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Conserving and protecting coral reefs through the post-2020 biodiversity framework

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Submitted by: Submitted 2 weeks 4 days ago by Ben.PALMER.

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Original language of the motion as submitted: English

Author's contact: ben.palmer@gbbrmpa.gov.au

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:

Association Française du Fonds Mondial pour la Nature - France (France)

Blue Ventures Conservation (United Kingdom)
Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und nukleare Sicherheit (Germany)
Coastal Oceans Research and Development - Indian Ocean (East Africa) (Kenya)
Coral Triangle Center (Indonesia)
Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco (Monaco)
Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (Haiti)
Ministerio de Ambiente (Panama)
Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía (Costa Rica)
Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (Seychelles)
Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism (Palau)
Ministère des Relations Extérieures et de la Coopération de Monaco (Monaco)
Paul G. Allen Family Foundation (United States of America)
The Nature Conservancy (United States of America)
Western Indian Ocean Marine Sciences Association (Tanzania)
Wildlife Conservation Society (United States of America)
World Wide Fund for Nature - International (Switzerland)

Collaborated in the development of the motion:

Association Française du Fonds Mondial pour la Nature - France (France)
Blue Ventures Conservation (United Kingdom)
Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und nukleare Sicherheit (Germany)
Coastal Oceans Research and Development - Indian Ocean (East Africa) (Kenya)
Coral Triangle Center (Indonesia)
Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco (Monaco)
Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (Haiti)
Ministerio de Ambiente (Panama)
Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía (Costa Rica)
Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (Seychelles)
Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism (Palau)
Ministère des Relations Extérieures et de la Coopération de Monaco (Monaco)
Paul G. Allen Family Foundation (United States of America)
The Nature Conservancy (United States of America)
Western Indian Ocean Marine Sciences Association (Tanzania)
Wildlife Conservation Society (United States of America)
World Wide Fund for Nature - International (Switzerland)

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.) :

This motion was prepared by a collaboration of IUCN constituents who are also members of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), seeking to strengthen their contributions to the post-2020 biodiversity framework by the specific inclusion of coral reefs in the framework. Other IUCN constituents who are ICRI members were consulted in the development of the motion, and will look to contribute to the motion when online discussion opens.

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:

The motion calls for specific and relevant action that IUCN Members, government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations can take to ensure that the conservation and protection of coral reefs is recognised in developing and adopting a post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

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:

IUCN Oceania Regional Conservation Forum, Fiji, 20 July to 2 August 2019. Presented by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

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):

Australia

Costa Rica

France

Germany

Indonesia

Kenya

Monaco

Mozambique

Palau
Panama
Seychelles
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
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 coral reefs are found in more than 100 countries, cover only 0.2% of the sea floor, but support at least 25% of marine species and underpin the wellbeing, food and economic security of hundreds of millions of people;

FURTHER NOTING the unique vulnerability of coral reefs to anthropogenic impacts, including global threats from climate change and ocean acidification, as well as local impacts from land-based and maritime pollution, overfishing and destructive fishing practices;

CONCERNED that global assessments have found live coral cover has declined by almost 50% since 1870, that this decline is accelerating;

FURTHER CONCERNED that Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have not achieved Aichi Target 10, which seeks to maintain the “integrity and functioning” of coral reefs, and that the 6th Global Environment Outlook report advised governments to prepare for the decline and possible collapse of coral reef ecosystems;

WELCOMING the efforts of CBD Parties and other stakeholders, including the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) in developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, within the context of the 2050 vision that considers coral reefs;

RECALLING IUCN Recommendation 106, which asks States to “develop and strengthen international, regional and national initiatives on the conservation of coral reefs...,” as well as UNEP/EA.4/Res.13, which calls for “...enhanced streamlining and coordination of the numerous international policy instruments” related to coral reef conservation;

WELCOMING the commitment of G7 Environment Ministers and other IUCN Government Members to “continue strengthening the conservation/protection of coral reefs...”, and to develop “a new coral reef target as part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework”;

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. CALLS UPON IUCN Members, government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to:

- a. explicitly recognize and incorporate the unique contribution of coral reefs in efforts to achieve existing international goals, including the CBD Aichi Targets, the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to strengthen regional and global cooperation in this regard;
- b. work towards the inclusion of a measurable, outcome-based 2030 target and 2050 vision for coral reefs that is relevant for all coral reef ecosystems and prioritizes their integrity and functioning, including the provision of ecosystem services, in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- c. engage in ICRI's Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, including through participation in regional networks and the application of indicators and best practice identified through the Network, to strengthen local and global monitoring capacity;
- d. enhance financing mechanisms for coral reef ecosystems to undertake remedial measures, monitor coral reef status, improve governance mechanisms, and implement resilience-based management for coral reefs with a view to achieving relevant global goals; and

2. REQUESTS the Director General of IUCN, and the IUCN Secretariat, to promote all elements of paragraph 1) above, and most urgently paragraph 1b in IUCN's provision of advice to Parties relevant to the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Proponents and co-sponsors



You are submitting this motion on behalf of:

Australian Government Department of the Environment [Australia]

Co-sponsors:

Association Française du Fonds Mondial pour la Nature - France [France]

Blue Ventures Conservation [United Kingdom]

Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und nukleare Sicherheit [Germany]

Coastal Oceans Research and Development - Indian Ocean (East Africa) [Kenya]

Coral Triangle Center [Indonesia]

Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco [Monaco]

Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine [Haiti]

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Queensland [Australia]
Ministerio de Ambiente [Panama]
Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía [Costa Rica]
Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change [Seychelles]
Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism [Palau]
Ministère des Relations Extérieures et de la Coopération de Monaco [Monaco]
Paul G. Allen Family Foundation [United States of America]
The Nature Conservancy [United States of America]
Western Indian Ocean Marine Sciences Association [Tanzania]
World Wide Fund for Nature - International [Switzerland]

Explanatory memorandum



Explanatory memorandum (optional):

Retaining and improving the health and function of coral reefs is an important key to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030. Shallow, warm water coral reefs occur in the waters of more than 100 countries with 85% of these reefs under the jurisdiction of just 25 states. Coral reefs support food systems, economies, human health and have important cultural significance. The urgency of addressing coral reef decline remains and warrants special attention.

Recent global assessments show coral reefs to be on a catastrophic trajectory. Almost 50% of living coral has been lost since 1870 and the losses are accelerating. In light of predicted global population growth and climate change scenarios, direct and indirect pressures on coral reefs will continue to increase over the next 30 years to 2050 and beyond.

Aichi Target 10 is not appropriate to carry forward in its current form, however it did succeed in drawing attention to coral reefs and stimulated increased activity and funding for marine conservation. Pressures on coral reefs have increased and coral reef ecosystems continued to decline. Poor implementation has been attributed to complex, ambiguous wording without clear ambition, and challenges addressing multi-sectoral pressures. The timeline was unrealistic and supporting guidance and tools were late; the required monitoring and data not available making it impossible to measure progress.

There are more than 230 international policy instruments related to coral reefs, 73 binding instruments at the global and regional scale, and 591 commitments. For society to continue to benefit from coral reefs substantially, coherent and effective implementation needs urgent attention, as committed to by States through UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.4/13.

It has been shown that proactive policies to protect and restore the health of the world’s coral reefs have potential to generate substantial economic gain, provide important societal benefits including to local communities, and help deliver the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

There is an active and engaged community of Nations, organisations and experts already convened on the issue of coral reef conservation and protection, in particular through the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and its associated Networks, including the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN). Work is ongoing within ICRI to contribute a proposal on how to consider coral reefs within the CBD-Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, including how to measure change, defining capacity requirement and resource opportunities. New elements that will be available to support a coral reef target include:

- New indicators to add to the existing indicators in use at the global scale (e.g. live coral cover) and improve ability to measure change;
- GCRMN will deliver an updated global status of coral reefs in 2020 which will serve as an updated baseline for coral reefs;
- The Allen Coral Atlas is a digital atlas that uses remote sensing and machine learning to develop new coral maps, also due by 2020;
- New technologies and integrated monitoring are areas of active work, helping to fill gaps in measurement of change in the status and functioning of coral reefs;
- Following the adoption of a new Implementation and Governance plan for GCRMN, a strengthened network for improving national, regional and global monitoring efforts.

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	0	0
Education/ communication/ raising awareness	25000	0
Fundraising	0	0

Activity	Estimated financial resources required (USD)	Estimated financial resources pledged (USD)
Policy influencing	25000	0
Convening stakeholders/ networking	25000	25000
Capacity building	0	0
Other	0	0
Total	75000	25000

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 

IUCN Member:

Australian Government Department of the Environment [Australia]

Proposed actions:

Capacity building

Convene stakeholders/networking

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Policy influencing/advocacy

Scientific/technical activities

Description:

Australia, in partnership with Monaco and Indonesia, is co chair of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) until mid-2020. ICRI has formed a working group to develop a recommendation for a coral reef target for the post-2020 biodiversity framework. This includes guiding material for all ICRI members on the importance of coral reefs to the post-2020 framework. The ICRI Secretariat partners will actively advocate at key international and high level fora for the importance of coral reefs in the post-2020 framework.

Co-sponsors

**Co-sponsor:**

Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía [Costa Rica]

Proposed actions:

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Policy influencing/advocacy

Co-sponsor:

Ministère des Relations Extérieures et de la Coopération de Monaco [Monaco]

Proposed actions:

Convening stakeholders/networking

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Policy influencing/advocacy

Co-sponsor:

Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change [Seychelles]

Proposed actions:

Convening stakeholders/networking

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Policy influencing/advocacy

Co-sponsor:

Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism [Palau]

Proposed actions:

Convening stakeholders/networking

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Policy influencing/advocacy

Co-sponsor:

Ministerio de Ambiente [Panama]

Proposed actions:

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Policy influencing/advocacy

Co-sponsor:

Blue Ventures Conservation [United Kingdom]

Proposed actions:

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Policy influencing/advocacy

Co-sponsor:

Coral Triangle Center [Indonesia]

Proposed actions:

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Policy influencing/advocacy

Co-sponsor:

Coastal Oceans Research and Development - Indian Ocean (East Africa) [Kenya]

Proposed actions:

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Policy influencing/advocacy

Co-sponsor:

Paul G. Allen Family Foundation [United States of America]

Proposed actions:

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Policy influencing/advocacy

Co-sponsor:

Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine [Haiti]

Proposed actions:

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Policy influencing/advocacy

Co-sponsor:

Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco [Monaco]

Proposed actions:

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Policy influencing/advocacy

Co-sponsor:

The Nature Conservancy [United States of America]

Proposed actions:

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Policy influencing/advocacy

Co-sponsor:

World Wide Fund for Nature - International [Switzerland]

Proposed actions:

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Policy influencing/advocacy

Co-sponsor:

Wildlife Conservation Society [United States of America]

Proposed actions:

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Scientific/technical activities

Co-sponsor:

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Queensland [Australia]

Proposed actions:

Convening stakeholders/networking

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Policy influencing/advocacy

Co-sponsor:

Association Française du Fonds Mondial pour la Nature - France [France]

Proposed actions:

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Policy influencing/advocacy

Co-sponsor:

Western Indian Ocean Marine Sciences Association [Tanzania]

Proposed actions:

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Policy influencing/advocacy

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: Ben

Surname: Palmer

Institution: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

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.:

When the CBD post-2020 biodiversity framework and 2050 vision has been agreed and adopted.

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

Sustainable Development Goals:

- Goal 13 - climate action
- Goal 14 - life below water

Threats and Drivers:

- Climate change & severe weather
- Human intrusions & disturbance
- Pollution

Type of response / intervention:

- Climate change adaptation
- Climate change mitigation
- Education / Awareness raising

Congress themes:

- Restoring ocean health (/programme/congress-themes/oceans)
- Accelerating climate change mitigation and adaptation (/programme/congress-themes/climate-change)

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