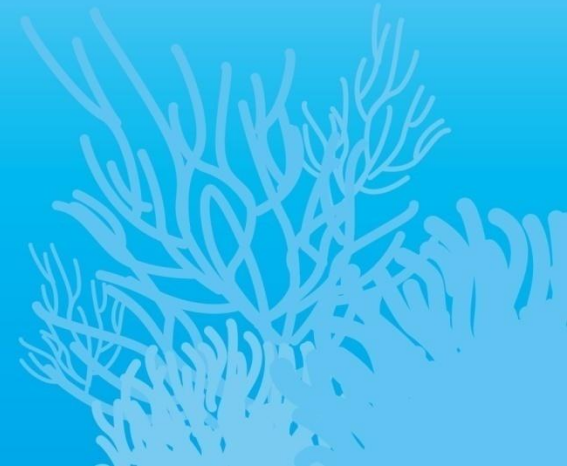


# Results of the ICRI Brainstorming

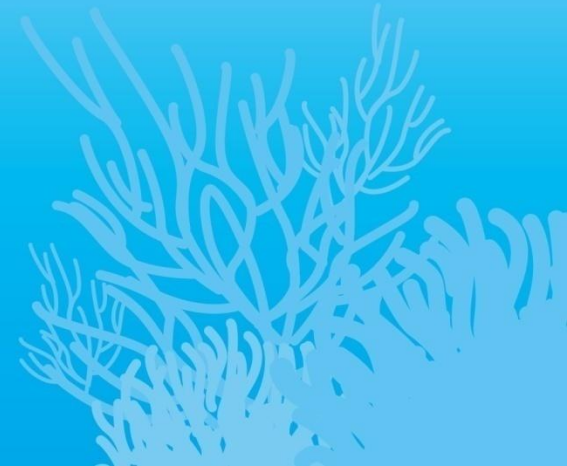
***12-15 Décembre 2011,  
St-Denis, La Réunion***



At the last General Meeting it was decided that the French secretariat will write a reflection/discussion paper on ICRI and elaborate suggestions on the “governance’ on ICRI, including the membership process, and the communication strategy for ICRI, among other issues.




A questionnaire was sent, and 9 replies were received. The following proposition is summarizing the replies.



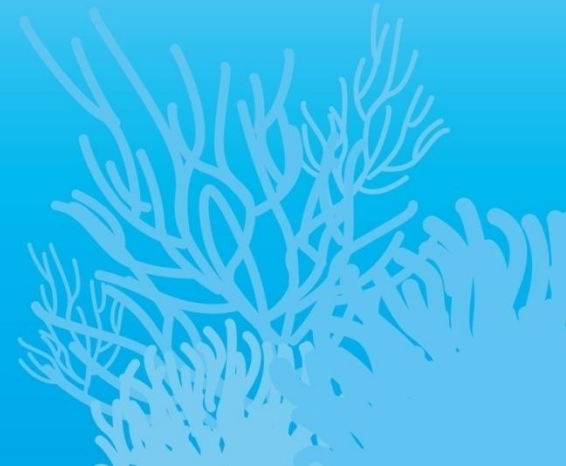
## ICRI Memberships

The criteria (listed in article 1) are inclusive and adequate. It would be useful perhaps to be more specific with respect to the private sector. It was also noted that a great deal of time and energy was spent only recently (last 3 years) arriving at these criteria.



# Role/Duties of ICRI Members

it should be up to members what they contribute. ICRI is an informal, voluntary group.



# ICRI Memberships

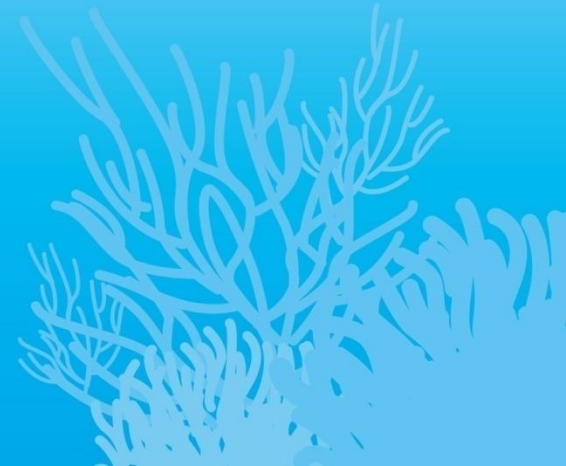
**It is not recommended to increase the number of ICRI members. Quality is more important than quantity and increasing the membership simply to have more members is not needed.**

**ICRI would benefit from a more active membership to strengthen its visibility and impact. It would be good to target a few additional governments, who play a real role in coral reef conservation, and the private sector.**

Rank	Country and geographical locations	Reef Area (sq. km)	Percentage of world total	Attendance at the last 12 GM
1	Indonesia, Republic of	51,020	17.95%	7
2	Australia	48,960	17.22%	12
3	Philippines, Republic of the	25,060	8.81%	5
4	France	14,280	5.02%	11
5	Papua New Guinea	13,840	4.87%	1
6	Fiji, Republic of	10,020	3.52%	2
7	Maldives, Republic of	8,920	3.14%	4
8	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	6,660	2.34%	0
9	Marshall Islands, Republic of the	6,110	2.15%	0
10	India, Republic of	5,790	2.04%	4
11	Solomon Islands	5,750	2.02%	2

*Source: Spalding MD, Ravilious C, Green EP (2001) World Atlas of Coral Reefs. University of California Press, Berkeley, USA.*

**=> To try to engage the countries with a lot of coral reefs.**





# Host Secretariat

The articles 4 and 5 define the rules and tasks for the host Secretariat.

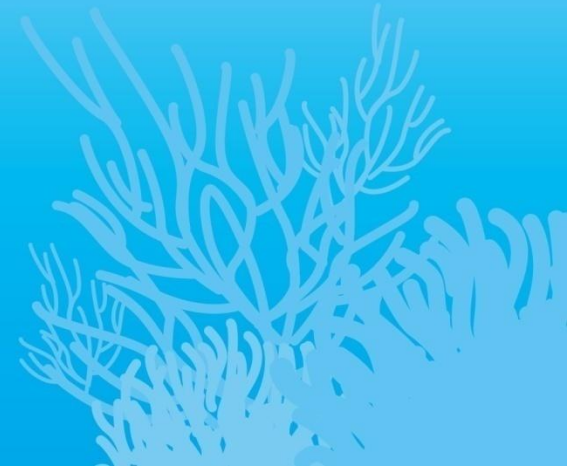
The tasks listed in articles 5 are a pretty exhaustive list and do not need to be changed. Again, a lot of work was spent on this list.

However, items XVIII, XIX and XX, can have significant costs associated with them. These items could have a "subject to the budgetary circumstances of the host Secretariat at the time" caveat.

# ICRI Memberships

To merge some of the tasks, for instance article 5 and 6 that are related to ICRI GM.

**=> Few minor updates could be done regarding the responsibilities of the Host Secretariat**



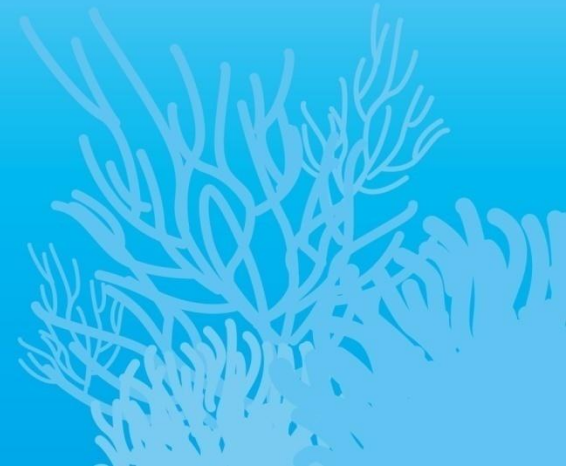
# ICRI General Meetngs

**Annual meetings are sufficient, and 3 to 4 days also seems sufficient and most efficient. If at all possible, one of the two GMs should be scheduled alongside an international meeting that ICRI members are likely to attend.**

**The addition of a regional day was very well received should be maintain. A topical focused session should also be considered by the Secretariat.**

**⇒ Keep the frequency of the General Meeting**

**⇒ Continue the Regional Day or topical day**



# ICRI Networks

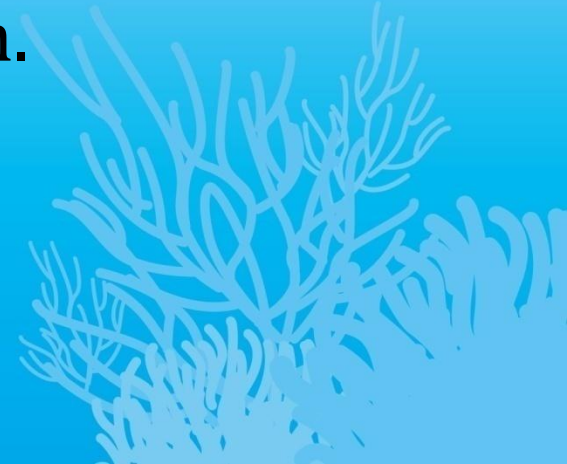
At the time of the questionnaire, it was not clear how these networks will be evolving, thus few comments were received.

The issue of CORDIO was raised. ICRI was an ICRI Network, however, in May 2008, CORDIO contacted the Secretariat to advise it, that it was more appropriate to be recognized as a member under the following category “Any specialised public agency or program dealing with coral reefs”.

# Engagement with MEA

This task is a very important roles for ICRI, and should continue.

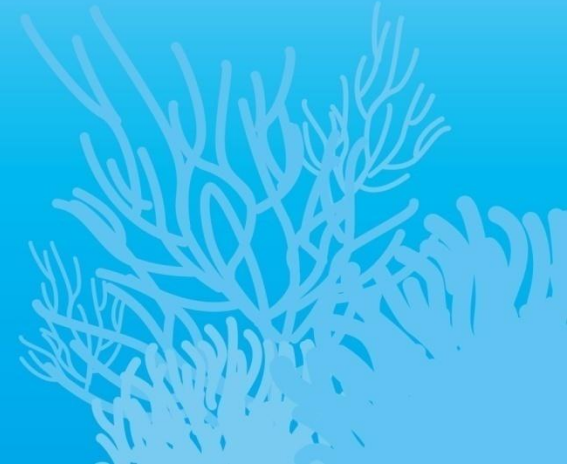
If ICRI does not have a visible role at these high stakes conventions for coral reefs and the marine environment (even if it is in well organized side events in which ICRI can get food publicity), its relevance will diminish.



# Engagement with MEA

It was also recommend to strength the current engagement with conventional processes, such as CBD, Ramsar, UNESCO, and with key regional institutions such as the Regional Seas.

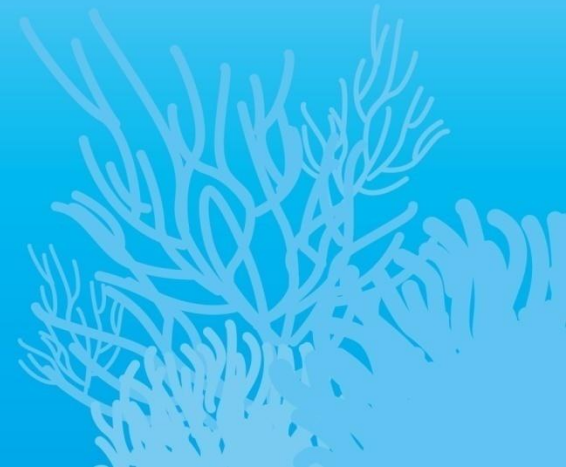
Moreover, ICRI needs to provide inputs to international/intergovernmental processes where relevant.



**⇒Continue to work with the major environmental conventions**

**⇒Continue to invite them at ICRI General Meetings**

**⇒Continue to submit inputs**





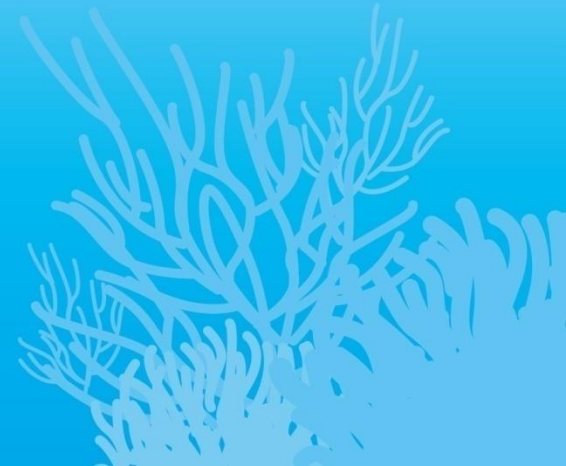
## **ICRI side events**

Organization of side events should continue but a clear message to get across should be define. They also need to be well organized, attractive and well publicized.

These events are also useful, in particular if this can be used for launching products.

- ICRI Side Event at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2010, 2008, 2006)
- UNFCCC (2009)
- Ramsar COP (2008)
- IUCN WCC (2008)
- SIDS Meeting (2005), World Summit for Sustainable Development, Johannesburg (2002)

**=> Continue to organize side events**



# Communication tools suggested:


- “social” tools: youtube posts, twitter
- donated pictures from coral reef scientist worldwide and from which specific projects are funded.
- brochures, posters, etc. could be developed in an ad hoc basis whenever needed
- Newsletters and more visibility ie through engagement with international processes
- occasional op-ed pieces in key newspapers on coral reef issues that are likely to resonate with the public.
- Side events



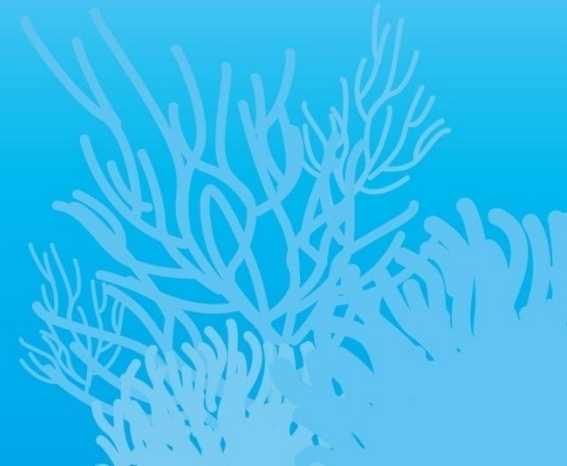
## Key messages

Key messages for ICRI could change according to time and situation and should be kept flexibly.

However some recurrent suggestions were about the **importance of healthy coral reef ecosystems for food security, poverty alleviation and local livelihoods.**

A decorative graphic of a coral reef, rendered in a light blue color, is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide. It features various branching and columnar coral structures.

⇒ Encourage the upcoming ICRI secretariat, in collaboration with ICRI members, to explore further the development of the tools mentioned



# ICRI funding

Funding for ICRI should remain as it is now.

The idea of creating of fund to be able to receive money and to contribute to the administration of the secretariat and the networks was not very well received. There are already many competing funds and the money lost in duplicate administration is considerable.

One possibility ICRI could explore is the partnership with the private sectors, such as the Danone-Evian partnership with Ramsar.

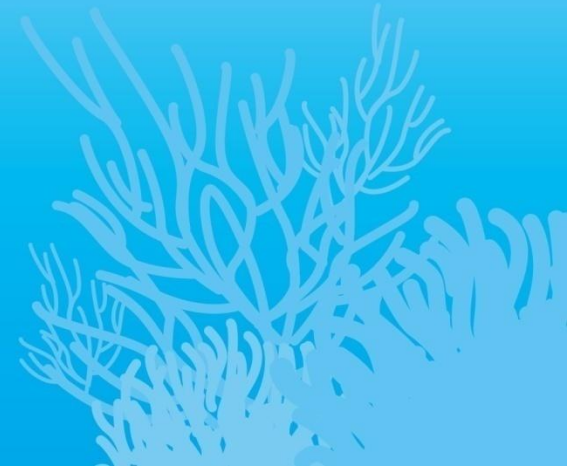
# Permanent hosting structure

A permanent hosting institution may have a lot of advantages: administrative support, institutional memory, take on considerable tasks in relation to outreach, communication and liaison, support continuity between secretariats, enhance regular tracking of progress in relation to decisions, work through ad hoc groups etc. between meetings

But also a lot of inconvenient: additional cost (that may not be worth the investment).



=> look at other partnerships to see how they are handling this (for example, the UN-Ocean model in which the secretariat is permanently housed by UNESCO/IOC, but the chairmanship rotates.)



if it ain't broke, don't try to fix it

