

33rd ICRI General Meeting December 5th – 7th, 2018, Monaco

Summary record

The 33rd ICRI General Meeting (GM), and the first one under the 2018-2020 Australia, Indonesia and Monaco Secretariat, was held from December 5th to 7th in Monaco. Through the support from Sweden and Monaco, delegates from several countries and organisations were able to attend and participate in the meeting. In total, 87 delegates from 43 ICRI member countries (21) and organisations attended the meeting. (list of participants available in annexe 1, agenda in annex 2)

The meeting was opened by His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco and welcoming remarks were given by H.E. Susi Pudjiastuti, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia and H.E. Angus McKenzie, Australian Ambassador to UNESCO.



The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Bernard Fautrier, H.E. Susi Pudjiastuti, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia, H.E. Angus McKenzie, Australian Ambassador to UNESCO and Margaret Johnson, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Australia.

Apologies were received from the following members: The World Bank, Reef Check, Indian Ocean Commission, Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, Cartagena Convention Secretariat, Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Philippines, Maldives, and Ambassador Thomson. The commonwealth Secretariat and Mauritius were welcomed as observers.



Amendment of the Organization and management procedures for the International Coral Reef Initiative

Following the decision from the 32nd General Meeting to convene a working group in view of revising the ICRI rules of procedures, a motion to allow the overseas territories to become full ICRI members was presented by France. **The motion was adopted (annex 3).**

New members

4 new members were welcomed:

- **New Caledonia** (the first overseas territory to join ICRI). It was noted that a letter from the French government was sent to the ICRI secretariat confirming France's support for the request from New-Caledonia).
- **Coral Triangle Center**
- **Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF)**
- **Vulcan Inc.**

Summary of French Secretariat activity including the ICRI-UN Environment Small Grants initiative

Xavier Sticker, French Ambassador for the Environment presented briefly the activities implemented during the French Secretariat noting that this presentation had already been given during the 32nd General Meeting, and more recently at the hand-over ceremony on July 4th.

The French government was congratulated for its work.

Jerker Tamelander, UN Environment, presented briefly an update on the implementation of the ICRI-UN Environment Small Grants initiative. He reminded the members that over 230 submissions were received, and 5 projects were selected. He informed the members that one project initially selected in Vanuatu has been replaced by a regional in the Indian Ocean. The 5 projects are now:

- 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.
- New Caledonia - A Seascape genomics approach to improve coral reefs conservation strategies against BLEaching (SABLE).
- Indian Ocean - Certification of Peer Trainers in Effective Management of Coral Reefs, Seagrass Beds, Mangroves, & Beaches in Marine Protected Areas of the Western Indian Ocean.
- Caribbean - Innovative financing and legal mechanisms for reef restoration and emergency response in selected sites of the MAR Region.

All the projects should be completed by the end of 2019, and a more detailed report will be given at the next ICRI General Meeting. In order to best communicate the successes and impacts of the small grants

programme, a series of short public videos will be produced that can be shared on social media platforms. The profile pieces will focus on telling a strong human-interest story for each project: individual motivations for developing the initiative; the importance and value of the coral reef and associated ecosystems to the communities; how the decline in the health of coral reefs and associated ecosystems is/has impacted their communities; what difference the initiative is trying to make; and hopes for the future.

Out of the 230 submissions, 33 outstanding projects are compiled into a compendium and the ICRI Secretariat is still looking for financial support for these projects.

France, Sweden, Monaco and UN Environment were congratulated for their financial support in this initiative.

Presentation of the Plan of Action of the new Secretariat

The proposed plan of action was presented by H.E. Susi Pudjiastuti, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia and by the ICRI Secretariat. In her presentation, Minister Susi mentioned on the threat of Live Reef Food Fish Trade (LRFFT) in the South East Asia region.

The plan of action will be comprised 4 main themes:

- Theme 1 – Promote effective and adaptable solutions to improve the protection of coral reefs.
- Theme 2 – Understand the trends of coral reefs.
- Theme 3 –Live Reef Food Fish Trade (LRFFT).
- Theme 4 - Help to reduce anthropogenic threats to coral reefs.

And 2 transversal ones:

- International Tropical Marine Ecosystem Management Symposium (ITMEMS), with the aim to promote the work implemented under the plan of action.
- Fostering partnerships / collaboration, including with private sector.

Theme 1 – Promote effective and adaptable solutions to improve the protection of coral reefs

The desired aim under this theme is demonstrable action to protect and improve the resilience of coral reefs and related ecosystems through policy, management and innovation.

1.A – Strengthening policies - Supporting protection of coral reefs and associated ecosystems through effective policy and legislative frameworks

Jerker Tamelander presented the work currently implemented by UN Environment and the ICRI Secretariat on the implantation of the resolution UNEA/2/12 Sustainable Coral Reefs Management. This resolution, in Operative Paragraph 13, requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with the

International Coral Reef Initiative, other relevant international organizations and other relevant partners to prepare, by 2018, an analysis of global and regional policy instruments and governance mechanisms related to the protection and sustainable management of coral reefs. The analysis is almost finalized and ICRI members have been consulted throughout the process. It will be presented at the 4th UN Environment Assembly (March 2019, Nairobi).

The results of the rapid assessment of the implementation by selected countries to achieve Aichi Target 10 were presented. Following the presentation, **ICRI members decided to create an *ad hoc* committee on developing a recommendation for a post-2020 coral reef target** (annex 4). The objectives of the *ad hoc* committee are:

1. To coordinate ICRI's contribution to a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including preparing a timeline, according to the ICRI Rules of Procedure;
2. To develop a draft recommendation for a coral reef target and an appropriate alternative that aligns with and builds on other relevant processes.

The *ad hoc* committee will be chaired by the ICRI Secretariat and members are Australia, France, Indonesia, United Kingdom, United States of America. **Other interest members are invited to contact the ICRI Secretariat by December 31st, 2018.**

ICRI members also agreed that the ICRI secretariat will send a response to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) in reply to the notification related to the invitation for initial views on the preparation, scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The text of the letter was approved during the meeting.

Regarding the ongoing work, the secretariat is developing summaries on national legal frameworks for the protection of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, it was suggested to use the same approach as the one used for the regional / international analysis.

1.B - Promote and build capacity in applying innovative funding

Hazel Thornton, UNEP-WCMC, presented on the global and local importance, financing needs and current financing of coral reefs and related ecosystems.

Chuck Cooper, Vulcan, presented on the Global Coral Reef Fund. The need to eliminate the “coral reef funding gap” has been widely recognized. To explore how best to respond to this funding gap, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and Vulcan, Microsoft co-founder Paul G. Allen's company and philanthropy, hosted a workshop in September 2018 to explore the creation of a Global Fund for Coral Reefs.

At the conclusion of the workshop, it was recommended establishing a Global Fund with a dual focus:

- Facilitate the use of innovative financing mechanisms, including private, market-based investments in coral reef conservation and restoration; and

- Unlock financing for coral reef-related climate adaptation through the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, and the multilateral development banks (MDBs).

The Global Fund will also aim at mobilizing resources to help developing countries meet their commitments under the new post-2020 biodiversity framework. At the occasion of the 5th Our Ocean conference, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and Vulcan committed to each invest \$250,000 as initial seed funding to launch the new fund. He invited ICRI members to join this initiative.

David Meyers, Conservation Alliance Finance, reported on the innovative funding workshop held on December 4th, at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco (a report of the workshop will be available early 2020). The meeting gathered over 40 participants and was developed around 2 panels: effective scalable solutions, and emerging tools and opportunities. The afternoon session was dedicated to an exercise on finance solutions for coral reefs.

The main conclusions of the workshop and ideas for next steps are:

- Plan and establish a working group on coral reef and marine conservation finance in collaboration with the Conservation Finance Alliance.
- Identify resources that allow the working group to provide specific assistance, training and webinars to ICRI members and partners for coral reef sustainable finance opportunities, mechanisms, and sources.
- Establish web based and other resources to support the training, capacity development, and awareness of ICRI members and key partners for conservation finance including innovative and scalable solutions.
- Assess the existing finance mechanisms in ICRI countries and organizations.

1.C – Support reef resilience at the local, regional and global scale

Jennifer Koss, NOAA, presented on the National Academy Study on Interventions to increase the resilience of coral reefs. They have been using a multi strategy conservation approach to achieve coral persistence; a full analysis should be available mid 2019. However, a parallel analysis will be needed by a regulatory body. Four intervention strategies have been examined, although none are currently available for regional or global scale. Comment on how to progress with these strategies as there are not only feasibility concerns, but ethical ones (in terms of releasing genetically modified animals into the ocean or adding components that are not natural to the environment).

Fanny Douvère, UNESCO, presented on Coral Reef World Heritage sites. There are 49 marine sites on UNESCO's World Heritage List, 29 of which are coral reefs. Belize barrier reef was removed from the UNESCO list of World Heritage in danger last June. 25 out of 29 sites experienced bleaching stress over the past three years. On the occasion of the 5th Our Ocean conference, a public-private \$9m initiative was put forward to build climate adaptation strategies in 5 initial World Heritage Sites.

David Wachenfeld, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority presented on the Reef Blueprint for Resilience. 'From Blueprint to action'. He acknowledged the first nations people of the Great Barrier Reef and their continuing connection to their sea country. He reiterated that climate change is the greatest

threat to the Reef and action to reduce carbon emissions is essential. Dr Wachenfeld explained how the Blueprint identified a range of local actions to be taken in parallel with global action on climate change. These include putting significant effort into land management, fisheries management, ensuring compliance with marine park zoning, controlling crown-of-thorns starfish and protecting keystone species. He spoke of a resilience network for the Reef where there is a focus on those reefs that have a greater connection and/or make a greater contribution overall – comparing these to the major hubs of an airline network. Reef restoration is also part of the management approach. Dr Wachenfeld also acknowledged that the scale of the Reef had been its greatest asset for resilience, but now that same scale is proving to be a challenge in managing the health of the Reef.

Australia have stated the theme for the next GM will be managing for resilience. Australia is keen to work with other ICRI members to put together a programme of practical solutions.

1.D - Promote leading practice reef restoration mechanisms by facilitating partnerships, investment and capacity building among ICRI members

Jennifer Koss (NOAA-CRCP), in collaboration with Elizabeth McLeod (TNC) presented new guidance and best practices developed by the Reef Resilience Network (RRN) in partnership with the Coral Reef Consortium (CRC). The CRC is a community of practice comprised of scientists, managers, reef restoration practitioners, and educators who are working together to foster collaboration among participants, and support the science needed to increase the scale and efficiency of coral restoration. Best practices and lessons learned from CRC member efforts in the Caribbean are shared with managers around the globe through the Reef Resilience Network restoration web-based toolkit, webinar series and online trainings planned for 2019. The Reef Resilience Network connects marine managers with global experts, tools, and skill-building opportunities to accelerate and leverage solutions for improved conservation and restoration of coral reefs. The Reef Resilience program has trained managers working in over 75% of the world's coral reef countries and territories.

David Souter, AIMS, presented the Australian Government funded Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program. The Program is examining a broad range of potential interventions that aim to either reduce corals' the level of exposure to stress, enhance reproductive success or enhance tolerance and adaptive capacity, and assessing the feasibility of implementing these interventions at spatial scales that are ecologically meaningful. In addition, he presented a motion to form an ad hoc committee to assess the global needs and priorities for research and development to deliver the methods, productivity and cost breakthroughs needed to support restoration and adaptation program objectives. The Committee would be chaired by Australia, and aims to identify opportunities to partner and mechanisms to improve joint planning and delivery of reef restoration and adaptation research and development.

The Terms of reference for the ad hoc committee on reef restoration were presented and adopted at the end of the Meeting (annex 5).

Theme 2 – Understand the trends of coral reefs

The desired outcome of this theme is a functioning globally coordinated network for the monitoring the status of coral reefs worldwide.

The Implementation and Governance Plan (IGP) for the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) was presented by David Obura. It was mentioned that this process has been highly participatory over the last year and that 2 meetings were held to develop it. With that in mind, **it was decided that comments can still be provided until the end of the year.** They need to be sent to David Obura.

ICRI members interested in joining the Steering Committee – presented during the General Meeting - are invited to contact the ICRI secretariat. It is anticipated the first GCRMN Steering Committee will be held during the first trimester of 2019.

At the last ICRI General Meeting (December 2017), it was reminded that the latest Global GCRMN report was issued in 2008. In that context, it was suggested to consider the prospect of a new Global report by 2020. In that context, a road map for the production of the 2020 Status of Coral Reefs of the World report was presented (annex 6). Australia confirmed that funding is available from Australian government and DFAT.

With regard to the regional reports on the status of the reefs, it was noted that very good progress was made in all the regions over the last 2 years:

- The Pacific report was launched.

Following the presentation of the report and the conclusion, H.E. Bernard Fautrier asked the ICRI member if ICRI should take adopt a position on the IPCC report. A discussion with the co-chairs if ICRI will take place to explore – or not – this further, ICRI members will be informed in due course.

- Preparations for an East-Asia report, under the strong leadership of Japan, are also making good progress.

Following the presentation, Indonesia informed the meeting that it has several databases and will share them with the South East Asia coordinator.

- Coral reef monitoring and reporting for Brazil

Brazilian coral reefs occur along 2000 km of coast, harbor endemic species and are of great importance to local livelihoods. Results of a national monitoring program, in course since 2002, were presented, showing the clear differences in fish abundance in no-take zones vs take zones as well as effects of local and global impacts. Those efforts are expected to be part of the GCRMN report due in 2020.

- Coral Reef status in South Asian Seas Region and its possible restoration partnering with other Agencies

Theme 3 –Live Reef Food Fish Trade (LRFFT)

The desired outcome of this theme is to increase understanding of the Live Reef Food Fish Trade, including actions to reduce the impacts of the illegal trade.

This session was chaired by H.E. Susi Pudjiastuti, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia. Minister Susi expressed concern about the issue of consumed live reef fish which was very popular in the international market. She affirmed the need to regulate and manage the sustainable consumption of live reef fish. Indeed, the consumption of live reef fish is closely related to the biodiversity preservation and endangered species. The higher the demand for reef fish, the higher the pressure on coral reefs. Over fishing is also considered to damage the coral reef ecosystem which results in the extinction of marine ecosystems that depend on coral reefs. She added that the exploitation of consumed reef fish must be managed to maintain the sustainability of the fish and the coral reefs.

Her introduction was followed by a presentation from Yvonne Sadovy, Society of Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregation (SCARFA).

The live fish reef trade is very valuable but highly secretive and focuses on apex coral reef ecosystems predators, particularly groupers and Napoleon wrasse. Heavy overfishing and destructive fishing (e.g. cyanide) associated with this trade is killing reefs, devastating fish populations and involves considerable IUU. The fishery and associated international trade must be managed responsibly and conducted legally, leading to a discussion about involving INTERPOL.

Several ICRI members, including the USA, congratulated Indonesia for including this important topic in the plan of action and will support this activity. UNEP-WCMC informed the meeting that a team of 14 persons was dedicated to this issue and will be happy to contribute to this theme.

Several suggestions were proposed to complement this theme:

- Contact INTERPOL. It was reminded that INTERPOL has a project to support member countries in identifying, deterring and disrupting transnational fisheries crime (Scale project).
- Explore to possibility to host an ICRI side event at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka (23rd of May to 3rd June 2019). **The ICRI Secretariat will contact the CITES Secretariat.**

Finally, the Secretariat reminded that ICRI has worked on the topic in the past and adopted a decision on International Trade (in 2004): https://www.icriforum.org/sites/default/files/dec_i_trade_2004_0.pdf

Theme 4 - Help to reduce anthropogenic threats to coral reefs, particularly those that occur at a global or regional scale

The desired outcome of this theme is to continue highlighting anthropogenic threats to reefs and make information on actions that can be taken to reduce threats available for ICRI members and all other relevant stakeholders including policy makers.

4.A – Elevate awareness of the threats to coral reefs and the need for a collective response to accelerate actions that increase resilience at a local to global scale

Sue wells from the presented the updated version of the revised International Society for Reef Studies (ISRS) Statement on Coral Reefs and Climate Change. The International Society for Reef Studies, in the International Year of the Reef 2018, calls on nations to implement the Paris Agreement and take the necessary action, by 2030, to keep global warming to a maximum of 1.5°C above the pre-industrial period.

Participants were also reminded that the registration has opened for Expert and Government Reviews for the Second Order Drafts of two IPCC Special Report http://www.ipcc.ch/news_and_events/PR_SOD-SROCC_and_SRCCCL.shtml. ICRI members are encouraged to share their comments.

4.B – Review of impacts of chemical pollution on coral reefs and associated ecosystems

Denis Allemand, Scientific Center of Monaco, gave a brief overview of this activity underlying that there was more and more scientific information available and a need for a synthesis. The proposed review on the impact of endocrine disruptors, nanoparticles - but also pesticides, herbicides, and urban effluents – will be developed following the format than done for the impacts of sunscreens on coral reefs: review of the scientific evidence, discussion of the issues, and recommendations for further research.

This activity was very well received by ICRI members and is consider as an important topic. France mentioned that it will shortly start working on the topic (Mapping the sources of pollution and impacts) and would like to be involved in the work of the Secretariat. USA are also working on the topic.

4.C - Guide actions to prevent and mitigate the impacts of marine pollution

Chloe Harvey, the Reef World Foundation presented on actions to reduce marine debris. Green Fins is a management approach to promote best environmental practice in marine tourism established through a partnership between the UN Environment and Reef-World. This is done through the promotion and measuring of compliance to a code of conduct which covers all diving and snorkelling operational activities above and below the water, including reduction of single-use plastics and responsible garbage management policies. In 2019 the use of non-reef safe sunscreen will also be considered within the Green Fins monitoring systems. A recent agreement between PADI and Reef-World builds a partnership to drive sustainability within the diving industry in line with green Fins and is the first of its kind. A suggestion

that they should be working with the Commonwealth Blue Charter, who are doing work on marine litter and debris was made

4.D – Sustainable tourism

Amanda Brigdale, GBRMPA, Australia, presented on a recent ICRI Side Event on Sustainable Tourism: “*Presenting for Protection: Eliciting behaviour change in visitors to World Heritage Areas*”, held on November 29th, 2018 at international workshop on sustainable tourism management. The event, which followed the Global Eco Asia-Pacific Tourism Conference in Townsville, Australia, gathered coral reef managers from countries including Samoa, Vietnam, Palau, as well as ICRI Secretariat co-host Indonesia. Participants shared their expertise in the management of coral reefs through talking about the challenges they faced, and the initiatives being implemented in their areas. Expert presenters from Galapagos, Belize, and the Solomon Islands introduced their actions to support sustainable tourism management of coral reef areas, while GBRMPA staff and accredited high-standard tourism operators of the Great Barrier Reef spoke about the importance of communicating the value of the Reef to visitors, with the aim of embedding take home messages and eliciting behaviour change. The event highlighted that well-managed coral reef tourism can support communities through economic development while at the same time helping to protect coral reefs.

6th International Tropical Marine Ecosystem Management Symposium (ITMEMS)

The International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS) is a core activity of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and has been convened by ICRI Secretariats in 1998 (Townsville, Australia), 2003 (Manila, The Philippines), 2006 (Cozumel, Mexico), 2011 (Guadalupe, France) and 2016 (Bohol, The Philippines), with the involvement and participation of ICRI members.

The purpose of ITMEMS is to strengthen the capacities of coastal and marine managers and their partners, to serve as a forum for peer group interaction and professional development, for conservation and promotion of the sustainable use of coral reefs and related ecosystems. There is a confirmed and continued interest in holding an ITMEMS, as both practitioners and managers have found previous ITMEMS to be important and effective for peer group information sharing, problem-solving and professional development. Thus, ICRI members agreed on the creation of an *ad hoc* committee (annex 7) in order to:

- Confirm location and dates for convening ITMEMS 6.
- Identify main activities which require funding and provide an indicative budget for ITMEMS 6.
- Provide and propose an outline of the ITMEMS 6 programme with potential themes and content.

The composition of the committee is as below:

- Chair (suggestion from ICRI member/voluntarily).
- Representatives from previous and present ICRI Secretariat.
- Two members (or more) from the ICRI Membership.

- Two representatives of the ITMEMS 6 host location (Indonesia).

ICRI members interested in joining the committee are invited to contact the ICRI Secretariat.

The proposed dates for ITMEMS 6 are – for now – early June 2020. This date coincides with the World Ocean Day (June 8) and the Coral Triangle Day (June 9). However, it was also stressed out that this date also coincides with the 2nd UN Ocean conference to be held in Lisbon (TBC). The dates of the UCN World Conservation Congress (June 11-19, 2020 in Marseille, France) were also reminded. In that context, it was asked to the committee to look for the best option noting that:

- Holding ITMEMS early 2020 will allow the conclusion to contribute the development of the post-2020 framework and to contribute to the upcoming conferences.
- Holding ITMEMS late 2020 will allow to present the post 2020 framework and to explore how ICRI can contribute to its implementation.

Report on the “reef solutions” workshop

Evidence are accumulating over the last few years which demonstrate that coral reefs are the most sensitive marine ecosystems to climate change and already show significant signs of these impacts through the phenomenon known as mass bleaching. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicted in its latest report published in October 2018 (Global warming at 1.5 ° C), an almost total loss of corals in 2100 for a rise in temperature of +2°C.

In order to identify, and particularly to classify, the solutions to be developed to ensure optimal protection of the reefs, the Centre Scientifique de Monaco and the Think Tank, *Ocean Solutions Initiative*, within the framework of ICRI and with the financial support of the Prince Albert II Foundation, the Veolia Foundation, the French Global Environment Facility, the Monegasque Association on Ocean Acidification (AMAO), invited a dozen of the world's leading experts in biology the coral reefs conservation. The first observation made by the experts was to confirm the urgency of the situation: the reefs are changing profoundly and the action window is closing more and more rapidly. The second conclusion of the workshop is that limiting global warming by implementing the Paris Agreement will not be enough to protect the coral reefs: it is also necessary to act locally by developing mechanisms for the protection and adaptation of ecosystems and species. Among these local solutions, some are already used, such as the development of marine protected areas (MPAs), others, which are not unanimous among researchers, require additional research and testing such as selection or even genetic manipulation that could to develop strains of corals - or symbiotic - resistant algae.

The group of experts will produce early in 2019 conclusions that will be the subject of a high-level article that will contribute to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, of which several experts present are members. It will be an important part of the United Nations climate change negotiations.

Fostering partnerships / collaboration, including with private sector

Coral reefs are receiving growing international attention. Adopting a resolution on the sustainable management of coral reefs, at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) in May 2016 or producing the Coral Reef Live declaration form part of this process to highlight both the value of coral reef ecosystems and the cumulative threats they are facing. The situation of coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses should also be improved by the high priority given to issues relating to the ocean on the international scene. In that regard, the ICRI Secretariat will continue its ongoing partnerships with several international organisations or develop new one. The following presentations were made:

- 5th Our Ocean.

Fegi Nurhabni from the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia presented the outcomes of the 5th Our Ocean Conference, which was held in Bali on 29-30 October 2018. At the 5th Our Ocean Conference, 8% of the commitments were related to coral reefs. The total commitments reached approximately USD 444,7 million in monetary commitments and approximately 5,3 million km² of coral area in form of coral sea Park, coral conservation, etc.

- Report of the evaluation of Community of OCEAN Action “coral reef” commitments
Jerker Tamelander, UN Environment

- Blue Charter (Commonwealth)

Nick Hardman-Mountford, Commonwealth Secretariat, and Heidi Prislan, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia, presented the Commonwealth Blue Charter. This initiative was adopted at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in April 2018, and has 9 Action Groups (Coral Reef Protection and Restoration, Aquaculture, Blue Economy, Mangrove Restoration, Ocean Acidification, Ocean and Climate Change, Ocean Observations, Marine Plastics and Marine Protected Areas) working on topics for cooperative action. The aim is to use Blue Charter Action Group as a knowledge sharing platform to assist capacity building, bringing together Commonwealth countries and others who would like to be involved. The Action Group on coral reef protection and restoration is co-Championed by the Governments of Australia, Belize and Mauritius and will shortly be sharing further details (concept note) with ICRI members. The co-Champions invites ICRI members to join the Action Group on coral restoration and adaptation to encourage better alignment throughout coral reef science and management platforms. Those interested in being involved or membership are suggested to contact Heidi (Heidi.Prislan@dfat.gov.au) or Nick (n.hardman-mountford@commonwealth.int).

International Year of the Reef 2018

At the 32nd ICRI General Meeting, 2018 was declared the 3rd International Year of the Reef (IYOR 2018). The Year was developed as an opportunity to initiate a long-term campaign on raising awareness on coral reefs and related ecosystem (beyond 2018). Claire Rumsey, the IYOR Coordinator, gave a brief overview

a what happened so far, and reminded the members that it was not easy to keep track on all the activities around the world. The Ocean Agency was acknowledged for its support in promoting the year. **ICRI Members were reminded that a final report will be produced and are encouraged to provide information of the activities they implemented.**

The government of France, Sweden and United States of America were thanked for their financial support.

Member's report

The Secretariat made a short presentation of the reports received and indicated that they were a very useful source of information for the Secretariat and they will be used in the near future to implement the plan of action. 31 reports have been received:

- Countries: 18/38 (47.4%)
- Non-Governmental Organisations: 9/24 (37.5%)
- Regional Intergovernmental Organizations and Regional Seas: 3/8 (37.5%)
- Global Intergovernmental Organizations and Multilateral Environmental Agreements: 1/7 (14.3%)

The following members reported on their activities:

- Communication campaign by *Richard Ververs, The Ocean Agency*.
ICRI welcomed the new campaign proposed by The Ocean Agency and would like to be associated with it.
- *Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA) on the Reef Fish Conservation Project*.

Following the presentation, France mentioned his work on trying to have these species on the annexes of the Cartagena convention. Brazil mentioned that it was not an easy topic. In Brazil parrot fish are protected but the fishermen feel aggrieved. Brazil would like other countries to share their experience.

- *NOAA, United States of America on the Strategic Plan for Coral Reef Conservation*.

Next ICRI General Meeting

The Australian co-chair informed the participants that the next ICRI General meeting will be held in Townsville, Australia, late November/early December. The dates will be announced shortly.

Meeting outcomes and closing

The following documents were adopted during the 33rd ICRI General Meeting:

- Plan of action 2018-2020 (annex 8)
- Resolution on the revision of the ICRI Organisation and Management Procedures
- Terms of reference for the *ad hoc* committee on developing a recommendation for a post-2020 coral reef target
- Terms of reference for the *ad hoc* committee on reef restoration
- Implementation and Governance plan for the GCRMN (pending major comments received by December 31st, 2018)
- Road map for the production of the 2020 Status of Coral Reefs of the World report
- Resolution on the 6th International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS 6)

The Meeting thanked Monaco and Sweden for the financial support to organise the General Meeting.

The meeting was closed by H.E. Bernard Fautrier.

Annexes

Annex 1: List of participants

Annex 2: Agenda

Annex 3: Resolution on the revision of the ICRI Organisation and Management Procedures

Annex 4: Terms of reference for the *ad hoc* committee on developing a recommendation for a post-2020 coral reef target

Annex 5: Terms of reference for the *ad hoc* committee on reef restoration

Annex 6: Road map for the production of the 2020 Status of Coral Reefs of the World report

Annex 7: Resolution on the 6th International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS 6)

Annex 8: Plan of action 2018-2020