The ICRI Secretariat  
C/O France and Madagascar

Dear Sir/Madam,

The NGO, Blue Finance Inc. (BF) is extremely interested in becoming a member of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). BF is a non-governmental organisation with significant coral reef programs and interests in predominantly the Caribbean region, but also the South Pacific.

BF’s primary focus is the development of economic instruments for marine biodiversity. The NGO is working on projects supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) through the Global Coral Reef Partnership of UNEP and the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. Other partners include GRID-Arendal, the Blue Solutions project, OAS (Organisation of American States), the Regional Activity Centre for the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife for the wider Caribbean (SPAW-RAC) of the Caribbean Environmental Programme and finally your organisation (ICRI), through its Ad Hoc Committee on Economic Valuation.

The objective of Bluefinance is to achieve environmental, social and financial returns through strengthened collaboration with the private sector in marine management and conservation in coral reef areas. Specifically, Bluefinance seeks to develop and implement a suite of national projects demonstrating sustainable financing of marine management, by structuring and managing impact investments in marine conservation and supporting the establishment of Marine Managed Areas; as well as providing guidance and tools that may facilitate broader application of the approach.
To some extent, BF is already involved in ICRI. The current Director, Dr. Nicolas Pascal heads the Ad Hoc Committee on Economic Valuation and Angelique Brathwaite, Project Associate, represented Barbados for over a decade, prior to her resignation from her Government.

We believe that BF and ICRI members can benefit from a cross fertilization of knowledge and ideas and would truly appreciate the opportunity to be a part of your organisation.

Sincerely,

Nicolas Pascal
Blue finance | Director
PhD, Ecological economy and conservation finance
Skype: fdbassan | email: NPascal@blue-finance.org | web: www.blue-finance.org