



**SAVE  
THE  
WAVES**  
COALITION



**WORLD  
SURFING  
RESERVES**

## 2021 APPLICATION PACKET

### **Contact Information:**

World Surfing Reserves  
c/o Save The Waves Coalition  
849 Almar Avenue  
Suite C, #163  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
trent@savethewaves.org  
<http://www.worldsurfingreserves.org>

### **Application Instructions:**

Please fill out the following application completely and thoroughly. The 2019 application enrollment period is open from **April 8 – October 15**. The WSR Vision Council and Save The Waves Coalition will announce the results of the selection process sometime at the end of 2021.

Applications should be submitted via email to [trent@savethewaves.org](mailto:trent@savethewaves.org) in a single PDF document including all attachments to be considered. **Submissions need to be made by October 15, 2021, at 5 pm (PST).**

### **Background Information:**

World Surfing Reserves is an initiative designed to enshrine and protect the world's greatest surf spots: the most sacred, cherished, environmentally rich and culturally significant areas. The program proactively designates and preserves outstanding waves, surf zones and their surrounding environments, around the world. It serves as a global model for protecting wave breaks and their surrounding areas by recognizing the positive environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits of waves. **Before submitting an application, please read the [World Surfing Reserves Frequently Asked Questions](#) document.**

### **WSR eligible surf ecosystems are evaluated based on the following criteria:**

- 1) Quality and consistency of the wave or surf zone;
- 2) Environmental characteristics of the area;
- 3) Surf & ocean culture as well as the history of surfing and ocean sports in the region;
- 4) Local community support
- 5) Priority conservation region

### **Minimum criteria to become a World Surfing Reserve must include the following:**

- 1) World class wave or surf zone in terms of quality and consistency;
- 2) Unique and diverse environmental characteristics of the area;
- 3) Rich, documented surf & ocean culture, as well as history of the area;
- 4) Strong community support and capacity evidenced by government, NGO, surf community, business, and general support from community members.



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**Note:** If the above minimum criteria are not met or any of the elements in the enclosed application are not properly completed, World Surfing Reserves will notify you to either request additional information, or to inform you that the site does not meet the minimum criteria. Incomplete applications may delay the review process.

**Application Template:** Each World Surfing Reserve applicant can be creative with the format and look of their application. We encourage lots of photos, maps, and graphics in order for the Vision Council to get a holistic picture of the area. However, the application must include ALL of the information below in an organized and easy-to-read format. Please submit your application in English.

Name of Submitter (individual and/or organization):

Contact Info (email/phone/mailling address):

Date of Submission:

Name of Organization(s) to which submitter is affiliated to:

Name of Country/ National Governing Body of Surf Zone:

Name of Submitted Surf Ecosystem:

**Eligible WSR sites and surf zones are evaluated and chosen based on the following criteria:**

**I. Quality and Consistency (Max 500 words)**

Please include a thorough description of the wave(s) characteristics including any climate, wave pattern, and, meteorological information that helps display wave quality and consistency. Graphs that display wave patterns and characteristics are especially pertinent. This may also include images. Please give particular attention to the following criteria:

- Quality of wave(s)
- Surf-able days a year
- History/current professional surf contests
- Wave variety (points, beach-break, reef, etc.)

**II. Unique Environmental Characteristics (Max 750 Words)**

Please consider what makes the coastal environment and surf ecosystem around the proposed WSR boundaries significant, unique, and/or sensitive. Please provide or reference any relevant scientific data to biological, geological, and geophysical studies that have been conducted in the area. Please give particular attention to the following criteria:

- Recognized biodiversity hotspots
- Threatened species present
- Connected to water resources
- Past/present/future wave threats
- Protected area designations (state parks, federal protected areas, IUCN recognized, etc.)
- Undeveloped area (amount of open land without significant infrastructure, public or private)
- Key issues identified



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- Clear avenue for protection identified
- Provides key ecosystem services

### **III. Surf Culture, Ocean Culture, Indigenous Culture & Additional History of the Area**

(Max 750 Words)

Please outline the significance of the local surf culture, ocean culture, indigenous culture, or other related history pertaining to this application with particular attention to the following criteria:

- Site of national cultural significance
- Importance in surf history
- Site of regional significance

### **IV. Community Support**

(Max 750 words)

The World Surfing Reserves program depends on the, on-going support from the surfing and conservation communities at the local, national, and international level. Please outline how the local community will mobilize in support of the activities of the WSR, with particular attention to the following criteria:

- Securing community cohesion in support of a World Surfing Reserve designation
- Existence of sustainable financing opportunities for implementation of the WSR
- Surfing as a key part of the local economy (any relevant data is highly suggested)
- Clearly identified Reserve Ambassador (Someone who can represent the WSR in the public setting and has a following in the surf/ocean/conservation world)
- Capable community leaders dedicated to the ongoing WSR management and coordination
- Clear vision for how the WSR will reach out to the community for stewardship projects

### **V. Location in Priority Conservation Area**

(Max 500 words)

Save The Waves Coalition's strategic plan identifies 10 regions that are considered high priority conservation areas due to the number and quality of waves, biodiversity hotspots and ecosystem types, as well as existing marine and coastal laws that support surf conservation. Surf ecosystems that falls within these priority conservation areas will be given special consideration. However, WSR's from all regions that score highly in the criteria above will be judged by the Vision Council for the nomination. Please share any information pertaining to the following criteria:

- Region included in STW strategic plan priority region
- Region highlighted as a priority conservation area by the local or federal government.
- Relevance to Sustainable Development Goal 14 of United Nations ([Read more here](#))

A map of the priority regions with examples is included below.



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**PHASE 1**  
2019-2022

**MEXICO**

Baja, Baja Sur, Oaxaca, Guerrero, Michoacan

**PERU AND CHILE**

South, Central, North

**INDONESIA**

Morotai, Mentawais, Moluccas, Bali

**AUSTRALIA**

New South Wales, Queensland



**PHASE 2**  
2020-2023

**EASTERN TROPICAL PACIFIC**

Costa Rica

**BRAZIL**

South, Central, North

**NORTH AMERICA PACIFIC**

California, Hawaii, Canada



**PHASE 3**  
2022-2025

**PORTUGAL & ATLANTIC**

Azores, Madeira, Cabo Verde

**PACIFIC OCEANSCAPE**

Fiji, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tahiti



**PHASE 4**  
2025-2030

**AFRICA**

Liberia, South Africa, Mozambique, Gabon,  
Sao Tome, Principe, Angola, Namibia

**INDIAN OCEAN**

Madagascar, Mauritius



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### **Supporting Materials**

(Must provide a letter of support from each of the below. Highly encouraged to secure as many letters of support as possible.)

- Please provide a letter of support from the following:
  - Local government officials
  - Regional government officials
  - Governing surfing association
  - Local conservation/environmental NGOs
  - Local community group outside of surfing (eg. community development, youth leadership, homeowner's association)
  - Local business/tourism interests
  - Academic institution.
- Please provide a provisional list of Local Stewardship Council members, including their affiliations and contact information.

### **WSR Vision Document**

(Max 1 page)

Please provide a one-page (max) description of how you envision WSR approval supporting the conservation interests of your community? How can this program help your community better protect your surfing resources?

### **Vision Council Process**

Save The Waves will work with each submitting party to ensure the application includes the most necessary information. The Vision Council then meets several times to discuss the merits of each application and also scores them based on the preceding criteria. However, the application that scores the highest in the criteria is not necessarily chosen as the World Surfing Reserve. The highest scoring applications are reviewed further by the Vision Council and other considerations are taken into account including local capacity, relevance to the WSR network, potential successful stewardship projects, global conservation targets, and more. If you have more questions about the Vision Council and the WSR process, please review the [WSR FAQ](#).

Thank you for your application to the World Surfing Reserves program. If you have any more questions about the application process, the program structure and what to expect, or any questions about Save The Waves Coalition, please reach out to the contact below.

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