

Resolution on Actions to promote Sustainable and Equitable practices in the international Trade in Coral Reef Species

*Adopted during the ICRI Coordination and Planning Committee (CPC) Meeting
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Recognizing that the harvest of corals, coral reef fish and invertebrates for the international trade in coral reef species is steadily expanding (particularly in the East Asia and Pacific regions), is frequently characterized by over-exploitation of target species and the use of destructive fishing methods such as cyanide, and is therefore a significant threat to coral reefs;

Also recognizing that much of the reef species trade is poorly documented, frequently illegal under the laws of source countries, and often unregulated;

Further recognizing the desire of reef species trade source countries to strengthen monitoring and management of the exploitation and trade in reef species;

Noting that the elimination of destructive practices and over-exploitation in the reef species trade is the shared responsibility of both source and market countries; and

Further noting that a properly managed reef species trade can potentially provide a sustainable source of livelihood for local communities;

The International Coral Reef Initiative Coordination and Planning Committee:

Recommends that governments of reef species trade source countries strive to improve and harmonize the collection and analysis of data on reef species harvest, exports and imports, with particular respect to species, volumes, and destination countries;

Encourages governments of reef species importing countries to institute procedures to better document and disseminate data on reef species imports, and to ensure that all such imports have been legally obtained in the countries from which they originate;

Urges the development of industry “best practices,” “codes of conduct,” and systems for independent, third-party certification to provide market incentives that reward sustainable harvest and discourage over-exploitation and destructive fishing methods;

Calls on governments, donor agencies and relevant centers of scientific and technical expertise to support the scientifically sound development of reef species aquaculture as a potential tool for promoting sustainability in the reef species trade, with due attention to economic analysis, socio-economic impacts, and the practicalities of government regulation and oversight;

Encourages governments, donor agencies and non-governmental organizations to strengthen the capacity of local communities and local government units to monitor, manage and benefit from a sustainable reef species trade;

Urges reef species trade source countries to develop and implement framework laws and management regimes for sustainable management of the reef species trade; and

Calls for development of innovative and sustainable mechanisms to finance all of the actions noted above.