Decision on COREMO III Data Analysis System for GCRMN, Reef Check and ReefBase

This decision was Presented by Clive Wilkinson, Bernard Salvat, Marco Noordeloos and Gregor Hodgson and approved by the ICRI members at the ICRI General Meeting held in Cozumel, Mexico (22-23 October 2006)

Background:

1. The GCRMN and partners recognised the need for a universally accepted coral reef monitoring data management system in 2003. Currently there is no system that the GCRMN can offer all Nodes.

2. In conjunction with ReefBase, Reef Check and other partners, the GCRMN selected the COREMO II system from the Southwest Indian Ocean Node for development for other regions of the world to cater for the wide range of monitoring methods and protocols. The objective was to streamline data input, archiving and analyses for report writing and transfer to ReefBase.

3. The partners in the project (GCRMN, Reef Check, WorldFish Center and ARVAM [Agence pour la Recherche et la Valorisation Marines, France-Réunion], with financial assistance from France, the EU, NOAA, Ministry of the Environment, Japan [via the Japan Wildlife Research Center]) started modifying COREMO II in 2004/05.

4. Phase 1 of the project (April 2005 to March 2006) stalled following a serious injury to the main programmer from Reunion. He subsequently withdrew from the project. A new programmer started in early 2006;

5. The project was re-evaluated in Penang in June 2006. ARVAM was tasked with a major revision of the software and preparation of an instruction manual;

6. The project was further re-evaluated in September 2006. Significant progress was noted with a reviewable database planned for November 2006 and a functional database delivered in late December 2006 (Appendix 1).

7. In order to ensure effective use of COREMO III, instruction manuals in several languages will be

needed and training provided in the use of the database in GCRMN Nodes.

8.   It is anticipated that translations will cost approximately $3,000 and training courses between $25,000 and 35,000.

Decision Requested from ICRI

ICRI partners are requested to:

1.   Note the current success in producing the COREMO III database;

2.   Provide feedback on potential users of the database and languages required for the manual, and translations of the software database fields, where necessary;

3.   Assist the GCRMN and partners in translating the instruction manual and distributing the database in GCRMN Nodes via training for database operators and monitoring teams.