



ICRI Networks

Submitted by UNEP

Background

1. ICRI was established in 1994 as a forum for informal discussion on issues relating to international concern at the decline of coral reefs and related ecosystems. Central among these concerns were the implications for Small Island Developing States. At its first global meeting, held in Dumaguete City, Philippines in June 1995, ICRI made a Call for Action and developed a Framework for Action to halt and reverse the decline in coral reefs and associated ecosystems.
2. Important elements of ICRI design were affirmed in a review questionnaire process conducted in 2006. These include the biennial rotating Chair for ICRI General Meeting design and conduct, and the independence of the General Meeting process from program implementation and management.
3. There is no continuing programmatic budget for ICRI. Typically member nations serving as Chairs arrange funding for their term and typically also implement and support field and research programs to focus on key issues for their term. During the UK/Seychelles and USA/Mexico co-chairing terms ICRI Secretariat services were provided by UNEP-WCMC
4. ICRI Networks have been created to coordinate and implement work by groups of members. The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) was established to continue the work of a group that provided a scientific basis for the creation of ICRI by establishing and subsequently monitoring the condition of coral reefs. The International Coral Reef Action Network was created to monitor global and regional performance, needs and opportunities in response to the ICRI Call to Action and Framework for Action. The objective was that through these networks ICRI Meetings would be informed by the best available contemporary data on reef condition, management action and needs for action. The issues of issues addressed by the networks are central to the programme objectives of ICRI and the UNEP Marine and Coastal strategy.
5. The administration and funding of the global networks (GCRMN and ICRAN) has been complex and often precarious. In both cases donor funding has been channelled and reported through UNEP.
6. Because of its historic and ongoing responsibilities UNEP proposes to establish a small working group to discuss, evaluate options and recommend a solution that should provide clearer and more secure arrangements for ongoing monitoring, capacity building, secretariat support and data management for ICRI and network operations. ICRI members interested in being part of this working group or in providing proposals and background materials are invited to contact UNEP.

Action Requested

7. For information

8. ICRI members are invited to contact UNEP if they wish to participate in discussion on future administrative arrangements for networks and for provision of ICRI Secretariat services.