



Summary Record

Presented by the ICRI Secretariat

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The second general meeting of the UK/Seychelles secretariat was held on 3rd to 4th July 2004 in Okinawa, Japan. The meeting was co-chaired by Rolph Payet of the Seychelles and Robert Canning of the UK.

The meeting was productive and fostered greater ownership and purpose among the coral reef community, including a better sense of how the ICRI partnership can function as advocate and informal international co-ordinator. In brief, links with the CBD were strengthened; the focus of ICRI working groups was improved; positive outcomes on trade in coral reefs were reached, and cold water corals are now included in the remit of ICRI. The ICRI membership increased with the joining of Norway and Palau and agreement was reached on Japan and Palau to host the next ICRI secretariat. Along with scorecards to mainstream coral reef issues and an embryonic communication/delivery strategy, the tools exist for ICRI to chart a more purposeful course.

Summary of decisions adopted and actions agreed.

Decisions

1. Four decisions were adopted:
 - i. [Decision on the next ICRI secretariat; Japan and Palau](#)
 - ii. [Decision on MPA ad hoc committee](#)
 - iii. [Decision on Cold Water Coral Reefs](#)
 - iv. [Decision on International Trade](#)

Working groups and ad hoc committees with new mandates.

2. The work of ICRI's working groups, ad hoc committees and discussion groups.
 - i. Cold water coral ad hoc committee to prepare terms of reference and a draft work programme on cold water coral reefs and related ecosystems.
 - ii. The MPA ad hoc committee to produce by the next Seychelles ICRI meeting a work plan with its objectives for the next 2 years.
 - iii. The ICRIN informal ad hoc committee to determine the future of ICRIN.
 - iv. ITMEMS 3 planning working group to develop a detailed proposal for ITMEMS 3 for decision at the next ICRI meeting.

Actions agreed

3. Marjo Vierros to undertake further discussion on peer review of the CBD targets through a discussion-mailing group.
4. The ICRI secretariat to prepare a response to the letter from Hamdallah Zedan of the CBD secretariat on the outcomes of COP 7.
5. The ICRI co-chairs to write a letter to the co-chairs of the ICP to draw attention to relevant CBD COP7 decisions with the aim of influencing the UN resolution on Oceans.
6. Rolph Payet to lead a discussion group on the ICRI Forum on activities for the Barbados + 10 meeting in Mauritius, January 2005.

7. France to consider and inform the organisers of the Barbados + 10 meeting and the ICRI secretariat of the possibility of presenting its initiative towards the protection and sustainable management of coral reefs in Small Islands States of the Pacific ocean, to the Barbados + 10 meeting.
8. The UK to establish the time scale for the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries review process.
9. Robert Baldi, Paul Holthus and Jamie Oliver to liaise with Jock Campbell in order to prepare an ICRI position paper on the importance of coral reef fisheries to feed into the CCRF review process to be reported on at the next general meeting.
10. UNEP CRU to consider comments raised by ICRI in the revision of the proposed terms of reference on dredging in coral reef areas.
11. The “ICRAN – Reefs for People” proposal and a cover note to be posted on the Forum until the 3rd September 2004 for members comments. The ICRI secretariat to compile views which will be used to moderate the negotiation of compromise between ICRAN partners.
12. Cold water coral ad hoc committee:
 - i. Current cold water coral ad hoc committee to be extended to include representatives from the UK, US, Norway and UNEP, with others invited to participate.
 - ii. Cold water coral ad hoc committee to prepare terms of reference and a draft work programme on cold-water coral reefs and related ecosystems for consideration by the next ICRI meeting
13. The UK to write a letter to their Overseas Territories to pilot test the ICRI scorecard.
14. The ICRI secretariat to consider financial support for the continuation of the ICRI Forum.
15. ITMEMS 3 planning working group to develop a detailed proposal for ITMEMS 3 for decision at the next ICRI meeting. Discussion to take place on the ICRI Forum.
16. Discussion on the ICRI Forum to establish a suitable date for the next ICRI General Meeting in the Seychelles and potential activities for the 10th Anniversary of the ICRI Call to Action and the Framework for Action.
17. ICRI secretariat to produce an ICRI brochure.

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1.0 - OPENING OF MEETING

1.1 - *Invocation and opening remarks*

1. Daizaburo Kuroda of the Ministry of Environment Japan welcomed all participants to the second ICRI meeting of the UK/Seychelles secretariat. Reference was made to the Okinawa Declaration on Conservation and Restoration of Endangered Coral Reefs of the World. A copy can be found at www.icriforum.org/secretariat/oki_declaration.html
2. Mr. Kuroda further pointed out that ICRI is in a unique position to actively promote the conservation of coral reefs. Japan was one of the nations which helped to establish ICRI and Japan has been involved in coral reef activities for many years, as well as being actively involved in GCRMN East Asian Node.
3. Finally, it was hoped that this meeting would provide outcomes that guide coral reef conservation worldwide.

1.2 - *Adoption of the agenda*

4. The draft agenda of the meeting was adopted with minor changes.

2.0 - MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

5. At the last ICRI general meeting in the Turks and Caicos Islands, November 2003, ICRI agreed to the continuity of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) working group. In Okinawa, the matter was brought to the meeting for further discussion.
6. A proposal was submitted to the meeting agreeing to continue the working group for a two-year period. The aim would be to work out how ICRI can assist other fora and countries in taking forward MPA work, with a focus on coral reefs. The name of the group was changed to 'the MPA ad hoc committee' to be led by Robert Cudney of Mexico.
7. In conclusion:
 - i. The [Decision on MPA ad hoc committee](#) was accepted by ICRI.
 - ii. The MPA ad hoc committee will produce by the next ICRI meeting a work plan with its objectives including potential for collaboration with CBD and SIDS, and improving MPA management.

3.0 - NEW ICRI MEMBERS AND WELCOME OF OBSERVERS

Supporting documents: [Norway membership statement](#) and [Palau request for membership](#)

8. Norway attended its first ICRI meeting in TCI, November 2003, as an observer. In Okinawa, Mai Britt Knoph expressed Norway's interest in cold water coral reefs and tropical coral reefs. She extended Norway's support for ICRI policy documents i.e. the Call to Action and the Framework for Action and expressed Norway's wish to join ICRI.
9. Joel Miles from Palau conveyed the regret of Youlsau Bells who could not attend the meeting due to illness. Joel noted the support of Palau to ICRI's Call to Action and the Framework for

Action. Palau intends to take an expanded international role in the protection of coral reefs and respectfully requested membership in ICRI.

10. In conclusion the meeting accepted Norway and Palau as new ICRI members. Both Mai Britt Knoph and Joel Miles thanked ICRI for accepting their membership.

4.0 - REPORT FROM THE ICRI SECRETARIAT

4.1 – Update of ICRI Secretariat activities since November 2003

Supporting document: [ICRI GM \(1\) 2004/4.1/Inf](#)

11. Elvina Henriette of the Designated Administrative Representative of ICRI (UNEP-WCMC) provided an overview of the secretariat's activities since November 2003. Further information can be found in the supporting document.

4.2 - Report of progress on small grant projects

12. An update on the small grant projects funded by the UK was given. Work had begun on all three projects and interim reports on progress would be posted on the Forum. The projects are scheduled for completion by the time of the next ICRI general meeting in the Seychelles, when full reports would be made.

4.2 – ICRI News – the ICRI Newsletter

Supporting document: [Presentation](#)

13. At the last ICRI meeting in TCI a small working group consisting of A. Paterson, R. Baldi and F. Staub, was formed to investigate the feasibility of producing an ICRI newsletter to communicate the ICRI message.
14. The first issue of the newsletter was launched in [March 2004](#), and the second one in [June 2004](#). They were distributed by e-mail to all ICRI Forum users, the Coral list, the Caribbean coral reef mailing list, the World Bank ICZM mailing list and to all NOAA staff. Several partner websites such as ICRAN, IUCN and ICRIN have linked to the ICRI newsletter. Copies are available on the ICRI Forum.
15. Members were requested to:
 - i. Provide information for the ICRI newsletter. Items for the third edition should be sent to the ICRI newsletter team at newsletter@icriforum.org by the 27th August.
 - ii. To help in the distribution of the newsletter.
16. In conclusion:
 - i. The number of hits on the ICRI Forum doubled ever since the introduction of the newsletter.
 - ii. There has been a relatively limited electronic distribution of the newsletter and the option of distributing hard copies of the newsletter is not a viable due to funding.
 - iii. ICRI requested members to submit news from the regions and to make suggestions on special topics for the rest of the year. The output of the 10th ICRS will be included in the next issue of the newsletter.
 - iv. Rolph Payet will submit an article on small island states and coral reefs from the Seychelles for the next issue.

4.3 – Proposal for the 2005-2007 Secretariat

Supporting document: [ICRI GM \(1\) 2004/4.3/1](#)

17. A proposal was received from the Governments of Japan & the Republic of Palau for hosting the next ICRI secretariat.

18. Mr. Daizabura Kuroda of Japan expressed his government's appreciation of the UK, Seychelles, USA, Australia, France, Sweden and the Philippines contribution in hosting the ICRI secretariat over the last decade. Japan offered to serve as the secretariat from July 2005 to June 2007 and welcomed Palau to co-host the secretariat.
19. Joel Miles on behalf of the President of the Republic of Palau expressed that Palau is very honoured to be considered for this prestigious opportunity to co-host the secretariat with Japan and accepted the government of Japan's invitation.
20. In conclusion, the proposal from the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Palau to co-host the ICRI secretariat from July 2005 until June 2007 was accepted by ICRI and congratulation was extended to both governments.

4.4 – Announcement/ introduction of ICRAN Committee decision for consideration by ICRI members

21. Discussion on this item can be found under agenda item 9.1.

5.0 - REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

5.1 – Regional Sustainable Tourism/ Fisheries

22. There was no presentation on this issue. However, the co-chair expressed the need to keep this item on ICRI agenda, as it is an important area that deserves attention.

5.2 – South Pacific Coral Reef Initiative

Supporting document: [Presentation](#)

23. The AFD (Agence Française de Développement) and FEEM (French GEF) initiative for the coral reefs in the South Pacific (CRISP) has as primary objective to 'support the protection and management of coral reefs for sustainable development in the South Pacific'. CRISP work is being undertaken in partnership with various organisations such as WWF, Conservation International, ICRAN, SPREP, WorldFish Centre and IFRECOR.
24. CRISP is focussing on three components including marine protected areas, knowledge management, economic value of reef ecosystems and overall CRISP coordination. On a geographical scale CRISP work encompasses more than ten island states and three French Overseas Territories.
25. In conclusion, the presentation was well received by the participants.

6.0 - ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER PROCESSES

6.1 – Outcomes of CBD and future interactions– including Coral Bleaching/ Cold water corals

Supporting document: [ICRI Agenda Item 6.1](#) and [Presentation](#)

26. The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 7) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9th – 20th February 2004. Thirty-six decisions were adopted which are available at the following website <http://www.biodiv.org/decisions/>
27. The results of COP 7 included:
 - i. New decisions and guidance on marine and coastal protected areas.
 - ii. A new work plan on coral bleaching, to which ICRI provided a lot of input.
 - iii. Recognition of the need to protect high seas biodiversity, including cold water corals/seamount ecosystems.
28. The CBD COP 7 recognised the importance of the on-going collaboration between ICRI and the CBD by taking note with appreciation of the joint ICRI/SCBD information document, which

presents the ICRI resolutions on Small Island States and cold water coral reefs. Rolph Payet represented ICRI at CBD COP 7.

29. The meeting was informed of the peer review of CBD targets on marine and coastal biodiversity.
30. In discussion the following points were raised:
 - i. Members were satisfied that the partnership between CBD and ICRI has been strengthened and that there are a lot of consistencies between the work of the CBD & ICRI. However, there is a need to broaden funding for regional country-based projects that can support a span of activities.
 - ii. There is a proposal under the CBD to address peer review of CBD targets on marine and coastal targets. A draft of the proposal will be circulated to all ICRI members. A discussion (mailing) list will be set up for further discussion within the ICRI community.
 - iii. Members were urged to participate in the process of the ad hoc technical expert group on islands under the CBD of which the focus will be on vulnerability of islands.
 - iv. Intervention at the political level for better management of coral reef ecosystems was also raised as an important issue.
 - v. Congratulation was extended to ICRI member countries for their contribution and progress made in MPAs and for substantial discussions and presentations on marine issues at the 10th ICRS.
31. In conclusion, a discussion-mailing group led by Marjo Vierros will be set up for further discussion on the peer review of the CBD targets. This will take place on the ICRI Forum.

The CBD letter

32. The chair introduced a letter from the Hamdallah Zedan of the CBD secretariat to inform ICRI on the outcomes of CBD COP 7 and to ask for collaborations and assistance from ICRI in the process. The chair invited comments from members on ICRI's contribution to the letter.
33. In conclusion, the ICRI secretariat will prepare a draft response to the letter. This will be posted on the ICRI Forum for comments prior to being sent.

6.2 – Outcomes of the ICP UNICPOLOS meeting

34. The 5th Meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS) in New York, took place on the 7th – 11th June 2004.
35. The meeting was on new sustainable uses of the oceans including conservation and management of the biological diversity of the seabed in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
36. A workshop on the Global Marine Assessment was also held during the meeting.
37. In discussion the following points were raised:
 - i. As the CBD calls for urgent actions to protect marine biodiversity, it would be appropriate for ICRI to echo and support the CBD positions at UNICPOLOS.
 - ii. Members were encouraged to look at UNICPOLOS outcomes.
38. In conclusion, the ICRI co-chairs will write a letter to the ICP co-chairs to draw attention inter alia relevant CBD COP7 decisions, ICP outcomes and the role of ICRI in protecting vulnerable biodiversity. The aim will be to influence the UN Oceans resolution so that it reflects the combined, key elements of the CBD COP and ICP outcomes.

6.3 – WW2BW outcomes of Miami, March 2004

39. The White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) partnership initiative convened a conference in Miami, 21st – 24th March 2004. The WW2BW Partnership Conference, developed nearly 100 partnerships and drew more than 700 participants representing more than 30 countries. The WW2BW process and outcomes in the Caribbean may serve as a blueprint for future analogous efforts in Africa and the South Pacific.

40. More information is found on the WW2BW website (www.ww2bw.org) and the ICRI [newsletter of June 2004](#) respectively.
41. In discussion the following points were raised:
- i. The meeting was informed of the ICRAN Mesoamerican Reef Alliance Project which was one of the major contributions to WW2BW.
 - ii. IUCN was also involved in WW2BW where the resilience toolkit was launched.
 - iii. UNEP was represented at WW2BW by members from GPA and the UNEP CEP. The Coral Reef Unit at UNEP-WCMC commissioned two documentaries on the land-based pollution and impact on marine environment. The documentaries were produced in close collaboration with ICRAN and its sites, particularly Vietnam and Fiji. These were screened on BBC World.

6.4 – Update on the SIDS Barbados +10 Process

42. Since a number of activities are being implemented, there is no need for a new action plan, but there is a need to identify key emerging issues to be addressed in the future.
43. The SIDS resolution adopted by ICRI at TCI in November 2003 was incorporated into the coastal and marine, and biodiversity sections (paragraph 87) of the text. Hence, there is now a paragraph tackling coral reefs and SIDS.
44. The Barbados + 10 meeting in Mauritius has been postponed to January 2005.
45. In discussion the following points were raised:
- i. There was a proposal to form a discussion group to prepare guidance on possible ICRI side events and PR materials for Barbados + 10.
 - ii. There were fears that coral reefs might drop off the Barbados + 10 agenda. Thus, members were called upon to support initiatives to strengthen interest in coral reef issues at Barbados + 10, but also for them to encourage their governments and stakeholders to keep an interest in coral reef issues.
46. In conclusion, the following actions were agreed:
- i. Rolph Payet to convene a discussion on the ICRI Forum on
 - (a) Possible ICRI side events at Barbados + 10.
 - (b) Discussion on a ministerial event at Barbados + 10.
 - (c) The type and level of information materials at Barbados + 10 to raise awareness of importance of coral reefs, and also get other SIDS interested in ICRI.
 - ii. France to consider and inform the organisers of the Barbados + 10 and the ICRI secretariat of the possibility of presenting its initiative towards the protection and sustainable management of coral reefs in Small Islands States of the Pacific ocean, to the Barbados + 10 meeting.

6.5 – Output of the ICRS Meeting

47. On behalf of the local organising committee, Makoto Tuchiya, the chairman of ICRS organising Committee thanked all for participating at the 10th ICRS.
48. The 10th ICRS received around 1400 participants from about 90 countries. There were 1400 presentations including posters. The [Okinawa declaration](#) was also adopted at the meeting.
49. Mr. Tuchiya expressed the need for better cooperation between JCRS and ICRI for improved management and conservation of reefs in Japan.
50. In discussion, the following points were raised:
- i. The meeting thanked the ICRS organising committee and all other organisations involved.

- ii. Reference was made to the ICRI booth, which was successful in attracting participants to the activities of ICRI and its achievements.
- iii. The ICRI special session unfortunately received little participation especially from scientist, which shows the big divide between scientist and policy makers.
- iv. ICRI plenary sessions at ICRS and invitations of ICRS members and organising committee to ICRI general meetings should continue.

7.0 - EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 - ICRI Publication “Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2004”

Supporting Document: [ICRI GM \(1\)2004/7.1](#)

51. The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) “Status of the Coral Reefs 2004” report will be released in late November at the World Conservation Congress. The report is seen as ICRI’s main, current communication tool. Its success depends on timely reporting from regional nodes and networks and additional resources.
52. In conclusion:
- i. ICRI partners were requested to assist in the production of the report by contributing materials to the initial chapters, by assisting the 80 countries and nodes to produce their reports, and by assisting with funding or the search for funding for the publication.
 - ii. Members were asked to aid distribution of the publication and publicity including media coverage to ensure that the intended audiences of governments, agency officials, policy makers and the public are reached.
 - iii. An Executive Summary of the “Status of Coral Reefs of the World, 2004” will be translated and published for dissemination at the Mauritius, Barbados +10 meeting in January 2005. ICRI members were asked to assist in the translation into as many languages represented at this meeting as possible.

7.2 – FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) + 10 Review

Supporting Document: [ICRI GM \(1\)2004/7.2](#)

53. FAO’s Code of Conduct is due for review in 2005. The Code offers the opportunity to be a major tool for the sustainable and equitable management and development of reef ecosystems, but the lack of explicit reference to reefs combined with the lack of guidance on how to deal with the specific and urgent threats to the reef ecosystem, limits the effectiveness of that role.
54. In conclusion:
- i. ICRI agreed to take this issue forward to ensure that coral reef interests are factored in the Code of Conduct.
 - ii. The UK (Robert Baldi) to establish the time scale for the CCRF review process and assess if it is possible for ICRI to establish a position for agreement at the next ICRI General Meeting.
 - iii. Robert Baldi, Paul Holthus and Jamie Oliver to liaise with Jock Campbell to prepare an ICRI position paper on the importance of coral reef fisheries to feed into the CCRF review process to be reported on at the next general meeting.

7.3 – An ICRI Communication Strategy

Supporting Document: [ICRI GM \(1\) 2004/7.3](#) and [Presentation](#)

55. ICRI has in the last 10 years carried out a lot of activities. However, there are concerns as to how well the goals and achievements of ICRI have been communicated to wider audiences.
56. A draft paper for the need for a communication strategy was presented to the meeting.
57. In discussion, the paper stimulated a number of ideas to be carried forward in future deliberations, as summarised:
 - i. The meeting agreed on the importance of communication and delivery approaches which focus on the needs of ICRI, i.e. to:
 - (a) Strengthen the role of ICRI and the secretariat,
 - (b) Improve efficiency and co-ordination,
 - (c) Monitor the achievements and progress of ICRI and ICRI meetings,
 - (d) Clarify the potential role of ICRI and partners in advocating coral reef conservation, the tools they have available and the opportunities for doing so, and
 - (e) Enable the increased participation of new members, in particular from developing countries and community organisations.
 - ii. Current abundance of acronyms does not help the clarification of ICRI's message.
 - iii. Suggested that a short brochure explaining ICRI and its operational networks could serve as a useful communication tool.
58. In conclusion the secretariat will consider the measures that would be taken, including the production on an ICRI brochure.

7.4 – Dredging in Coral Reef Areas

Supporting Document: [ICRI GM \(1\) 2004/7.4](#)

59. UNEP Coral Reef Unit (CRU) reported that industries and other stakeholders had expressed interest in a compendium of practices, guidance, rules e.t.c that countries around the world have used and applied in dredging activities and whether this could be used to develop indicative guidance or guidelines.
60. In discussion these points were raised:
 - i. UNEP CRU should consider the production of good and bad dredging practices, rather than guidelines. These should be non-binding and advisory based on scientific information and case studies of a wide range of types of dredging activities.
 - ii. Caution should be taken in the wording of advice/guidance for dredging activities since some types of dredging are illegal in some countries and not others.
 - iii. It was recommended that a thorough literature review on dredging and its impacts be undertaken.
 - iv. Concerns were expressed that the production of guidelines for such a large, complex industry might lead to oversimplification of issues.
 - v. A representative from the dredging industry sector should be invited to attend the next ICRI meeting.
61. In conclusion:
 - i. UNEP CRU will consider the valuable comments raised by ICRI in the revision of the proposed terms of reference. The CRU will inform the next meeting of progress made in this matter.
 - ii. UNEP CRU will provide the ICRI secretariat with the contact details for an appropriate representative of the industry to attend the next ICRI meeting.
 - iii. ICRI members to contribute to discussion and provide case studies to the Coral Reef Unit.

- iv. Paul Holthus to provide contacts and details of literature and studies.

7.5 ICRI's research priorities and facilitating the release of funding

- 62. Outcomes of the 10th ICRS and stakeholder consultations held by the ICRI secretariat in the UK and Seychelles all highlighted the need to improve the linkages between science and policy. In order for policy to be better informed by science, policy relevant science is required as well as continuing improvements in enabling the appropriate dissemination of scientific findings and the information flow from scientist to policy maker. Identification of long term funding sources is needed to support these changes.
- 63. In discussion it was felt that ICRI should not become involved in research per se, but should provide guidance and direction as to what research is required.
- 64. The role of ICRI was discussed and the key themes emerging were that it should:
 - i. Facilitate information flow between scientists and policy makers,
 - ii. Facilitate the management of funding streams
 - iii. Potentially, ICRI could operate as the market place between donors and projects. A database of on going and completed research as well as funding opportunities would assist this role.
 - iv. There is a need to assist in the coordination of information that is now being collected, in some areas, such as the South Pacific, monitoring data is being gathered over time, but regional bodies need assistance in ensuring coordination and full use of the data.
 - v. A number of private industries could be encouraged to undertake monitoring activities as an effort to fulfil environmental responsibilities. Products such as those produced by GCRMN could help the standardisation of such data.
- 65. In conclusion it was agreed that:
 - i. Ecological and socio-economic monitoring are key elements of the management process.
 - ii. Funding is a critical issue and members were requested to provide support to help sustain coral reef research and management activities.

8.0 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MEMBERS REPORTS

8.1 - Report from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

- 66. The new zoning plan of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) took effect on the 1st July 2004.
- 67. An initial US\$20M has been received to implement the plans over 3 years. This will be used for training, community educational programmes, production of maps, e.t.c.
- 68. Over 500 000 maps have been produced and distributed. Information booklets were also produced.
- 69. In terms of enforcement a more user-friendly approach in terms of education will be used, then move to a more powerful enforcement. However, there is still illegal activity (especially live coral trade).
- 70. For educational purposes, a sheet on 'Reef Guardian School Programme' was produced to encourage schools to become involved. Tourism operators and local governments are also interested to be involved.
- 71. In discussion, the following points were raised:
 - i. There is a need to look at how education and management can be improved.
 - ii. The GBRMPA has been long process indeed – up to 20 years. The same process will probably take longer in the developing world.

8.2 - Report of the World Bank (Targeted Research; Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Project)

Supporting document: [Presentation](#)

More information can be found at www.worldbank.org

72. Coral Reef Targeted Research and capacity building for management is a GEF/WB programme with 4 components and activities in 4 coral reef areas; Mesoamerica, East Africa, Philippines, Australia (GBR). This is seen as a 15-year project with collaboration with University of Queensland in partnership with UNESCO and IOC.
73. There are 4 centres of excellence – (1) Puerto Morelos Marine Laboratory in Mexico; (2) Institute of Marine Science in Zanzibar – University of Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania; (3) Bolinao Marine Laboratory, University of the Philippines; and (4) Heron Island Research Station, University of Queensland Centre for Marine Studies which will act as information gateways. These will be linked in with other projects in the regions, hopefully generating tools that will lead into the management activities. Centres of excellence will have resources to carry out local research activities.
74. In conclusion the presentation was noted by the meeting.

8.3 - The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL)/ International Coral Reef Information Network

Supporting document: [ICRI Agenda Item 8.3](#)

75. A summary report from the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) on ICRIN was given.
76. There is a lot of information available on ICRIN. There is an on line catalogue, discussion board, photo library and an NGO directory.
77. The website is well visited with about 7000 hits a month. Numerous requests are received daily for support, information and on technical matters.
78. The ICRIN site hosted at CORAL has been kept ongoing although there has not been any funding since January 2003.
79. In conclusion an informal ad hoc committee moderated by Jamie Oliver with partners from ICRAN, UNEP-WCMC, ICRI forum, Reef Check and CORAL was set up. The ad hoc committee will have the mandate of determining the future of ICRIN.

8.4 - Marine Aquarium Council (MAC)

Supporting document: [ICRI agenda item 8.4](#)

80. MAC was set up to address the problems of marine trade. A series of international standards, management plans and other tools have been set up. MAC has been involved with UNEP-WCMC in establishing a database on aquarium trade.
81. A video on MAC and their activities was shown and pointing to the need to get coral reef information out as in the animation 'Nemo' which got the attention of viewers around the world.
82. In conclusion, the presentation and short film were well received by the meeting.

8.5 - Activities of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) of UNEP

Supporting document: [ICRI agenda item 8.5](#)

83. Stefan Hain conveyed the apology from members of the Caribbean Environment Programme who could not attend the meeting and mentioned that the report is available.
84. The report outlines the major activities of CEP in support of ICRI's objectives for the period November 2003 – July 2004. These include:
 - i. White Water to Blue Water Initiative.

- ii. Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) in the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean
- iii. Swedish Support for the Caribbean Environment Programme for 2003-2006
- iv. ICRAN's demonstration and target sites activities, and so on.
- v. Coordinating partner of the ICRAN MAR Project.

8.6 - IOC/ UNESCO and UNESCO WHC Progress Reports

Supporting document: [ICRI agenda item 8.6.a](#) and [ICRI agenda item 8.6.b](#)

8.6.a - IOC/UNESCO Progress Report

85. An update on IOC/UNESCO coral reef related activities is briefly outlined below. More detailed information is found in the supporting document.
- i. GCRMN in the ROPME Sea area.
 - ii. GCRMN in South Asia.
 - iii. Reprint of 'Poverty and Reefs' publication through financial support from the ICRI secretariat and IOC/UNESCO.
 - iv. IOC-GEF/WB Working Group on Coral Bleaching and the CBD.

8.6.b - UNESCO WHC Progress Report

86. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre continues to implement its Marine Programme. Activities to identify world heritage sites that contains coral reefs is ongoing.
87. Discussions have been initiated with the Coral Reef Alliance to establish collaboration between WHC and CORAL in relation to capacity building at world heritage coral reef sites on sustainable coral reef recreation.
88. The World Heritage Centre is interested in co-operating with ICRI for the conservation of existing and proposed World Heritage coral reef sites and welcomes ideas for collaboration.
89. In conclusion, the presentations were noted by the meeting.

8.7- National Country Reports

90. There were a number of very good presentations. Importantly, these served to underline the potential of the ICRI partnership to raise awareness and promote synergies.

8.7.1 – Belize country report

Supporting document: [ICRI Agenda Item 8.7/1](#)

91. Although Belize has not been actively participating in the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), it has made great strides in developing and executing activities that are in line with ICRI's Call to Action and Framework for Action. The activities are outlined in the supporting document.

8.7.2 – Colombia country report

Supporting document: [ICRI Agenda Item 8.7/2](#)

92. Columbia has 49 protected areas of which only 7 contain coral reefs. Most of the coral reef research has been done on these seven protected areas.
93. Actions are requested to implement within coral reef protected areas of the world:

- i. Inventory of ecological, social and economic indicators
- ii. Monitoring Programs
- iii. SIG
- iv. Assessments of Management Effectiveness
- v. Decision Support Systems

94. Further information is found in the supporting document.

8.7.3 – Report of the French Coral Reef Initiative (IFRECOR) activities

Supporting document: [ICRI Agenda Item 8.7/3 \(Eng\)](#) [ICRI Agenda Item 8.7/3 \(French\)](#)
[Presentation](#)

- 95. The French Coral Reef Initiative (IFRECOR) is a national initiative for overseas territories with coral reefs.
- 96. The initiative serves to raise awareness, exchange of experiences between overseas territories and the need for community participation to ensure sustainable management of coral reefs.
- 97. IFRECOR strengthened its links with ICRI at its last IFRECOR meeting when a representative of the ICRI secretariat, M. Jude Bijoux of the Seychelles was invited.
- 98. Further information on IFRECOR can be found at http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/rubrique.php?id_rubrique=259
- 99. Members were requested to think about how to share this knowledge with other countries.

8.7.4 – Indonesia country report

Supporting document: [ICRI Agenda Item 8.7/4](#)

- 100. An overview of the coral reef resources in Indonesia and their current status, the key human induced pressures (dependence of coastal communities on coral reefs, destructive fishing practices and land-based sources of pollution) was presented to the meeting.
- 101. The Coral Reef Information and Training Centre (CRITC) was established by the Institute of Sciences to conduct international outreach, distribute and disseminate awareness raising materials and build capacities across a range of stakeholders.
- 102. An outline of the national policy concepts for coral reef management as well as a description of the principles, strategies and programmes that guide policy making was given.

8.8 - IUCN report

- 103. IUCN World Conservation Union announced its new publication entitled “IUCN Global Coral Reef Portfolio”. The Portfolio brings together the coral reef activities that are taking place throughout the Union, including the secretariat, regional offices, commissions (particularly the Species Survival Commission and the World Commission on Protected Areas) and significant partnership initiatives. It is a first step in developing a more targeted strategic coral reef program within IUCN.
- 104. IUCN is looking forward to increased engagement in coral reef issues, for example in coral reef invasive species and in coral reef resilience initiatives as well as strengthening current investment in coral reef regions and policy relevant to reefs.
- 105. The involvement of ICRI membership in developing and implementing further work was welcomed.

8.9 - WWF report

- 106. The importance of communicating to larger communities was stressed.

107. The activities of WWF were briefly outlined.

- i. WWF has been working with academic partners on economic valuation of coral reefs.
- ii. Working with World Bank on projects such as Management Effectiveness of MPAs.
- iii. Sponsored publication on worldwide cost of MPAs.
- iv. Establishment of MPAs in the East African Marine Eco-region (EAME).
- v. In Philippines - assessing use of diver fees to help fund the parks.
- vi. Working with ICRAN to further MPA and coral reef awareness activities in Vietnam.

108. WWF extended their thanks to Norway for supporting cold water corals, and to Australia for their contribution and a great step forward in MPA establishment.

8.10 – Reef Check report

109. An update on the development within Reef Check since the last ICRI general meeting was given. These are briefly listed below'

- i. Members interested in training and organising workshops were invited to contact Reef Check, so that they can help.
- ii. Reef Check has been collaborating with various partners (governments, NGOs, academia).
- iii. Reef Check has now grown to a full service NGO and by the end of the year it will be a fully independent organisation.
- iv. Reef Check is undertaking a GEF project on aquarium trade in collaboration with MAC.
- v. Socio-economic monitoring will be starting soon in collaboration with NOAA and GCRMN.
- vi. A web based reef advisory system under development.

8.11 – WorldFish Centre

110. An update of activities at the World Fish Centre was given to the meeting.

- i. The Solomon Islands are culturing black pearls, which are being sold through an auction.
- ii. A WorldFish/ICRAN GEF project is being developed. This will be a knowledge-based project drawing on all lessons learned from all other GEF projects. Members were encouraged to provide their views.
- iii. The World Fish Centre is re-organising activities into certain campaigns. One of which will look at is coral reef livelihoods.
- iv. ReefBase is working closely with Reef Check, by also hosting their website and database. Members interested in hosting their website at ReefBase were encouraged to do so as they can benefit from advantages like access to ReefBase.
- v. ReefBase recently published monitoring assessment of bleaching protocol with WWF. A copy is available on ReefBase.
- vi. ReefBase will progressively load papers of all coral reef symposia on its website and will work with ISRS to achieve this.
- vii. ReefBase and UNEP-WCMC will be repositories for information coming out of the millennium-mapping project.

111. In conclusion, the reports and presentations were noted by the meeting.

9.0 - ICRI OPERATIONAL NETWORKS

9.1 - ICRAN: Discussion of ICRAN Committee's recommendations on the future of ICRAN

ICRAN Status report

Supporting document: [ICRI GM \(1\)2004/9.1a/Inf](#) and [ICRI GM \(1\)2004/9.1.b/Inf](#)

112. The information presented is within the March 2004 edition of the ICRAN biannual newsletter and a summarised account of further ICRAN activities that have taken place outside the scope of the newsletter.
113. In discussion it was highlighted that ICRAN would like to see the continued expansion of sites in the various regions and provide an increased number of opportunities for site exchanges and learning exchange.
114. It is clear that an integrated approach is required to achieve community sustainability and tackle issues of poverty in reef dependent communities. There may well be scope to increase site-based activities to encourage more community learning about the ecosystems on which they depend.

The future of ICRAN

Additional supporting documents:

[Report to ICRI on ICRAN Steering Committee Meeting](#)

[Developing a new framework for ICRAN](#)

[UNEP statement on ICRAN to ICRI](#)

115. Following the mid-term evaluation there were discussion between ICRAN partners to achieve a consensus on how to take ICRAN forward with the most appropriate governance and management structure to achieve ICRAN's goals. At the time of the ICRI meeting no consensus had been reached between partners and UNEP, although the discussions are still ongoing. The three underlying issues, which are still points of discussion, are:
- i. There is agreement that ICRAN should be regionally focussed and that governments should be included in the process. However there is lack of agreement as to how this should be undertaken, particularly where some governments in a region are less keen than others.
 - ii. There are concerns on whether ICRI is sufficiently represented on the ICRAN board.
 - iii. There is full agreement that ICRAN focuses on managing coral reefs and people. There is disagreement about the use of a slogan "reefs for people". Some ICRI members are not comfortable working with this slogan as an obligatory title.
116. The ICRAN Steering Committee invites advice and comments from ICRI as to how the ICRI members see the most appropriate way forward for ICRAN.
117. In discussion the following points were raised:
- i. ICRI members are keen that discussions reach a conclusion as soon as possible to enable fundraising activities to continue for ICRAN.
 - ii. Time would be required for ICRI members to consider the details of the proposal and the reports of the Steering Committee and ICRAN Board.
118. In conclusion it was decided that:
- i. The latest draft of the "ICRAN – Reefs for People" proposal will be posted on the ICRI Forum for open comment until the 3rd September 2004.
 - ii. UNEP-CRU will prepare a cover note, which will accompany the document to highlight the three pertinent areas for discussion, to guide the comments of ICRI members and to facilitate the compilation of views offered.
 - iii. The ICRI secretariat will compile views.

- iv. The ICRI Co-chairs will use these views to moderate the negotiation of compromise between ICRAN partners.

9.2 – GCRMN Report

Supporting document: [ICRI GM \(1\) 2004/9.2](#)

119. The report covers the past 7-months period and was also submitted to UNEP as the mid-contract report for the contractual period from October 2003 to September 2004 using funds provided by the USA to UNEP for coral reef coordination.
120. The support for phase 3 of CORDIO was announced. US\$1.6 over 3 years from 2003-2006. The programme will build on previous work focusing on alternative livelihoods and continued collaboration with GCRMN. The new node coordinator, Jerker Tamelander is also the joint IUCN coordinator for South Asia, which will facilitate closer linkages between organisations in the region.

9.3 – GCRMN and its sustainability as an ICRI Operational Unit

Supporting document: [ICRI GM \(1\) 2004/9.3/1](#)

121. The supporting document provides details of the range of products and activities undertaken by GCRMN, and actions requested from ICRI members to assist in the further development of GCRMN. It also highlights the two largest problems for the future of the GCRMN and all the associated organisations:
 - i. A lack of long-term sustainable funding, with most components running on year to year budgets put together from a range of sources, or through generous contributions from host institutions.
 - ii. A dependency on a few key people scattered over the world who are the critical catalysts for ensuring that the GCRMN continues to monitor and report on the status of the world's coral reefs.
122. In Conclusion:
 - i. It is requested that ICRI members provide support to help sustain the work of GCRMN over the long term.
 - ii. ICRI should encourage private industry to employ standard GCRMN monitoring tools in their work.

10-0 - ICRI WORKING GROUPS

10.1 – Report of the Fossil coral ad hoc committee

123. The report from this ad hoc committee was joined with agenda item 10.6

10.2 – Report of the Cold Water Corals ad hoc committee

Supporting document [ICRI GM \(1\) 2004/10.2/1](#)

124. At the ICRI meeting held in TCI, November 2003, a cold water coral ad hoc committee convened by Robert Canning (UK) was set up to examine further the issue of cold-water coral reefs. Their report was presented at the meeting.
125. In addition, the UNEP Coral Reef Unit presented the report “Cold-water coral reefs – out of sight no longer out of mind” to ICRI.
126. In discussion, the following points were raised:
 - i. ICRI has considerable potential to promote collaboration and action to help better protect and manage vulnerable cold-water coral reefs and related ecosystems (as it does tropical coral reefs).

- ii. ICRI's work on cold-water corals would be additional work rather than be at the expense of tropical coral work. There is no reason to believe that including cold-water corals within ICRI's remit will lead to less funding or consideration of tropical corals.

127. In conclusion ICRI agreed:

- i. To adopt the attached decision as the basis for including cold-water coral reefs within its remit.
- ii. To extend the ad hoc committee to include representatives from the UK, US, Norway and UNEP, inviting others to participate.

10.3 – Report on ICRI Scorecard

Supporting document: [ICRI GM \(1\)2004/10.3](#)

128. A score card has been developed by the World Bank in response to recommendations voiced at ICRI meetings. Based on a version for MPAs, it provides a tool to assess the effectiveness of ICRI and its members' progress against ICRI goals and objectives. A revised Draft ICRI Scorecard, based on the ICRI "Call to Action" has been developed for comments.

129. In discussion, it was felt that there needs to be a testing phase to assess the limitations of the process, and practicality issues for its completion. Some country representatives, such as the UK and India were keen to apply the scorecard.

130. In conclusion,

- i. ICRI called upon member countries to take action to collaborate in the testing phase of the ICRI score card development and provide feed back to ensure feasibility of completing the process and the reliability of information provided, in particular where critical assessment is required.
- ii. The UK to write a letter to their Overseas Territories to pilot test the scorecard.

10.4 – Report from Assessment Protocol Discussion Group

131. No report was submitted to the meeting.

10.5 – Report on ICRI Operational Networks

Supporting documents: [ICRI GM \(1\)2004/10.5/1](#)

132. This working group was established at the request of the ICRI members at the 2003 meeting in Gland in an effort to clarify the roles and relationships of the operational networks of ICRI. The group was prompted by the secretariat to submit its report to the ICRI meeting.

133. In discussion the following points were raised:

- i. It is necessary to have clear and close links between the operational networks and ICRI.
- ii. It would be better to have a descriptive statement (or agreement) between ICRI and the Operational Networks, covering goals, evaluations, reporting.
- iii. There should be a distinction between global Operational Networks and ICRI-related programmes of projects to be endorsed and labelled by ICRI.
- iv. The Operational Network should be focussed, avoiding overlaps and will be well functioning.

134. It was clarified that any new Operational Network should present their case, identifying the value that would be added to the Initiative, to the ICRI General Meeting for a decision.

135. In Conclusion, it was felt that the work set out for the Operational Working had been achieved.

10.6 – Report from the Trade working group

Supporting documents: [ICRI GM \(1\)2004/10.6/ 1](#) and [Presentation](#)

Additional document: Trade Update

136. During the last meeting of ICRI in November 2003, a decision was taken to reconstitute the working group on International Trade as a forum to discuss current and upcoming trade issues. A report was submitted to the meeting from which further details can be found.

137. The working group brought forward, for the consideration of ICRI members at this meeting, a draft resolution on upcoming CITES issues. The Resolution called upon ICRI members to encourage national CITES authorities to:

- i. Review the proposal on fossil corals:
- ii. Review the proposal to list the humphead wrasse under Appendix II.

138. Further recommendations and requests can be found in the resolution.

139. In conclusion the ICRI membership agreed to adopt the resolution on International Trade with minor changes. See [Decision on International Trade](#).

11.0 - ICRI FORUM

11.1 – Update from the ICRI Forum and Outcomes of ICRI Forum Review and continuation of support for the ICRI Forum

140. An update of activities since the last ICRI meeting in November 2003 was provided including the very successful launch of the quarterly ICRI Newsletter. These are:

- i. The new design of the ICRI Forum
- ii. Continued increase in users of the Forum.
- iii. Promotion of the use of the Forum as the primary mode of communication and information exchange for ICRI.
- iv. Greater use of the discussion for a.
- v. Increased use of the Forum as the central location for posting all documents associated with ICRI meetings.
- vi. The financial support for the ICRI Forum ceased as of the 30th June 2004. It is currently being subsidised by AJH Environmental Services, which is not sustainable. Funding must be secured in the region of US\$35,000 for current activities of the forum to continue.

141. In conclusion ICRI Members were requested to:

- i. Become registered members.
- ii. Contribute to the quarterly ICRI Newsletter
- iii. Consider how to identify funding for the continuation of the ICRI Forum and the appropriateness for the ICRI secretariat to fund the Forum.
- iv. Consider potential collaboration with WorldFish Centre/ ReefBase who offered logistical support to achieving an improved and more coordinated service.
- v. The ICRI secretariat to consider financial support for the continuation of the ICRI Forum.

12.0 - FINANCIAL MATTERS

12.1 - Budget and administration of US counterpart contributions to support UNEP's work on coral reefs and ICRI

142. In recent years, the United States Government has kindly provided UNEP with annual counterpart contributions to support UNEP's work on coral reefs and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). This contribution was made again for the year 2004.

143. In discussion:

- i. ICRI gratefully acknowledged the US for their continuing and significant contribution and urged the US to continue this support.
- ii. The UNEP CRU was acknowledged for its work in ensuring the transparency and partnerships in the revised administration of these funds.
- iii. It was suggested that funding of the ICRI Forum be considered as one possible use of ICRI secretariat funds.
- iv. The ICRI Executive Authority to discuss proposals with UNEP-CRU.

13.0 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 – ITMEMS 3

Supporting document: [ICRI GM\(1\)2004/13.1/inf](#)

144. ICRI agreed to establish an ITMEMS 3 planning working group moderated by Richard Kenchington to develop a detailed proposal for decision at the next ICRI general meeting.

145. Discussions will take place through the ICRI Forum and ICRI members were invited to consider their ability to host the meeting, which will fall in 2006 during the Japan/Palau hosting of the ICRI secretariat.

13.2 – *Announcement of the Cold Water Coral Reef publication.*

Supporting document: [Presentation](#)

146. Stefan Hain introduced the publication and the processes leading up to this publication. Electronic copies of the report can be downloaded from www.unep-wcmc.org

13.3 - *A study of participation in ICRI*

147. Mark Andrews of Kings College London is currently undertaking a study aimed at understanding stakeholder participation in ICRI. A total of 118 ICRI and ICRS members participated in a questionnaire survey.

148. The report will be completed in early September and the results will be available online through the September edition of the ICRI Newsletter.

14.0 - FUTURE MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

14.1 *Third ICRI General Meeting of the UK/Seychelles Secretariat*

149. The 3rd General Meeting of the current secretariat will be held in the Seychelles, March/April 2005. The secretariat will consider holding the meeting around the time of another meeting in the region so as to benefit from wider members' participation.

150. Rolph Payet to lead a discussion on the ICRI Forum regarding a suitable date for the 3rd General Meeting and potential activities for the 10th Anniversary of the ICRI Call to Action and the Framework for Action.

CLOSE OF MEETING

151. On behalf of the ICRI Meeting, the Co-chairs expressed their sincere gratitude to the hospitality of the Japanese team and for all the preparatory arrangements made. They also thanked the contribution of UNEP-WCMC in their role as administrative support for the ICRI secretariat, the ICRI Forum moderators and to the ICRI members present for the constructive and positive atmosphere, allowing for such productive dialogue on such challenging issues.

152. The meeting recognised the work undertaken by the ad hoc committees and their coordinators.

153. The Japanese government was thanked for their contribution to the in country organisation of the meeting, for hosting a wonderful reception for ICRI members and congratulated them for taking on the role of the ICRI secretariat alongside Palau as of July 2005. Japan Wildlife Centre and Plando were also recognised for their support during the meeting.
154. The Co-chairs were recognised for their effective and efficient guidance of the meeting to enable formative discussion allowing the objectives of the meeting to be met.
155. The meeting thanked the financial support from the UK and Japan that facilitated the participation of a number of ICRI members.
156. The summary record of the meeting will be prepared and circulated in accordance with the agreed resolution.