

Decision on Reef Restoration

*Adopted during the ICRI Coordination and Planning Committee (CPC) Meeting
5-6 April 2001, Cebu City (Philippines)*

The ICRI CPC:

Recognizing that the combination of increasing human use and impacts upon reefs and increased occurrence of severe storm and coral bleaching events associated with increased global sea surface temperatures are placing increased stress and demands upon the natural resilience of recovery capacity of most coral reefs;

Noting that the most immediate priority is to reduce to the absolute minimum the levels of stress caused to coral reefs by human uses and impacts;

Considers that well designed reef restoration and enhancement projects have a role to play in managing the well-being of the world's coral reefs and in demonstrating to participants the requirements of a clean environment for establishment and growth of reef species;

Stresses that the design and implementation of such projects should be based on risk assessment and economic analysis to ensure that they are environmentally sound, socially acceptable and cost effective;

Notes that information on the design, conduct, costs, benefits and risks of reef restoration and enhancement techniques is not yet accessible in a form which can provide clear guidance to communities, decision makers, scientists and managers considering the application of such techniques;

Calls upon members and the global community to support the urgent development and publication of a handbook (or guidelines) on Reef Restoration and Enhancement Techniques. This handbook should include a consideration of the environmental process, biodiversity and socioeconomic implications of techniques of restoration, enhancement and of artificial reefs.