

Resolution to extend the ICRI Ad Hoc Committee on Resilience-based Management

Adopted at the 36th ICRI General Meeting (online), December 2021

Climate change is the greatest threat to coral reefs worldwide. There is growing understanding that management strategies require greater innovation and agility to build the resilience of coral reef ecosystems under current climate change trajectories. Resilience-based management (RBM) uses knowledge of current and future drivers to prioritise, implement, and adapt management actions that sustain ecosystems and human well-being. While RBM cannot prevent impacts from major disturbances such as coral bleaching and cyclones, building ecosystem resilience can increase the capacity of coral reefs to withstand and recover from these disturbances.

The previous ICRI Secretariat Plan of Action 2018-2020 called for members to support reef resilience at the local, regional and global scale. In recognition of the need to accelerate our collective efforts, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority convened an ICRI side event ‘Managing for Resilience’ at the 34th ICRI General Meeting in Australia, in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. Following this, ICRI established the ad hoc Committee on Resilience-based Management (RBM). The Committee’s objective was to ‘identify supports and develop best-practice guidance on the actions that will enable members to tailor and scale up RBM to meet local, national and global needs’. Key achievements of the Committee included development of a centralised ‘Resilience Hub’ on the ICRI Forum website, and a policy brief and animation to provide guidance for decision makers on what they could do to support RBM from a policy perspective.

While undertaking this work, the Committee surveyed members to identify their needs and to ensure its outputs were targeted and relevant. The survey identified several barriers to implementing resilience-based management, including lack of technical expertise and capability to identify appropriate funding sources to implement actions. As such, the Committee seeks to continue its work and build on its achievements to date by providing support for members to identify and prioritise actions that build reef resilience and develop the resources to deliver on global biodiversity and sustainability commitments.

The proposed ICRI Plan of Action 2021-2024 includes a theme focussed on ‘Preparing for the Future: Promoting Resilient Coral Reefs’, with the following sub-sections:

- Strengthening policies – Supporting conservation and recovery of coral reefs and associated ecosystems through resilience-based management frameworks.
- Promote capacity building for applying resilience-based management approaches to coral conservation.

Potential new sources of funding have also emerged that could be capitalised on by members, including the Global Fund for Coral Reefs and the Global Coral Research & Development Accelerator Platform.

Annex: Amended terms of reference

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

1. Assist members to identify and implement resilience-based management actions that support global biodiversity and sustainability targets, such as in the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the proposed CBD Global Biodiversity Framework.
2. Assist members to develop the necessary resources (tools, guidance, finance mechanisms, etc.) that support resilience-based management plans and policies.

3. Continue to share knowledge and expertise on implementing resilience-based management with members.
4. Develop closer linkages with the ad hoc Committee on Reef Restoration and the ad hoc Committee on developing a recommendation for a Post 2020 coral reef target

Chair: Australia

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

Duration: The *ad hoc* committee will be extended for one year, with the final report to be presented at the 37th ICRI General Meeting.

Working procedures: The *ad hoc* committee will conduct its work virtually.