

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

DGOCI-DSO No. 564/2013
23 May 2013

Dear [Second] Secretary:

I have the pleasure of addressing you with regard to your e-mail dated 23 April 2013, through which you kindly invite the Republic of Panama to submit its request to become part of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), under the view that it can make a valuable contribution to the global management of the oceans and coral reefs.

Based on the above, I have the pleasure of informing you that the Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP, Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá) requests to be a member so that the Republic of Panama may be part of the International Coral Reef Initiative.

This initiative is supported by the fact that the Republic of Panama has various coral reefs in both oceans as well as a biodiversity component which is larger than those of the rest of the countries in the region. This situation requires that we undertake actions aimed at achieving a better handling and protection of our coral ecosystems.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my highest regard and consideration.

(signed)
MR TOMAS A GUARDIA
Director-General
International Organisations and Conferences

To the Honourable
MS CLAIRE O'HALLORAN
Second Secretary
Australian Embassy in Mexico