



Record of the Meeting
Final Version, adopted by the participants

Executive Summary

The first General Meeting of the France-Samoa ICRI Secretariat was held from the 12-15 January 2010 in the Principality of Monaco. The meeting was co-chaired by the French Ambassador for the Environment, Laurent Stefanini, Faalavaau Perina Jacqueline Sila, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Samoa and Patrick Van Klaveren, Ministre-Conseiller, Principality of Monaco.

- I. The meeting was opened with a welcoming video message from Jean-Louis Borloo, French Minister for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Marine Affairs responsible for green technologies and climate negotiations.
- II. A total of 81 participants attended the ICRI General Meeting. 21 countries were represented and 30 organizations (*see annex 1 for the list of participants*). France, Monaco and the United States of America provided financial support to several countries to enable their participation.
- III. The General Meeting welcomed the National Coral Reef Institute (NCRI) and SeaWeb as ICRI member organizations.
- IV. The 8 objectives of the program of work for the France-Samoa Secretariat were adopted (*see annex 2 for the list of the objectives*).
- V. The ICRI Secretariat announced the decision to organize the next International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS) in Guadeloupe in 2011.
- VI. Five recommendations and resolutions were adopted by the ICRI General Meeting:
 1. Recommendation on international trade in coral reef species and related products (*annex 3*)
 2. Recommendation for the Caribbean region (*annex 4*)
 3. Resolution on coral reef-associated fisheries (*annex 5*)
 4. Resolution on the "Call to Action" (*annex 6*)
 5. Resolution on the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) (*annex 7*)
- VII. Four *Ad Hoc* Committees were created:
 1. *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Pacific day (*see annex 8 for the Terms of Reference*)
 2. *Ad Hoc* Committee on coral reef associated fisheries
 3. *Ad Hoc* Committee on the International Coral Reef Action Network
 4. *Ad Hoc* Committee on the "Call to Action"
- VIII. It was proposed and agreed to extend the duration of the term for the France-Samoa ICRI secretariat until December 2011.
- IX. The next General Meeting will take place from the 8th to the 12th of November 2010 in Apia, Samoa. The details will be circulated to the ICRI Members in due course.



Summary of the discussion
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Note: All the meeting documents are available on the ICRIForum web site.

1. New Members

The General Meeting welcomed the National Coral Reef Institute and SeaWeb as new members. Short remarks were made by Richard Dodge (NCRI) and by Julia Roberson (SeaWeb) to introduce their organizations and to demonstrate the link to the objectives of ICRI.

2. Report of the previous ICRI Secretariat: USA/Mexico

The previous Secretariat (United States & Mexico) presented their end-of-term report, highlighting a few key successes including, support for efforts to assess the economic valuation of coral reef ecosystem services; ICRI Member approval of resolutions on critical coral reef issues such as shark conservation, invasive alien species, and coral disease; further support and continuation of the highly successful coral reef crime scene investigation program; and emphasis on regional priorities and initiatives.

3. ICRI plan of action

The Plan of Action of the current secretariat was presented by the government of France and Samoa. Comments were received from the USA and UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP CEP) regarding the orientation 4. The orientation now reads:

Promote the international tools on coral reef management. To continue the ongoing actions on Marine Protected Areas and MPAs networks, and initiate a discussion on the large marine protected areas.

The detailed actions translated in English will be available shortly.

Note: Just after the presentation of the plan of action, the government of France gave a brief presentation about the “Grenelle de la Mer” (Oceans Round Table involving civil society, government, private sector which has been achieved by a serie of commitment on sustainable marine and coastal management).

4. Presentation of Samoan coral reefs

A presentation of the Samoan coral reefs was made by Toni Tipamaa from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Samoa). The presentation included the national legislative framework for coral reef management and conservation, the key issues and threats to coral reefs, the on-going national programs and initiatives and the constraints to coral reef management.

5. Summary of Recommendations and Resolutions, and *Ad Hoc* Committees

5.1 Recommendations and Resolutions



*Note: ICRI Motions are defined as follows: a **recommendation** looks outward and call attention to issues of serious, widespread concern for coral reefs and related ecosystems, whereas a **resolution** is looking inward at ICRI processes or requests action by ICRI members.*

A total of 5 recommendations and resolutions were adopted by the ICRI General Meeting on:

- Recommendation on International Trade in Coral Reef Species and Related Products - The recommendation recognizes that international trade in corals, coral reef species and products is significant and that unsustainable harvest of coral and coral reef species adds to other stresses on coral reef ecosystems such as climate change, bleaching incidents, coral disease, and habitat degradation, and could reduce coral reef resilience to such stresses. It also recognizes the important role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The recommendation encourages CITES Parties to adopt measures that improve conservation and management of corals, coral reefs and coral reef species. The recommendation will be sent to the CITES secretariat to be included as an information paper for the upcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15).

This recommendation was agreed following negotiations to address initial concerns of a small subset of ICRI members to the original draft of the motion.

- Recommendation for the Caribbean region - The General Meeting agreed to a recommendation for the Caribbean region to highlight the continuing decline of coral reefs in the region and to underline the socio-economic importance of these ecosystems. 3 major themes were highlighted for immediate and ongoing actions: tourism, invasive species and Marine Protected Areas. The recommendation will be forwarded by the ICRI secretariat to relevant regional organizations in the region (for example, to the Caribbean Tourism Organization, to the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme and to the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States).
- Resolution on coral reef-associated fisheries - The resolution calls on ICRI Members to acknowledge the social, economic and biological importance of effectively managed reef associated fisheries and the concerns about their sustainability and to establish an *Ad Hoc* Committee to compile information about the importance of sustainable management for coral reef-associated fisheries. The Terms of Reference and a call for participation in the *Ad Hoc* Committee are posted on the ICRIForum in an effort to begin work and to prepare a resolution to be presented at the next ICRI General Meeting. The resolution will be sent by the ICRI secretariat to the relevant organizations working on coral reef-associated fisheries (for example, to the Food and Agriculture Organization).
- Resolution on the “Call to Action” - The resolution reiterates the four pillars of the 1995 Call to Action. It recognizes that much has changed and advanced since the ICRI “Call to Action” was adopted and that there is value in conducting a concerted review of the Call to Action. The resolution also established an *Ad Hoc* Committee, chaired by France and open to all interested ICRI members.
- Resolution on the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) - The resolution recognizes the contributions made by ICRAN to ICRI over the last decade, and notes that ICRAN must transition to a sustainable model in order to continue to serve as an operational network. The resolution also establishes an *Ad Hoc* Committee, consisting of the current secretariat and other interested members, and supported by the ICRAN coordinating unit. The



resolution will be sent to the current board members of ICRAN to inform them about the decision and the structure of the ICRAN during the transition phase.

ICRI members are requested to inform the Secretariat when they take forward ICRI recommendations or decisions in their work, or into other fora.

5.2 *Ad Hoc Committees*

The existing *Ad Hoc* committees reported on their actions since the last ICRI Meeting (April 2009) and 4 new Committees were established.

- The *Ad Hoc* Committee on Economic Valuation of Coral Reef Ecosystems will continue to report to the next ICRI GM in November 2010. The United States of America joined the Committee as an ICRI Member, having served previously on the Committee as the former ICRI Secretariat. Several ICRI partners (USA (State Department and NOAA), CRISP) provided financial support to implement the work.
- The *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Fourth International Tropical Marine Ecosystem Management Symposium (ITMEMS4) reported to the members and proposed a new format for the symposium as well as a budget. The new concept was well received. It was suggested that an alternative to the provision of grants for the eye witness statements was explored. One suggestion was to waive their registration fee. France proposed to organize the meeting in Guadeloupe (in 2011) and will provide some financial support. The committee will continue its work and will report to the next ICRI GM in November 2010.
- The *Ad Hoc* Committee on Enforcement & Investigation will continue to report to the next ICRI GM in November 2010. A short presentation was made on the past and ongoing work of this successful initiative. Seven workshops are planned for 2010 and two new modules are being developed. The training toolkit is also getting translated to French, with other training materials translated into Spanish and Bahasa Indonesian. Members that recently hosted a workshop (Mexico, Dominican Republic and South Africa) were invited to talk about post training activities too. The United States of America were thanked for their continued financial support to this initiative.
- The *Ad Hoc* Committee on Coral Disease reported to the members on the aims and proposed outputs of the Committee. UNEP-WCMC, who is co-chair alongside the ICRI Secretariat, will be providing in-kind and coordination support to the Committee. All members who are interested in contributing are encouraged to contact Terri Young at terri.young@unep-wcmc.org. The Committee will report back to the next ICRI GM in November 2010.

New *Ad Hoc* Committees were created:

- *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Pacific day (to be hosted at the next ICRI General Meeting) - The committee is chaired by Samoa (Perina Sila, perina@mfat.gov.ws) with membership consisting of the ICRI Secretariat, CRISP/SPC, SPREP, IUCN, and USA. Other Pacific Island Forum (PIF) countries will also be invited to participate. The committee will prepare the agenda for the Pacific Day and identify expected outputs from this day. The committee will also identify speakers and countries/organizations to be invited.



- Ad Hoc Committee on coral reef associated fisheries - The committee will compile information for ICRI members about the importance of sustainable management for coral reef-associated fisheries and to prepare a resolution to be presented at the next ICRI General Meeting. The *Ad Hoc* Committee is co-chaired by the Coral Reef Initiatives for the Pacific (Eric Clua, ericc@spc.int) and the Society for the Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations (Yvonne Sadovy, yjsadovy@hkucc.hku.hk). If needed, global experts and practitioners will be invited to join the committee.
- Ad Hoc Committee on the International Coral Reef Action Network - The Committee, consisting of the current secretariat and other interested members, supported by the ICRAN coordinating unit, will review the future of ICRAN and prepare option papers on the role and responsibilities of ICRAN as an ICRI operational network, and its governance. The *Ad Hoc* Committee will serve as the interim ICRAN governing body, superseding the existing governance arrangements of ICRAN until further decision is taken by ICRI on the preferred longer term arrangement. France and USA joined the Committee.
- Ad Hoc Committee on the “Call to Action” - The *Ad Hoc* Committee, chaired by France and open to all interested ICRI members, will work on a renewed call to action and will consider new global issues and threats to coral reefs and related ecosystems, the advancements and continuing challenges in science and management, the role and duties of ICRI participants, and the review process. A reformulation proposal of the Call to Action will be presented by at the next ICRI General Meeting. France respectfully requests parties interested in joining the Committee to contact the Secretariat.

ICRI Members are encouraged to the ICRI Secretariat if they want to be included in an *Ad Hoc* Committee.

6. Caribbean 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 Caribbean region. During the morning session, general information regarding the region (by the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme), as well as the monitoring, status and threats to reefs, and their economic valuation were presented. The major projects in the region were also introduced, including a presentation from the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW). A brief summary of the morning session, made by the secretariat, underlined that:

- The Wider Caribbean region is very unique (geographical and political fragmentation, disparity in development and economies, influenced by major river systems: Mississippi, Amazon or Orinoco)
- The issues are similar within the region: tourism, over-fishing, coastal development and land based pollution (local or not), climate change; invasive species
- Among the 285 Marine Protected Areas in the region, only 6% are considered effective.
- Funding opportunities are available but how to access them?

During the afternoon, the following topics were discussed:

- Marine Protected Areas
- Invasive species
- Tourism



Members agreed that the lion fish was a serious problem for the Caribbean region and that education at all level (political leaders but also local community) was needed. Members agreed also that a regional strategy could be very useful. It is important to note that the topic on invasive species generated a lot of discussion. It underlines that ICRI should continue to work on emerging issues.

From the discussion, the following actions were identified as priority actions for the region:

Invasive species

- To establish an *Ad Hoc* committee on invasive species in the Caribbean region amongst ICRI Caribbean members. The *Ad Hoc* Committee open to any interested ICRI member, will consider approaches to establish a regional strategy on marine invasive species, focusing in particular on controlling the spread of lionfish.
- To recommend to the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) to:
 - Alert the Caribbean Community on the lionfish spreading and the associated threats,
 - Develop and submit a regional strategy on marine invasive species in collaboration with relevant organizations.
- To improve the sharing of information and warning systems in the Caribbean region about invasive species
- To inform on the lionfish spreading and its management through the creation of a regional strategy

Marine Protected Areas (MPA)

- To recommend to the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) to undertake an inventory of the existing 285 MPAs specifying their legal status, IUCN classification and other useful information.
- To recommend to the CaMPAM network to create a “task force” on coral reefs and associated ecosystems

Tourism

- To recommend to the Caribbean IUCN office, with the assistance of Caribbean countries, to:
 - List communication tools on the status of coral reefs and associated ecosystems
 - Assess their impact on tourism stakeholders
- To raise awareness amongst relevant public authorities on the necessity to integrate ecological issues in tourism development in the Caribbean region regarding the carrying capacity of coral reefs and associated ecosystems.

The ICRI secretariat will work on these actions and will report at the next ICRI General Meeting.

The General Meeting agreed to a recommendation for the Caribbean region to highlight the continuing decline of coral reef in the region and to underline the socio-economic importance of these ecosystems.



7. ICRI Networks

7.1 *International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN)*

Nicola Barnard presented a motion on ICRAN about its future role and link to ICRI. Several participants noted the importance of ICRAN and the need for this network to assist, where appropriate, ICRI Members in implementing on-the-ground actions. However, some members expressed concern about the recurrent discussion regarding the status of ICRAN as an ICRI Network and the need to resolve it. Thus, a decision was taken that the role and new governance for ICRAN will be presented at the next ICRI Meeting. In the meantime, the *Ad Hoc* Committee serves as the interim ICRAN governing body, superseding the existing governance arrangements of ICRAN until further decision is taken by ICRI on the preferred longer term arrangement. The resolution will be sent to the current board members of ICRAN to inform them about the decision.

7.2 *Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)*

Discussion on the role, structure and future of GCRMN occurred during the Management Group meetings which took place on the margins of the General Meeting. Clive Wilkinson and Carl Lundin as the chair of the management group presented the results of the discussions.

- The Overall coordination will require a transition period with IUCN providing the transition from the current coordinator to IUCN to ensure that outstanding work is completed and assist the Pacific in undertaking the reporting process. In the meantime, the management group will look at long-term cost-effective options for overall coordination, and may present some sustainable options at the next ICRI General Meeting. One of the options will be to reinforce the regional nodes. During the transition phase, the Term of Reference for the GCRMN and the management group remain the same.

The ICRI Secretariat agreed in principle on the transition phase for the GCRMN but requested more information about the role of IUCN, and the budget. The French government will work closely with IUCN on the transition phase.

- It was decided to produce a regional report for the Pacific region. The GCRMN will do the necessary work to have the report launched during the next ICRI General Meeting.
- No decision was taken regarding the next thematic report. However, invasive species was mentioned several times.
- UNEP proposed to coordinate a consultancy for a communication strategy to provide guidance on ICRI branding and how to best disseminate report findings/engaging policy makers regionally and other target audiences. The ICRI secretariat requested to be involved in the development of the Term of Reference and to see all documents before their publication.

8. Session on Fisheries

Following a recommendation from the last ICRI General Meeting (Phuket, Thailand, April 2009) a session on coral reef fisheries was held. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was invited but was unable to attend. The moderator of the session was Eric Clua from the Coral Reef Initiatives for the Pacific (CRISP). The session started by a movie « Massa God fish Can Done » from Jamaica introduced by the Nature Conservancy.



Two presentations on the importance of spawning aggregations and coral reef key and vulnerable species (by Yvonne Sadovy, University of Hong-Kong) and on the impact of climate change on coral reef fisheries and solutions to be implemented (by Phillip Munday, James Cook University) introduced the session.

Eric Clua presented the justification of reef sharks conservation. Brazil made a presentation of their case studies, selected among 10 received in the member reports.

Kelly Milton (DoS/USA) reported on an ICRI Regional Workshop on Live Reef Food Fish Trade workshop held in Hong-Kong (in November 2009) financially supported by the United States Department of State.

Following the session, discussions were held regarding the reef fisheries. From the discussion, a general consensus arose that ICRI should continue to work on that theme, taking into consideration the previous ICRI resolutions. Members agreed on a resolution on coral reef-associated fisheries and an *Ad Hoc* Committee was created, which will develop a resolution on coral reef fisheries for consideration during the next ICRI General Meeting.

9. Summary of the Reports from the Regional initiatives, and from member and organization reports

12 reports from countries and 18 from organizations were received by the secretariat. These reports are very useful for the secretariat and ICRI members are encouraged to continue to submit reports in the run up to the next ICRI GM.

Several regional initiatives, organizations and countries reported on their work since the last ICRI General Meeting (cf. Agenda to see the list of interventions)

The following actions arose from discussions:

- Coral Triangle Initiative – USA and Australia are very pleased with the approach of the Initiative and encourage ICRI members to investigate it. US also congratulated the 6 governments involved in CTI.
- The fifth ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop was held in Vietnam on 8-11 December 2009. The consecutive three regional workshops during 2008-2010 will be finalized at the sixth ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop to be held in Thailand on 26-28 June 2010 just after the Second Asia Pacific Coral Reef Symposium (<http://www.thaicoralreef.in.th/2ndAPCRS/main.html>), and the Regional Strategy on MPA Networks will be finalized and released.
- The Reefs @ Risk Revisited report should be released around September 2010. ICRI members willing to organize a regional event to launch the report are encouraged to contact Lauretta Burke. The ICRI secretariat, if possible, will facilitate the launch of the report.

The ICRI Secretariat was pleased to see all these regional initiatives that are taking place all around the world and thanked all the speakers for their useful presentations.



10. Summary on discussions regarding recent & upcoming relevant international meetings

- International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) - Following a statement by Ahmed Djoghlaif, David Ainsworth from the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat provided an overview of IYB and demonstrated ways in which ICRI Members can get involved in the awareness-raising campaign. See www.cbd.int/2010 for more information.
- UNEP - 11th special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (February 24-26, 2010, Bali, Indonesia) - The ICRI secretariat will contact the UNEP Executive Director to explore the possibility of making a brief presentation during the Governing Council regarding ICRI and coral reefs. The secretariat will report at the next ICRI General Meeting.
- 5th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands: Ensuring Survival, Preserving Life, and Improving Governance (May 3-7, 2010, UNESCO, Paris, France) - The Global Oceans Conferences will provide the opportunity for all sectors of the global oceans community - governments, international agencies, nongovernmental organizations, industry, and scientific groups - to address the major policy issues affecting the oceans at global, regional, and national levels and to make progress in advancing the global oceans agenda. For more information: <http://www.globaloceans.org>
- Convention on Biological Diversity - 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (October 2010, Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan) - In cooperation with the government of Japan, the ICRI secretariat will contact the Convention on Biological Diversity to request space for ICRI to host a side event during the COP (topic and theme to be determined). The government of the USA will help if needed. If a side event can be organized, the ICRI secretariat will inform ICRI members to seek volunteers to work on the program.

11. Next ICRI General Meeting

The next General Meeting will take place from the 8th to the 12th of November 2010 in Apia, Samoa. The details will be circulated to the ICRI Members and posted in due course on the ICRIForum: www.icriforum.org. During the Meeting, a "Pacific day" will be organized.

Meeting was closed by Co-Chairs.

Annexes:

- Annex 1: List of participants
- Annex 2: France-Samoa Plan of Action
- Annex 3: Recommendation on international trade in coral reef species and related products
- Annex 4: Recommendation for the Caribbean region
- Annex 5: Resolution on coral reef-associated fisheries
- Annex 6: Resolution on the "Call to Action"
- Annex 7: Resolution on the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN)
- Annex 8: Terms of Reference for the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Pacific day