



National Jurisdiction

under the IUCN World Conservation Resolution

Congress

September 2016



Resolution 47 - Advancing conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction

NOTING that approximately one-third of the world's ocean is beyond national jurisdiction, and that this area provides valuable ecological, economic, scientific, and social benefits;

CONSIDERING that the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and that the CBD encourages the development of marine protected areas (MPAs) and the establishment of national marine science and technology centres;

RECALLING the recommendation in the marine cross-cutting theme at the IUCN World Parks Congress (2003) to establish a global network of well-connected systems of MPAs or other effective conservation measures. This network should target protection of both biodiversity and ecosystem services and should include at least 30% of each marine habitat. The ultimate objective is to protect 5% of the world's ocean, at least 30% of which has no-extractive activities;

ENCOURAGING that the outcome document from the IUCN World Parks Congress (Sydney, 2014) (a) overcame the barrier of national jurisdiction through the use of well-connected systems of MPAs or other effective conservation measures. This network should target protection of both biodiversity and ecosystem services and should include at least 30% of each marine habitat. The ultimate objective is to protect 5% of the world's ocean, at least 30% of which has no-extractive activities;

NOTING that greater effort will be needed to establish MPAs in ABNJ to meet the agreed targets;

RECALLING that the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) provides the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out;

NOTING that marine reserves play an important role in and are tools for safeguarding biodiversity;

AWARE that the Convention on Biological Diversity process to identify ABNJ as a global biodiversity hotspot, and the need to establish a global network of MPAs or other effective conservation measures in accordance with international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea;

RECALLING that Resolution 5.074 *Implementing conservation and sustainable management of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction* adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in 2002, and the need to establish a global network of MPAs or other effective conservation measures in accordance with international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea;

WELCOMING United Nations General Assembly Resolution 69/292, adopted by consensus in June 2015, in which the General Assembly decided to develop an international legally-binding instrument under UNCLOS for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction;

The World Ocean Assessment Commission, established by the Commission on Sustainable Development, on 10 September 2016:

Resolutions 69/292 to make recommendations to the General Assembly on the elements of the draft text of an international legally binding instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction and further URGES Member States to include the following measures in their recommendations to the General Assembly:

- the rapid identification, designation and effective management of an ecologically representative and well-connected system of MPAs, including reserves, in ABNJ;
- the assessment of the impacts of human activities, including cumulative impacts, on ABNJ;
- the regulation of activities to prevent significant adverse impacts on the marine environment;
- effective monitoring, compliance and enforcement;
- capacity building and the transfer of marine technology; and
- the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from marine genetic resources from ABNJ;

2. ENCOURAGES Members to support science-based processes that allow for the establishment of an ecologically representative and well-connected system of MPAs, including reserves, as an element of the new agreement;

and URGES that to call on the UNCTAD to decide to convene an intergovernmental conference that will take place in 2018 on the elements and to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the Convention; and

Commission and Secretariat to provide technical support and to promote and implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in ABNJ.

[1] MPAs include the IUCN Protected Area Categories I-VI

