

United Nations Environment Programme

Decision 20/21. Coral reefs

9th meeting (4 February 1999)

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 19/15 of 7 February 1997, by which the Council urged the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to play an active and leading role in the development, implementation and coordination of regional activities under the International Coral Reef Initiative,

1. Endorses the proposed collaborative activities of the United Nations Environment Programme with agencies and organizations both inside and outside the United Nations system, for protection and conservation of coral reef ecosystems;
2. Requests the Executive Director to carry out an assessment of the experience of the United Nations Environment Programme to date in the implementation of the International Coral Reef Initiative programme and consider how the role of the United Nations Environment Programme can be strengthened in conjunction with the International Coral Reef Initiative Secretariat, for discussion by the Council at its twenty-first session;
3. Endorses enhanced cooperation within the United Nations system, particularly with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and with multilateral development banks such as the World Bank;
4. Requests the Executive Director to circulate the Renewed Call to action of the International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium, held in Townsville, Australia, from 23 to 26 November 1998, to the Governing Council for its consideration at its twenty-first session;
5. Requests the Executive Director, in conjunction with the International Coral Reef Initiative Secretariat and the International Coral Reef Initiative Coordination and Planning Committee, to continue to seek funding for the implementation of the International Coral Reef Initiative's activities and programmes;
6. Welcomes the progress in establishing the global coral reef monitoring network and, in light of the 1997-1998 widespread coral bleaching, endorses enhanced cooperation between the global coral reef monitoring network's co-sponsors, the United Nations Environment Programme, World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the World Bank, to implement the global coral reef monitoring network to support conservation and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems;
7. Recognizes the strong role of the regional seas programmes as implementing and coordinating mechanisms for the International Coral Reef Initiative action on the regional scale and endorses continued and strengthened action by the regional seas programmes in the area of conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs.