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**United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme**

United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
Fourth session
Nairobi, 11–15 March 2019

**Resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment
Assembly on 15 March 2019**

4/12. Sustainable management for global health of mangroves

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Noting that the General Assembly, in its resolution 71/257 of 23 December 2016 on oceans and the law of the sea, noted the vital role played by mangroves in providing ecosystem services that offer a range of benefits, including sustainable livelihoods, food security, biodiversity conservation and coastal protection,

Noting also that the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat represents a policy framework for conserving and managing coastal wetlands, including mangroves and other coastal ecosystems,

Recognizing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goal targets that are relevant to and benefit from the conservation of mangrove ecosystems, including for resilience and food security,

Noting the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,¹ in which Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives recognized the significant vulnerability of mangroves to the impact of climate change, ocean acidification, overfishing, destructive fishing practices and pollution,

Appreciating the fact that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has proclaimed an International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem,

Recognizing mangroves as an important but fragile ecosystem of invaluable biological diversity that provides vital ecosystem services which are contributing to the anticipated achievement by 2020 of Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 13 and targets 14.2 and 15.5,

Acknowledging that degradation of water quality has a direct impact on the survival of mangroves and the ecosystems that they support,

Recognizing that mangroves provide supporting and regulating ecosystem services, including functioning as natural filtering systems that control various forms of pollution and thus play a vital role in maintaining water quality,

¹ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

Recognizing also the role of mangroves as carbon sinks and reservoirs, their contribution to reducing the adverse impacts of climate change, their capacity as a natural filtering system, their importance in trapping sediment, their ability to stabilize shorelines against the pressure of increased erosion and their role as a sink for accumulation of land and sea-based pollution,

Recognizing further the significant role of mangroves in addressing the impact of climate change, development and pollution, and in providing protection from natural disasters, such as tropical storms, hurricanes, tsunamis and coastal erosion,

Acknowledging that millions of the world's inhabitants depend on the health of mangrove forests and related ecosystems, in their role as a primary source of food and income, for sustainable livelihoods and development,²

Recognizing the role that mangrove ecosystems can play in attaining nationally determined contribution targets, where appropriate,

Noting the Bali Call to Action for Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystems³ issued at the International Conference on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystems in 2017,

1. *Encourages* Member States, together with other relevant stakeholders, to use ecosystem-based approaches for the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of mangroves;
2. *Also encourages* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen and formulate policies to prevent waste disposal into mangrove ecosystems and minimize human-induced thermal, chemical, nutrient and oil pollution;
3. *Encourages* Member States to improve research, education and public awareness, build capacity for the sustainable management and restoration of mangroves and related ecosystems, and, to that end, consider ways in which to mobilize the necessary resources for developing countries;
4. *Invites* national, regional and global initiatives, cooperation and commitments to strengthen community partnerships for the management of ecosystem services and resources;
5. *Invites* Member States to take action to prevent mangrove forest conversion, strengthen measures to maintain their integrity and give priority to conserving remaining areas of natural mangrove forests;
6. *Encourages* Member States to prepare multipurpose management plans for mangroves, based on scientific information;
7. *Invites* Member States to recognize and protect mangrove-related traditional knowledge and best practice for the sustenance of mangrove ecosystems;
8. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders and within available resources, to facilitate collaboration among Member States through collaboration and co-production of research, mapping and valuation of ecosystem services and related best management practices.

² Jan-Willem van Bochove, Emma Sullivan and Takehiro Nakamura, eds., *The Importance of Mangroves to People: A Call to Action* (United Nations Environment Programme, 2014). Available at <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/importance-mangroves-people-call-action>.

³ Available at <https://www.itto.int/files/user/pdf/E-BROCHURE-Bali%20Call%20to%20Action.pdf>.