



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-05, CD1

“Recognizing the leadership of the APIL membership in creating the first generation of large scale marine protected areas and supporting efforts of APIL members to engage with the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawaii in September 2016 to support increasing global marine biodiversity conservation targets.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the Micronesia Challenge calls for effectively conserving thirty percent
2 (30%) of near shore resources and twenty percent (20%) of terrestrial resources, and since 2006,
3 these targets have been agreed to and implemented by the Republic of Palau, the Federated
4 States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern
5 Mariana Islands, the Island of Guam, and the FSM States of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, two percent (2%) of the global ocean is currently protected in highly or
8 fully protected marine protected areas, but this number is much higher in several APIL member
9 jurisdictions particularly due to the creation of large scale marine protected areas; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Republic of Kiribati announced the Phoenix Islands Protected Areas in
11 2008, published regulations in 2010, and implemented the 408,000 square kilometer no-take area
12 in 2015; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the State of Hawaii has a 100-year history of protecting the natural
14 resources of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, and is home to the 363,000 square kilometer
15 Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument since 2006; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the Island of American Samoa created the 35,000 square kilometer

1 National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, which encompasses the former Fagatale Bay
2 National Marine Sanctuary and five additional areas including Rose Atoll; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Island of
4 Guam are home to the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, and 42,500 square
5 kilometers of federal waters are protected around the islands of Maug, Asuncion, and Uracas as
6 part of the Islands Unit, and cultural fishing by indigenous residents of CNMI and Guam is
7 allowed; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the submerged lands in the Marianas Trench National Wildlife Refuge and
9 the Marianas Arc of Fire National Wildlife Refuge are also protected; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Republic of Palau created the 500,000 square kilometer Palau National
11 Marine Sanctuary in 2015, designating eighty percent (80%) of its EEZ as a no-take marine
12 protected area, and the waters close to shore are reserved as a special fishing zone for local
13 fishermen; and

14 **WHEREAS**, a meta-analysis published in the scientific journal Marine Ecology, titled
15 “Biological Effects Within No-Take Marine Reserves: A Global Synthesis”, shows that marine
16 protected areas result in oceans with more fish, bigger fish, higher fish biomass, and greater
17 biodiversity; and

18 **WHEREAS**, a 2014 study in the scientific journal Nature, titled “Global Conservation
19 Outcomes Depend on Marine Protected Areas with Five Key Features”, has shown that the most
20 effective marine protected areas are those that are large, isolated, no-take, long established, and
21 enforced, and that many of the large scale marine protected areas of APIL members meet several
22 or all of these criteria, making our contribution to global conservation goals significant; and

23 **WHEREAS**, a recent scientific re-evaluation of coverage targets for marine protected

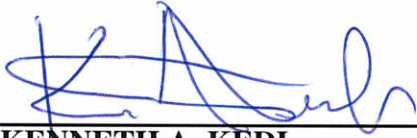
1 areas published in the scientific journal Conservation Letters, titled “Effective Coverage Targets
2 for Ocean Protection”, showed that protection of at least thirty percent (30%) of each marine
3 habitat globally is necessary to achieve conservation goals and broader management targets; and


4 **WHEREAS**, the Republic of Palau, along with twenty-three other co-sponsors, seeks to
5 implement these recommendations and has sponsored a motion at the IUCN World Conservation
6 Congress urging all IUCN State Members to call on the CBD Secretariat to achieve a target of
7 thirty percent (30%) of coastal and marine areas protected by 2030; now, therefore,

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 35th General
9 Assembly, Island of Guam, June 1-3, 2016, that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures
10 hereby calls on all IUCN State Members attending the IUCN World Conservation Congress in
11 Hawaii to support Motion 53 – “Increasing Marine Protected Area Coverage for Effective
12 Marine Biodiversity Conservation” as proposed by the Republic of Palau and the other co-
13 sponsors; and

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and the APIL
15 Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall thereafter be
16 transmitted to the IUCN Director General, to the IUCN World Conservation Congress National
17 Host Committee Chair, and to the Chief Executives and Legislative Presiding Officers of each
18 Member jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 3RD DAY OF JUNE, 2016.


KENNETH A. KEDI
PRESIDENT


FERNANDO SCALIEM
SECRETARY

