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Innovative Solutions to Remove Marine Plastic Pollution from the World's Oceans

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Submitted by: Submitted 3 weeks 2 days ago by ELPStudent.ENVI....

Post date: Wednesday, 21 August 2019 - 06:42 am

Last modified: Tuesday, 27 August 2019 - 11:35 pm

Status: Submitted

Original language of the motion as submitted: English

Author's contact: elpiucn@gmail.com

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:

IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)

IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy (CEESP)

Collaborated in the development of the motion:

IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)

IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy (CEESP)

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.) :

The draft motion was circulated to the World Commission on Environmental, the IUCN Marine and Polar Programme, and North America and Oceania IUCN Members.

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:

Prior resolutions have focused on reducing land-based plastic pollution in the marine environment. This motion complements prior resolutions by focusing on innovative approaches to removal.

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:

North America Regional Conservation Forum

Oceania Regional Conservation Forum

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?:

No

Preamble



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

RECOGNIZING that every year, more than 300 million tons of plastic are produced, over half of which are used to create single-use products;

HIGHLIGHTING that more than 8 million tons of plastic end up in the world's oceans every year;

NOTING that rotating ocean currents - gyres - accumulate concentrated collections of debris and microplastics in vortexes commonly referred to as "garbage patches";

ACKNOWLEDGING that nearly 80,000 tons of plastic is currently swirling in the North Pacific gyre, constituting the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, or Pacific trash vortex;

RECOGNIZING that the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is one of many such trash vortexes throughout the world's oceans;

MINDFUL that marine animals are negatively impacted by entanglement in debris and ingestion of plastic, leading to starvation and death;

CONCERNED that the World Economic Forum's January 2016 report entitled The New Plastic Economy: Rethinking the Future of Plastics found that by the year 2050, there will be more plastic in the oceans than fish, by weight;

AFFIRMING that the Draft IUCN Programme 2021-2024 recognizes Healthy Oceans as one of four prioritized programme areas, and commits to "improving the governance of the areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ)" and "provid[ing] science-based data and recommendations to the international community";

NOTING that IUCN's "Close the Plastic Tap" Programme currently supports numerous projects around the globe, such as Plastic Waste Free Islands and MARPLASTICCS, to tackle plastic pollution at the source;

RECOGNIZING that removal of marine plastics from the world's oceans requires investment in research, development of innovative solutions, and support from the international community as a complement to efforts currently underway to address land-based sources of pollution;

IMAGINING a future in which marine ecosystems are pristine and protected, food sources are safe and secure, and the world's oceans are plastic free;

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. URGES the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) to create an online database of innovative solutions for Member States and organizations to remove marine plastic pollution from the world's oceans; and
2. CALLS UPON the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) to create a public awareness campaign around innovative solutions to remove marine plastic pollution from the world's oceans.

Proponents and co-sponsors

You are submitting this motion on behalf of:

Environmental Law Program at the William S. Richardson School of Law [United States of America]

Co-sponsors:

Center for Environmental Legal Studies [United States of America]

Center for Large Landscape Conservation [United States of America]

Environmental Law Institute [United States of America]

Instituto O Direito por um Planeta Verde [Brazil]

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

The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens [United States of America]

Explanatory memorandum

Explanatory memorandum (optional):

While plastic has revolutionized life on Earth in many ways, we have reached a level of production that is unsustainable. Plastic waste can remain in the environment for centuries, never fully breaking down. Over time, plastic gradually breaks into smaller and smaller pieces, called “microplastics,” spreading out through the ocean and becoming ingested by fish and other animals. Many coastlines and beaches around the world have experienced increased and unrelenting levels of microplastics and marine debris washing ashore and impacting coastal ecosystems and tourism industries.

Plastic pollution is increasingly one of the most menacing threats to the health of our oceans. The sheer volume of plastic produced each year, and its virtual permanence in the environment, threatens to saturate our oceans with plastic at unsustainable levels in the near future. In a 2016 report, the World Economic Forum declared that by 2050, there will be more plastic in the oceans than fish. It threatens not only the health of ocean life and marine

ecosystems, but also human health through pollution of food and water sources, coastal tourism, and also contributes to global climate change.

While the global community must address land-based sources of marine plastic pollution, efforts must also be made to address the amount of plastic already polluting the ocean. Various organizations have designed and tested solutions for remediation of existing marine plastic pollution. This motion will build upon these existing efforts by creating a dynamic online database of innovative solutions through which Member States and other organizations can collaborate to share ideas, best practices, and experiences.

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	0.00	0.00
Scientific activities	0.00	0.00
Education/ communication/ raising awareness	0.00	0.00
Fundraising	0.00	0.00
Policy influencing	0.00	0.00
Convening stakeholders/ networking	0.00	0.00
Capacity building	0.00	0.00
Other	0.00	0.00
Total	0.00	0.00

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:

Environmental Law Program at the William S. Richardson School of Law [United States of America]

Proposed actions:

Convene stakeholders/networking

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Co-sponsors 

Co-sponsor:

Center for Environmental Legal Studies [United States of America]

Proposed actions:

Convening stakeholders/networking

Co-sponsor:

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

Proposed actions:

Other

Co-sponsor:

Environmental Law Institute [United States of America]

Proposed actions:

Other

Co-sponsor:

The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens [United States of America]

Proposed actions:

Education/Communication/Raising awareness

Co-sponsor:

Center for Large Landscape Conservation [United States of America]

Proposed actions:

Other

Co-sponsor:

Instituto O Direito por um Planeta Verde [Brazil]

Proposed actions:

Other

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: Emily

Surname: Gaskin

Institution: Environmental Law Program, William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii at Manoa

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?:

Yes

Specify which Commission(s):

Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)

Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)

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 objective of this motion will be achieved when the global community has effectively identified innovative solutions to remove marine plastic from the world's oceans.

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
- Mammals

Sustainable Development Goals:

- Goal 9 - industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Goal 14 - life below water

Threats and Drivers:

- Fisheries & harvesting aquatic resources
- Human intrusions & disturbance
- Pollution

Type of response / intervention:

- Community participation / Community engagement
- Ecosystems management
- Restoration (forest, land, habitats etc.)

Congress themes:

- Restoring ocean health (</programme/congress-themes/oceans>)
- Advancing knowledge, learning, innovation and technology (</programme/congress-themes/knowledge-innovation-and-technology>)

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