



Summary Record

Presented by the ICRI Secretariat

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first ICRI CPC meeting of the UK/Seychelles Secretariat was held on the 17th to 19th November in the Turks and Caicos Islands and co-chaired by Rolph Payet of the Seychelles and John Roberts of the UK. The summary record is structured in accordance with the agenda. For each item, the summary provides a very brief background with links to relevant presentations and supporting documents submitted, all of which are available on the ICRI Forum at www.icriforum.org. The actions requested on each item, the key points discussed, the conclusions of the meeting and any actions arising are noted. A summary of the outcomes is presented below.

1. Two resolutions were adopted:
 - i. A resolution on the Organisation and Management Structure for ICRI
 - ii. A resolution on the Small Island Developing States.
2. The meeting welcomed Norway as an observer and their joint contribution to UNEPs cold water coral reefs.
3. The CPC welcomed the ICRI Secretariat Plan of Action and outline of a communication strategy, which will be further developed, based on members' comments. A new version of the document will be presented at the next ICRI CPC meeting in Okinawa, Japan, July 2004.
4. ICRI thanked the UK for initiating the Small Grant Scheme. Three projects were voted by the CPC for funding. These are:
 - i. Monitoring of Portland Blight Protected Area (Caribbean Coastal Data Centre, Jamaica)
 - ii. Setting up of Marine Protected Areas close to Urban Areas (Coastal Dynamics Foundation, Philippines)
 - iii. Site Exchange with St Lucia Marine Management Area (Bonaire Marine Park, St Lucia)Progress reports will be expected at the next CPC meeting.
5. Three *ad hoc* committees were established to;
 - i. Review and develop a definition for fossil coral that would be appropriate to CITES. Andy Bruckner will be the moderator.
 - ii. To assess ICRI's potential role in the international collaboration on cold water coral reefs. The moderator will be Robert Canning.
 - iii. To consider how ICRI should engage in the International Coral Reef Symposium. Keisuke Takahashi will moderate this *ad hoc* committee.
6. The CPC agreed to the continuity of the Trade and Fisheries working group moderated by Barbara Best and the MPA working group moderated by Arthur Paterson subject to reviewed mandates and working group members.

All discussions by the *ad hoc* committees and working groups will take place on the ICRI Forum. This includes a discussion group on the Protocol for Coral Reef damage assessment, to be led by Judith Campbell.

7. The White Water 2 Blue Water Initiative received the support of the meeting for its positive contribution to integrated coastal watershed and marine management and to building effective partnerships to protect coral reefs and associated ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean region.
8. The meeting welcomed the IMM/DFID/IOC publication "Poverty and Reefs", which, for the first time approaches management and conservation of coral reefs from the perspective of the poor.
9. ICRI agreed to combine with other partners to organise coral reef side events at key meetings.
10. UNEP-WCMC will produce a selection of pertinent information to assist ICRI members in the communication of ICRI objectives and recruitment of new members.
11. ICRI Secretariat will maintain a list on the ICRI Forum, of on going resolutions and decisions, working groups and ad hoc committees, the time-scale of reporting, terms of reference and an indication of progress made.
12. ICRI Forum continues to provide a vital tool for ICRI and after an online training session ICRI members were encouraged to register and visit the ICRI Forum regularly.
13. The Secretariat agreed that the number of CPC meetings during the term of the UK/Seychelles Joint Secretariat be reduced to three. The second is proposed for the 3-4th July 2004, in Okinawa, and the third for February 2005 in the Seychelles.

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1.0 - OPENING OF MEETING

1.1 *Invocation and opening remarks*

1. On behalf of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Judith Campbell welcomed all participants. She stressed the importance of coral reefs to the Turks and Caicos Islands in terms of the goods and services that they provide particularly coastal protection and fisheries. She drew attention to the 80% of coral reef damage occurring in Caribbean and highlighted the current threats to local reef systems.

1.2 *Welcome address by Chief Minister of TCI*

2. The Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Honourable Michael Misick, welcomed ICRI members to the Turks and Caicos, expressing his delight at the choice of location for this meeting and the pertinence of the subjects to be discussed to the Islands given their dependence on their 118km of fringing reef.

1.3 *Adoption of the Agenda*

3. The draft agenda of the meeting was adopted with the following changes:

- i. Agenda item 6.2 on White Water to Blue Water was moved up the agenda to before agenda item 2.
- ii. The following participants were granted a slot for their report under agenda item 9.3, 'Matters arising from Members' Reports': Andy Hooten on behalf of World Bank, Nyawira Muthiga of Kenya for an Eastern African report and Magarita Astralaga from the Ramsar Secretariat.
- iii. Clive Wilkinson informed the chairs of the 2 reports that he wanted to present and was granted a slot under agenda 7.6
- iv. A copy of the agenda is at Annex 1.

2.0 - MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

2.1 - *Final endorsement of the Resolution on the Organisation and Management Structure for ICRI*

Supporting document: [ICRI CPC \(2\)2003/2.1/1](#)

4. Following detailed discussion of the Resolution for Organisation and Management Procedures for ICRI at the previous CPC meeting in Gland, May 2003, amendments were proposed and discussed through the ICRI Forum. The Resolution was brought to this meeting to be finalised and endorsed. Discussion was re-opened for Articles 1, 5, 7 and 10 only. The endorsed document ('the Resolution') will be open to review after a 2- year period to assess its impact and any need for modifying the Articles.

5. In discussion the following points were made:

- i. **Article 1** – Subsequently to the meeting France had submitted to ICRI Secretariat the amendments to Article 1.1 regarding membership categories for ICRI. In the light of France not being present, the US delegation suggested a compromise on paragraph (ii), which was retained to ensure inclusion of states/ economies with coral reefs, not in the

UN system, such as Taiwan. Paragraph (iv) was also retained to ensure the inclusion of non national public agencies. Paragraph (vi) concerning the inclusion of the private sector was deleted. Members were keen not to exclude the private sector entirely and so wish to take the definition of NGO in its broadest sense as a compromise to the suggested amendment. It was agreed by the meeting that the subject of membership and in particular how to incorporate private sector involvement into ICRI will be an area to revisit in future meetings or when there is significant interest from a private company.

- ii. **Article 5** - requires consolidation to provide a more structured overview of the Executive Authorities responsibilities. Two additions were agreed upon to emphasise (i) the role of ICRI in supporting the ICRS when they fall into the term of the EA, and (ii) a call that the EA be responsible for taking ICRI decisions and actions on to other meetings.
- iii. The meeting considered the need for an explanation of ICRI Members responsibilities. Concerns were raised that this might lead to reporting needs, which members felt would not be appropriate for the Initiative.
- iv. **Article 7** – it was agreed that provision be made in the Resolution for the possibility of congratulatory resolutions.
- v. **Article 10** - should be amended to reflect the broad need for the Executive Authority to make financial arrangements for their term as the Secretariat, and that specific arrangements for the current Secretariat should be detailed as Annex 2 of the resolution.
- vi. **General** – editorial errors, removal of notes and paraphrases present in the text should be removed. In the final editing the Secretariat are afforded editorial license.

6. In Conclusion the Resolution with the above changes was accepted by the meeting and is provided as Annex 2. The meeting also requested the ICRI Secretariat to;

- i. Amend the resolution to reflect the agreements of the ICRI members and distribute the resulting document as the accepted resolution;
- ii. Consolidate Article 5 of the Resolution;
- iii. Attach Key ICRI documents as annex 1 to the resolution;
- iv. Make available a list of extant ad hoc committees and working on the ICRI Forum.

3.0 – NEW ICRI MEMBERS

7. The Co-chairs, on behalf of the Members present, welcomed Norway. In response Norway thanked the Secretariat for the opportunity to attend this meeting and looked forward to the discussions, in particular on the cold water coral reefs, which were of special interests for Norway.

8. No new members were present.

9. Discussion of a mechanism for recruiting national members was carried forward to agenda item 9.1.

4.0 - REPORT FROM THE ICRI SECRETARIAT

4.1 - Review of ICRI Secretariat hand over and activities to date

10. Matters relating to this matter were included in 4.2

4.2 - ICRI Secretariat Plan of Action including an introduction of a proposed communications strategy

Supporting document: [ICRI CPC\(2\)2003/4.2/1](#)

11. The work plan of the current UK-Seychelles Joint Secretariat will span two years from 1st July 2003 to end of June 2005. One of the major tasks for the Secretariat will be to organise biannual ICRI General Meetings. The plan will cover four elements: raising awareness of the importance of

coral reefs; giving policy steer to the ICRI networks; fostering cooperation on coral reef issues with relevant bodies, and private sector involvement.

12. The document also contains the development of an ICRI communication strategy, which would help to define ICRI's role and hence facilitate progress on the four elements of the plan.

13. The CPC members were invited to;

- i. Note the contents of Annexes 1 and 2 of the supporting document; and
- ii. Consider the appropriateness of a communication strategy to improve awareness and understanding of ICRI and its activities.

14. In discussion the following points were made:

- i. The meeting discussed ways of increasing awareness of ICRI, such as local awareness meetings, stakeholder meetings with governmental bodies and private sector. For instance an example was given whereby WWF in conjunction with ICRAN conducted outreach efforts at inter ministerial meetings starting with WSSD.
- ii. The importance for ICRI to be represented at key meetings such as CBD COP 7, and Barbados+10 (as side events) was stressed, as a means to spread the ICRI message, promote ICRI goals and recommendations and increase awareness of ICRI. ICRI was invited by WWF to discuss potential avenues for collaborating in a side event at the CBD COP7.
- iii. With respect to action point 4 of the action plan, ICRI should consider the potential for increasing collaboration with private sector on coral reef issues. Examples of public/private collaboration were given from:
 - (a) The Seychelles whereby private companies were participating in the events of the 2003 "Earth Day"; and
 - (b) From the display of in-flight coral reef films to travellers by American Airlines.
- iv. A Funding Strategy was suggested to prioritise spending on coral reef matters. The role of ICRI should not stop at raising awareness but should also stimulate provision of funds. It was suggested the regional meeting of environment ministers should be used to encourage allocation of funds to coral reef issues in their national budgets.
- v. The meeting recognised that the Secretariat will not be able to attend all regional meetings; members would have a responsibility to represent ICRI at key meetings. The Secretariat agreed to assist members by preparing information notes and other publicity materials.
- vi. Promoting the designation of marine sites with coral reefs was raised for consideration by ICRI.
- vii. The need for a long-term plan for ICRI's communication strategy with broader targets was discussed. It was suggested that ICRI reflects the current focus of the international community on small island developing states (SIDS).
- viii. Development of the communication strategy should take place in the context of ICRAN/ICRI. Within this the role of ICRIN was raised, and the potential for the role of ICRI to be revised, expanding from a clearing-house for coral reef information to a broader information provision role. Sian Owen of WWF offered to help with the development of the communication strategy.

15. In conclusion:

- i. The meeting welcomed the proposed action plan as a starting point to consider a broader strategic plan for ICRI. The meeting agreed that ICRI should reflect the global agenda in its work plan. One of the major current items is that of SIDS.
- ii. The proposal for a communication strategy was well received as a means of focusing ICRI activities and the members were invited to provide feedback and the appropriateness of this strategy for ICRI.

- iii. At the invitation of the Members the Secretariat agreed that the number of General Meetings to be held during the term of the UK/Seychelles Joint Secretariat would be reduced to 3 meetings, the current meeting, the second to be held in Okinawa (Japan), back to back with ICRS, and the third is proposed to be held in the Seychelles, early in 2005.
- iv. The meeting agreed to include, 'Intergovernmental Organisations, not part of the UN system' in both the communication strategy and Action point 3 of the action plan (cf. supported document [ICRI CPC\(2\)2003/4.2/1](#) paragraph 2)
- v. The Secretariat is requested to develop a package of public relations materials that can be used by ICRI members to present the ICRI message at meetings and conferences and make this available on the ICRI Forum.
- vi. Rolph Payet will represent ICRI and the interest of coral reef issues with relation to small islands at the CBD COP 7 in Malaysia early 2004 for the Barbados +10 preparatory meetings.
- vii. The Secretariat was requested to incorporate comments from members into a revision of the Communication document to be presented at the next ICRI CPC meeting in Okinawa, Japan, July 2004.
- viii. Arthur Paterson, Francis Staub and Robert Baldi to investigate the feasibility of producing an ICRI Newsletter and to produce an output by the end of January 2004.
- ix. The Secretariat should consider SIDS + 10 in Mauritius 2004 as a suitable venue for an ICRI Side event targeting Ministerial representatives.
- x. The Secretariat was invited to consider how ICRI should be represented at the Ramsar Conference of Parties to be held in the third quarter of 2005.

5.0 - ICRI HOST COUNTRY INITIATIVES

5.1 - Small Grants Scheme: Announcement

Supporting Document: [ICRI CPC\(2\)2003/5.1/1](#)

16. As a part of its commitment to the Joint ICRI Secretariat, the UK offered approximately £45,000 in funds for three small-scale coral reef projects. The projects had to be in line with ICRI's Framework of Action notably; integrated management of coral reefs, capacity building, research, monitoring and review.

17. Eleven proposals were received of which six projects with the greatest potential to deliver the objectives of the small grant scheme were put out for discussion amongst the ICRI Community prior to the meeting.

18. Project sponsors present at the ICRI CPC Meeting made a short presentation supporting their proposal. Sponsors who were unable to attend the CPC meeting were invited to ask a colleague to speak on their behalf (list of projects presented as 5.2)

19. In conclusion:

- i. The meeting recognised the limited funds (£15,000) and time frame (one year) for each of the project, and the objectives of the small grant scheme UNEP on behalf of the ICRI members welcomed the initiative and extended their gratitude to the UK Government for the funds provided.
- ii. The UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme/Regional Co-ordinating Unit (UNEP CEP/RCU) took the opportunity to inform the meeting of its small grants fund, which is supporting projects in the region. NOAA also announced their two sets of grants and the details will be posted on the ICRI Forum.
- iii. ICRI members considered the 6 submissions and indicated their preference through a closed ballot before the close of day 2 of the CPC meeting.

- iv. It was requested that the ICRI Forum create a page listing small grants schemes that may be of benefit to the ICRI community. ICRI members are asked to contribute information to this page.

5.2 - Outline of project proposals

20. The following Presentations were made to the ICRI membership. Supporting documentation had been made available for all members on the ICRI Forum prior to the CPC meeting to allow discussion. The six short listed projects are listed below with links to the project proposals.

- i. Monitoring of Portland Blight Protected Area (Caribbean Coastal Data Centre, Jamaica) [project description;](#)
- ii. Support for Pulau Pasoso Marine Protected Area (Yayasan Adi Citrta Lestarti, Indonesia) [project description;](#)
- iii. Setting up of Marine Protected Areas close to Urban Areas (Coastal Dynamics Foundation, Philippines) [project description;](#)
- iv. Improved Site Based Coral Reef Management in South Asia (SACEP, South Asia) [project description;](#)
- v. Site Exchange with St Lucia Marine Management Area (Bonaire Marine Park, St Lucia) [project description;](#) and
- vi. Blast Fishing Detection and Monitoring (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Philippines) [project description.](#)

21. In conclusion:

- i. The meeting noted the presentations of the six small grant proposals. The UK thanked all sponsors for the high quality of the submissions and the number of good ideas being put forward.
- ii. Congratulations were extended to the three projects to be funded (decided by the meeting), which are:
 - (a) Monitoring of Portland Blight Protected Area (Caribbean Coastal Data Centre, Jamaica)
 - (b) Setting up of Marine Protected Areas close to Urban Areas (Coastal Dynamics Foundation, Philippines)
 - (c) Site Exchange with St Lucia Marine Management Area (Bonaire Marine Park, St Lucia)
- iii. The projects will be expected to report progress to the next CPC meeting in July 2004.

5.3 - Establishing a Protocol for Coral Reef Damaged Assessment for the Turks and Caicos Islands

Supporting Document: [Presentation](#)

22. The TCI team presented their aim to develop a specialized protocol for coral reef damage assessment, particularly aimed at boat groundings and anchor damage that causes damage to the physical structure of the reefs.

23. The damage assessment protocol proposed for the TCI includes:

- i. Pre assessment phase, collection of incident facts, demarcation of the zone and physical evidence of impact
- ii. Restoration planning, injury assessment, restoration selection and implementation,
- iii. Economic assessment to establish the fine.

24. Comments from members with experience in this area were invited to assist in the development of this protocol.

25. In discussion a number of recommendations were put forward from the floor, based on previous experience of damage assessment:

- i. Including a crew alcohol test in the plan;
- ii. Recording the type of cargo on board
- iii. Establishing a salvage plan to determine the safest way of removing the vessel for the coral (as often it is at this time that the majority of coral damage occurs), making it a requirement that the ship is not moved until a salvage plan is determined.
- iv. As well as physical damage, impacts of Tri-Butyl-Tin based anti fouling paints can also constitute a large part of the reef clean up costs, as was shown on the Great Barrier Reef, Australia.
- v. The meeting supported the concept of not only preparing reactionary protocols, stressing the importance of long term strategic monitoring stations situated in representative sites to provide data for pre and post collision. This would also provide a more stable legal footing for implementation of damage responsibility and fine collection.
- vi. Other national representatives indicated the need for more information on establishing protocols for damage assessment of natural resources. NOAA has a dedicated team for this matter and indicated their willingness to cooperate.
- vii. NOAA is currently trying to instigate a coral reef symbol on navigation charts in a step to increase awareness of reef locations.

26. In conclusion:

- i. The meeting agreed on the importance of coral reef damage assessment protocols and the need for a greater sharing of information.
- ii. A "damage assessment protocol" discussion theme will be opened on the ICRI Forum as an area to share experiences and ideas, continuing the process that was begun following the presentation.
- iii. This matter should be raised again at the June 2004 CPC meeting.

6.0 - REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

6.1 - Cancun: follow-up activities

6.1.1 Regional

27. The Wider Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit presented a summary report of activities to the Meeting. A brief summary of the activities covered is presented and readers are referred to the full text document (see link)

28. The report reflected the following activities:

- i. ICRAN activities including those in target and demonstration sites
- ii. WRI - the Reef at risk analysis is under way and finalisation is expected in mid 2004
- iii. UNEP – WCMC - Coral Reef mapping and database of protected areas is in progress
- iv. GCRMN nodes, are still making progress
- v. WW2BW - provides an important opportunity in the Region especially to develop new interest and possibilities of support in terms of private involvement
- vi. The Blue Flag Caribbean Campaign is in early stages with a big involvement of industries. This would be a good opportunity to put forward the ICRI agenda.
- vii. CARICOMP - The assessment programme report for 2002-2003 has been completed. All data has been fed into the GCRMN database.

29. Members, in particular the UK were encouraged to ratify the SPAW protocol.

30. In discussion the UNEP CEP/CRU was invited to comment on their contribution to supporting participants to attend the 10th ICERS in Okinawa, Japan, June 2004.

6.1.2 Mexican Coral Reef Update report

Supporting document: [Presentation](#)

31. The main activities have been the work on the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System Project and.

32. A User fee application in MPA's has now gained acceptance amongst users and during 2003, US\$2 million were collected.

33. CONANP (National Commission for Protected National Areas) regional administration - The 8 coral reef MPA's in the peninsula now have a regional approach to monitoring, research, species migration and ecosystems.

34. An update was given for Mexican marine protected areas.

35. STACM - Promotion of the second Mexican Coral Reef Symposium was undertaken and so were activities to promote the creation of the Mexican Society of Coral Reefs.

36. In discussion the following points were made:

- i. The UK were interested in the experience of Mexico given the recent establishment of the Sustainable Tourism users group in the UK who are looking to levy a voluntary charge on tour operators to feed back into projects in the receiving countries.
- ii. Issues of infractions into the MPAs were raised, giving maintenance dredging as an example. It was stressed that if there are legal issues to be addressed, then lawyers need to be involved in the scheme from the start.

6.2 - White Water to Blue Water

Supporting Document: [ICRI CPC \(2\) 2003/6.2/1](#), [Presentation](#)

37. The White Water 2 Blue Water Initiative with the goal of stimulating partnerships that promote integrated watershed and marine ecosystem-based management in support of sustainable development.

38. A conference and training sessions will be organised by the Steering Committee in the Hyatt Regency, Miami on 21 – 27 March 2004 for partnership development, exchange of best practices and for education and training. The initial focus is on the Wider Caribbean region and the outcome of the partnership may eventually serve as a tool for future similar programmes in other regions of the world.

39. ICRI Members were requested to:

- i. become involved and to assist in the initiative.
- ii. provide input to the proposed list of training courses for the conference.
- iii. register for the "friends of WW2BW email newsletter" by contacting Dick Wilbur by email (wilburRM2@state.gov)
- iv. provide their feedback on the list of potential partnerships document which is found on NOAA's website. (<http://www.international.noaa.gov/ww2bw/>)

40. In discussion the following points were made:

- i. The opportunity for other countries to become involved was raised and the meeting was informed that the WW2BW Steering Committee can only commit funding for 2 participants from East Africa and 2 from the South Pacific. The need to consider others was recognised and therefore this issue will be taken back to the committee.
- ii. Further discussion evolved around the importance of capitalising on private sector involvement at the Miami conference.
- iii. Finally the integration of Global International Waters Assessment results into WW2BW was briefly discussed.

41. In conclusion ICRI agreed to:

- i. Support the WW2BW initiative for its positive contribution to integrated coastal watershed and marine management and to building effective partnerships to protect coral reefs and associated ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean region.
- ii. Encourage national and international participation, in particular ICRI members
- iii. Request that ICRAN consider ways in which it could develop a strategy for establishing new public and private partnerships for coral reef conservation and sustainable use in the region to be launched at the Miami Meeting in 2004
- iv. Welcome the suggestion from GCRMN/ICRAN to consider the publication on monitoring coral reef marine protected areas in the Wider Caribbean.

6.3 - Southern Caribbean World Heritage Site Nomination

Supporting document: [Presentation](#)

42. Currently there are a total of 730 World Heritage Sites, of which only 9 are marine and one of those is in the Caribbean. The World Heritage Marine Biodiversity Workshop held in Vietnam February 2002 to address the geographical and thematic biases. The workshop identified 118 tropical marine sites for nomination of which 17 marine areas are in the Caribbean.

43. Conservation International pledged to run a Rapid Assessment Protocol in 2003/4 in support of the nomination and the Nature Conservancy have also pledged their support.

44. There are a number of challenges that the nominated site faces – political, cultural, languages and legal. However, it will have great advantages for the individual islands and the region of the proposed area.

45. In discussion the following points were made:

- i. Other transboundary protected areas that can give a template/guidelines/framework for the Marine Transboundary nomination.
- ii. The Capacity implications for the islands was briefly discussed as well as the role of the Venezuelan oil industry

46. In conclusion the meeting welcomed news of the marine transboundary nomination and look forward to news of further developments.

7.0 - ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER PROCESSES

7.1 - Marine Protected Areas: From Durban 2003 to the CBD to Melbourne 2005

World Parks Congress (Oral presentation)

47. The World Parks Congress was held in Durban, South Africa, September 2003. Arthur Paterson presented the programme design for the marine element of the congress and the relevance to ICRI and ITMEMS.

48. The marine aspect reflected ideas developed since the call for a globally representative system of protected areas in 1987. Through the 1990s ITMEMS, ICRI, WWF and TNC began to consider the nesting of coral reef activities and the larger aspects of protected areas and system design. Works in the first years of the new millennium lead to the WSSD target to establish by 2012 a representative network of marine protected areas. It was the aim of the WPC to develop this idea and consider how the network should be designed. Five issues were addressed in the 10 marine sessions: living marine resources and MPAs; the incorporation of resilience into MPA design; the enhancement of management effectiveness and enhancement of benefits to stakeholders; increasing the visibility and saliency of MPAs in the larger coastal zone management framework, and how to increase activity in EEZs and the High Seas.

49. The WPC had two main outputs

(both available at <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/wpc2003/english/outputs/durban.htm>)

- i. the Durban accord which in 23 actions states the commitments of the professional community
- ii. A message to the CBD – which provides targets and timetables for MPAs and PAs

50. Of particular relevance to coral reefs were the debates on coral reef resilience, connectivity and spawning aggregations. It is suggested the ICRI framework provides the possibility for ICRI to have a role in interpretative coastal policy and to raising the visibility of MPAs in Integrated coastal zone management.

IMPAC 1

Supporting document: [Presentation](#)

51. The 1st International Marine Protected Areas Congress will be held in Geelong, Australia from the 23rd to the 27th October 2005. The aim of this meeting is to embrace a wide range of MPA issues, trying to broaden the scope of the meeting and range of participants.

52. The call for papers will be out in 2004, and the programme finalised by mid 2004. Registration will take place in late 2004.

53. ICRI members were requested to:

- i. note the outcomes of the World Parks Congress, CBD SBSTTA 9 in relation to coral reefs.
- ii. note the preparations for the 1st IMPAC meeting and consider the potential ICRI input.

54. In conclusion the meeting:

- i. Affirm ICRI's support of the WPC outcomes, in particular the message to the CBD which called for "creating and expanding marine protected area networks," designing such networks to be resilient to global change, and identifying and implementing " policy reforms to provide a supportive enabling environment for more effective management of protected area systems and sustainable use of biological resources in their surrounding landscapes and seascapes;"
- ii. Requests the Secretariat to convey this support to the CBD COP and to other relevant bodies.

7.2 - SIDS Barbados +10

Supporting document: [ICRI-CPC \(2\) 2003/ 7.2/Final](#)

55. A draft resolution to be tabled in Mauritius for the Barbados Action Plan +10 Meeting, 2004 was discussed by the Meeting. The draft resolution had been posted on the ICRI Forum for comment and discussion in advance of the Meeting, as required by the Resolution on Organisation and Management.

56. The meeting was asked to keep in mind the importance of this resolution with regards to the potential impact of ICRI at the Barbados +10 meeting given:

- i. The importance of live coral reefs to small island developing states, and the scale of the impacts of dead coral on the social, economic and physical factors of island life;
- ii. The high vulnerability of island states to poverty;
- iii. The global importance of Islands with respect to reefs with 21% of the global coral reefs exist within SIDS.

57. The meeting requested that the Small Island Developing States Resolution be included on the agenda at the 2nd Regional AIMS meeting, carried to the Preparatory meeting of Barbados +10 in Bahamas January 2004 and to be tabled at the Barbados +10 meeting in Mauritius August/September 2004

58. In discussion the following points were made:

- i. The meeting asked for clarification as to the role of ICRI partners in the SIDS process.

- ii. The SIDS agenda is in the UNEP work plan. UNEP are currently preparing a report on what has been done and what will be done by UNEP on SIDS. This is a comprehensive piece of work whose scope goes beyond the CRU, including strong elements from the Regional Seas Programmes and the GPA, providing an overview on SIDS sustainable development. The draft reports are expected in the near future.
- iii. Some changes were proposed to the draft resolution.

59. In conclusion:

- i. The meeting adopted the ICRI Resolution on Small Island Developing States.
- ii. The Barbados + 10 meeting in Mauritius in August 2004 presents an excellent chance for ICRI to spread its messages to Ministers including Heads of State from Small Island Development States. This was recognised at the Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, Paris 10 to 14 November 2003 and included in recommendations of the meeting.
- iii. The ICRI Secretariat was requested to combine with ICRI partners and other like minded organisations to organise a special 'coral reef side event' at the Mauritius meeting and to scope the possible themes and products, including a possible Ministerial Resolution from the Mauritius meeting.

7.3 - Global Marine Assessment update

Supporting document: [ICRI CPC\(2\) 2003/7.3/1; Report of the Secretary General](#)

60. Following an initiative of Iceland, the UNEP Governing Council adopted in February 2001 the Decision 21/13 on the 'Global Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment' (cf. Annex 1). Several meetings were held in order to establish the GMA process. In September 2003, an inter-agency consultative meeting in Paris, produced a report, which outlines the current state of affairs and provides proposals for further actions to be taken with respect to the establishment of the GMA. Further information can be found at http://www.un.org/Depts/los/general_assembly/documents/a58_GMAunedited.pdf

61. Further details of the decisions made and a time line of major meetings and events in the establishment of the GMA process so far is given at in document [ICRI CPC\(2\) 2003/7.3/1](#)

62. ICRI CPC was invited:

- i. to note the summary of international agreements and actions carried out in the establishment of the Global Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment (GMA)
- ii. to recognise the aim of the GMA process to improve the impact of marine science and assessment on policy making, including improved co-operation within the UN System;
- iii. to raise awareness of the potential importance of the GMA process amongst ICRI members and partners
- iv. to note the importance for ICRI and its partners to continue to contribute to the development of the GMA in terms of coral reef issues and recognise the potential role for capacity building of developing countries, in particular SIDS to monitor the marine environment.
- v. to elaborate initial suggestions as to how ICRI and it's operational networks could:
- vi. ensure that coral reefs, and the work under ICRI and it's operational networks, are appropriately taken into account in the further establishment of the GMA;
- vii. contribute to the GMA once it has become operational
- viii. to note the forthcoming workshop associated with the 2004 meeting of UNICPOLOS and a subsequent intergovernmental meeting to discuss the GMA;
- ix. to ask the ICRI Secretariat to prepare and circulate a note on the relevance of the GMA for ICRI and its members for the next CPC meeting in June 2004

63. In conclusion the meeting noted the update of the GMA process and welcomed the progress being made. Meeting participants will ensure that representatives to GMA meetings will be briefed on the relevance of coral reef related assessments and impacts

7.4 - ICRS Meeting, Okinawa, June 2004

Supporting Document: [Presentation](#)

64. The 10th International Coral Reef Symposium will be held from the 28th June to the 2nd July 2004, Okinawa Convention Centre, Okinawa, Japan under the organisation of the Government of Japan and the Japan Coral Reef Society. It is expected that more than 1000 scientists will be attending. A progress report on the meeting plans for plenary, mini-symposia and side event facilities and invited suggestions as to the direction that ICRI will be taking at ICRS.

65. In discussion the following points were made:

- i. The Meeting thanked the Japanese for hosting the symposium and congratulated them on the work to date.
- ii. ICRI aims to have a strong representation at the 10th International Coral Reef Symposium in Okinawa through participation in several plenary sessions and a mini-symposium on Status of Coral Reefs of the World, through the GCRMN, ReefBase and Reef Check. For this event, all countries with coral reefs are requested to present a National Status paper and poster and regions are requested to collate national reports into regional reports.
- iii. ICRI could produce a poster series in the style of the "Corals@UNEP WCMC" - series on display at the CPC meeting. These posters were donated by UNEP to the Turks and Caicos Government as a token of thanks for their assistance and in the hope that they continue the promotion of ICRI's activities.
- iv. Various possibilities were discussed for ICRI involvement in the more formal programme to reflect on the activities of ICRI over the past 10 years. ICRI expressed interest in becoming formally associated with a potential evening event and poster display being organized by the World Resources Institute, GCRMN, ReefBase, ReefCheck and other countries.
- v. Colombia offered the opportunity for an ICRI contribution to their session in theme 4 on the success and failure of management effectiveness.

66. In conclusion ICRI agreed that:

- i. ICRI should seek, if possible an opportunity to make a presentation at a plenary session, Keisuke Takahashi from Japan agreed to explore this with the programme organizers.
- ii. It should take part in the mini symposium being organized by GCRMN and others and
- iii. It should seek to display posters at ICRS. ICRI invited UNEP-WCMC to prepare posters, and if feasible in time for the CBD COP 7 in February 2004. The posters should be in the style of "Corals@UNEP-WCMC" in English, French and Spanish, and made available as PDF versions on the ICRI Forum. UNEP-WCMC to have a meeting by mid-January 2004 to discuss the outline of the posters.
- iv. An ad hoc committee be established to consider how, in the light of emerging possibilities, ICRI should engage in the International Coral Reef Symposium. The ad hoc committee, chaired by Keisuke Takahashi, will initiate debate on the ICRI Forum and report details back to the membership, through the forum by March 2004. ICRI should reach conclusions, by written procedure by April 2004.

67. In order to ensure adequate participation by coral reef scientists and managers from developing countries, especially Small Island Development States, at the Okinawa Symposium, ICRI partners are requested to:

- i. Inform the 10th ICRS Organising Committee and the ICRI Secretariat of potential sources of funds to support participation;
- ii. Assist, where possible people from projects in their region to attend.

7.5 - Nairobi Convention (East Africa) Coral Reef Task Force: Issues and Priorities

Supporting Document: [Presentation](#)

68. The Nairobi Convention includes Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles. The Task Force was established at the 3rd COP of the Nairobi Convention. It has successfully engaged participation from a number of national bodies and other organisations.

69. The presentation included information on some of the key threats faced by coral reefs of the Western Indian Ocean Region and of some of the recent activities undertaken by the Task Force.

70. In conclusion the meeting noted the information presented.

7.6. International Marine Project Activities Center (IMPAC) - Multilateral Environmental Agreements for Pacific Island Countries

Supporting Document: [Presentation](#)

71. The issue of handling Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the Pacific Islands was presented. National constraints were highlighted as low capacity to handle conventions, poor information management, inadequate time, and resources, limited funding, and the lack of education and awareness resulting in a poor political will, and the misconception that conservation has a negative impact on the development.

72. The need for institutional strengthening, information gathering and management, education and awareness, capacity building and regional collaboration was stressed.

73. In Conclusion the presentation was noted.

8.0 - EMERGING ISSUES

8.1 - Sustainable Tourism

Supporting Document: [Presentation](#)

74. The presentation outlined the definition and aims of sustainable tourism and ICRI's role with respect to sustainable tourism.

75. The Travel Foundation was introduced as a body involved in sustainable tourism. Established in January 2003, it has the aim of changing the practice of tourism in order to make a greater contribution to people, environment and economy in destinations.

76. The two areas of focus are:

- i. Developing projects and research to create *practical* information and tools to guide best practices
- ii. Promoting the benefits of sustainable tourism with UK tourists, industry and government.

77. In discussion the following points were made:

- i. Discussion focused on the different partnerships between government, industry and science academia in the implementation of sustainable tourism. Examples can be viewed on the GBRMPA website (http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/tourism/index.html).
- ii. Princess Alexandra Marine Park, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands was another example given whereby the numbers of visitors to the park is monitored. The marine park is governed by National Park Laws.
- iii. It was noted that partnerships in sustainable tourism is integral to this endeavour. For Princess Alexandra Marine Park a conservation and self financing system for management of this system has been developed, for instance tax levied goes into an account used to contribute funds to the functioning of the marine park.

- iv. Another example was given from Mexico whereby they are trying to establish key indicators for sustainable tourism. In Costa Rica a scorecard system is used to rate each resort on various components.
- v. The importance of engaging the private sector was discussed, as well as strengthening the capacity of government in dealing with businesses such as the cruise industry was recognised.

78. In conclusion:

- i. The presentation and discussion was noted.
- ii. It was suggested that the ICRI Secretariat considers what role it can have in engaging the private sector in supporting sustainable tourism in coral reef regions in the light of the communication Strategy.

8.2 - Sustainable Fisheries

Supporting Document: [Presentation](#)

79. The Marine Stewardship Council is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation created to harness market forces as an incentive for sustainable fishing and has a standard for sustainable fisheries. Sustainable certified fishery products are given a logo to certify the sustainability of the source.

80. Benefits that arise from the certification are; improved management of resources, recognition of management effort and improved supplier status. Furthermore, eco-labelling enables consumers to play a role in conserving natural resources.

81. In discussion the following points were made:

- i. Members were requested to share their experience of this approach in a coral reef setting.
- ii. The meeting was informed that there are 6 groups in the Gulf of Mexico who are currently in the process of certification of their artisanal fisheries. WWF is working with these fishermen to replicate this approach. It was noted that this was an area whereby fishermen exchange might be possible.

82. In conclusion:

- i. The efforts of the Marine Aquarium Council certification programme were noted.
- ii. ICRI recognised that eco-labelling is one tool to use in sustainable fisheries and examples from tropical coral reef fisheries should be followed for their potential replication.

8.3 - Poverty and Reefs

83. In September, IOC/UNESCO, IMM Ltd and UK Department for International Development (DFID) released a new report - 'Poverty and Reefs'.

84. Poverty & Reefs attempt to view reefs in terms of the poor who are dependent on reefs for their livelihoods, how the reefs benefit the poor, how changes in the reef have impacted their lives, and how the poor have responded and coped with these changes. It also considers wider responses to reef issues and how these interventions have impacted on the lives of the poor.

85. There is a growing recognition that coral reef conservation cannot meet its objectives without better consideration of poverty issues and the sustainable livelihoods of the poor reef-dependent communities.

86. The discussion was mainly about tourism as an industry that can generate wealth and hence help to alleviate poverty, but if not appropriate can also result in the displacement of the poor.

87. In conclusion the meeting welcomed the publication of this report as it reflects an essential aspect of coral reef ecosystems – that is the billion people worldwide that rely on them for their livelihoods

8.4 CITES/fossil corals and coral ARKive

8.4.1 CITES/fossil corals

88. Fossil corals are exempted from CITES and so far there are no definition from CITES. Various definitions do exist worldwide but none have been universally accepted. Therefore, the CITES fossil coral working group had been delayed to allow for consideration by ICRI.

89. The meeting proposed that an ad hoc committee chaired by the US (Andrew Bruckner) be established to review the existing definitions for fossil coral, compile pros and cons for each definition and to develop a working definition that would be appropriate to CITES.

90. In discussion the following points were made:

- i. Consideration of the costs and benefits of ICRI taking these issues forward was raised and clarification required as to the added value of the proposed outcomes.
- ii. The discussion also evolved around the differences between live rock and fossil corals.

91. In conclusion ICRI agreed that an ad hoc committee should be established, chaired by Andy Bruckner with the objective of reviewing the definitions, compiling pros and cons and developing a working definition that would be appropriate to CITES. The working group should produce an output by March 2004. Andrew Bruckner will send an e-mail to all ICRI members, inviting them to register their interest in joining this working group which will have an electronic discussion on the ICRI forum

8.4.2 Coral ARKive

Supporting Document: [Presentation](#)

92. ARKive is a non-profit initiative working to raise conservation awareness by encouraging excellence in wildlife film-making and related media. It provides online digital library of film, photo and audio recordings of endangered species.

93. The ultimate aim is to compile an audio-visual record for the 11,000 animals and plants threatened with extinction according to the IUCN Red List.

94. ARKive is accessible to all via the internet. www.arkive.org and is designed in such a way that anyone from school children to scientists can use.

95. Members were requested to send any comments that they may have to phil.lewis@defra.gsi.gov.uk

96. In discussion ICRI members enquired as to plans for ARKive to be made available in hard copy. This was noted to be referred back to ARKive. The question of the relationship of ARKive with what AIMS has done on coral identification was raised.

97. In conclusion

- i. The presentation and discussion points were noted.
- ii. Links to both the ARKive and AIMS coral identification websites would be made available on the ICRI Forum to ensure that both projects are aware of each other.

8.5 - Intelligent underwater robots for coral reef monitoring

Supporting document: [ICRI CPC\(2\)2003/8.5](#)

98. *SUMARE* - *SUR*vey of *MAR*ine *RES*ources, is a 3-year project which started in 2000 and is now in the stage of finalisation. The aim of the project has been to prove the utility of Technological products, (vehicles) for environmental monitoring, *i.e.* their ability in providing the information required to guarantee a sustainable exploitation of natural resources. Compared to traditional methods, *SUMARE* technology and products are expected to have better efficiency and accuracy.

99. *SUMMARE* is in the process of looking for potential projects for these technologies.

100. ICRI was invited:

- i. to note and comment on, as appropriate, the information given at Annex 1 of the supporting document with respect to the SUMARE project;
- ii. to recommend that interested ICRI members should contact SUMARE (using the addresses given in the Annex of the document) to explore and test the potential of the underwater vehicles and seabed mapping / adaptive sampling technology developed under SUMARE to be used for automated - or remote controlled - monitoring of coral reefs at small and medium scales.

101. In discussion the following points were made:

- i. Affordability of this technology to developing countries.
- ii. A good opportunity to bring government and European Community a little closer to ICRI

102. In conclusion the content of the document was noted.

8.6 - Cold/deep water corals

Supporting document: [ICRI CPC\(2\)2003/8.6/1/rev1](#) and [ICRI CPC\(2\)2003/8.6/2/rev1](#)

103. The increased deployment of modern oceanographic and seabed survey over the last decade has allowed a closer in-situ examination of the existence of coral reef formations in cold and deep water areas. Cold-water reefs are wide-spread on continental shelves with suitable hydrographic conditions and they harbour a rich and diverse fauna making them attractive fishing grounds.

104. Observations have showed that an alarming number of these coral reefs are affected or totally destroyed, most likely due to the devastating direct impact of human activities, especially bottom trawl fisheries.

105. UNEP with support from the governments of Ireland, Norway and the UK and WWF co-ordinated an initiative to focus on the cold-water coral reefs and promote their protection and sustainable management at the global level. They aim to increase awareness amongst ICRI members on cold water corals and its potentially broad distribution.

106. ICRI CPC was invited:

- i. to note the background information given on cold-water coral reefs
- ii. to note the political agreements and commitments made recently with respect to cold-water coral reefs
- iii. to agree to widen the remit and scope of ICRI to include cold-water corals
- iv. to ask the ICRI Secretariat:
 - (a) to post the agreement under (c) of the supporting document on the ICRI Forum for discussion and comment
 - (b) to make the necessary preparations and arrangements for the next ICRI CPC meeting, to formally include cold-water corals in ICRI's scope, remit and work programme, *inter alia*:
 - to prepare and submit a draft ICRI resolution to this effect for consideration and adoption at the next ICRI CPC meeting;
 - to review the *Renewed Call to Action*, the *Framework of Action* and any other relevant ICRI Decisions, Resolutions and agreements with a view to identifying which of these documents would have to be revised and/or complemented;
 - to issue a general invitation (using the ICRI Forum and any other suitable means) to countries, organizations and stakeholders interested in cold-water coral reefs to participate at the next ICRI CPC meeting with a view to becoming a member of ICRI. As part of this action, the ICRI Secretariat, on behalf of ICRI, should issue this invitation in writing to the governments of known cold-water coral reef ranges states that are currently not yet members of ICRI (e.g. Ireland, Norway, Canada);

- to prepare, in consultation with the supporters of the cold-water reef initiative mentioned under § 3 above, a draft programme of work to be carried out under ICRI on cold-water coral. To the extent possible, this draft programme of work should identify which parts of the work could be carried out by lead countries;
- v. to invite the operational networks of ICRI (ICRAN, GCRMN, ICRIN) and associated programmes to consider the inclusion of cold-water corals in their programme of work, and to report the outcome of these considerations to the next ICRI CPC.

[ICRI CPC \(2\) 2003/8.6/Norway Speech](#)

107. Norway thanked ICRI for allowing their participation as an observer at the meeting and to present the cold water coral reef issue together with UNEP. Norway's gratefulness was extended to the constructive cooperation with the governments of Ireland, the UK and with WWF on the production of the foundation report.

108. Marine resources have always been important to Norway. The visual documentation of damaged reefs has convinced the government, politicians, fishermen and environmentalists alike that the remaining reefs in Norway need to be protected. There is good cooperation with the different stakeholders and activities to protect the cold water reefs have began. Destructive fishing gear that is dragged along the bottom has been forbidden in, six reef areas. Preparation of a national network of MPAs has been initiated and the first network is planned to be in place in 2006.

109. Norway is prepared to provide funding and work with ICRI should it decide to support the cold water coral reefs.

110. ICRI was encouraged to:

- i. convey an interest in the cold water coral reefs and to look further into this issue which is important and closely related to other ICRI issues.
- ii. initiate further discussion on ICRI's role with respect to the cold water coral reefs
- iii. to increase the awareness of cold water coral reefs and the threats they are facing.

111. In discussion the following points were made:

- i. The issue of how to address cold water coral under ICRI, and the risks and advantages of addressing it was discussed.
- ii. It was suggested that a working group be set up to explore the advantages and concerns and prepare a report to enable ICRI to have a more informed discussion at the next ICRI CPC meeting in Okinawa. Further points to consider were:
- iii. what would ICRI do with the issue of cold water coral reefs and what type of activities might be envisaged;
- iv. will the ICRI's 'call to action' be changed or will cold water corals be incorporated in an operational network?

112. In conclusion ICRI CPC decided to examine further the issue of the cold water coral reefs, and:

- i. agreed to establish an ad hoc committee to assess ICRI's potential role in the international collaboration on cold water coral reefs;
- ii. welcomed the offer of the UK for Robert Canning to act as convenor of this committee;
- iii. invited the committee to identify ICRI's potential in the protection and sustainable management of cold water coral reefs, the implications for ICRI's current work and what implementation modalities, if any, might be needed;
- iv. Requested that the report of the committee be submitted to the Executive Authority by 1 May 2004 for circulation to members no later than 15 May 2004;

- v. Agreed to consider the report and decide what contribution ICRI might make at the next ICRI CPC meeting in Okinawa.

9.0 - ICRI MEMBERS

9.1 - ICRI Secretariat report on ICRI membership

Supporting documents: [ICRI CPC\(2\)2003/9.1/1/Inf.1](#) and [ICRI CPC\(2\)2003/9.1/2](#)

113. In May 2003, in Gland, Switzerland, the ICRI CPC members agreed to the preparation of a resolution for the 'Organisation and Management procedures for ICRI'. Article 1 of the draft resolution states the eligibility of members to the Initiative and 1.3 of the Article makes reference to the continued membership to the Initiative, by '*attendance to at least one General Meeting for every term of an Executive Authority*'. Based on criteria 1.3, a membership analysis was undertaken using the available participant's list, to demonstrate the participation of countries and organisations at CPC meetings from March 1999 to May 2003.

114. ICRI CPC members/Secretariat were requested to:

- i. Keep an accurate and up-to-date record of participant lists for all CPC meetings since 1995 on the ICRI Forum website.
- ii. Revise the participant lists from 1995 till 2003.
- iii. On participant's list, clearly state whether participant is a representative of a country, organisation, an alternative representative e.t.c.
- iv. Consider and review the criteria of continued membership to the Initiative.
- v. Consider, increasing the number of coral reef countries to ICRI CPC meetings.

115. In discussion the following points were made:

- i. The meeting discussed ways to recruit new members especially from the EU. In the case that members want to promote ICRI to others the Secretariat can provide relevant information.
- ii. Secondly the need to clarify who the participants are representing at ICRI meetings was raised.
- iii. Some members (Kenya, ICRAN, Netherlands Antilles) raised concerns as to why they were not on the member's list of the document produced. This was because the list had been compiled from previous lists of attendance which were incomplete therefore stressing the need to keep accurate and up to date records of participants, more importantly as the Secretariat changes every two years.
- iv. The need to use the ICRI Forum to hold information and hence maintain institutional memory was strongly supported.

116. In conclusion:

- i. The Secretariat (Designated Administrative Representative) at UNEP-WCMC was requested to produce a selection of pertinent information to assist ICRI members in the communication of ICRI objectives and recruitment of new members.
- ii. A recommendation was made to use the forum to maintain institutional memory and prevent the loss of knowledge.

9.2 - Matters arising from Members' Reports

WWF - Endangered Seas Programme

117. WWF brochure was introduced as the report for the meeting. The brochure on WWF's Coral Reef Initiative covers issues such as; threats and solutions, networks of marine protected areas, sustainable use, ecosystem approach, scientific foundations and partnerships. More information can be obtained at www.panda.org/coral

118. In conclusion the presentation was noted.

Kenya

Supporting Document: [Presentation](#)

119. Progress has been made in the development and implementation of activities and initiatives that contribute towards the improved management of coral reefs in Kenya. A few examples are: implementation of activities by the National ICAM secretariat; post-bleaching monitoring; production of educational and awareness materials and coast-wide education extension programs.

120. In conclusion the presentation was noted.

South Africa

Supporting Document: [Presentation](#)

121. South Africa has only 20 km² of coral reefs in three reef complexes all of which are in MPAs. The high biodiversity of these reef complexes makes a biodiversity hotspot which, although small is of great importance.

122. The reefs have been subjected to threats such as tourism, bleaching and the crown of thorn starfish. Current reef surveys are using an Integrated GIS based model, which is an interactive tool for the managers undertaken by an interesting consortium of local, NGO and private bodies. Finally collaboration with Western Indian Ocean neighbours has been initiated.

123. In conclusion the presentation was noted.

World Bank Progress update

124. Andy Hooten conveyed the apology of Marea Hatzios, the World Bank representative who could not be in attendance.

125. The World Bank has developed a scorecard for MPAs, which was presented at the WPC in Durban. Copies of the scorecard were passed out during the CPC and comments were requested from the members.

126. With respect to the ICRI scorecard no responses have yet been received from the ICRI members. The subject will be re-opened as a conference on the ICRI Forum, to illicit additional feedback from the members

127. World Bank has been involved in coral reef projects, such as the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System Project, and the COREMAP II project. It has also been developing a CD-ROM for distance learning.

128. Finally, a brief report was given on the status of the GEF-World Bank Coral Reef Targeted Research and Capacity Building project that is under consideration by the GEF council.

129. In conclusion the presentation was noted.

Ramsar

Supporting Document: [Presentation](#)

130. An overview was given of the present status quo. The Convention covers a very wide range of wetlands from coral reefs to mountains. There are currently 138 Contracting Parties (24 in Neotropics) and 1317 Ramsar sites.

131. Ramsar COP 8 provided new guidelines on integrated coastal management and policies, and thus there is the need to support projects in all regions to test these guidelines.

132. New Ramsar sites there have been 19 designated in Africa, 13 in America, 10 in Asia & Pacific, and 13 in Europe.

133. Ramsar is implementing WSSD and has joint programme of work with CBD and the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) Association.

134. Finally, Ramsar is also supporting national inventories of wetlands.

135. In conclusion the presentation was noted.

AGRRA

Supporting document: [ICRI CPC\(2\)2003/9.2/2\(rev1\)](#)

Recent Publication: Results of AGRRA Surveys of Twenty Western Atlantic Reef Areas

136. The Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA) Program is an international collaboration of scientists and managers aimed at determining the regional condition of reefs in the Intra-Americas Sea (IAS, which includes the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, Florida, Bahamas) and the reefs off the Brazil's coast. Its initial aim is to develop an extensive regional database on coral reef condition. During the previous four years, teams of reef scientists have assessed some 720 reef sites in 24 reef areas throughout the region. They have all used the same methods to examine the condition of reef-building corals, algae and fishes. Over 100 scientists and resource managers participated in these field assessments, in training workshops, data analysis and preparing results for publication and dissemination.

137. In discussion the issue of to complete analysis of data in the Caribbean was raised.

138. In conclusion the content of the document was noted

The Representative Areas Programme (RAP) – GBRMPA

Supporting Document: [Presentation](#)

139. The RAP was first mentioned at WSSD with the aim to increase protection of the Great Barrier Reef by establishing a network of no take zones which include areas representative of biodiversity and ecological systems, there by providing for the sustainable use of the GBR.

140. RAP is required, as the current zoning of the reef is inadequate to ensure its sustainability and functionality. It is expected that the RAP will be essential in the maintenance for habitat conservation and ecosystem function.

141. The RAP is approaching its final stages, awaiting decisions on how much of the new network will be classified as no take.

142. The meeting was requested to note the process and progress of the RAP, and was invited to consult the RAP site at www.gbrmpa.gov.au

143. In conclusion the presentation was noted.

10.0 - ICRI OPERATIONAL NETWORKS

10.1 - GCRMN: (1) its future role, direction and funding

Supporting document: [ICRI CPC\(2\)2003/10.1/1](#)

144. The GCRMN produced and released 'Monitoring Coral Reef Marine Protected Areas' at the World Parks Congress in Durban.

145. Basic socio-economic protocols have been published through NOAA as the SocMon manuals.

146. The CORDIO project has finalised reports for the first and has prepared a major proposal for the Indian Ocean countries that includes a major component of monitoring.

147. The Jamaica Coral Reef Monitoring Network (JCRMN) has been formed and monitoring increased, and the Polynesia Mana Node has been strengthened. The Micronesian Node in Palau held a successful meeting in July to showcase activities in participating countries and funding is available for monitoring via NOAA.

148. In discussion the issue of whether ICRI would be able to endorse a collective of coral reef projects for GEF funding was raised and discussed. It was noted that GEF receives so many

applications and that they might be more receptive if there is an apparent co-ordination. Andy Hooten advised GCRMN to speak with Carl Lundin at IUCN for such a coordination.

149. In conclusion the collectivity of coral reef project for GEF funding was supported by the meeting

10.2 - ICRAN: update and status (Alison Glass, ICRAN)

Supporting document: [ICRI CPC\(2\)2003/10.2/rev b](#)

150. Alison Glass conveyed the apologies of Kristian Teleki, Jamie Oliver and Richard Kenchington, who were unable to attend the meeting.

151. The report reflected the following activities

- i. ICRAN has extended its partnership to include two new members: Nature conservancy and MAC.
- ii. The contract for Meso-American Reef Alliance project has been signed
- iii. ICRAN collaborated with CORAL to produce a coral reef information video screened so far on all Continental Airlines flights to coral reef destinations.
- iv. At the WPC in Durban, ICRAN launched a CD for protected areas containing coral reef information and materials, and participated in several marine events.
- v. ICRAN also co-supported the 'Monitoring Coral Reef Marine Protected Areas' and the 'World Atlas of Seagrasses'
- vi. Future activities include fund-raising and public awareness, inputs or possible side events at the Barbados + 10 and the CBD COP7, and to develop an experience-sharing workshop for managers of ICRAN and WHS at the 10th ICRS in Okinawa.

152. In discussion the following points were made:

- i. ICRAN funds and strategy, and function of ICRAN were the key areas for discussion. These will be further discussed at an ICRAN meeting in January 2004.
- ii. The need to use an existing structure such as the operational network working group to explore funding issues.

153. In conclusion the presentation and ideas of the discussion were noted.

10.3 – Reef Check: update

Supporting Document: [Presentation](#)

154. Reef Check is a coral reef conservation organization, which in partnership with GCRMN and ReefBase measures the health of coral reefs. One of main objectives of Reef Check is training with the goal of establishing good monitoring. Reef Check started an Initiative with the Marine Aquarium Council and is also working with corporate sponsors such as the Quiksilver Crossing vessel.

155. Reef Check recognise that there is a need for standardized monitoring across coral reef countries and the need for monitoring to evaluate success of all these new MPA's

156. In discussion the following points were made:

- i. Rolph Payet urged Reef Check to pay more attention to the Indian Ocean. Based on that Gregor Hodgson informed the meeting that UNEP responds to country level request and therefore, countries need to submit their requests for support to UNEP.
- ii. There is a newly set up World Bank office in Papua New Guinea which have a strong interest in marine resources and their management. Reef Check was encouraged to initiate dialogue with them.
- iii. Repatriation of data to fill in information gaps was also discussed.

10.4 CORDIO

Supporting document: [ICRI CPC\(2\)2003/9.2/1](#) and [Presentation](#)

157. The 3rd phase of CORDIO's programme is nearing completion. There is a new proposal for support to SIDA for 2004 – 2006, which will concentrate on monitoring, targeted research and alternative livelihood.

158. A joint CORDIO/IUCN/GCRMN co-ordination node has been established in South Asia to streamline programme of activities, strengthen collaboration and make more efficient use of funding. CORDIO participated at the World Parks Congress, assisted in setting SIDA's priorities for biodiversity conservation in the future, hosted a meeting in Stockholm to review current knowledge of poverty, fisheries and coral reefs, and hosted the CORDIO planning meeting for the new phase in Colombo in February

159. In conclusion the content of the report and presentation was noted.

11.0 - ICRI WORKING GROUPS

11.1 - Review of existing ICRI working groups

Supporting document: [ICRI CPC\(2\)2003/11.1/1](#)

160. In a move to improve the management and protection of coral reefs and to better co-ordinate efforts to achieve the goals within the 'Framework of Action' and the 'Call to Action', a number of resolutions and decisions have been taken by the International Coral Reef Initiative Coordination and Planning Committee (ICRI CPC) at various meetings.

161. The review was an attempt to bring together these resolutions and decisions and the ICRI CPC was requested to:

- i. Decide on the continued relevance of these resolutions and decisions
- ii. Consider further actions that need to be taken on these resolutions and decisions,
- iii. Where resolutions/decisions still have relevance, provide inputs to update the status of these resolutions/decisions
- iv. Where established, decide on the continued relevance of the working groups under these resolutions and decisions
- v. Consider establishing guidelines, mechanisms for actions by working group including Terms of Reference, allocating responsibility and reporting timeframe.
- vi. Consider the future type and number of resolutions and decisions that might be adopted and if necessary to restrict to a number that can be addressed by the members.

162. In discussion the following points were made:

- i. Members of some of the working groups were present and provided the meeting with an update of progress to complement the findings of the review.

(a) *Trade and Fisheries Working Group* – (Moderator: Barbara Best) - The correct name of this working group should be corrected from Destructive fishing to the working group on Trade and Fisheries. There has been significant progress since it was formed in 1999, and the report of findings will be made available to the ICRI Secretariat following the meeting. ICRI members felt that there was still a need for this working group, but that the former working group be dissolved and re-instituted with a specific mandate.

(b) *Marine Protected Areas Working Group* (Moderator: Arthur Paterson) A brief report on progress of the MPA working group was given. The initial aim of the working group in 1999/2000, to develop a strategy on MPAs, was felt to overlap with the ICRAN Programme of work. In 2001, the planning of ITMEMS MPA programme was delegated to the MPA working group, which worked through virtual discussions and meetings to successfully plan this programme. Since then there has been no activity, however it is felt that there is a

continued need for this work with an adapted mandate to reflect the outcomes of the WPC, held in Durban, 2003.

(c) *Ramsar* - reported on the status of the resolutions relating to the implementation of Ramsar sites with coral reefs and requested that this be maintained as an ongoing action. Since 1999 the number of sites with coral reef components has risen from 20 to 39.

- ii. The meeting was in favour of the regular maintenance of the review of measures and working groups by the Secretariat and suggested the reformatting of the review into thematic groups of recommendations and decisions. A proposal was put forward that working groups that have been inactive for 2 years should be put to the ICRI membership for a decision as to the fate of that group.

163. In conclusion:

- i. ICRI members welcomed the submission of the review. ICRI agreed that the Trade and Fisheries working group be dissolved and re-instituted with the following mandate:
 - (a) Look at what ICRI members can contribute to Okinawa in terms of trade and fisheries issues;
 - (b) Examine what potential role ICRI can play in helping to move decisions forward at CITES (for example in the addition of Sea horses to Appendix 2);
 - (c) Examine the need for a more permanent working group on trade and fisheries within the ICRI structure.
- ii. ICRI members were urged to discuss marine issues with national CITES focal points and/or national delegates to raise awareness of ICRI concerns in International trade debates.
- iii. Barbara Best agreed to continue to moderate the Trade and Fisheries Working Group. A message will be sent, via the ICRI Secretariat inviting members to express their interest in joining the working group.
- iv. ICRI agreed the continuing need for the MPA working group, subject to a review of the mandate and working group members in the light of the outcomes of the 2003 WPC.
- v. ICRI agreed that the Secretariat should maintain a list of ICRI measures and working groups indicating status of activities or progress.
- vi. The Secretariat are requested to compile a list of extant ad hoc committees with information on who is responsible, who has worked in the committee, the timescale of reporting and committee ToRs. This information should be made available on the ICRI Forum and the document maintained by the Secretariat.
- vii. Members are requested to inform the Secretariat of the status of the working groups or ad hoc committees and the resolutions with which they are involved.
- viii. The Secretariat will maintain a list of on going resolutions and decisions, which shall be made available on the ICRI Forum.

11.2 - Report of the working group on the ICRI Operational Networks

164. No report submitted to the meeting.

165. The purpose of the operational networks working group was to examine the role of and define the Operational Networks with respect to ICRI.

166. In discussion questions were raised about the purpose of an Operational Networks Working Group. It was felt that there is still a need to define the roles of the operational networks and therefore for this working group

167. In conclusion ICRI agreed that there is still a need for the Operational Networks Working Group and that the original proponent of this working group, that is France, should be approached

to assess their willingness to act as chair of the group, establishing a time frame and brief terms of reference

11.3 - The use of a "score card" for the evaluation of ICRI

Supporting document: [ICRI CPC\(2\)2003/11.3/1](#)

168. The score card methodology has been developed by the World Bank as a tool to measure performance against agreed objectives and to report on this in a transparent way. Its purpose in this instance is to assess the effectiveness of the ICRI's partnership in promoting actions towards the conservation of coral reefs.

169. In conclusion:

- i. ICRI recommended that the score card working group is revived to continue its work in assessing the potential for using a score card to assess the effectiveness of ICRI. Marea Hatzios has kindly offered to continue to moderate the score card working group.
- ii. ICRI members were requested to respond to reminders for contributions to this working group to allow for a report to be made back to the next ICRI CPC meeting in July 2004.

12.0 - ICRI FORUM

12.1 - Report on the ICRI Forum with an information document by ICRAN

Support document: [ICRI CPC\(2\)2003/12.1/rev1](#)

170. ICRI Forum was designed in 1997 to offer a gateway for coral reef information and provide a stable archive location for ICRI documentation. Due to the strong digital divide that exists in many countries the Forum strives to operate at a low band width to remain accessibility to as many users as possible.

171. The Forum continues to be well visited with an increasing number of repeat users but there are a number of facilities which are underused (such as the Information Resources section) and with increased user awareness, ICRI could gain more benefit from its services.

172. A new forum design has been selected and is expected to be operational by early December 2003.

173. A brief explanation of how to use the ICRI Forum discussion was presented. The email address for the list is list@icriforum.org

174. Finally, discussions are currently underway with J. Oliver of ReefBase to look at the integration of the ICRI Forum Information Resources section with the ReefBase library.

175. In discussion the following points were made:

- i. Use of Kiosks - Countries wishing to post information about their own coral reef activities are invited to open a kiosk on the ICRI Forum. The Kiosks are also open to any member wishing to share information about their organisation or initiatives.
- ii. Members requested that the member's database include key words indicating the interests of members to help include the right people in discussion groups.
- iii. The ICRI Forum has a key role to play in the ICRI communication strategy, which should be further explored.

176. In conclusion:

- i. The meeting agreed that the ICRI forum is a key tool in enabling the functioning of ICRI and contributes to ensuring a base level institutional memory for an international forum with no permanent base.
- ii. At present the facilities available are not being fully exploited by the ICRI membership, and the Secretariat encourages its increased usage.

- iii. ICRI welcomed the new design for the ICRI Forum and the progress made to improve ease of navigation and accessibility.
- iv. ICRI members were requested to register as users of the ICRI Forum, so that all members have access to the facilities available.
- v. Discussions are underway to create a link between sidsnet.org and the ICRI Forum and their potential synergies.
- vi. UNEP-WCMC to set up a link between its website to that of the ICRI Forum.

12.2 - ICRI Forum training session

177. Francis Staub and Andy Hooten undertook an online training session for ICRI members. The session was aimed at demonstrating some of the key facilities of the site, in particular the discussion fora. The session covered how to register on the site, and how to establish a new conference, how to reply to an active discussion group and the use of Kiosks to provide information about member's organisations and activities.

178. In conclusion:

- i. ICRI acknowledged the contributions and support of Andy Hooten and Francis Staub for their continued work on the ICRI Forum and the important role it plays in ICRI.
- ii. All ICRI members were advised to visit the ICRI Forum on a regular basis, and to make full use of the facilities available.

13.0 - FINANCIAL MATTERS

13.1 - Budget and administration of US counterpart contributions to support UNEP's work on coral reefs and ICRI

Supporting document: [ICRI CPC\(2\)2003/13.1/1](#) and [ICRICPC\(2\)2003/13.1/1/Add.1](#)

179. In recent years, the United States Government has kindly provided UNEP with annual counterpart contributions to support UNEP's work on coral reefs and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). New procedure for UNEP's administration of these counterpart contributions was announced in August 2003, with the purpose of improving the transparency of administration and allocation of the US counterpart contributions. For this purpose, a concept note has to be completed. Following completion of the project/activity, a copy of the concept note together with all relevant products and outputs will be submitted to the US government.

180. ICRI CPC was invited:

- i. to note the new procedure in the administration and allocation of the annual US counterpart contributions to support UNEP's work on coral reefs and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), as outlined in the Memorandum at Annex 1 of the supported document;
- ii. to welcome that UNEP will provide ICRI at the meetings of CPC with information on how the US counterpart contributions are being administered/allocated;
- iii. to note the concept note at Annex 2 of document [ICRI CPC\(2\)2003/13.1/1](#) as one of projects/activities which are, or will be, funded by the US counterpart contributions in the period 2003/2004.

181. In discussion it was noted that this information has been provided to ensure continuing transparency. Further information of this process is available from the UNEP CRU if required.

182. In conclusion:

- i. ICRI noted the presentation of the administration of US counterpart funds designated for coral reef activities, in particular ICRI activities.

- ii. ICRI acknowledged the US for their continuing and significant contribution and urged the US to continue this support. The meeting considered how the Secretariat could obtain such financial support from other member nations, such as Australia.
- iii. The UNEP CRU was acknowledged for its work in ensuring the transparency and partnerships in the revised administration of these funds.

14.0 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Announcement: Royal Society of London, 19 - 20 January 2004 "Atmosphere - Ocean - Ecology dynamics in the Western Indian Ocean"

183. The announcement of this meeting was made by Robert Baldi at the request of the Royal Society. Rolph Payet will be involved in the meeting and invited members to assist in disseminating information arising. Coral reefs have an important role to play in the identification of key research gaps in the Indian Ocean. It is also relevant to ICRI, particularly with plans to hold the third CPC meeting of the UK/Seychelles joint Secretariat in the Seychelles, early 2005.

184. GCRMN are invited to the Royal Society for the same meeting and plan to organise a UK release for the "Status of Coral reefs of the World: 2004".

185. The meeting Agenda will be posted on the ICRI forum as soon as it is available.

14.2. Other Matters raised.

186. Given the number and variety of meetings, the Secretariat requested that anyone submitting information on meeting dates and subjects to the ICRI Forum should include a paragraph summarising how ICRI could contribute to the meeting and the contact details for ICRI members planning to attend to permit necessary dissemination of information.

187. GCRMN tabled the outcomes of the recent Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands held in Paris. ICRI welcome the Resolution and I endorsed the recommendations made by the Conference.

188. GCRMN requested that in preparation for the ICRS ICRI members prepare country presentations to be collaged and posted by the ICRI Secretariat on the ICRI Forum. The Secretariat was requested to look for funds to support participation of developing countries at this important Symposium. Currently GCRMN are looking for funds to support approximately 200 people.

189. Japan highlighted their intention to host the ICRI Secretariat for the term 2005-2007 and is currently in discussion with potential partners.

15.0 - FUTURE MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

Second CPC Meeting of the UK/Seychelles Secretariat

190. The dates of the next ICRI General Meeting were proposed as the 3-4th July 2004 to be held in Okinawa, Japan following ICRS. The details will be developed with the Japanese ICRS organisational team. The agenda will be made available to participants

191. It was noted that this would coincide with the Reef Check training, which normally follows directly after ICRS. There is also a clash with an OSPAR meeting. However the proposed date was maintained to enable ICRI to respond to decisions and outcomes of ICRS.

Third Meeting of the UK/Seychelles Secretariat

192. The co-chair proposed that the 3rd CPC of the current Secretariat be held in the Seychelles, February 2005. The Secretariat will keep members informed.

Future meetings for following Secretariat

193. Ramsar suggested that ICRI might consider holding a CPC meeting back to back with the next Ramsar Conference of the Parties, which is due to be held in November 2005 in Kampala, Uganda. This will be addressed by the next Secretariat

194. The next ITMEMS Meeting is due to be held in 2006. The location for this meeting has not yet been decided.

CLOSE OF MEETING

195. On behalf of the ICRI CPC Meeting, the Co-chairs expressed their sincere gratitude to the hospitality of the Turks and Caicos team and for all the preparatory arrangements made. They also thanked the contribution of UNEP-WCMC in their role as administrative support for the ICRI Secretariat, and to the ICRI members present for the active discussion.

196. The Co-chairs were recognised for their effective and efficient guidance of the meeting to enable the objectives of the meeting to be met.

197. The summary record of the meeting will be prepared and circulated in accordance with the agreed resolution.

198. Following the close of the meeting there was a discussion led by Margarita Astralaga on the designation of Ramsar sites that included coral reef ecosystems within the Wider Caribbean region. This was open to all members, particularly to those from the region.

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