

## Pacific Region Climate Resiliency Agreement

10646

**Original language of motion as submitted:**  
English

**Status:**  
Submitted

### Background information

#### 1. Does the proposed motion:

**Fall within the scope of the vision and mission of IUCN:**

Yes

**Propose an amendment to either the draft IUCN Programme 2017-20 or a proposed mandate of a Commission :**

No

**Address issues pertaining to the governance of IUCN:**

No

#### 2. Specify which IUCN constituents referred to in the operative paragraph(s) of this motion have

**Been consulted during the development of this motion:**

Conservation Council for Hawai'i ( United States of America )

Hawai'i Conservation Alliance ( United States of America )

Kua`aina Ulu `Auamo ( United States of America )

IUCN Secretariat - Oceania Regional Office ( Fiji )

Sierra Club ( United States of America )

Wildlife Conservation Society ( United States of America )

**Collaborated in the development of the motion:**

Conservation Council for Hawai'i ( United States of America )

Harold L. Lyon Arboretum, of the University of Hawaii ( United States of America )

Hawai'i Conservation Alliance ( United States of America )

Kua`aina Ulu `Auamo ( United States of America )

Sierra Club ( United States of America )

#### 3. Before submitting this motion, have you searched the IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations Platform:

Yes

**Please specify, what is new, over and above current Resolutions and Recommendations and state which Resolutions / Recommendations you have consulted:**

The motion expands upon Resolution 4.032 Coordination of the Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge in that it works to coordinate Pacific regional efforts beyond ocean conservation to all climate change related impacts.

#### 4. Please indicate whether the proposed motion has been discussed in one of the Regional Conservation Forums held in 2015:

No

#### 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 proponents State / Region:**

No

## Preamble

RECOGNIZING the Pacific Region, including the Pacific Islands and continental areas, constitute a discrete region sharing similar environmental, social, economic, and cultural challenges and opportunities;

CONCERNED that the climate crisis threatens the livelihood of Pacific Island States, as well as thousands of coastal communities on the continents of the Americas, Asia, and Australia;

RECOGNIZING the tradition of navigation among Pacific Island cultures, which the Polynesian Voyaging Society's World Wide Voyage has demonstrated to the world, as well as the interconnectedness of humankind across the Pacific Ocean, the largest ocean on the planet;

NOTING that the climate crisis is the paramount challenge of this century, posing an urgent and imminent threat to the economy, sustainability, security, and health of the Pacific community;

FURTHER NOTING that WCC presents an opportunity to improve Pacific climate resiliency efforts if countries of the Pacific region can agree to work together to address common threats such as sea level rise, ocean acidification, pollution, displacement of indigenous culture, loss of bio-diversity, overfishing, and natural disasters;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the WCC can provide the first major global forum to unite Pacific communities and initiate a blueprint for a Pacific Region Climate Resiliency Agreement at future events such as the 2017 United Nations Oceans Summit, which will focus on ensuring actions by 2030 on SDG 14 (the Ocean SD Goal);

**The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Hawai'i, United States of America, 1-10 September 2016:**

## Operative paragraphs

CALLS UPON Pacific Island members of the IUCN to initiate a blueprint for a Pacific Region Climate Resiliency Agreement as an addendum to COP21 Paris Agreement to address the climate crisis in the Pacific region; and

URGES Pacific Island members of the IUCN to utilize the UN SDG 14, to "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources," and its ten targets, on which to build a Pacific Region Climate Resiliency Agreement.

## Proponent 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:

Conservation Council for Hawai'i ( United States of America )

Harold L. Lyon Arboretum, of the University of Hawaii ( United States of America )

Hawai'i Conservation Alliance ( United States of America )

Kua`aina Ulu `Auamo ( United States of America )

Sierra Club ( United States of America )

## Explanatory Memorandum

Nations in the Pacific Region are connected by the global threat of the climate crisis. United by a common social and economic fabric, these nations states seek shared solutions to this pervasive problem. The IUCN World Conservation Congress (the "WCC") provides Pacific nations with the opportunity to unite at a major global forum to initiate a blueprint for a Pacific Region Climate Resiliency Agreement.

Climate threats to the Pacific Region impact all aspects of life and include sea level rise, saltwater intrusion, coastal inundation, ocean acidification, and impacts to species and habitats. Together, Pacific nations can and must work together to accommodate climate perturbations and support the long-term protection of key natural and cultural resources.

The Polynesian voyaging canoes Hōkūle'a and Hikianalia are currently sailing the globe to bring attention to the challenges facing our planet, including the climate crisis. The voyage highlights the interconnectedness of citizens of all nations and our collective responsibility to ensure a healthy future for our planet. Inspired by their journey, the Pacific should seek "local solutions that blend indigenous wisdom with other best practices" (Polynesian Voyaging Society, 2015).

The 2017 United Nations Summit on Oceans and Seas will provide Pacific nations with the opportunity to meaningfully influence climate change adaptation. Sustainable Development Goal 14 (the "Ocean Goal") provides targets for nations to conserve and sustainably use the oceans and marine resources. The preamble specifies that climate regulation is one of the vital services provided by the sea. The Ocean Goal specifically calls upon nations to strengthen ocean resiliency and address impacts of ocean acidification by 2020.

A Pacific Region Climate Resiliency Agreement (PRCRA) could incorporate the goals of the 2017 United Nations Summit on Oceans and Seas and broaden its scope to address all major climate threats faced by nations of the Pacific

scope to embrace all major climate threats faced by nations of the Pacific Region encompassing islands and continents. Together, Pacific nations can achieve climate resiliency to ensure a more secure future for all of our citizens.

## Information required for the implementation of the motion

### 1. Provide

**a) A preliminary description of the actions (strategies and/or processes) with, as far as possible, a timeline and an estimate of the financial and human resources needed to implement the motion:**

#### Type of actions:

Convene stakeholders/Networking

Policy influencing/advocacy

#### Preliminary description of implementation strategy:

CALLS UPON Pacific Island members of the IUCN to initiate a blueprint for a Pacific Climate Resiliency Agreement as an addendum to COP21, Paris Agreement to address climate change threats in the Pacific region.

URGES Pacific Island members of the IUCN to utilize the UN Sustainable Development Goal 14, to "Conserve and sustainable use the oceans, seas, and marine resources," and its ten targets, on which to build a Regional Pacific Climate Resiliency Agreement.

#### Estimated budget necessary to implement the motion (in US \$):

1000-49999

#### Estimated human resources necessary to implement the motion, for example new staff positions, type of expertise required, and:

The action will be to develop a Pacific region climate resiliency agreement between participants at the 2016 WCC. One powerful idea would be to use Hawaii's strategic location to serve as the hub for a bi-annual event that hosts all participants to the regional Pacific climate resiliency agreement. WCC could serve as the germinating event to develop a dynamic and growing coalition to enlist partners and grow actions up until some target date (e.g., 2030). The parties would work towards an agreement to alleviate the effects of climate change on communities around the Pacific by sharing technology, indigenous wisdom, and financial resources to work towards Pacific resiliency. Hawaii could repurpose itself, with the backing of the US Government, to lead the effort to create a Pacific Region Climate Resiliency program that takes a genuine interest and leadership role in this important endeavor in the Pacific Basin.

**b) Description of the contributions which proponent and co-sponsors intend to make towards the implementation of the motion**

### Proponent

#### **Environmental Law Program at the William S. Richardson School of Law ( United States of America )**

*Proposed Actions:* Convene stakeholders/Networking, Policy influencing/advocacy

## Co-sponsors

### **Wildlife Conservation Society ( United States of America )**

*Proposed Actions:* Policy influencing/advocacy

### **Kua`aina Ulu`Auamo ( United States of America )**

*Proposed Actions:* Education/Communication/Raising awareness

### **Conservation Council for Hawai'i ( United States of America )**

*Proposed Actions:* Policy influencing/advocacy

### **Hawai'i Conservation Alliance ( United States of America )**

*Proposed Actions:* Policy influencing/advocacy

### **Harold L. Lyon Arboretum, of the University of Hawaii ( United States of America )**

*Proposed Actions:* Convene stakeholders/Networking

### **Sierra Club ( United States of America )**

*Proposed Actions:* Policy influencing/advocacy

**2. Provide here the name of a focal point who would be in charge of reporting annually on the followup and implementation of the motion if adopted.**

#### Focal point

**Name:** Sam

**Surname:** Lemmo

**Institution:** State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources

**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

#### Scope

**Please specify to which area of the draft IUCN Programme 2017-2020 this motions is related:**

Valuing and conserving nature

Effective and equitable governance of nature's use

**Indicate to which issues this motion is linked by selecting the relevant keywords:**

Climate change & severe weather

Communication

Marine and Coastal

**Indicate the geographic scope of the implementation of this motion:**

Regional