



A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION 2013

A roadmap for the ICRI continuing call to action



One of ICRI's Foundational documents, its Framework for Action, was adopted in 1995 along with the Call to Action, and reaffirmed in 1995 at the first International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS1). The Framework for Action identified mechanisms by which the Call could be implemented at global, regional and local levels, in four major areas which have become ICRI's four cornerstones:

- Integrated management
- Capacity building
- Science and monitoring
- Review.

This updated Framework for Action is designed to provide high-level guidance to governments and other stakeholders to implement management strategies and actions based on global best practices. It now includes a Vision statement, upon which underlying approaches and desired long-term outcomes are based. It also suggests strategies and approaches to best achieve these outcomes.

The Framework for Action builds upon and reflects the approaches established by major international processes, including the Convention of Biological Diversity's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (and particularly Aichi Target 10); the UN Secretary General's Report on the Protection of coral reefs and related ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods and development (A/66/150); Rio + 20's outcome document 'the Future We Want', the United Nations' 67th General Assembly Resolution on Oceans and the Law of the sea (particularly paragraph 200 which acknowledges the work of ICRI) and Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries.

OUR VISION

"Coral reefs and related ecosystems are used and managed in an ecologically sustainable manner to enhance their resilience and provide goods and services for generations to come."

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT



'Integrated management' refers to the adaptive, holistic, risk-based approach to management of coral reefs ecosystems, which takes into account the connectivity of land and sea influences and the cumulative impacts of anthropogenic uses and natural disturbances. It seeks to promote ecologically sustainable management through a long-term balance of ecological, social, cultural, economic and governance objectives. It integrates concerns of all stakeholders, including direct users, the private sector, various levels of governments, coastal communities and the civil society to increase resilience and maintain environmental services. ICRI adopted this concept as the best approach for sustainable management of coral reefs and related ecosystems in 1995 and continues to promote it within international, regional and national arenas. Today, this approach can be adopted by countries with an aim to achieving the Aichi Targets, and particularly Target 10.

Objective	Manage coral reefs and related ecosystems using an ecosystem approach, recognizing place based activity; connectivity within and among ecological, social, economic, and institutional systems; as well as with attention to scale; resilience of ecological and social systems; and long-term provision of ecosystem services.
General Approach	Integrated management, using a strategic, risk-based, informed approach, provides a framework for effective coral reef and related ecosystem management which supports natural resilience, ecosystem service provision, and enhances the ability to withstand the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.
Desired outcome	There is a demonstrable reduction in the threats to coral reefs and related ecosystems through management action.
Strategies and approaches	<p>Encourage governments to develop and implement legislation and integrated management programs, including through Marine Spatial Planning approaches (including targets and incorporating zoning and enforcement, managed access and participatory governance), to ensure that threats to coral reefs are systematically addressed. These programs may include addressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land-based sources of marine pollution, including land use in coastal areas and watersheds • Strategic planning of coastal development • Disaster risk reduction • Climate change adaptation • Ports and shipping, including ballast water management and dredging • Fisheries management, including enforcement and management of access, trade, etc. • Tourism and recreation • Traditional uses of marine resources • Prevention and management of marine Invasive Alien Species • Water quality assessment and management • Heritage management • Compliance <p>As part of these programs, encourage governments to conduct ecosystem-based strategic assessments of pressures and impacts, including cumulative impacts and their effect on ecosystem service provision and value, as well as of management arrangements to deal with such impacts.</p> <p>Promote and replicate successes in integrated management as appropriate, including new technologies that can help achieve the desired outcome.</p> <p>Encourage the mainstreaming of sustainable coral reef management into the activities of relevant international agencies, programs and conventions, financial institutions and the donor community.</p> <p>Encourage effective regulation and management of trade in marine wildlife and products.</p> <p>Promote review and, where appropriate, reformulation of existing domestic legal instruments that promote sustainable management of coral reefs and their related ecosystems.</p>

CAPACITY BUILDING



Capacity building includes establishing and strengthening human resource and institutional capabilities for improved management of coral reefs and related ecosystems. It is an important part of ICRI's work and a key element of its philosophy, reflected in General Meetings and on-ground activities through its networks, committees and regional initiatives. It encompasses a number of elements, including training, public awareness, stewardship, networking, education and partnership approaches.

Objective	To build capacity in all facets of management of coral reefs and related ecosystems and support dissemination and application of best practices to achieve the widest possible engagement of all stakeholders in planning and management activities.
General Approach	Continued collaboration, partnerships, outreach, information sharing and education to ensure the uptake of best practices and encourage behavioural change. This can only be successful if the diversity of cultures, traditions and governance among nations and regions are taken into account.
Desired outcome	Persons who have influence in the management of coral reef and related ecosystems have the knowledge, tools and capital necessary to apply best practices, adapted to the cultural and socio-economic context.
Strategies and approaches	Support and facilitate technical collaboration and voluntary information-sharing on all aspects of sustainable management of coral reefs and related ecosystems, including through regional and topical efforts carried by ICRI Networks, Ad Hoc Committees and regional initiatives, as well as other relevant regional mechanisms such as Regional Seas programmes.
	Encourage cooperation and collaboration amongst countries to set up networks of Marine Protected Areas or Locally Managed Marine Areas; investigate, support and encourage transboundary management of large Marine Protected Areas (including regional ocean governance initiatives) through bilateral or multilateral cooperation and pooling of resources.
	Promote improved access to training in financial (including public and non-public sources of funding), administrative (including business planning) and technological topics to enable improved collaboration, information sharing and management.
	Continue to encourage and support public awareness and education programs, and run global awareness raising campaigns on the values and threats to coral reefs through the declaration of International Year of the Reef (IYOR) years, such as was done in 1997 and 2008.
	Encourage reef stewardship through partnerships between governments, communities and the private sector, and encourage community-based management approaches.



Photograph courtesy of Eric Clua/CRISP



Photograph courtesy of Thomas Vignaud

SCIENCE & MONITORING



Targeted science and monitoring are vital to assess the status of coral reefs, evaluate the success of management and conservation actions and develop more effective management practices. Recognising this, ICRI founded the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) in 1995, to document the ecological condition of coral reefs, strengthen monitoring efforts, and link existing organisations and people collecting coral reef data worldwide. The GCRMN has since its inception produced regular reports on the Status of Coral Reefs of the World, along with regional and issue-specific reports as well as practical guides. ICRI will continue supporting and promoting the work of the GCRMN to better understand status and trends of coral reefs health worldwide, and ensure that best available information is used by managers to make evidence-based decisions.



Photograph courtesy of Thomas Vignaud/Alofa Tuvalu

Objective	To support research and citizen science approaches to enable countries and communities assess and report on the status of and threats to their coral reefs and related ecosystems in a coordinated, comparable and accessible manner.
General Approach	Research and monitoring programs are essential to ensure that management of coral reefs and related ecosystems is based on best available (scientific) information.
Desired outcome	Knowledge of the status and trends in coral reefs and related ecosystems health is enhanced and used to inform planning and management, improving management outcomes.
Strategies and approaches	Encourage the participation of governments, resource managers, scientists, the private sector and civil society in, and their contribution to, initiatives such as the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) and the Global Socioeconomic Monitoring of World's Tropical Ecosystems (SocMon) Network as a way to strengthen monitoring efforts to document status and trends of the world's coral reefs, dependent communities and sectors.
	Develop, share and promote best practice tools, protocols and methodologies for reef monitoring, and encourage their adoption through regional intergovernmental mechanisms and uptake by governments as well as a wide range of stakeholders, to broaden the spatial coverage of monitoring whilst strengthening regional networks of data collectors through GCRMN and SocMon regional nodes.
	Seek practical ways to integrate environmental, management, and socioeconomic data to better understand the primary factors responsible for coral reef decline and how these stresses may be more effectively alleviated.
	Encourage the development of a statistical framework that enables the adequate analysis of heterogeneous, spatially disparate collections of short time series data to strengthen region-wide or global reporting on the status and trends of coral reefs.
	Encourage research and monitoring of related ecosystems, particularly seagrass meadows, mangrove forests and tidal wetlands.
	Disseminate information and results to coral reef and related ecosystem managers on a regular basis to help guide policy and actions.
	Promote the application of monitoring and evaluation activities of the programs implemented, to determine their effectiveness.

PERIODIC ASSESSMENT (REVIEW)



For management to be effective, it needs to be regularly measured, assessed and adapted. Matters such as improved knowledge; the advent of new tools, technologies and management mechanisms; and changes in cultural, geo-political, economic and environmental contexts; call for regular revision and updating of existing management measures to adapt them to changing circumstances. This is the fourth cornerstone of ICRI, which reiterates the cyclic nature of management and the need for continual improvement at both strategic and operational levels through adaptive learning. This can also apply to a review of this framework to reflect current practices, trends in management practices and social and policy priorities.

Objective	To engage in periodic review of the impact and effectiveness of all elements of management to enable evaluation and refinement of management measures in an adaptive framework.
General Approach	Periodic assessments of management effectiveness and evaluation of projects and activities to ensure the efficacy of management tools and systems in tackling the range of pressures affecting coral reefs and related ecosystems and protecting the values associated with them.
Desired outcome	Management processes and activities are regularly reviewed and improved using a structured approach, to enhance their ability to effectively reduce pressures and threats.
Strategies and approaches	Implement regular assessments of management effectiveness of all approaches to managing coral reef and related ecosystems, including the assessment of all components of the management process.
	Engage all stakeholders, including indigenous and local communities, in relevant elements of management effectiveness assessment.
	Use the results of these assessments to adapt and improve future management action.



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