



# Association of Pacific Island Legislatures

American Samoa  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
FSM, State of Chuuk  
FSM, State of Kosrae  
FSM, State of Pohnpei  
FSM, State of Yap  
Island of Guam  
Republic of Kiribati  
Republic of the Marshall Islands  
Republic of Nauru  
Republic of Palau  
State of Hawaii

## A RESOLUTION

### APIL Resolution No. 35-GA-01

**“Recognizing the Pacific islands’ rapidly declining coastal resources and calling for the urgent need to protect such resources through the enactment of legislation and the development of municipal, state and national management plans.”**

1       **WHEREAS**, the people of the Pacific have a long, rich and proud tradition of conserving  
2   and protecting their coastal resources which support their way of life as island people; and

3       **WHEREAS**, coastal areas are some of the most biologically rich and economically valuable  
4   ecosystems across the Pacific; and

5       **WHEREAS**, coastal resources are also in serious jeopardy, threatened by an increasing array  
6   of impacts from overexploitation, pollution, habitat loss, invasive species, diseases, and climate  
7   change; and

8       **WHEREAS**, the rapid decline and loss of these valuable marine ecosystems have significant  
9   social, economic, food security, and environmental consequences across the Pacific; and

10      **WHEREAS**, urgent action is needed on many fronts to address the coastal resources crisis,  
11   especially on issues such as persistent over-fishing of reef systems for profit, the impacts of climate  
12   change, and increasing coastal development; and

13      **WHEREAS**, the demand for coastal resources in the international market imposes a clear  
14   and present danger to coastal resources by foreign businesses that are interested in harvesting such  
15   resources for profit; and

1       **WHEREAS**, any effective protection and conservation of coastal resources requires a joint  
2   and concerted effort by all stakeholders, including local communities, the municipal, state and  
3   national governments, and other development and technical partners; and

4       **WHEREAS**, leaders of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) represent the  
5   people of the Pacific and are members of such local communities and recognize the threat imposed  
6   on communities and their coastal resources for the demand of such resources in the international  
7   market; and

8       **WHEREAS**, the APIL has supported conservation and management efforts in the fisheries  
9   sector due to the need to ensure the sustainable utilization of coastal resources; and

10      **WHEREAS**, it is the salient responsibility of the members of the APIL of the various islands  
11   of the Pacific to help advance legislation that will serve to conserve, protect and preserve the  
12   cultures, traditions and livelihoods of the people of the Pacific now and for future generations; and

13      **WHEREAS**, such legislation and management plans must address the following areas:

- 14      (1) Conduct long-term monitoring and assessments of reef ecosystem conditions;
- 15      (2) Support strategic research to address the major threats to coastal ecosystems;
- 16      (3) Increase understanding of the social and economic factors of conserving coral reefs;
- 17      (4) Improve the use of marine protected areas to reduce threats;
- 18      (5) Reduce adverse impacts of fishing and other extractive uses;
- 19      (6) Reduce impacts of coastal uses;
- 20      (7) Reduce pollution;
- 21      (8) Restore damaged reefs and coastal areas;
- 22      (9) Improve education and outreach;

(10) Reduce international threats to coral reef ecosystems brought on by foreign businesses;

(11) Reduce impacts from international trade in coral reef species; and


(12) Improve coordination and accountability; and


**WHEREAS**, all other actions that will ensure that coastal resources are safeguarded from unsustainable exploitation should be pursued by all APIL member entities; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 35<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Island of Guam, June 1-3, 2016, that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures recognizes the rapidly declining coastal resources and calls for the urgent need to protect coastal resources through the enactment of legislation and the development of municipal, state, and national practical management plans; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and the APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be transmitted to the Municipal Mayors, and Traditional Leaders of all the Members of the APIL, to the Chief Executives and the Legislative Presiding Officers of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2016.**

  
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**KENNETH A. KEDI**  
**PRESIDENT**

  
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**FERNANDO SCALIEM**  
**SECRETARY**

