

Resolution in Support of Balance in Research Funding

*Adopted during the ICRI Coordination and Planning Committee (CPC) Meeting
28-29 October 2000, Bali (Indonesia)*

The CPC of the ICRI

Noting the importance of coral reefs to coastal communities in tropical countries, and the anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs manifest as:

The widespread and serious over-exploitation of coral reef fisheries

The prevalence of destructive fishing practices

The increasing impacts of land based pollution, diseases, and outbreaks of predators on corals,

The bleaching and death of corals and associated marine life caused by extreme weather conditions exacerbated by changing global climate,

And

Having observed at the 9th International Coral Reef Symposium (Bali, Indonesia, 23-27 October 2000), the critical importance, for finding solutions to these problems, of diverse and broad-based knowledge and understanding, encompassing:

Basic and strategic research to strengthen in-depth understanding of coral reef function, biodiversity, productivity, resilience, and as yet unrealized benefits to humans,

Applied biophysical research to determine parameters of sustainable use, and the nature and spatial extent of natural anthropogenic pressures and risks,

Monitoring of ecological baselines and trends, and the effectiveness of current regimes of use, abuse or management,

Socio-economic research to identify human dimensions of coral reef problems and their solutions, in particular:

documentation and analysis of root cause of problems at particular places

performance evaluation of the relevant institutional arrangements

specification and evaluation of policy and management options needed to improve local and regional outcomes for restoration or conservation of coral reefs and sustainable use of their resources

Translation of research results into forms that are easily accessible to decision-makers and the general public

Hereby urge all governments and other research funding agencies and foundations

To work to increase the total amount of funds available for research related to the broad issues of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, and

To make provision for the allocation of research funding to the broad spectrum of basic, strategic and applied research areas that address both biophysical and socioeconomic dimensions of conservation and sustainable use coral reef resources and related ecosystems.