

Decision to create a Virtual Working Group to develop Guidance on Fiber Optic Cables

*Adopted during the ICRI Coordination and Planning Committee (CPC) Meeting
5-6 April 2001, Cebu City (Philippines)*

Background:

There has been a rapid increase in the installation of submarine fiber optic cables to serve the rapidly expanding telecommunications networks. There is an urgent need to share information among those countries with tropical ecosystems—including coral reefs, seagrass meadows, and mangrove forests—on management approaches to this relatively new and increasing coastal use.

Decision:

The ICRI CPC agrees to establish working group to design guidance for national, state and local governments and coral reef managers on the management and potential benefits from the placement of fiber optic cables. Industry experiences, information on potential and realized environmental impacts, management approaches, and potential opportunities will be shared within the working group. Recommendations will be made on the placement of fiber optic cables, including the potential benefits from establishing “corridors,” and fee structures. The Working Group will conduct its work via e-mail and the internet services of the ICRI Forum and the World Commission on Protected Areas. This project will last not more than one year, with a progress report in the November 2001 CPC meeting and a final product presented in March 2002. The report will be available as a web-based product on the ICRI Forum. The committee will be chaired by Barbara Best, USAID.