

Resolution on Trade in Coral and Coral Reef Species

*Adopted during the ICRI Coordination and Planning Committee (CPC) Meeting
27 and 28 October, 1999, Guadeloupe (France)*

- Reaffirming ICRI's Renewed Call to Action, which urges all parties to eliminate unsustainable fishing practices and to encourage the private sector to use and protect coral reefs and related ecosystems in ecologically sustainable ways;
- Recognizing that international trade in corals and coral reef species is contributing to the stresses on these systems, including increased extraction of live corals, live rock, reef aquarium fish, and live food fish, as well as destructive fishing practices;
- Noting that impacts related to coral trade appear to be significant in the Indo-Pacific region, and may be increasing in other regions;
- Noting also that international trade in coral and coral reef species appears to be driven by consumer demand in the U.S., Europe, and Japan, and also by regional demand for live food fish associated with coral reefs;
- The ICRI Partners***
- Set as a goal the reduction of the adverse ecological and socio-economic impacts of trade in coral and coral reef species;
- Note with approval the stated intention of the United States to engage exporting nations and other importing nations in consultations on the impacts of trade in coral and coral reef species, and on ways to reduce such impacts;
- Note also the mission of the Marine Aquarium Council, a non-profit organization bringing together the marine ornamental industry, conservation organizations, and other stakeholders to develop certification for conservation and sustainability in trade;
- Note with gratitude the invitation of the Marine Aquarium Council to ICRI partners to participate in the Council's efforts;
- Further note the concerns voiced by several ICRI partners regarding the need to improve and better coordinate trade data collection and enforcement through CITES with domestic harvest regulations, and to improve the interaction of CITES with coral aquaculture efforts; and
- Agree to

- Host a coral trade workshop in the Indo-Pacific region, in order to bring together exporting and importing countries, and the private sector, to discuss common challenges and approaches to problem resolution;
- Send a fact-finding team to the Indo-Pacific region to explore in depth the extent and impact of the trade in coral and coral reef species;
- Support a session on the trade in coral and coral reef species at the International Coral Reef Symposium in 2000; and
- Promote expansion of the GCRMN and Reef Check programs to enable monitoring and assessment of the ecological and socioeconomic impacts of trade in coral and coral reef species.