Update: Ad Hoc Committee on Resilience-Based Management

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Brief recap and context…

• Formed at 34th ICRI General Meeting (December 2019)
• Committee extended at 36th ICRI General Meeting (December 2021)
• ICRI Plan of Action 2021-2025 (May 2022)
Brief recap and context...

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Several achievements..
RBM Policy Brief (November 2021), Resilience Hub (ICRI website), comms, means of sharing experiences and resources

Key collaboration with restoration committee..
Shaver et al (2022) A roadmap to integrating resilience into the practice of coral reef restoration (April 2022)
A Policy Brief for Decision Makers: Building Resilience into Coral Reef Conservation

Key output: RBM Policy Brief

Building Resilience into Coral Reef Conservation
A Policy Brief for Decision Makers

What are coral reefs so important?
Coral reefs are one of the most biodiverse and productive ecosystems on Earth, as well as being beautiful underwater landscapes that benefit local communities. This brief provides key findings on how to build resilience into coral reefs to support conservation, including strategies for reducing greenhouse gases, improving water quality, and managing fisheries.

Building resilience of coral reefs depends on global, regional, and local efforts. Coral reefs need to be managed in a way that is consistent with conservation goals, including protecting and restoring natural habitats, reducing pollution, and managing fisheries.

What is ecosystem resilience and why does it matter?
Ecosystem resilience refers to the capacity of a system to resist and recover from stressors, such as climate change, over time. Coral reefs are particularly vulnerable to climate change, as rising temperatures and ocean acidification can lead to coral bleaching and mortality.

Actions for decision-makers
- Implement innovative approaches to reef rehabilitation and restoration (e.g., coral gardening and selective breeding of heat-resistant corals)
- Reduce local impacts from fishing, tourism, and recreational activities
- Undertake climate vulnerability assessments of key species, habitats, and ecological processes
- Protect ecosystem resilience through targeted compliance, education, and stewardship actions
- Promote behaviour change to reduce human impacts on coral reefs to support resilience
- Support local institutions, industries, and community leaders to be reef champions and stewards
- Implement equitable area-based management (MAs and OECMs) to protect diversity of species, habitats, and ecosystems
- Build political support for and strengthen the capacity of managers to implement RBM
- Establish an adaptive management framework to evaluate and adjust actions as needed
- Integrate climate change forecasts and vulnerability assessments into plans and policies
- Strengthen legal and policy frameworks to reduce impacts and promote the sustainable use of coral reefs and connected ecosystems and watersheds
- Pursue mixed economy finance mechanisms to enable sustainable protection and restoration of coral reefs
Since July 2022..

- Discussions with members to understand needs and future directions
- Two principles for committee
  1. Implement the RBM Policy Brief
  2. Build on what is there already; don’t duplicate
- Ideas for deliverables:
  - Webinars
  - Consolidate and make resources accessible
  - High-level policy guidance (e.g. RBM and CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework)
  - Case studies
Case studies

Case study A

Case study B

Case study C

We’re aiming for 5-8, we have around 15 potentials on the radar (USA, Taiwan, Mexico, Australia, global)
Future opportunities?

- Government / manager perspective
  - Legislation, statutory authority
  - Management objectives expressed through policy, strategy, planning
  - Operational management activities

- RBM theory perspective
  - Vulnerability or resilience assessments
  - Identify suitable management interventions
Future opportunities?

Government / manager perspective

- Legislation, statutory authority
  - MPA establishment
  - Management objectives expressed through Policy and strategy
  - Operational planning
  - Operational management activities
  - Assessing management effectiveness
Future opportunities?

Government / manager perspective

- Resilience-based laws
- MPA design optimizes resilience objectives
- Resilience-based policy and strategy
- Decision support (where, when, what)
- Resilience-based evaluation

How can we better integrate RBM thinking into this perspective? (As opposed to ‘implement RBM’)