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secore.org

December 3, 2021

International Coral Reef Initiative
Office of the Secretariats
Christine Dawson, Co-Chair
Jennifer Koss, Co-Chair

Dear Ms. Dawson and Ms. Koss,

This letter is to express our interest for SECORE International, a U.S. 501(c)(3) organization with offices in Ohio, Florida and Germany (www.secure.org), to become an official member of ICRI.

While SECORE supports the full spectrum of coral reef conservation and management goals, our primary action areas are coral reef restoration and capacity building. As recognized by ICRI in the formation of a restoration-focussed ad-hoc committee in 2018, current levels of reef degradation invoke an “urgent need to develop new methods and breakthroughs in the scale and rates of deployment and cost [of reef restoration] to meet current and future challenges”¹.

This is precisely SECORE’s mission: creating and sharing tools and technologies to sustainably restore coral reefs worldwide. With a focus on coral larval propagation (including critically endangered species), increased scale, and cost-efficiency, we are actively and simultaneously engaged in ecological research, technology development, and training of local implementation partners.

We utilize our research and R&D locations in Miami (FL, USA), Curacao, and Mexico, and collaborations with Australia (RRAP) and other academic partners to carry out ecological and applied research to understand drivers and bottlenecks of sexual coral reproduction and restoration/enhancement measures. We translate this knowledge through engineering into applicable tools and technologies that maximize efficiency and do not require cost-intensive land based infrastructure (e.g. aquaculture or laboratory facilities), thus enabling the

¹ Terms of Reference for the ICRI Ad Hoc Committee on Reef Restoration, 2018

application across a wide range of local conditions. Additionally, we have initiated manufacturing pipelines to provide local partners with access to these developed tools and technologies.

Currently, our Training and Implementation Program involves eight Caribbean nations (The Bahamas, Bonaire, Belize, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and the US Virgin Islands) and Saipan (Marianas). SECORE provides these formal partners with both remote and hands-on training opportunities, SECORE-developed tools² to enable initiation of effective larval propagation programs within their local restoration activities (independent of land-based lab or aquaculture facilities), and support in their initial local coral spawning and larval culture activities. The goal of each 5-year mentorship is to further the ability of coastal nations to restore and enhance their coral reefs to sustain local economies, dependent livelihoods, and coastal protection. We are currently investigating opportunities to expand this successful program towards other regions like the Indo Pacific and Red Sea. While our Training and Implementation Program is grant funded, the general goal is to enable local communities to sustainably fund activities after the initial 5-year mentorship period.

SECORE would look forward to active participation in ICRI initiatives, particularly those relating to coral restoration and enhancement. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,



Dr. Dirk Petersen
Founder & Executive Director

² E.g., Chamberland et al. 2017. Sci Rpts 7: 18076 | DOI:10.1038/s41598-017-17555-z; Miller et al. 2021. Rest Ecol doi: 10.1111/rec.13512