



**Aotearoa Climate Change Declaration  
of the 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Herpetology**

Dunedin, New Zealand

8 January, 2020

Whereas the World Congress of Herpetology is an organization dedicated to scientific study and conservation of amphibians and reptiles, and

Whereas 870 herpetologists from 57 countries have gathered in Dunedin to share research in appreciation of amphibians and reptiles; and

Whereas many presentations at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Dunedin, New Zealand described the impacts of climate change and other anthropogenic environmental changes on the health of amphibian and reptile populations, adding to a growing body of scientific knowledge documenting the global impacts of human activities, and

Whereas we are committed to transforming our society to achieve climate stability and biodiversity conservation for future generations, and

Whereas we wish to create a more sustainable Congress as part of building the capacity of scientists and society to become more harmonious with the ecological workings of the planet, and

Whereas we maintain that this endeavor is largely dependent on economic and social equity, respect for human rights, and the reduction of marginalization of all peoples currently under-privileged,

Therefore, be it resolved that the participants in the 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Herpetology call for

the partnership of science and society to build science-based solutions to the problems caused by carbon emissions;

all air travel to the Congress to be carbon-mitigated via reputable and certified avenues, with eventual goal of being a 100% carbon-neutral Congress;

renewable energy and materials alternatives, local food (including limited meat and dairy), and transparency by vendors providing services for all Congresses (including transport, housing, food, and other sectors), and recognizing and enabling resilient indigenous and local economies; and

increased protection for biodiversity and wild places.

We also call upon the international community, including all national governments, to acknowledge the accumulated evidence for global climate change and to take immediate action to mitigate the future impacts of such change.

We prefer to remain hopeful and we declare that we will work together immediately at every level of society to honour our common humanity, to acknowledge and take responsibility for our climate-changed world. We resolve to engage human ingenuity in solving the challenges we face, respecting the needs of all people, and valuing all biodiversity.

Signed on behalf of the delegates from the 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Herpetology by Professor Phil Bishop (WCH Secretary General Elect).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Bishop', with a horizontal line underneath it.

8 January 2020