: Education/Communication/Raising awareness Scientific/technical activities</p> <p>Co-sponsor: Natural Resources Defense Council [United States of America]</p> <p>Proposed actions: Capacity building</p> <p>Co-sponsor: International Fund for Animal Welfare [United States of America]</p> <p>Proposed actions: Other</p>	

Co-sponsor:

SYLVIA EARLE ALLIANCE (DBA MISSION BLUE) [United States of America]

Proposed actions:

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Co-sponsor:

Conservation International [United States of America]

Proposed actions:

Other

Co-sponsor:

World Wide Fund for Nature - International [Switzerland]

Proposed actions:

Convening stakeholders/networking

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Policy influencing/advocacy

Description:

WWF will communicate to increase public awareness about this treaty, and about the conservation of biodiversity in ABNJ. WWF will research, prepare and distribute policy briefings, and technical documents supporting policy development for a BBNJ treaty, in our advocacy outreach. WWF will organize meetings with stakeholders to advance discussion on text for the BBNJ treaty.

2. Provide here the name of a focal point who would be in charge of reporting annually on the follow-up and implementation of the motion if adopted:

Name: Lauren

Surname: Kubiak

Institution: Natural Resources Defense Council

3. If the operative paragraph(s) of this motion is/are directly related to the mandate and work of one or more IUCN Commission(s), has the Steering Committee of the relevant Commission(s) committed to oversee implementation and assist in the gathering of data on the implementation of the Resolutions involved?:

Not applicable

4. As required by WCC-2016-Res-001, please indicate when the motion automatically ceases to be effective and will be moved to the Resolutions and Recommendations Archive. This can be either when a stated period has elapsed or when an objective has been achieved.:

The motion should be moved to the Resolutions and Recommendations Archive after states have adopted an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine

biological diversity in ABNJ that meets the criteria outlined in this motion.

Scope



Please specify to which area of the draft IUCN Programme 2021-2024 this motion is related:

Healthy Oceans

Indicate the geographic scope of the implementation of this motion:

Global

Keywords



Region:

- Global

Nature and biodiversity:

- Marine & Coastal
- Fishes
- Birds

Sustainable Development Goals:

- Goal 14 - life below water

Threats and Drivers:

- Fisheries & harvesting aquatic resources
- Human intrusions & disturbance
- Natural system modifications

Type of response / intervention:

- Capacity building
- Ecosystems management
- Institution building / reform

Congress themes:

- Restoring ocean health (/programme/congress-themes/oceans)
- Upholding rights, ensuring effective and equitable governance (/programme/congress-themes/rights-and-governance)

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