

HIGHLIGHT OF THE FRENCH ICRI SECRETARIAT (2016-2018)

THE PLAN OF ACTION

The Action plan of the International Coral Reef Initiative adopted on November 4th, 2016, at the 31st ICRI General Meeting (Paris, France), comprised the following 5 themes:

- Theme 1: "Help raise awareness of how coral reefs and related ecosystems help to fight climate change"
- Theme 2: "Meet international requirements regarding coral reefs"
- Theme 3: "Help to reduce human threats to coral reefs and associated mangroves and seagrasses, by making greater use of regulatory tools"
- Theme 4: "Monitor the state of reefs in order to better manage them"
- Theme 5: "Progress via education"

ICRI

The International Coral Reef Initiative is an informal partnership between nations and organizations which strives to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around the world. As of June 2016, and until June 2018, the secretariat was chaired by the government of France. For more informations: www.icriforum.org

ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED

In the face of the challenges of climate change, nature offers solutions, which are often as effective and less costly than infrastructures which separate man from his natural environment. Coral reefs and related ecosystems provide many examples of this. **Leitmotiv of the Secretariat was to increase awareness of the central role played by coastal ecosystems and to encourage financing for projects and initiatives which help protect and restore coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses** (a recommendation for supporting investments in the natural infrastructure of reefs and mangroves to increase climate resilience was adopted). Specific concrete actions were also implemented through the ICRI Grants programme.

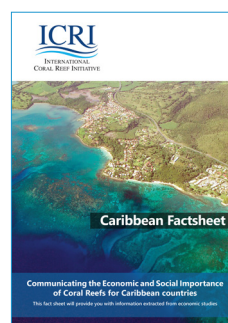
Related products



Study on innovative financing mechanisms to protect and preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems



Analysis of international funding for the sustainable management of coral reefs and associated coastal ecosystems
<https://coralfounders.com>



Factsheets on communicating the economic and social importance of coral Reefs for:

- Caribbean countries
- South East Asia
- Indian Ocean

ICRI has consistently addressed **major anthropogenic threats**, and continued to do so by focusing on the following threats and possible actions:

- To promote legal frameworks for the protection of coral reefs and associated mangroves and seagrasses: Production of a summary of existing legislative and regulatory mechanisms for the protection of coral reefs and related ecosystems for France (as an example).
- To encourage a ban on plastic microbeads in cosmetic products: adoption of a recommendation which led to a call to action in the Pacific.
- To improve regulation and enforcement to reduce direct anthropogenic damage due to dredging and physical alteration of reef structures: adoption of a recommendation.
- To review issues related to the impact of sunscreens – production of a review of the scientific evidence, discussion of the issues, and recommendations for further research (Impacts of sunscreens on coral reefs).

- To promote the deployment of mooring devices limiting the mechanical destruction of coral reefs and seagrasses.

Related products



Impacts of sunscreens on coral reefs

MONITOR THE STATE OF REEFS IN ORDER TO BETTER MANAGE THEM

Since its creation, the ICRI has set up the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) with the aim of assessing the state of health of reefs for managers, decision-makers and researchers. The GCRMN now prioritizes the publication of regional reports, in order to compile them to publish a global report. During the term of the Secretariat, 2 regional reports were produced:

- The first coral reef status report for the Western Indian Ocean Region 2017 (led by the Indian Ocean Commission under the GCRMN).
- The second Status and Trends of Coral Reefs of the Pacific 2018 (led by the CRIIBE-CNRS laboratory via a convention with the French Environment Ministry).

ADDRESSING THE INTERNATIONAL REQUIREMENTS REGARDING CORAL REEFS

The Secretariat helped implementing the UNEA Resolution on coral reefs. In partnership with the UN Environment Coral Reef Unit, the Secretariat implemented the following actions:

- analysis of global and regional policy instruments and governance mechanisms related to the protection and sustainable management of coral reefs;

- support the further development of coral reef indicators, regional coral reef assessments as well as the preparation of a global report on coral reef status and trends through the International Coral Reef Initiative Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network.

GRANTS PROGRAMME

The ICRI/UN Environment Grants Programme is a joint initiative of the International Coral Reef Initiative and UN Environment which aimed to catalyze the development of innovative and replicable initiatives that enhance protection and management of coral reefs and related ecosystems. Over 230 submissions were received, out of which 5 projects were selected and received a USD 60,000 grant each:

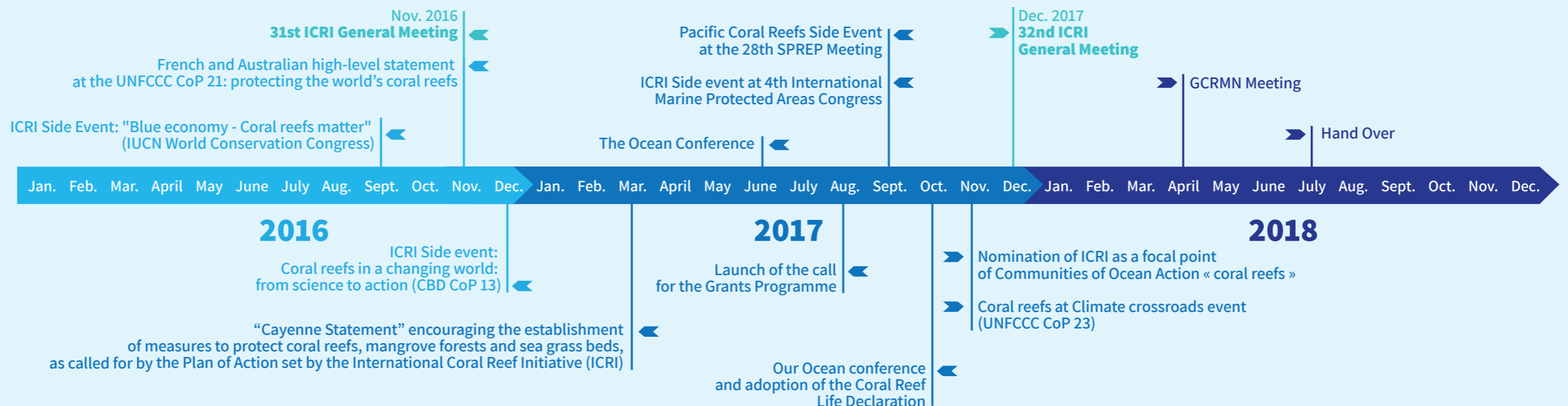
- **Kenya** - Managing mangroves for climate change regulation and other ecosystem services;
- **Malaysia** - Including coral reef resilience and vulnerability to climate change in marine spatial planning;
- Certification of Peer Trainers in Effective Management of Coral Reefs, Seagrass Beds, Mangroves, & Beaches in Marine Protected Areas of the **Western Indian Ocean**'
- Regional, **Caribbean** - Innovative financing and legal mechanisms for reef restoration and emergency response in selected sites of the MAR Region;
- **New Caledonia** - A Seascape genomics approach to improve coral reefs conservation strategies against BLEaching (SABLE).

In addition, a compendium highlighting the thirty-two best projects received (among 230) was produced and widely distributed to potential donors.



EVENTS

The secretariat took also advantage of international events to pursue the advocacy for coral reefs and related ecosystems.



THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE REEF 2018



2018 has been designated the third International Year of the Reef (IYOR) by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). This year-long celebration is a great opportunity to come together to strengthen awareness on the plight of coral reefs, and to step up and initiate conservation efforts.

In the first 6 months of the year over 100 events have taken place around the world in support of the IYOR and many countries including Japan, Germany, Seychelles, Philippines, the UK and Trinidad & Tobago have declared their support with official launches and awareness raising events. Individuals, schools, charities and businesses are also getting involved by organising beach cleans, reef photography exhibits and educational community outreach days.

The IYOR website (www.iyor2018) is the central hub of all activities and events taking place around the world in support of the IYOR. Here you'll find a wide variety of freely-available resources for use at your IYOR event including our logos, infographics and beautiful imagery from The Ocean Agency.

Twitter: @IYOR2018 - #IYOR2018
facebook.com/IYOR18

"2018 has been designated by ICRI as the International Year of the Reef. This is a great opportunity to draw attention to the condition of coral reefs and to step up efforts to save them. Action is our watchword for this year and beyond. We are committed to work as a team to make a difference to coral reef conservation."

Xavier Sticker,
French Ambassador for the Environment.

IN BRIEF

6 new members including Myanmar, 2 General Meeting organized and 5 recommendations adopted:

- Recommendation for supporting investments in the natural infrastructure of reefs and mangroves to increase climate resilience
- Recommendation to reduce damage due to dredging and dumping on coral reefs
- Recommendation to reduce plastic microbeads pollution in marine environment
- Recommendation designating 2018 as the third International Year of the Reef
- Recommendation on addressing the decline in coral reef health due to global bleaching events

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