



Distr.: Limited
9 March 2019

Original: English



**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**

Sustainable management for global health of mangroves*

Submitted by Indonesia and Sri Lanka

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Noting that the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in Resolution A/RES/71/257 on Oceans and the law of the sea notes the vital role mangroves play in providing ecosystem services that offer a range of benefits including sustainable livelihoods, food security, biodiversity conservation, and coastal protection,

Noting also that Ramsar convention on wetlands represents a relevant policy framework for conserving and managing coastal wetlands, including mangroves and other coastal ecosystems,

Recognizing Aichi Biodiversity Targets and SDG targets which 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", which recognizes the significant vulnerability of mangroves to impacts of climate change, ocean acidification, overfishing, destructive fishing practices and pollution,

Appreciating that UNESCO had proclaimed an International Day for conservation of mangroves,

Recognizing mangroves as an important but fragile ecosystem with invaluable biological diversity that provides invaluable ecosystem services contributing to the achievement of SDG 2, 13 and SDG targets 14.2 and 15.5 by 2020 and acknowledging that water quality degradation has a direct impact on the survival of mangroves and the ecosystem they support,

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

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

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

Recognizing the significant role of mangrove in addressing the impact of climate change, development and pollution and also provide 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 for sustainable livelihoods and development, as they are a primary source of food and income,¹

Bis. Recognizing the role mangrove ecosystems can play for reaching the Nationally Determined Contribution targets, where appropriate,

Noting the Bali Call to Action Declaration 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. *Encourages* member states and relevant stakeholders to strengthen and formulate policies to prevent waste disposal in to mangrove ecosystems and minimize human-induced thermal, chemical, nutrient, and oil pollution;
3. *Encourages* member states to improve research, education, public awareness, and build capacity on the sustainable management and restoration of mangroves and related ecosystems as well as to consider ways to mobilize resources for developing countries to this end;
4. *Invites* national, regional and global initiatives, cooperation and commitments, to strengthen community partnerships for ecosystem services management and resource management;
5. *Invites* member states to take actions to prevent mangrove conversion and strengthen measures to maintain their integrity and to give priority to conserving the remaining areas of natural mangrove forests;
6. *Encourages* member states to prepare multi-purpose management plans for mangrove based on scientific information;
7. *Invites* member states to recognize, and protect mangrove related traditional knowledge and best practices for sustenance of mangrove ecosystems;
8. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders to facilitate collaboration amongst member states through collaboration and co-production of research, mapping and valuation of ecosystem services and related best management practices, within available resources.

¹ UNEP, 2014 The Importance of Mangroves to People: A Call to Action.