



**ICRI 25<sup>th</sup> General Meeting  
8-12 November 2010, Apia, Samoa  
Executive Summary**

*Adopted by the participants*

The second General Meeting under the French-Samoan co-secretariat was held from the 8-12 November 2010, in Apia (Samoa).

The meeting was opened with a welcoming message from Honorable Faumuina Liuga, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa, and remarks from Pascal Colin (French Government).

A total of 70 participants attended the ICRI General Meeting. France (through the *French Economic, Social and Cultural Co-Operation Fund for the Pacific*) and the United States of America provided financial support to several countries to enable their participation.

The General Meeting welcomed the “*Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine*” (Haiti) as ICRI member organization. This is the only Haiti-based NGO focusing on the protection and sustainable management of coastal and marine resources for Haiti.

**ICRI Secretariat plan of Action**

The ICRI General Meeting was the occasion to present the progress on the implementation of the ICRI plan of action by the ICRI secretariat. The work on the reformulation of a new “*Call to Action*” was presented. It was decided to continue the work, in close collaboration with ICRI members, and if possible, to integrate some of the conclusions of the recent 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the conference of the parties to the Convention of the Biological Diversity (CBD). The aim is to release the document at the next ICRI GM. In parallel, the ICRI secretariat will “brainstorm” with previous secretariats on the mission of ICRI, the membership process, and the communication strategy for ICRI, among other issues. The secretariat will present an informal report (white paper) on these matters at the next GM. The ICRI Secretariat also confirmed the organization of the fourth International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS) in Guadeloupe in September 2011. ICRI members welcomed the new format for the symposium.

*Supporting document:* Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on ITMEMS 4

**ICRI Networks**

**International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN)** - The ICRI members agreed on the proposed governance and management board for the International Coral Reef Action Network.



The secretariat, in collaboration with the ICRAN Coordination Unit, will seek nomination for the following members:

- ICRI Secretariat (current)
- ICRI Secretariat (outgoing)
- ICRI Member Country Government(s)
- Member(s) of the ICRI Community
- Hosting Institution

Members interested in being part of the ICRAN management board are encouraged to contact the Secretariat. The Secretariat will circulate the composition by end of January 2011.

Supporting document: Proposed structure and terms of reference for ICRAN

**Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)** - A GCRMN Management Group Meeting was held during ICRI General Meeting. The GCRMN Management Group meeting discussed primarily the transition phase of GCRMN and upcoming reports. Two committees were established, one to facilitate the GCRMN transition phase (*Committee on Facilitating the GCRMN Transition Phase and Development of Global and Regional Coordination Structures*), and one to plan for and oversee the preparation of the GCRMN Global Status and Outlook report 2012. GCRMN Management Group Members and ICRI members are encouraged to notify IUCN of their interest in taking part in the committees.

GCRMN Management Group members are also invited to confirm name and contact information for primary and additional focal points.

The transition phase of GCRMN **will be extended until May 2011**, with a view to agreeing regional and global coordination structures at a next Management Group Meeting, to be held in association with the International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC, May 2011, Canada).

3 publications are under production:

- *Effective Catchment Management and Coral Reef Conservation: Best Practice Case Studies* (to be released at the IMCC)
- *Status of Coral Reefs of the East Asia* (to be released in beginning 2011)
- *Status of Coral Reefs of the Pacific: 2011*. A synthesis of reef status and health, conservation and management.

The role of ICRI/GCRMN at the 12<sup>th</sup> International Coral Reef Symposium was also discussed.

Supporting documents:



- Minutes of the GCRMN Management Group Meeting (will be available shortly)
- Draft terms of reference for the committees GCRMN (will be available shortly)
- Draft Structure and Terms of Reference
- The Role of Regional Coordinators and Host Institutions

### **Pacific Day**

In an effort to improve regional cooperation and enhance the regional focus of ICRI's work, a full day of the General Meeting was devoted to issues in the Pacific region. During the morning session, an overview of the coral reefs in the region including ongoing programmes, projects, challenge of implementation or sustainability, incentives, etc. was presented. The 3 themes for the day were:

- Threats to Coral Reefs
- Climate Change and effects on coral reefs and consequences for the livelihood of small island countries
- Traditional knowledge Management for Marine Conservation

Following the day, a recommendation on the pacific region was adopted. The ICRI secretariat will disseminate the recommendation to various relevant organizations in the region. The ICRI secretariat will also undertake the implementation, in collaboration with the SPREP and other ICRI members, of some of the actions arising from this day.

*Supporting document:* Recommendation for the Pacific region

### **Ad Hoc Committees**

An *Ad Hoc* Committee on the “**Caribbean Regional Response to Lionfish Invasion**” was created. The terms of reference for this committee were adopted during the meeting. It was stressed out that the invasion was a growing concern for the region and immediate actions are needed, in particular in terms of detection.

*Supporting document:* Terms of Reference for the ICRI *Ad Hoc* Committee on Caribbean Regional Response to Lionfish Invasion

The terms of reference for the *Ad Hoc* Committee on “**Coral Reef Associated Fisheries**” were amended, and the committee renewed until the next ICRI General Meeting. Among the tasks of the committee, an Host Secretariat Advisory paper on “on the importance of a sustainable management of coral reef spawning aggregation” will be prepared by the *Ad Hoc* Committee and submitted at the seventh SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting under the leadership of ICRI Secretariat.



*Supporting document:* Amended Terms of Reference for the ICRI *Ad Hoc* Committee on Coral Reef Associated Fisheries

A session on the “**International tools for coral reefs sustainable management**” was held with presentation from the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States and from Fiji, on the behalf of the RAMSAR secretariat on the Regional Wetlands Action Plan (2011- 2013) for the Pacific.

A session on the **management of accidental releases of pollutants** was held with presentation of the Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Program. The PACPOL looks at controlling and preventions of pollutants from ships. Other presentations were made by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and NOAA. Participants agreed that ICRI could have a role to play in the management of accidental marine releases of pollutants.

### **Other business**

**GLOBE International** – a presentation of GLOBE was made by the French Ambassador for the Environment. The Government of Japan informed the secretariat that it is too early at this stage to decide ICRI’s support to the program as the target is too ambitious and the feasibility is questionable. USA “echoed” this comment. Thus, even if the value of the work is recognized by some of the ICRI members, ICRI is not able yet to officially support the work of GLOBE and its Action Plan for Coral Reefs. The secretariat will continue to discuss with GLOBE about potential collaboration and will keep the ICRI members informed.

The ICRI Members congratulated the government of Japan for his leadership on the development of the **East Asia Regional strategy on MPA Networks** and its relevant activities. It is a very inspiring initiative that could be applied to other regions.

**International Marine Conservation Congress (Victoria, BC, Canada – 14-18 May 2011)** – The secretariat will explore the possibility of organizing a side event at the congress on Coral Reefs and conservation measure to protect them. Members that are planning to attend the congress are requested to contact the secretariat. Also, members who are willing to help in organizing this event are encouraged to contact the secretariat.

The next **ICRI General Meeting (ICRI GM 26)** will be held in the Indian Ocean region toward the end of 2011 year. ICRI members are encouraged to send to the secretariat dates of unavailability. The secretariat will confirm the date of the meeting in early 2011.

During the meeting, a regional day on the Indian Ocean will be held (the Indian Ocean Day). The aim is to create awareness and promote regional cooperation in the protection, conservation and a sustainable use of coral reefs. ICRI members interested in the organization of this day (especially the one from the region) are encouraged to contact the ICRI Secretariat.



**Resolution to the UNGA** – A resolution on the “*Protection of coral reefs for sustainable livelihoods and development*” was submitted at the Sixty-fifth session of the UN General Assembly (Second Committee). The secretariat will inform the ICRI members about the latest developments on this resolution.

The Australian government expressed his interest in hosting the next secretariat (2012-2013).