



## **Resolution to extend the ICRI Ad Hoc Committee on coral reef restoration and adaptation research and development**

*adopted on December 2019, at the 34<sup>th</sup> ICRI General Meeting (Australia)*

In response to the recent disturbances affecting coral reefs, particularly thermal-stress induced, global mass coral bleaching events between 2015 and 2017, and current climate forecasts which predict that sea temperatures will exceed the thermal tolerances of corals within the next 10-20 years, there is growing recognition that traditional coral reef management approaches alone will be insufficient to counter the increasingly frequent and more severe stresses imposed by a changing climate. As a consequence, there has been a surge in interest in active interventions to restore coral reefs.

Australia has recently completed the first phase of the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program (RRAP), which evaluated the feasibility of an array of potential interventions and delivery methods to assist the Great Barrier Reef to recover from major disturbances and adapt to a changing climate. The recommendations arising from the RRAP can help coral reefs worldwide.

In parallel, the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) conducted a review on '*Interventions to Increase the Resilience of Coral Reefs*'.

The ICRI Plan of Action 2018-2020 calls for the promotion of leading reef restoration practices by facilitating partnerships, investment and capacity-building among ICRI members. In order to fulfil the objectives of the Plan of Action, ICRI established an Ad Hoc Committee on Coral Reef Restoration and Adaptation Research and Development at its General Meeting in Monaco in December 2018. The Committee has sought to identify common interests, facilitate global and regional collaborations, and help identify opportunities for co-investment in research and development on coral reef restoration and adaptation.

While undertaking this work, opportunities have emerged to work with a broader group of nations and partners including the Commonwealth Blue Charter Action Group on Coral Reef Protection and Restoration, UNEP, the French Coral Reef Initiative (Ifreco) and the Coral Restoration Consortium to further advance the work of the Committee and the ICRI Plan of Action.

### **The General Meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative:**

Endorses the continuation of the ICRI Ad Hoc Committee on Coral Reef Restoration and Adaptation Research and Development.



## **Annex: Amended terms of reference**

Working with ICRI members, reef-bearing nations and relevant partners, the Committee will:

- Continue to assess and document global needs and priorities for current and future reef restoration and adaptation programs;
- Continue to assess and document global research and development priorities;
- Provide a coordinating mechanism for international collaboration on coral reef restoration research and development;
- Advocate for the use of best practice restoration techniques and highlight examples of relevant policy and legislation as part of a broader strategy that involves traditional management and reducing carbon emissions in order to maintain coral reef function, structure and resilience;
- Facilitate the transfer of new knowledge of restoration techniques to managers and restoration practitioners; and
- Update the global database on coral restoration methods and integrate it with the ICRI website, if resources are available.

**Chair:** Australia

**Members:** Experts from the ICRI Membership, other reef-bearing nations and relevant partners.

**Duration:** The *ad hoc* committee will last not more than one year, with the final report to be presented at the 35<sup>th</sup> ICRI General Meeting. The report will be available on the ICRI Forum.

**Working procedures:** The *ad hoc* committee will conduct its work via email, telephone, video conference and, when necessary, internet-based services.