

Recommendation for the Indian Ocean region

*Adopted by the participants of the ICRI 26th General Meeting
La Réunion, 12 – 15 December 2012*

Concerned that more than 65 percent of reefs in the Indian Ocean are at risk from local threats, with one-third rated at high or very high risk (*source RRR*);

Acknowledging that countries in the region are highly dependent on these ecosystems for food, income, and coastal protection;

Aware of the additional pressure from the potential impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on the health of coral reefs and related ecosystems, including through sea-level rise, increase in the severity and incidence of coral bleaching, rising sea surface temperature and higher storm intensity;

Recognizing the important role of international and regional organizations, initiatives and networks;

Noting that coral reef task forces have been established for the Western Indian Ocean under the framework of the Nairobi Convention as well as for South Asia under the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme and South Asian Seas Action Plan;

Taking note of the next Conference of the parties to the Nairobi Convention, to be held in December 2012 (in Maputo, Mozambique), and the proposed Regional Coral Reef Action Plan;

Noting the discussion during the “Indian Ocean Day” held at the ICRI 26th General Meeting (La Réunion, December 2010);

The General Meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative:

Commends the ongoing work that is implemented at the regional, national and local levels on coral reef management, including monitoring;

Recognizes the importance of long term coral reef monitoring;

Recognizes the need for enhanced WIO regional cooperation amongst all the relevant stakeholders and ongoing projects;



Encourages effort to improve information exchange on programs, projects and activities relevant to coral reefs in the Western Indian Ocean, including through the information center and clearing house mechanism hosted by the Nairobi Convention;

Recognizes the need to address the threats posed by climate change as they relate to coral reefs and associated ecosystems and dependent communities, through ongoing and new initiatives.

ICRI members are encouraged to:

Consider the elements from the report of the “Indian Ocean Day” including the recommendations contained therein;

Encourage efforts to further strengthen coordination between the Secretariat of the Nairobi convention, regional institutions and all other relevant regional stakeholders in the WIO;

Encourage efforts to enhance sub-regional and Indian Ocean-wide collaboration and coordination in assessment of and reporting on coral reef status, threats and trends, in particular through the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network;

Promote the capacity building, and awareness of local communities on options offered for sustainable coastal and marine management;

Increase information sharing on climate change and its impacts on coral reefs, related ecosystems and dependent communities in the Indian Ocean region;

Take into consideration coral reefs, related ecosystems and dependent communities within national action climate change strategies and/or action plans, where appropriate.