



32nd ICRI General Meeting
December 7th-9th, 2017

Summary record
Updated version, Dec. 20, 2017

The 32nd ICRI General Meeting (GM), and the second and final meeting under the 2016-2018 French Secretariat, was held from December 7th-9th, 2017 at United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya. Through the support from France, Sweden and UN Environment, delegates from several countries and organisations were able to attend and participate in the meeting. In total, more than 70 delegates from 20 ICRI member countries and organisations attended the meeting (annex 1 and list of members excused).

ICRI GM32 welcomed the participation of H.E. Peter Thomson, Special Envoy for the Ocean, UN Office of the Secretary General, Inger Andersen, Director General, International Union for Conservation of Nature, and Martha Rojas-Urrego, Secretary General, The Ramsar Convention, at its opening session. The Meeting was chaired by Xavier Sticker, French Ambassador for the Environment. Welcoming remarks were made by Monika Macdevette, Deputy Director of the UN Environment Ecosystems Division and closing remarks by Mette Wilkie, Director of the UN Environment Ecosystems Division.

New Members

- ✓ **Myanmar** was welcomed as the latest member of ICRI (the 38th among the States members of ICRI)
- ✓ The ICRI secretariat will convene a working group that ICRI GM32 agreed to set up in view of revising the ICRI rules of procedures

Financial contribution to the Secretariat (Monaco, France, US and Sweden)

The Meeting thanked countries that have provided financial support for the ICRI Secretariat and its 2016-2018 action plan, as well as for the long-term commitment of the USA. It called on other countries to also commit resources to ICRI.

- ✓ Monaco – Small grants program (100,000 Euros).
- ✓ France – Implementation of the ICRI plan of action and small grants program (500,000 Euros).
- ✓ Sweden - Implementation of the ICRI plan of action (300,000 Euros for 2017).
- ✓ United States of America – for the Coral Reef Unit’s work to conserve and protect coral reef ecosystems worldwide and for the Coral Reef Unit’s work with the International Coral Reef Initiative (290,000 Euros for 2017).

International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and UN Environment Grants Programme 2017

Over 230 submissions were received, out of which 5 projects were selected and will receive a USD 60,000 grant each

- ✓ Kenya - Managing mangroves for climate change regulation and other ecosystem services
- ✓ Malaysia - Including coral reef resilience and vulnerability to climate change in marine spatial planning
- ✓ Vanuatu - Increasing resilience of traditional Marine Protected Areas
- ✓ Regional, Caribbean - Innovative financing and legal mechanisms for reef restoration and emergency response in selected sites of the MAR Region
- ✓ New Caledonia - A Seascape genomics approach to improve coral reefs conservation strategies against BLEaching (SABLE)

Out of the 230 submissions, 33 outstanding projects (annex 2) were compiled into a compendium and will be widely distributed to potential donors. They should be viewed as the first stage of a chain of projects deserving financial support. ICRI members are encouraged to share this compendium and, if possible, to support them.

Theme 1 – Help raise awareness on how coral reefs and related ecosystems help fight climate change

The purpose of this activity is to identify and map current international donor funding for sustainable management of coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds (including funding level as well as geographic, thematic and sectoral focus) and to identify gaps that may be addressed through future interventions and support efforts to mobilize donors for sustainable management of coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds.

- ✓ The ICRI secretariat will disseminate the outcome of this activity once it is achieved in the beginning of 2018. It will share its results with the donor community.
- ✓ All ICRI members are encouraged to submit additional information to the ICRI Secretariat on the projects that they fund or host.
- ✓ It was observed that the management of the database should be an ongoing activity of the ICRI Secretariat, and that should be included in the next ICRI plan of action if possible.
- ✓ Furthermore, ICRI GM32 adopted a recommendation on supporting investments in the natural infrastructure of reefs and mangroves to increase climate resilience (annex 3).

Theme 2 - Meet international requirements regarding coral reefs

Goal 1 - implement the resolution on the sustainable management of coral reefs adopted at the 2nd session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (May 2016)

- ✓ ICRI welcomed the creation of the advisory committee. The ICRI Secretariat looks forward to participating in its first meeting.
- ✓ The work, if possible, should be included in the next plan of action.

Goal 2 - help meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), in particular those relating to Goal 14 (“Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources”)



- ✓ ICRI GM32 commended the work done by UNEP-WCMC on behalf of ICRI in pursuance of its 2016-2018 action plan. It expressed their strong interest in the completion of that work as soon as possible in 2018.

Other international actions

- ✓ **Communities of Ocean Action: Coral Reefs. Following up on UN Ocean Conference voluntary commitments**

The GM positively noted the fact that ICRI has been nominated as a Focal Point, reflecting on the renewed visibility of ICRI.

- ✓ **The ‘Coral reef life declaration’**

The attention of ICRI members was drawn on the declaration and on the possibility to still sign it.

Theme 3 - Help to reduce human threats to coral reefs and associated mangroves and seagrasses, by making greater use of regulatory tools

Goal 1- promote legal frameworks for the protection of coral reefs and associated mangroves and seagrasses, with quantified targets and effective enforcement to protect these ecosystems

The secretariat is developing summaries on national legal frameworks for the protection of coral reefs and associated ecosystems (based on the members’ reports), for the attention of ICRI members. ICRI members are encouraged to submit information and review the data relating to their situation.

Goal 2 - encourage a ban on plastic microbeads in cosmetic products

The meeting was updated on the follow-up ensured to ICRI GM31 recommendation on the use of microbeads in cosmetic products. Following the adoption of a Call for Action for SPREP Countries on Plastic Microbeads, other regions are encouraged to do the same.

Goal 3 - improve regulation and enforcement to reduce direct anthropogenic damage due to dredging and physical alteration of reef structures

Adoption of a recommendation (annex 4)

Goal 4 - promote the deployment of mooring devices limiting the mechanical destruction of coral reefs and seagrasses

Creation of an *Ad Hoc* Committee on “Green Marine Construction” (annex 5)

Goal 5: review issues related to the impact of sunscreens and other endocrine disruptors on coral reefs, and encourage the production of sunscreens that are proven not to damage coral reefs

- ✓ The conclusions of the report were noted, as well as the fact that more science is needed on this topic.
- ✓ ICRI members have been encouraged to draw the attention of their scientific institutions on the needs for more research in this area.
- ✓ Encouragements were given to the dissemination of good practices
- ✓ The policy brief on which ICRI GM32 was informed has been completed and will be shared with ICRI members after the Meeting

Theme 4 - Monitor the state of reefs in order to better manage them – Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)

With regard to the **GCRMN coordination**:

- ✓ ICRI GM32 was updated on the work of a working group that was established earlier in 2017, in accordance with the 2016-2018 action plan. The working group plans to hold a meeting in early 2018. A consultant was hired to assist in its work.
- ✓ It was noted that the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) offered to host the global coordination of the GCRMN contingent on receiving appropriate financial support to reinvigorate the GCRMN
- ✓ The importance of involving the Regional Seas conventions was also acknowledged.

With regard to the issuance of **regional reports** on the status of the reefs, it was noted that very good progress was made in all the regions:

- ✓ The Western Indian Ocean report has been launched at the ICRI GM32;
- ✓ With regard to the Caribbean, GCRMN-Caribbean has been following up on the implementation of standardized data collection and analysis, with a view to updating the Caribbean Report by 2020
- ✓ The Pacific report will be launched in early 2018;
- ✓ Preparations for an East-Asia report, under the strong leadership of Japan, are also making good progress. ICRI GM32 also thanked several countries and institutions for committing to share their data and further cooperate.

With regard to the monitoring of **bleaching events**:

- ✓ It was noted that several countries currently implement the recommendation adopted at the ICRI GM 31, which include the development of monitoring program for bleaching events (France, Madagascar, Comoros). Other countries are encouraged to do the same
- ✓ The GCRMN should now follow up on this work (monitoring after bleaching events).

The latest Global GCRMN report was issued in 2008. In that context, it was suggested that ICRI GM consider the prospect of a new Global report by 2020.

Theme 5 - Progress via education and the International Year of the Reef (IYOR) 2018

- ✓ GM32 welcomed the contribution and expertise of The Ocean Agency for the IYOR 2018, in close cooperation with ICRI.
- ✓ GM32 also welcomed the contribution of the partners that The Ocean Agency intends to mobilize, including from the private sector.
- ✓ GM32 was briefed on the draft programme developed by The Ocean Agency for the IYOR 2018. In addition to sensitization to the status and importance of coral reefs, it was emphasized that the public communications campaign could also contribute to mobilizing financial resources for the protection and restoration of the reefs. The positive contribution that crowdfunding and philanthropy could make was highlighted. Inter alia, donors could be invited to ‘adopt’ projects that were eligible to the ICRI 2017 Small Grants Programme.
- ✓ GM32 noted that IYOR should not focus on coral reefs only, but that related ecosystems should also be included in the activities and public communications campaigns (including on the IYOR www.iyor2018.org website).
- ✓ ICRI Members are encouraged to develop national IYOR action plans, and that the IYOR should also be viewed as an opportunity to develop concrete actions and projects.

The 3rd International Year of the Reef should be viewed as an opportunity to initiate a long-term campaign on raising awareness on coral reefs and related ecosystem (beyond 2018). In addition to raising awareness, this Year should be used to initiate or strengthen new partnerships, better involve the private sector and mobilize funding.

Australian Government’s Innovation Facility

The Australian Government hosted an interactive discussion to assist in the design of the Coral Reef Innovation Facility recently announced by Australia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs. ICRI member’s views were sought on: establishing an innovation group or network amongst interested ICRI members; running an exercise that would develop an innovation pathway or blueprint for coral reefs; and specific challenges or issues that would benefit from greater innovation in approaches. The Australian Government undertook to keep members informed of work under the Coral Reef Innovation Facility including specific opportunities to collaborate.

Next ICRI Secretariat

ICRI GM32 is welcoming the joint proposal by Monaco and Australia to host the next Secretariat. Further details, including possibly on an additional partner country, will be provided at a later stage.

32nd ICRI General Meeting
7-9 December 2017, Nairobi, Kenya

List of participants

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Members excused

Brazil
Egypte
Global Environment Facility
Indonesia
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Seychelles
The World Bank
The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA)
UNDP



Annex 2 - 33 outstanding projects

Applicant	Location	Project
Community & Communication		
Department of Fisheries	Saint Lucia	Saint Lucia's Call to Action for Coral Reefs Conservation
Corals for conservation	Kiribati (possible Fiji & Vanuatu)	Reefs of Hope- Restoring corals to severely impacted reefs through propagation of bleaching-resistant corals, no-take MPAs, and building resilience within reef-dependent communities via sustainable non-fishing livelihoods
SEEDO	Tanzania	Community Based Marine Ecosystems (coral reefs and mangroves) Protection in Tanga Region
Sustainable international Mexico	Mexico	The MARI Mesoamerican Reef Citizen Science program
ICSEM SL	Colombia & Jamaica	Resilience and social adaption to climate change impacts on coral reefs in Caribbean countries
MICS	Marshall Islands	Ajeltake Community Introduction to the "Reimaanlok" Community-Based Management Plan
Oma Tafua	Niue	Coral Reef Project Niue
Enterprise & market mechanisms		
Emae Makatu Community	Vanuatu, Fiji & Solomon Islands	The sustainable management of traditional marine protected ecosystems (reefs, mangroves and seagrass) and genetic biodiversity
WRCT	Sri Lanka	Enhancing Coral Reef Resilience through Research and Collaborative Resource Management.
Reef World	Dominican Republic	The Green Fins approach to managing a sustainable marine tourism industry in the Caribbean
UNAM	Mexico	Development of a sustainable land-based aquaculture system aiming to reduce human pressure on coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves in the Mexican Caribbean
UFRN	Brazil	Pledging sustainable parrotfish fishing for reef patch areas protection
Corcovado	Costa Rica	OSA Coral Reef Conservation Project
Governance & Compliance		
Ghizo Environmental Livelihood Conservation Association	Solomon Islands	Empowering the Ghizo community to take charge of protecting their coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses in the fight against climate change



Konsorsium Mitra Bahari Papua Barat	Indonesia	Sorong Regency Marine Protected Area Initiative in the Bird's Head Seascape Papua, Indonesia
Marine Conservation Cambodia	Cambodia	Deployment of conservation and anti-trawling structures in the framework of the 2nd MFMA in Cambodia
Institute for socioecological research	Puerto Rico	Rapid assessment of coral reef habitats of Barbuda after hurricane Irma: the baseline for a restoration program
Reef Conservation	Mauritius	Building the resilience of coral reefs and local communities in Voluntary Marine Conservation Areas in Mauritius
Local management		
Seychelles National Parks Authority	Seychelles	Certification of Peer Trainers in Effective Management of Coral Reefs, Seagrass Beds, Mangroves, & Beaches in Marine Protected Areas of the Western Indian Ocean
IRD Madagascar	Madagascar	Status and recovery capacities of coral communities to climate change and anthropogenic stresses in Toliara, southwest Madagascar
Equilibrio Azul	Ecuador	Rocky and Coral Reef research, protection and restoration, through local apnea fisherman involvement in Machalilla National Park, Ecuador.
GOAL international	Honduras	Resilience of the Blue Economy: Sustainable and inclusive Fisheries in the Coastal ecosystem of Guimoreto and Bacalar in the Northern of Honduras
Sanctuary Owners Association	Mozambique	Ecological monitoring and evaluation of a multi-habitat seascape in the Western Indian Ocean to promote collaboration between conservation areas and affected communities
WCS	Belize	Improving coral reef management by determining primary stressors responsible for coral bleaching at a remote Caribbean atoll
Research & Monitoring		
Ucal, SantaCruz, TNC	Mexico	High-resolution assessment of the economic benefits of coral reef management for flood risk reduction provided by the Mesoamerican Reef in Quintana Roo, Mexico, and identification of priorities
IRCP	French Polynesia	First acoustic monitoring of coral reef's biodiversity



OMMM	Martinique, French West Indies	Deep lionfish populations and associated unexplored mesophotic reefs of Martinique, French West Indies
CRIOBE	French Polynesia	“HIDDENCORALS”. We protect what we know: Unravelling the hidden world of Polynesian coral reefs in the twilight zone to enhance their protection
Palau International Coral Reef Centre	Palau	Developing coral reef indicators to evaluate recovery potential after catastrophic coral mortality
CUFR	Mozambique	Mesophotic Ecosystem Coral Investigation in Mayotte and Mozambique (MECIM)
PCR	Brazil	Effects of depth on coral reef communities: testing insights of a “deep refuge hypotheses” in the South Atlantic for the first time
Macquarie University	Tanzania & Kenya	From Ridge to Reef: An Ecosystem Based Approach to Biodiversity Conservation in East Africa

Annex 3

Recommendation for supporting investments in the natural infrastructure of reefs and mangroves to increase climate resilience

Adopted on December 9th 2017, at the 32nd ICRI General Meeting (Nairobi, Kenya)

Recognizing that coastal zones are the **areas with the highest population density on the planet;**

Concerned that coastal communities and infrastructure are increasingly at risk from **storm impacts, which can be exacerbated by climate change, including heavy rainfall and storm surge;**

Recognizing that scientists and the insurance industry have found that reef and mangrove restoration are among the most cost-effective actions for coastal adaptation in island states¹;

Recognizing that reefs reduce up to 97 percent of wave energy that would otherwise hit coastlines², averting tens to hundreds of millions of dollars in flood damages every year for many nations³;

Recognizing that mangroves have been found to reduce flood damages to people and property by 25% annually⁴;

Recalling the ICRI Decision on Reef Restoration (2001);

Noting that about 3% of the value of coastal investments are dedicated to conserving and restoring coastal ecosystems including reefs and mangroves, known as natural infrastructure⁵;

Noting that a **significant amount** of global spending on both gray and natural infrastructure in coastal regions comes from national governments and multilateral institutions such as the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank, and regional development banks.

The International Coral Reef Initiative

Commends previous investments in reef and mangrove restoration that have improved ecosystem health and climate resilience;

Recognizes that restoration should only be undertaken once current threats to coral reefs and mangrove forests have been addressed and reduced;

¹ (CCRIF 2011, Ferrario et al. 2014)

² (Ferrario et al. 2014)

³ (MOW 2016)

⁴ (World Bank 2017)

⁵ McCreless, Erin and Beck, Michael W. (2016) "Rethinking Our Global Coastal Investment Portfolio," *Journal of Ocean and Coastal Economics*: Vol. 3: Iss. 2, Article 6.

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Recognizes the need to further increase global financial investment in coastal natural infrastructure such as through reef **conservation and** restoration, particularly where human communities are most at risk from climate change impacts;

Encourages efforts to identify specific opportunities for conserving and restoring reefs and mangroves, and to select sites where this natural infrastructure will most effectively mitigate risks associated with climate change;

Recognizes the need to develop innovative funding mechanisms for coral reef and mangrove conservation and restoration;

Encourages development banks **and agencies** to **develop** funding approaches to better support natural **and hybrid** infrastructure for risk reduction as **cost effective and sustainable solutions**;

Encourages governments to **promote the consideration of** natural infrastructure alternatives such as mangrove **forest** and reef **conservation and** restoration in assessments of the cost effectiveness of risk reduction measures;

Encourages the insurance and finance sectors to develop new tools such as Resilience Bonds that could support the **conservation and** rebuilding of mangroves and reefs for risk reduction;

Calls upon ICRI members to promote the development of natural approaches for increasing coral reef health and climate resilience;

Encourages efforts to strengthen partnerships between local communities, governments, international agencies, and the private sector to identify mechanisms for funding natural infrastructure projects.



Annex 4

Recommendation to reduce damage due to dredging and dumping on coral reefs

Adopted on December 9th 2017, at the 32nd ICRI General Meeting (Nairobi, Kenya)

Noting the World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure Report number 108, Dredging and Port Construction around Coral Reefs;

Recognizing that the anthropogenic damage due to dredging and physical alteration of reef structures are serious issues of global concern;

Recalling goal 3.3 of theme 3 of ICRI Action plan to improve regulation and enforcement to reduce direct anthropogenic damage due to dredging and physical alteration of reef structures;

The International Coral Reef Initiative

Encourages governments to avoid, minimize and mitigate, the impacts of dredging and dumping activities in areas that might damage coral reefs;

Further calls on ICRI members to promote marine and coastal sustainable tourism, especially for cruising activities;

Resolves to promote exchanges of expertise and best practices to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impacts to coral reefs due to construction of new harbors and ports, and new waterways;

Resolves to promote exchange of expertise, best practices, and lessons learned to avoid impacts on coral reefs of dumping of dredge materials.



Annex 5

Terms of reference for the *ad hoc* committee on Green Marine Construction (eco-design)

Adopted on December 9th, 2017, at the 32nd ICRI General Meeting (Nairobi, Kenya)

Following the presentation on the eco-mooring and green marine construction made during the 32nd ICRI General Meeting and the objective 4 (theme 3) of the ICRI plan: of action (to promote the deployment of mooring devices limiting the mechanical destruction of coral reefs and seagrasses), it is decided to create an Ad Hoc Committee on Green Marine Construction (eco-design).

The main objective is to provide ICRI Members guidelines to develop eco-design marine construction. The committee will work closely with other initiatives which are looking into this area.

The *ad hoc* committee will implement the following activities:

- Develop some guidelines on Green Marine Construction, focusing initially on eco-mooring
- Gathering additional case studies to develop a portfolio
- Develop a dedicated page on the ICRI website

Duration: the *ad hoc* committee will report at the 33rd ICRI General Meeting.

Chair: ICRI Secretariat

Members: France, UK, Reef World Foundation