

MOTION SUBMITTED TO THE IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

September 4, 2016

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF RULE 52(c), OF THE IUCN WCC RULES OF PROCEDURE, AS A “NEW” AND “URGENT” MATTER, ON MATTERS ARISING SUBSEQUENT TO THE UNION’S NORMAL MOTIONS PROCESS

Submitted by

the Australian Rainforest Conservation Society (NG/1103), the Ecological Society of the Philippines (NG/621), the Center for Environmental Legal Studies (NG/826), the Environmental Law Institute (NG/839), Green Line (NG/1375), the Coastal Area Resource Development and Management Association (NG/1326), the Sierra Club (IN/197), the Leipzig Zoo (NG/25348), the Frankfurt Zoo (NG/69), Instituto de Conservacao e Desenvolvimento Sustentavel do Amazonas (NG/25477), the Indus Earth Trust (NGO/24872), and Fundacion Biodiversidad (NG/25269)

CONSERVATION IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

Conscious of the linkages between the marine environment and all life on Earth,

Observing the dynamic role of coral reefs in protecting terrestrial and coastal ecosystems, providing ecosystem services to coastal communities, and maintaining the ecological health of all oceans;

Aware that when transboundary environments are at risk there is a tradition of establishing “peace parks” as protected areas [See Sandwith, et al., IUCN WCPA 2001];

Recognizing that the UN Convention on the Law of Sea mandates protection of the oceans and encourages regional cooperation (Article 197) and scientific studies of the marine environment (Article 200);

Troubled that coral reefs face multiple risks and that the 13th International Coral Reef Symposium (Hawaii, June 2016) assessed the threats and damage to the “Coral Triangle,” in the seas of South East Asia;

Noting the decision of the Permanent Court of International Arbitration delivered its decision under Annex VII of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, in the matter of *The Republic of the Philippines vs. The People's Republic of China*, on 12 July 2016, and the Court's findings of damage to the environment in the South China Sea;

Concerned that coral reefs in the South China Sea are among the most biodiverse marine environments in the world and continued damage will cause irreparable damage to the environmental health of the region, threatens the food security of millions, and may lead to biodiversity loss and ecological disaster;

Conscious that *Agenda 21* recommended preservation of "habitats and other ecologically sensitive areas" in Chapter 17 (17.46(f) and 17.74(f), and that the UN Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15 mandate the protection of nature; and

Recalling the 1992 Declaration of Rio de Janeiro on Environment and Development declares that "peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible" and that threats to the peace shall be peacefully resolved (Principles 24, 25, 26),

Now therefore The World Conservation Congress in Hawaii:

1. *Urges* all stakeholders to consult together and cooperate to study the establishment of marine protected areas in the South China Sea and Coral Triangle;
2. *Recommends* that all States and authorities in this region suspend exploitation of natural resources, prospecting, or other activities, pending the study of how to establish marine protected areas in the South China Sea and Coral Triangle; and
3. *Requests* the World Commission on Environmental Law in collaboration with the World Commission on Protected Areas to study the prospects for establishing extensive marine protected areas in the South China Sea.

THIS DRAFT IS FOR CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS OF IUCN, TO BE REFINED AND ENDORSED BY A MINIMUM OF 5 ORGANIZATIONS. PLEASE ADVISE ANTONIO CLAPAROLS (jamc@mozcom.com) OR JOSEPH MORAVEC (jmoravec@law.pace.edu) OF REVISIONS AND DECISIONS TO CO-SPONSOR