

Minutes of the 27th ICRI General Meeting

Cairns, Australia, 15-19 July 2012

Summary of the General Meeting

The first General Meeting under the Australia-Belize Secretariat was held from the 16-19 July 2012 in Cairns, Australia. Australia and the UNEP provided travel support to a number of delegates therefore enabling their participation in the meeting. A total of 50 delegates from 24 countries attended (the list of participants is at Appendix 1).

New Members

The ICRI Membership welcomed two new Members:

- Blue Ventures
- Central Caribbean Marine Institute (CCMI).

***Ad Hoc* Committees**

It was decided that the *Ad Hoc* committee on Enforcement & Investigation, and the *Ad Hoc* committee on Economic Valuation of Coral Reef Ecosystems will both be continued and revived, with the possibility of new Chair(s) and Members being appointed. New Terms of Reference (ToRs) will be developed out-of-session and will be presented to the ICRI membership at ICRI GM28. Motions were adopted to that effect (see below).

The *Ad Hoc* Committee on the lionfish invasion in the Caribbean (or Regional Lionfish Committee, RLC) remains active; its future directions were discussed at the meeting and include the possibility of extending its work to all marine invasive species in the area. The issue of dedicated funding was also briefly discussed without resolution. The RLC will remain under the ICRI flag for now, but modalities for embedding lionfish management efforts in existing institutions within the Caribbean will be discussed at GM28. Revised Terms of Reference for the RLC will also be presented then.

Motions

Three resolutions were adopted:

- Resolution on the activities of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Economic Valuation (Appendix 2)
- Resolution on the activities of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Enforcement & Investigation (Appendix 3)
- Resolution on Assessing the Effectiveness of Marine Protected Area Management (Appendix 4)

The first two resolutions called for ICRI members to note the continuation of these two Committees and consider whether members wish to play a role in their activities.

Management Effectiveness Day

Congruent with on the hosting themes of the joint Australia-Belize Secretariat, a full day of the 27th General Meeting was devoted to the theme of Management Effectiveness Assessment for coral reef and related systems.

The workshop inspected several approaches to undertaking an assessment of management effectiveness and focussed on the various types of assessments that can be undertaken and how the results of these assessments are being used.

Following the workshop, a resolution was adopted encouraging ICRI members to conduct management effectiveness assessments which engage indigenous and local communities, as well as other stakeholders, and to use the results to adapt and improve management action (Appendix 4). The resolution also encourages members to report on these assessments and to contribute to global datasets on management effectiveness.

Networks

A side meeting was held to discuss the new directions of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN). The outcomes of these discussions were reported by Jerker Tamelander of UNEP's Coral Reef Unit on the last day of the meeting, and included:

- The need for GCRMN to clarify the directions it is taking, through improved communication with the Network;
- More concerted efforts in engaging GRCMN nodes and regional networks or organisations (such as UNEP's Regional Seas), including through enhanced communication with past GCRMN contributors and collaborators in all regions and in particular where existing regional structures are strong (i.e. East Asia and Pacific);

- Enhanced links between ecological, social and economic processes, and continued discussions with SocMON and other partners to look at practical and meaningful ways to integrate GCRMN activities;
- Increased funding needed achieve the above, as well as efforts and input from all partners.

Call to Action, Organisation & Management Procedures

The work to 'refresh' ICRI's Call to Action and its organisation and management procedures will be undertaken inter-sessionally leading to the next General Meeting in 2013; results of these intersessional discussions will be presented at GM28.

International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposiums (ITMEMS)

A summary of outcomes of the International Coral Reef Symposium 2012 was presented. It was clear from this summary that the ICRS series has evolved to be more management-focussed than in the past. This, combined with the fact that the international conference calendar on marine management is nowadays much more filled than it was at the time when ITMEMS was launched, particularly with conferences focussing on protected area management, poses the question of the future relevance of ITMEMS. ICRI Members will discuss this topic further at GM28.

Minutes of the General Meeting

Welcome to Country

A Welcome to Country was provided by Melanie Mitchell, representing the Yirriganydji people, and Ken Reys representing the Gimuy Yidinji people, both Traditional Owners of the Cairns region.

Official opening

The meeting was opened by Russell Reichelt, Chairman of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), Australia.

Ambassador Adalbert Tucker from Belize also provided welcoming remarks.

Presentation and Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting was co-chaired alternatively by Australia and Belize.

The following ICRI members sent apologies to the ICRI Secretariat: The European Commission, Fiji, Indonesia, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The overall agenda was presented and no comments were received.

New members

A presentation on ICRI's membership procedures was provided by the ICRI Secretariat. Two would-be ICRI Members provided a presentation to the ICRI membership:

- The Central Caribbean Marine Institute (CCMI) – presented by the ICRI Secretariat on its behalf
- Blue Ventures – Frances Humber via Skype.

Both organisations were welcomed as new ICRI members, however it was reinforced that all ICRI Members and especially new members should make all efforts to attend ICRI General Meetings. Both organisations were notified of their new status immediately.

Supporting Documents: CCMI and BV Presentations

Actions arising from previous meetings

- *Updates to organization and management procedures and Call to Action*

These two key ICRI documents need to be updated so they are current. The ICRI Secretariat is aware of these outstanding actions, which were started under the France-Samoa Secretariat, and is proposing to prepare drafts of these updates in the lead-up to ICRI GM28 in late 2013. Proposed changes will be circulated to ICRI members and the Secretariat will work with those wishing to participate in the evolution of these drafts.

Outcomes of recent or upcoming international events, such as Rio + 20 (held in June 2012) and the IUCN-World Conservation Congress (to be held in September 2012) will be included if necessary and/or appropriate.

The updated documents will be presented at the next General Meeting (GM28) in 2013 for formal adoption.

ICRI Networks: Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN update)

- *Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)*

Andy Hooten (GCRMN Global Coordinator) and Jeremy Jackson (GCRMN Science Director) provided a presentation on GCRMN's evolving approach for coral reef monitoring to support ICRI, management & policy. The GCRMN team now consists of:

- Jeremy B.C. Jackson, Science Director
- Vivian Lam, Research and Deputy Coordinator
- Katie Cramer, Data Analyst
- Mary Donovan and Alan Friedlander, Data analysis-fishes
- Andy J. Hooten, Global Coordinator.

The background and context of GCRMN's activities since the last General Meeting were presented. The two main objectives of the renewed GCRMN are to conduct a scientific re-evaluation and to convene interactive regional workshops with data contributors, academics, GCRMN nodes and network members, and local monitoring bodies.

The first of these regional workshops was held for the Tropical Americas Region in Panama in early May 2012, with 36 participants from 18 countries present. Expected outputs include a workshop report (July 2012), a Synthesis Report (March 2013), a paper to the *Science* journal (December 2012) and other scientific journals, and a follow-up Caribbean GCRMN member

workshop to evaluate reports and coordinate regional responses (mid 2013). Workshops for other regions, including the Australian Great Barrier Reef, the Coral Triangle, the Southeast Asian region will be held in 2013-2014 and data gathering and workshops for the Indian Ocean/Red Sea and the Central Pacific will commence in 2015. A global synthesis workshop is planned to be held in 2016 in conjunction with the 13th International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS) to be held in Hawaii in 2016.

All GCRMN products and outputs will be communicated to GCRMN contacts and the Coral List, and there will be visits to regions and networks as well.

Lengthy discussions occurred following this presentation, encompassing the following topics:

- The need to engage with managers of remote/small islands;
- The opportunity to use GCRMN to empower countries' decision makers and make an impact at the political level, thereby anchoring data to management ;
- The need to link with relevant regional networks and institutions where such exist, including in particular Regional Seas programmes, to promote adoption and application of methodology based on GCRMN recommendations, and collaborate on regional consultation, networking and capacity building. The Regional Seas provide a mechanism for reporting on coral reef assessments through GCRMN, as well as for dissemination of findings to member governments and other regional partners;
- The extreme importance of keeping regular connections with the original GCRMN nodes around the world whilst regional workshops are being organised, to catalyse enhanced monitoring;
- The need to include socio-economic data and to reengage with SocMON;
- The importance of communicating 'good management news' highlighted by data analyses.

All interested members were invited to attend a GCRMN side meeting on the Tuesday night to continue these discussions.

Supporting Document: GCRMN: an evolving approach for coral reef monitoring to support ICRI, management & policy (Presentation)

Outcome report: Rio + 20 and Australian bioregional planning

Australia (GBRMPA Chairman Russell Reichelt) presented on the outcomes of Rio + 20 and Australia's bioregional planning initiative, which establishes marine reserve networks in Commonwealth waters.

The Australian Government has finalised the details of this network following thorough and lengthy public consultations processes, which sought public comment on draft proposals and conducted detailed socio-economic assessments. The proposed Proclamations of Commonwealth marine reserves, currently under the 60 day public comment period, will be considered by the Minister in September and the Governor General will then proclaim the reserves. Once proclaimed, the marine reserves will have increased from 27 to 30, expanding the network to cover more than a third of Commonwealth waters..

Supporting Document: Interactive map of Australia's marine reserves network
www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/reserves/index.html

Meeting report: International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS) 2012

Prof. Terry Hughes, ICRS2012 Convenor, presented a synthesis of the outcomes of ICRS2012 which was held the week prior ICRI GM27. The Symposium attracted over 2,000 delegates from around the world, generating 1,500 presentations, 9 plenary talks, a Darwin medal presentation (which went to Prof. Jeremy Jackson, GCRMN's Science Director), and over 100 associated meetings. The Symposium upheld 22 major themes and 78 mini-symposia, many of which had relevant to management and this permeated the theme of the whole symposium. The Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) had a major presence with over 150 delegates from CTI countries. Coral reef management, climate change, connectivity, design of no-take areas were discussed in depth. Legacies of the Symposium include a consensus statement on Climate Change, public awareness, prolific media uptakes, a boost for CTI, proceedings, and plenary addresses which are all available online.

One of the mini-symposia held was on reef monitoring (*Does monitoring lead to improved reef management?*). Jerker Tamelander (UNEP) presented its outcomes as one of the main organisers, along with SocMON, Reef Check and Dr Clive Wilkinson (former GCRMN Coordinator). Methodology and use of analytical tools, citizen science, and establishment of MPAs were amongst the topics discussed, which generated 29 presentations, 4 proceedings papers, 4 posters and a number of people 'new' to the established network. The mini-symposium was complemented by a town hall meeting which provided space for discussion and information sharing.

Another mini-symposium was held on 'evaluating management success', organised by Dr. Laurence McCook. Interpretations of the theme were interesting, ranging from simple monitoring to condition reports to the 'full' IUCN approach. The symposium highlighted some consistent challenges associated with monitoring success – specifically around compliance and engagement. Another challenge was the lack of socio and economic measures. Women's involvement and empowerment is another very important aspect which often leads to social

improvement. Finally, the use of indicators, economic modelling and management 'jargon' was also touched upon.

ICRI delegates emphasised that although ICRS is traditionally a science-based event, the series has evolved to act as a bridge between science and management which helps gain efficiency in outreach. It is expected that this evolution will deepen even further in the future. In this light, ICRI needs to examine the future relevance of the International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS) series, an ICRI 'legacy' which was originally meant to be held every 4 years in between ICRS to convene reef managers (as opposed to scientists). ICRI members were invited to discuss this topic further at GM28 in order to take a formal decision on ITMEMS.

The next ICRS will be held in Hawaii in 2016.

Supporting Documents:

- *12th International Coral Reef Symposium: summary of outcomes (Presentation)*
- *GCRMN session at ICRS (Presentation)*
- *Evaluating Management Success: Mini-symposium Summary 12th International Coral Reef Symposium (Presentation)*

Members' reports

The ICRI Secretariat gave a very brief introduction on the member reports:

- Sixteen reports were received for this meeting from the following countries/organisations: Australia, Belize, Brazil, UNEP Caribbean Environment Program, the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL), GCRMN, Jamaica, Japan, South Asia Cooperative Environment Program (SACEP), South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom, UNEP, the USA, and the World Resources Institute (WRI).
- Participants were reminded of the necessity of providing reports as a Member's obligation (article 1.4 of the Organisation and Management Procedures).

The Philippines provided a presentation on its activities.

Supporting Document: Coral Reefs Management in the Philippines (Presentation)

Launch of GCRMN's Pacific Report

Serge Planes (CRIOBE – France) launched the report entitled: *Status Of Coral Reefs of the Pacific and Outlook: 2011* (a GCRMN regional report).

Ad Hoc Committees

Existing *Ad Hoc* Committees (AHCs) reported on their work since the last ICRI General Meeting (December 2011).

- *Enforcement and Investigation (Coral Reef CSI)*

David Gulko presented in support of the Meeting paper submitted for this AHC. Initiated in 2005, the Committee has evolved into a more established program (called: Coral Reef CSI, CRCSI) which has conducted a multitude of training workshops on field forensics, reef ecology, chain-of-custody, risk assessments, ecotoxicology and resource management. The program has since expanded to additional topics such as illegal marine wildlife trade, field contaminant assays, sea turtle field forensics and advanced grounding field investigations. CRCSI has been successful in providing on-ground skills to reef managers across the world, especially for small island developing states where enforcement and compliance activities are often a challenge yet one of the areas where directed assistance may reap large returns. Although the CRCSI has been very active, the AHC *per se* has not convened and now needs to be revived, with new Chairs and members. The new AHC would target its focus on a few topics of interest, such as vessel groundings, whilst remaining adaptable, multi-disciplinary, and tailored.

The work of this AHC was praised as a very successful example of how ICRI informality can achieve on-ground work. Australia pointed out that its recent experience with vessel grounding highlighted the need for a greater understanding of marine insurance law. France suggested that an evaluation should be conducted on the work done so far before taking it further, focussing on what has been used and what is missing. The evaluation would help improve the design of the work and target it towards specific needs to close identified gaps.

Supporting Documents:

- *Meeting Paper: Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Enforcement and Investigation – Revised Terms of Reference*
- *Presentation: Coral Reefs Management in the Philippines*

- *Economic Valuation*

The ICRI Secretariat presented the paper on this AHC on behalf of its Chair. The Economic Valuation AHC was formed in January 2008 and extended a couple of times, with Chairs being the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the ICRI Secretariat. Work reported under this AHC has mainly been WRI's database of valuation studies and MESP's Standardized Framework for Coastal Ecosystem Valuation. Laretta Burke (WRI) wrote to potential AHC players to gauge interest about a 're-energized' AHC however no great interest was displayed. The AHC has now

not met for more than a year and its status was left open-ended at General Meeting 27 in Reunion. The paper suggests that if no progress is made on the status of this AHC at ICRS or ICRI General Meeting 27, it would seem there is insufficient interest in continuing this Committee. Members were asked to make a final decision on the fate of the AHC and, if it was decided to revive the AHC, decide on a Chair, goals and Terms of Reference.

CARICOM pointed out that tools developed under this AHC had not yet reached the decision-making forum of the Caribbean, and that there would certainly be an interest there.

- *Caribbean Regional Response to Lionfish Invasion (Regional Lionfish Committee-RLC)*

Activities undertaken by the RLC since the last GM were reported on (November 2011 – July 2012). These include:

- The further development of a regional list of contacts relevant to the lionfish invasion such as experts on marine invasive species, marine resource managers, fisheries experts, and technicians, to exchange experience and information. The list is 190 strong to date;
- The organisation of regional lionfish collecting and handling workshops (May 2012 in the Bahamas and Florida in the coming months);
- The design and display of a poster on the lionfish invasion issue at the 16th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity (April –May 2012) in Montreal, Canada (funded by the ICRI Secretariat);
- The development and promotion of a Joint Regional Strategy, and the presentation of this concept at several meetings including the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Caribbean Fisheries Forum.

Future planned activities include a writing workshop to create the first draft of the Regional Lionfish Strategy, to be hosted by UNEP-CEP through the Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife, with support from UNEP, and the launch of a Lionfish web portal.

The RLC has been conducting introspection work to analyze its long-term directions and future. Given that lionfish invasion is a potential long-term issue, it is important that the RLC's work and, more broadly, lionfish control efforts gets 'embedded' in existing institutions which would carry on its work once the AHC is dissolved. This 'permanent' RLC would then need to assess its role with ICRI: it could perhaps become an ICRI member to prolong the connections with the ICRI network.

Discussions were held around lionfish abundance data and its availability, the range of the invasion and potential case studies (such as Barbados where the lionfish has just arrived).

The RLC will remain an ICRI AHC with the same Terms of Reference, until at least the next General Meeting, where its status will be reconsidered.

Supporting documents:

- *ICRI Ad Hoc Committee on Caribbean Regional Response to Lionfish Invasion: Activities Report for the period November 2011 to July 2012 (Presentation)*

Report on the previous ICRI Secretariat (France-Samoa, 2009-2011)

France presented on its Secretariat Report, outlining the main achievements of the previous Secretariat which was hosted by France and Samoa, in collaboration with the principality of Monaco between July 2009 and December 2011. It was the second time that France was hosting ICRI, the previous time being in 1999-2000. Main achievements included:

- The organisation of three General Meetings (GMs 24, 25 and 26)
- The promotion of regional cooperation by holding 'regional days' at GMs (Caribbean Day, Pacific Day, Indian Ocean Day) and supporting the organisation of regional ICRI events
- The support of ICRI Operational Networks (ICRAN, GCRMN), including the funding of the South Pacific GCRMN node to support GCRMN's new governance model
- The organisation of the 4th International Marine Tropical Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS), held in Guadeloupe in December 2011.

Supporting documents:

- *International Coral Reef Initiative Secretariat (2009-2011): Report of Activities*
- *ICRI Secretariat report 2009-2011 (Presentation)*

Management Effectiveness Workshop

Congruent with one of the hosting themes of the Australia-Belize Secretariat, a full day of the 27th ICRI General Meeting was dedicated to workshopping the topic of 'Management Effectiveness'.

Professor Marc Hockings, an international expert of this topic facilitated the workshop. The day started with a presentation on 'Assessing Management of Marine Protected Areas', followed by four case studies:

- The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park's Outlook reporting process
- Colombia and Galapagos' use of management effectiveness
- Thailand's marine and coastal protected area management effectiveness evaluation
- Eco-Audit of Mesoamerican reef countries.

Participants discussed the possibility of replicating such experiences, and the importance of adapting lessons to meet the needs of a country or a site. A single worldwide framework isn't necessary desirable as managers would not use such a framework if it does not suit the local administrative, managerial and political context. Challenges such as finding funding to conduct management effectiveness assessments, ensuring they occur on a regular basis, and securing commitment at the highest level, are common in many countries. There are cases, such as in India, where management assessments of protected areas are occurring consistently and are well implemented because it is led at the highest level (Prime Minister).

Short presentations sharing individual experiences on management effectiveness were provided by the following participants:

- Michael Schleyer presented on South Africa's experience
- Arturo Izurieta (observer) presented on participatory monitoring and evaluation in the Northern Territory of Australia
- Nyawira Muthiga presented on Kenya's experience
- Lynette Laroya presented (a posteriori) on the Philippines' experience.

Main lessons learnt were the following:

- Embedding management assessment within existing management cycles and/or securing commitment to it at the highest level is crucial;
- Indicators need to be seen relevant by managers, and easily interpretable (for example by using tools such as Geographic Information Systems);
- The lack of data is a result in itself so there is no need to make up data;
- The results of the assessment should be used to review management systems.

The workshop continued with a Panel discussion, animated by the four case studies presenters. Discussion outcomes emphasized:

- The importance of agreeing on clear definitions and long-term objectives for the assessment before it commences;

- The value of conducting socio-economic monitoring (including cultural aspects) and of connecting them with biophysical data;
- The advantage of strategically assessing the type of evidence needed, as well as the level of investment required to obtain such data, before starting the assessment; and the possibility of making that data publicly available to enhance transparency;
- The benefits of securing a good representation of stakeholders, including all levels of government;
- The importance of communicating results of the assessment effectively and relevantly, to keep Ministers and industry stakeholders in the loop when releasing the results of the assessment, and to report ‘good news stories’ as well as less good ones.

ICRI Members then discussed a motion on Management Effectiveness presented by the ICRI Secretariat. Several suggestions of amendments to the motion were received.

Supporting documents:

- *Marinating Management Effectiveness – assessing management of Marine Protected Areas (Presentation)*
- *Case Study: Assessing existing measures to protect and manage the Great Barrier Reef Region (Presentation)*
- *Case Study: Adaptive Management and use of Management Effectiveness findings and recommendations: Colombia and Galapagos cases (Presentation)*
- *Case Study : Thailand’s marine and coastal protected area management effectiveness evaluation (Presentation)*
- *Case Study: Evaluating Management Success at Larger Spatial Scales (Beyond My MPA) Mesoamerica (Presentation)*
- *‘Speed dating’: Management Effectiveness Assessment on South African Coral Reefs (Presentation)*
- *‘Speed dating’: Assessing Co-management in Protected Areas in the Northern Territory: Lessons for Marine Protected Areas (Presentation)*
- *‘Speed dating’: The Assessment of Management Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas in Kenya (Presentation)*
- *‘Speed dating’: MPA Meat: Institutionalising MPA Performance Monitoring in the Philippines (Presentation)*

Field Day: Experiencing stewardship - the Reef Guardian program

In an effort to concretely illustrate, thanks to ‘on-ground’ visits and experience, the hosts’ second theme of community engagement and stewardship, ICRI delegates had an opportunity to participate in a field day which showcased the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) ‘Reef Guardian’ program with visits and conversations with:

- Reef Guardian Councils (Local Government)
- Reef Guardian Farmers
- Reef Guardian Fishers
- Reef Guardian Schools.

The visits' objective was to demonstrate that concepts of engaging early, honestly, thoroughly and enthusiastically can pay off with excellent community stewardship outcomes.

Karen Vohland, Director Stakeholder Engagement and Stewardship, started the day by providing an overview of the Reef Guardians Program. The Program aims to guide and influence stakeholders to ensure their everyday actions enhance the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef. It is completely voluntary, with no financial incentive provided for participants or certification provided. Its main objective is to provide recognition and to showcase good environmental activities, in order to influence and inspire others and foster positive behaviour change. The Program was first targeted to schools (2003), but was then expanded to include Councils (2007), farmers, fishers and tourism operators (2010) – starting with pilot sites/participants. As of 2012, the Program has been very successful with 13 Councils (covering 317,271 km² of the Great Barrier Reef catchment) and 285 schools (representing around 10% of the catchment's population) involved. Main lessons learnt from the Program so far include:

- The need to engage early and meaningfully;
- The importance of understanding where stakeholders come from, and of acknowledging that they have an organisation or business to run;
- The benefits of identifying what they can get out of the stewardship program (such as community recognition);
- That stewardship programs such as Reef Guardian play a critical role in ensuring that the community appreciates the values of natural assets such as reefs, and focusses its actions in a way that supports management effectively.

Maree Grenfell and Dan Walton from the Cairns Regional Council shared their experience as a Reef Guardian Council. The Council's action has focussed on 5 areas: land (e.g. management of wetland and riparian vegetation), waterways (wastewater treatment plants upgrade), waste (recycling), climate action (emission reduction), and community engagement.

Delegates had an opportunity to visit two Reef Guardian Farmers in the Gordonvale area (South of Cairns). Both farmers are implementing sustainable farming practices which include landscaping and grassed drains, soil management, fallowing, or creating natural water filters such as wetlands to improve the quality of the water that runs into the Great Barrier Reef. Those practices are not only environmentally sustainable; they also are economically viable.

Pupils from Gordonvale State School, a Reef Guardian School, welcomed ICRI delegates and presented on their individual environmental projects before showcasing their permaculture garden and revegetation area.

Ryan Donnelly from Cairns Marine, a reef Guardian Fisher provided a tour of his Marine aquarium fish and coral collection factory. Cairns Marine has set robust protocols for its operations, instilling good environmental practices in every aspect of its business.

The field day ended with an Aboriginal dance show and dinner experience, where delegates could immerse themselves in traditional indigenous Australian culture with authentic music, dance and storytelling by the Tjapukai people at the Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park.

Supporting documents:

- *Reef Guardians: an overview (Presentation)*
- *Reef Guardian Council (Presentation)*

ICRI communication tools

The ICRI Secretariat presented its updated communication tools:

- *ICRIforum website*: launched in 1999/2000 and redesigned in 2009, the website acts as the main repository for all ICRI documents and information. It contains ICRI members and networks' details, relays relevant news, provides information on past and upcoming ICRI meetings, side events and related meetings, and provide succinct information on key topics related to ICRI. Since the last General Meeting, the website was enhanced with a rotating banner placed on the home page, the creation of a section related to Rio+20 and the hosting and management of East Asia Regional Workshop pages. The Secretariat emphasised the need for members to use the website by sharing their own news and updating their Member details. Future enhancements to be developed through support by UNEP include a better integration with ICRI networks and activities, including GCRMN, *Ad Hoc* Committees etc. A Member page form, as well as a survey will be sent to all ICRI members in order to get updated information and post them on the website.
- *ICRI Social Media*: congruent with one of the current Secretariat's objectives of 'exploring new social media technologies for promoting the ICRI message', ICRI now has an RSS feed mechanism for its ICRIforum website (which allows readers to get notified when the website gets updated) and has its own Twitter (micro blogging) and Facebook (social networking) pages (which are linked). Both accounts are mainly used to relay information posted on the ICRIforum which remains the principal outreach mechanism, but tend to cater to younger audiences in a more informal way. Benefits include ease of access, user-friendliness, provision of real-time information to a large

number of users, easy upload of photos and the possibility of holding instant discussions. ICRI's social media will allow the progressive build-up of an online community for ICRI, and provides an avenue for ICRI members to share experiences, contribute their expertise, or post photographs/videos or ICRI events. Any ideas on how to best use the resources available from these media are welcome.

Supporting documents:

- *Enhancing the ICRIforum (Presentation)*
- *ICRI Social Media (Presentation)*

ICRI Grants Program

The ICRI Grants Program 2012-2013 is an initiative of the Australia-Belize Secretariat to fulfil its objectives of "providing funding support for each of around three small projects to be conducted during the hosting period". Funded by AusAID, the Program is aimed at community groups, Non-Government Organisations and governments conducting projects in developing countries with coral reefs which align with one or more of the ICRI 'Call to Action' areas of coastal management, capacity building, monitoring, and review and assessment of current protection and/or management.

Expressions of Interest for ICRI grants were opened between 9 April and 20 May 2012 and advertised through ICRI media channels. The Secretariat received 49 applications from 29 countries which were assessed by a Panel of three members against 7 weighted assessment criteria. The highest ranked projects were recommended for funding to the Australian Minister for the Environment who took the final decision.

Winners the ICRI Grants Program were announced by ICRI Co-Chairs Beverly Wade and Margaret Johnson:

- Nature Conservation Egypt, from Egypt will receive AU\$10,000 to conduct a project involving local communities in planning the establishment of no-take zones in the Red Sea National Parks of Elba and Wadi Gemal;
- Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research Institute from Kenya will receive AU\$9,922 for a project seeking to enhance adaptive management practices in seven co-managed areas;
- Aleipata & Safata Marine Protected Area Trust Society Inc. from Samoa will receive AU\$10,000 to restore coral reefs devastated by the 2009 tsunami in Aleipata and Safata Marine Protected Areas;
- Kousapw Palikir Community Group in Micronesia, will receive AU\$2,730 to eradicate Crown-of-Thorn Starfish from the Palikir Reefs.

All projects will be finalised by 30 June 2013 and are conditional to entering into a Grant Agreement Deed with the ICRI Secretariat via the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Regional Initiatives

UNEP presented its *Coral Reef Partnership* which aims to support Regional Seas programmes and participating countries deliver internationally agreed commitments relevant to coral reefs, such as Aichi Target 10, paragraph 179 of the Rio+20 outcome document and the ICRI Call to action and Framework for Action. The Coral Reef Partnership (the Partnership) follows on from the successes of the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN, suspended as an ICRI network at GM 26), although its objectives, structure and operational aspects differ largely. Building on the foundation of past and current activities the partnership aims to, at the global level, develop innovative and practical tools and methods that enable ecosystem based approaches to coral reef management; and at the regional level facilitate adoption and application of tools and methods through demonstration interventions and policy support. Networking, capacity building and exchange of best practice and lessons learned will be facilitated through a community of practice. UNEP will consult with Regional Seas and other partners in the near future to strengthen the Partnership concept and achieve broader scale implementation in 2013. UNEP requested members to:

- take note of the launch of this initiative, and offer advice or support as appropriate;
- engage in consultations towards developing the Partnership.

Japan presented on *ICRI East Asia Activities* (which includes Japan, Indonesia, Korea, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and the Worldfish Centre). The East Asia Regional Initiative has been one of the most active regional initiatives since the inception of ICRI, with regular Regional Workshops being held between 1996 and 2001. This regional focus however, gradually faded in the early 2000s. During the decade following, marine habitats in the region became increasingly under pressure from land and sea-based human activities. As a result, ICRI's regional approach was revitalised in the East Asian region with workshop being held again on a regular basis since 2008. The workshops focused on MPA networks to assist East Asian countries' efforts in achieving the 2012 global target on MPA networks set by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The results of activities and discussions held in regional workshops were compiled into an *ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy on MPA Networks 2010*. The Regional Strategy is not a comprehensive strategy on MPA networks, but strongly reflects interests and discussions held by participants in regional workshops, which aimed to:

- create a regional mechanism for cooperation and coordination;
- follow up on the Provisional Plan 2009-2010; and

- reflect priority recommendations to regional and national policies.

In response to the suggested actions listed in the Regional Strategy, a follow-up workshop was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia in 2011; another workshop will be held in Jeju, Korea on 3-5 September 2012 to finalise issues that remain to be addressed and continue the strengthening of regional collaboration efforts on MPA networks in East Asia.

Some of the outputs so far include a regional MPA gap analysis, a regional MPA database, comprehensive mapping of coral reefs in the region and an assessment of the effectiveness of MPA management regimes.

ICRI members were provided with an update on the *Regional Coral Reef Task Force (CRTF)* established under the Nairobi Convention, and progress towards an **East Africa Coral Reef Action Plan**. Through the Action Plan, the CRTF aims to improve reporting mechanisms and enhance communication and information dissemination regionally; influence the review of legislation and policy change at national levels, establish monitoring programs for coral reefs and associated ecosystems, including socioeconomic monitoring, and raise funds. Achievements to date include a revised Regional Coral Reef Action Plan that will be presented to the Nairobi Convention Conference of Parties in 2012, as well as Terms of References for National Coral Reef Taskforces, the production of reports and a newsletter (CRTF updates), contribution in the creation of a Regional MPA monitoring toolkit and the facilitation of a Regional Coral Disease course in Zanzibar. Focal Points of the Nairobi Convention will meet in Maputo in August 2012 to progress these initiatives further.

Supporting documents:

- *Coral Reef Partnership (Presentation)*
- *East Asia Activities (Presentation)*

Miscellaneous

Delegates were shown a video entitled: “Coral Reefs: Polyps in Peril” sent by the World Resource Institute. Madagascar provided an update on the evolution of coral reef conservation in Madagascar. Thailand provided the results of a regional workshop held in Bangkok in January 2012 to implement the FAO Technical Guidelines on MPAs and Fisheries.

Supporting documents:

- *Coral Reefs: Polyps in Peril (Video)*
- *Evolution of coral reef conservation approach in Madagascar (Presentation)*
- *Marine Protected Areas as Fisheries Management Tools in the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (Presentation)*

Results of ICRI GM27 side meetings

Four side meetings were held during the General Meeting to further discussions on:

- Directions and long-term status of the Regional Lionfish Committee (RLC)
- Future directions for the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)
- Fate of the Ad Hoc Committee (AHC) on Economic Valuation
- Fate of the AHC on Enforcement and Investigation.

The vision for the *Regional Lionfish Committee* is to secure dedicated funding to embed existing lionfish control efforts into existing institutions; and in the long-term, to expand work to include all marine invasive species in the Caribbean. The ICRI connection will remain and ICRI will continue to support these efforts. Members mentioned that the lionfish invasion is now expanding to new areas (Eastern Pacific), so the RLC has an opportunity to implement control work at a much earlier stage than what has been done in the Caribbean Sea.

Discussions on *GCRMN directions* emphasised:

- The need for GCRMN to clarify the directions it is taking, through improved communication with the Network;
- More concerted efforts in engaging GRCMN nodes and regional networks, including through enhanced communication with past GCRMN contributors and collaborators in all regions and in particular where existing regional structures are strong (i.e. East Asia and Pacific);
- Strengthened linkages to and utilization of relevant regional networks and institutions where such exist, including in particular Regional Seas programmes, to promote adoption and application of methodology, support regional consultation and capacity building, and enhance reporting and dissemination of findings to governments;
- Enhanced links between ecological, social and economic processes, and continued discussions with SocMON and other partners to look at practical and meaningful ways to integrate GCRMN activities;
- Increased funding needed to achieve the above, as well as efforts and input from all partners.

Outcomes of discussions held on *Economic Valuation* were that:

- There was still an interest amongst ICRI members in the continuation and revival of the AHC, with CORAL offering to be a Chair and the World Resource Institute continuing to be involved as a Member
- New Terms of Reference will be presented at the next General Meeting.

Two motions asking ICRI members to note the continuation of these two Committees, and to consider whether they wish to play a role in their activities, were put forward to the ICRI Membership.

The main decision stemming from discussions held during the side meeting on *Enforcement & Investigation* was to revive the AHC on Enforcement and Investigation with an enhanced focus on:

- Vessel grounding incidents (particularly valuation and penalty strategies). Partnerships with the Economic Valuation AHC could be explored to that effect;
- More generally, compliance issues for MPAs, taking into account differences in scale, remoteness, and funding.

Suggestions to avoid adversarial actions, conduct workshops and create regional taskforces to provide support to countries on vessel grounding incidents response were put forward.

Motions

Three motions were adopted by the ICRI membership as resolutions:

- Resolution on the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on Economic Valuation (Appendix 2)
- Resolution on the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on Enforcement & Investigation (Appendix 3)
- Resolution on Management Effectiveness (Appendix 4) .

Upcoming ICRI Activities

ICRI Members were encouraged to participate in several upcoming coral reef-related events, including:

- The 8th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop, 3-5 September, Jeju, Korea
- The IUCN-WCC side event (Conservation Campus) on Management Effectiveness, an interactive, capacity building event to be held on 9 September in Jeju, Korea. The ICRI Secretariat will present the outcomes of the General Meeting's Management Effectiveness workshop at this event.
- The 2012 Global MPA Enforcement Conference, 25-29 November, San Francisco, USA.
- The 9th the 9th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, to be held in Fiji in November 2013.



The next ICRI General Meeting will be held in Belize in November 2013 (exact dates to be advised).

Official Closing

The meeting was closed by the Ambassador Adalbert Tucker from Belize.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: List of GM27 participants
- Appendix 2: Resolution on the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on Economic Valuation
- Appendix 3: Resolution on the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on Enforcement & Investigation
- Appendix 4: Resolution on Management Effectiveness



APPENDIX 1

ICRI GM 28 - List of participants

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APPENDIX 2

Resolution on the activities of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Economic Valuation

Adopted on 19 July 2012, at the 27th ICRI General Meeting (Cairns, Australia)

The *Ad Hoc* Committee on Economic Valuation was established at the January 2008 General Meeting (GM21). This work was extended at the July 2008 General Meeting (GM22) for the duration of the next two General Meetings.

At the January 2010 General Meeting (GM24) the Committee was extended for one more year. Effectively, the Committee has been inactive since that time.

However, there is still a need to develop a consistent approach to the economic valuation of coral reefs. In particular, the emergence of the Marine Ecosystem Services Partnership (MESP) during 2011 has emphasised that the Committee still has role to play.

At GM 26 (December 2011), a paper was presented to the ICRI membership requesting feedback to the then convenor of the Committee (the World Resources Institute, WRI) on a concept of a standardised framework to guide the economic valuation of coastal ecosystems. Discussions held during that meeting focussed on the relevance of the Committee given the apparent declining levels of interest among Committee members.

Discussions in the margins of this current meeting (GM27) revealed that:

- There is still interest amongst ICRI members in the continuation and revival of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Economic Valuation
- CORAL has offered to be a co-chair of the Committee; WRI will remain on the Committee as a member.
- Potential new players agreed to work out-of-session on new Terms of Reference for the Committee which will be presented to the ICRI membership at GM28.

Accordingly, the International Coral Reef Initiative requests its Members to:

- **Note** that the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Economic Valuation is being re-established;
- **Consider** whether they wish to play an active role in this Committee and if so, to contact the Secretariat;
- **Note** that this matter will be further reported on at the next General Meeting, with a view to adopting new terms of reference.

APPENDIX 3

Resolution on the activities of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Enforcement & Investigation

Adopted on 19 July 2012, at the 27th ICRI General Meeting (Cairns, Australia)

The ICRI *Ad Hoc* Committee on Enforcement & Investigation has been operating in a successful and productive manner since its inception following GM18 in 2005. It has enjoyed success as an outreach mechanism for ICRI providing capacity in field investigative techniques (ICRI CSI).

There has been a reaffirmation at this General Meeting (GM27) that the endeavours of the AHC on E&I should continue. It is also recognised that the field of environmental compliance is broad with many possible directions of endeavour.

Recognising this past success, it is proposed that the Terms of Reference for the AHC should extend its focus to:

1. Strategies to address vessel groundings on coral reefs and related ecosystems; and
2. Compliance processes for marine managed areas.

Accordingly, the International Coral Reef Initiative requests its Members to:

- **Note** that the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Enforcement & Investigation is continuing its activities.
- **Note** that the Committee's Terms of Reference are to be revised.
- **Consider** if they wish to contribute to the development of those revised Terms of Reference and/or the continuing activities of the Committee. If they do wish to contribute they should contact the Secretariat before the end of September 2012.
- **Note** that this matter will be further reported on at the next General Meeting.

APPENDIX 4

Resolution on Assessing the Effectiveness of Marine Protected Area Management

Three of the four cornerstone principles of ICRI focus on:

- Integrated approaches to coastal and marine management;
- Monitoring to inform management decision making; and
- Review.

Each and all of these elements are integral to management effectiveness assessment.

The global discussion on sustainable management of the environment in general and marine areas in particular has clearly shown that areas of importance for biodiversity values and ecosystem services require effective management.

For management to be effective it must be regularly measured, assessed and adapted.

It is clear from the global discussion that there has been a call for action in assessing the effectiveness of management arrangements and that timeframes for action must be urgent and immediate.

In this context the engagement of ICRI Members in the Management Effectiveness Workshop held in conjunction with the 27th ICRI General Meeting held in Cairns, Australia in July 2012 is timely.

Accordingly, the International Coral Reef Initiative encourages its Members to:

- **Consider** the merits of Management Effectiveness Assessment in all aspects of managing protected areas, including social, economic and cultural aspects.
- **Adopt and implement** systems for regularly assessing the effectiveness of both marine protected areas and other mechanisms for managing coral reef and associated ecosystems.
- **Engage** indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders in relevant elements of management effectiveness assessment.
- **Use** the results of these assessments in adapting and improving management action.
- **Include** information derived from these assessments into national, regional and international reporting that they may undertake.
- **Contribute** information on management assessments that they have undertaken to global datasets on management effectiveness such as those maintained by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the IUCN.