



# ICRI 35th General Meeting

01 February 2021





# International Union for Conservation of Nature



The largest environmental network dedicated to biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development

## 211

States and government agencies are **Members** of IUCN

## 1400+

NGOs are part of the **IUCN network**

## 160+

**Countries** have IUCN members

## 17,000+

**Experts** assess state of world's natural resources



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IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS MARSEILLE 2020



*The IUCN World Conservation Congress takes place every four years and is where the world comes together to set priorities and drive conservation and sustainable development action. IUCN's 1500+ government, civil society and indigenous peoples' Member organisations vote on major issues, action which guides humanity's relationship with our planet for the decades ahead. IUCN's unique and inclusive membership gives the Congress a powerful mandate as it is not solely government or non-government, but both together.*

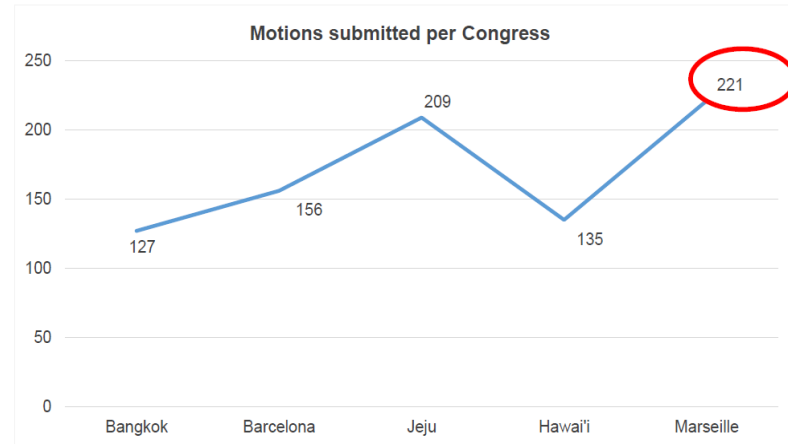
**New Dates**     3 to 11 September 2021 in Marseille



# IUCN World Conservation Congress & motions



- Motions are the mechanism by which IUCN Members influence third parties and guide the policy and Programme of IUCN.
- Members vote to approve motions, and once adopted, they become **Resolutions and Recommendations**, and therefore the body of **IUCN's general policy**
- 221 motions were submitted, the most ever!
- Around 15-20% tagged their submissions as pertaining to “oceans” (i.e. as Congress theme or Programme area).



# IUCN World Conservation Motion Update

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## Motions becomes resolutions

- All motion submissions went through a technical review, and then admitted (or not) by the Motions Working Group, a body of the Council.
- All of the admitted motions, 128, were discussed online from December 2019 until March 2020.
- Members voted electronically on 109 motions in October 2020- All were adopted
- The remaining 19 will be discussed at Congress, as they warrant a debate at the global level on account of their importance for conservation and for IUCN and its Members.



# IUCN Motions on Ocean & corals specifically

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In terms of thematic focus:

- [30 of the accepted motions](#) address the “Restoring ocean health” Congress theme
- [22 of the accepted motions](#) address the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
- [Six of the accepted motions](#) address both

Three motions, now all adopted by e-vote, specifically address coral reefs:

[023 - Protection of herbivorous fish for improved coral community](#) (now Rec 020)

[071 - Safeguarding coral reefs from harmful chemicals in sunscreen](#) (now Res 058)

[122 - Conserving and protecting coral reefs through the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#) (now Res 105)



## Motion 122 → Resolution 105



- Submitted by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment
- 17 other co-sponsors across several continents.
- It went through an on-line discussion facilitated by an expert from IUCN SSC/WCPA.
- Almost unanimous support in the e-vote, with >99% of Members – governments, NGOs, IPOs – voting in favour of adopting it.
- WCC 2020 Res 105 Available in English, French and Spanish (<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49244>)



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# WCC Red 105

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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 that live coral cover has declined by almost 50% since 1870, and 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 (GEO-6) 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 Recommendation 6.106 *Cooperation for the conservation and protection of coral reefs worldwide* (Hawai'i, 2016) which asks states to “develop and strengthen international, regional and national initiatives on the conservation of coral reefs...,” as well as Resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES.13 *Sustainable coral reefs management* adopted by the 4th session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4, Nairobi, 2019), which calls for “...enhanced streamlining and coordination of the numerous international policy instruments” related to coral-reef conservation; and

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



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# WCC Resolution 105

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1. CALLS ON IUCN Members, government agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations to:

a. explicitly recognise and incorporate the unique contribution of coral reefs in efforts to achieve existing international goals, including the CBD Aichi Targets, the Paris Climate Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to strengthen regional and global cooperation in this regard;

b. work towards the prominent inclusion of coral-reef ecosystems in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, noting this may be as a measurable, outcome-based 2030 target, as well as in the monitoring frameworks or any other elements of the framework, and to prioritise coral-reef integrity and functioning, including the provision of ecosystem services;

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; and

d. encourage and support the identification of financing mechanisms for coral-reef ecosystems, to support 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 and Secretariat, to promote all elements of paragraph 1 above, and most urgently paragraph 1b, in IUCN's provision of advice to CBD Parties relevant to the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework



## Implementation- Next steps



The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (as an agency of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment, a State Member of IUCN) will be acting as the implementation and reporting focal point on behalf of the Members. To the extent that they provided implementation information when they submitted the motion.

*“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.”*

- IUCN has identified the specific mandate received by Members through the Marseille Resolutions and Recommendations adopted so far and which relate directly to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework process. Motion 122 which is now Resolution 105 is one of those. We have flagged **paragraph 1b as requested and will reflect this in IUCN’s evolving position on the Post-2020 GBF.**

The IUCN Secretariat will be coordinating with the motion’s proponent/co-sponsors and other interested Members to discuss its implementation in the coming months, including the elements not directly tied to the post-2020.





# Thank you!

For more information please contact: [motions@iucn.org](mailto:motions@iucn.org)

