

# International Coral Reef Initiative

## Meeting of the Coordinating and Planning Committee (CPC)

The World Bank Building  
Washington D.C.  
8 October, 1997

### Draft Agenda

1	Welcome and Opening	Richard Kenchington
2	Adoption of Agenda	
3	Regional Secretariat Issues*	Regional Coordinators
4	International Year of the Ocean	Richard Kenchington
5	ITMEMS	John Baldwin
6	ICRI on the Internet	John Baldwin
7	GCRMN report	Clive Wilkinson
8	UNESCO Coral Reef Management Handbook - writers' workshop	Richard Kenchington
9	ICRI Secretariat Budget	John Baldwin
10	Future directions for ICRI	Richard Kenchington

\* Note that on Saturday, 11 October there will be a specific workshop session of the World Bank Coral Reef Conference on ICRI regional priorities.

**International Coral Reef Initiative  
Coordinating and Planning Committee (CPC) Meeting  
October 8, 1997 - Washington DC, U.S.A.**

**Present:**

Richard Kenchington	ICRI Global Coordinator
John Baldwin	ICRI Secretariat
Karen Koltes	US Department of the Interior
Clive Wilkinson	GCRMN Coordinator
Jonathon Temple	British Embassy, Washington
Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury	UNEP - Caribbean ICRI Coordinator
Habib El-Habr	UNEP - EAS ICRI Coordinator
Barbara Best	USAID
Abdulla Naseer	ICRI South Asia representative
George Grice	UNESCO/IOC
Bernard Salvat	GCRMN-STAC Chairman
Francoise Touraine-Moulin	French Embassy, Washington
Agneta Nilsson	UNEP - WIO ICRI Coordinator
Peter Thomas	U.S. State Department
Arthur Patterson	NOAA
Tetsuro Uesugi	Environment Agency of Japan
John McManus	ICLARM
Marea Hatziolos	World Bank
John Ogden	GCRMN/CARICOMP
Mark Eakin	NOAA

**Apologies:**

Joe Reti	SPREP
Lucille Apis-Overhof	SPREP

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**Items 1 & 2** Accepted

**Item 3      Regional Secretariat Issues**

It was agreed by the meeting that matters relating to this item could be discussed in the forum of the World Bank Coral Reef Seminar agenda item set for Saturday, October 11.

**Item 4      International Year of the Ocean**

Action by IOC to progress International Year of the Ocean (IYO) is now underway. IYO/IOC has a major Internet site now running. The meeting supported the discussions held at the GCRMN meeting on 7&8 October, 1997 to, informally, designate November, 1998 as the "coral reef month" in IYO with a focus on reefs leading to and including that month. Coral spawning on the Great Barrier Reef in November strengthens the ties to that month. The meeting agreed that the Secretariat prepare a "menu" of significant ICRI activities for IYO and to formally convey that to the IOC for information. CPC members will be invited to contribute to that "menu" and a copy of the final letter is to be forwarded to all CPC members.

**Item 5      International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium**

It was confirmed that the International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS) will be held in Townsville, Australia from 23 to 26 November, 1998. It will represent the highlight of ICRI activities in the IYO and form the platform for the first thorough review of ICRI activities and achievements since the Dumaguete workshop in 1995.

The meeting noted the initial "flyers" that have been developed and discussed the draft Symposium agenda contained in the flyer. The meeting was generally supportive of the agenda outline, however, the following suggestions were noted by the Secretariat:

- economic aspects of coral reef protection and management should be covered;
- focus on sustainable use;
- balancing ICRI achievements with ICRI setbacks (= challenges for the future);
- the use of actual case studies as examples is important;
- reports from the regions need to reflect a common format without losing the individual themes and approaches by the regions.

The Secretariat undertook to involve the GCRMN and the regions in the planning phases of the symposium. This will need to be undertaken electronically rather than by face-to-face meetings. UNEP's leadership in helping to prepare documentation updating management status in each of the regions, in addition to facilitating participation of managers from the region, was encouraged.

ITMEMS will be used to set the ICRI agenda for the next four years.



## **Item 6            ICRI on the Internet as a Communications Tool**

The Secretariat's success in expanding Web communications was praised since it represents an expanded, cost-effective means to communicate with ICRI workshop participants, many of whom have not heard from ICRI directly since their participation in the regional workshops. An outline of the proposed ICRI Secretariat Internet site was presented to the meeting. The site will focus on several areas:

- a link to the existing IUCN site, particularly the aspects of the latter dealing with regional matters and the calendar of coming events. The Secretariat will discuss with IUCN the updating of the regional site and the process for posting information on the calendar.
- information on the activities of the Secretariat including monthly updates on activities;
- information on activities of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority relevant to ICRI; and
- links to other relevant sites.

NOAA requested a specific web link under media to the NOAA/IUCN 52 story campaign web page: <http://www.noaa.gov/public-affairs/coralreef/reefstories.html>.

It was agreed to actively seek means to notify all ICRI workshop participants of the new web page, and of ICRI directions/priorities in the coming year. Consideration will be given to generating an ICRI update (global and regional levels) distributed both through the web page and other means as available. The Secretariat will contact other relevant sites to ensure that they are linked to this site. It is anticipated that the site will be launched on the Internet before the end of October, 1997.

## **Item 7            Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network**

A report on activities of the GCRMN was received from Clive Wilkinson. Copies of the outcomes of the previous day's GCRMN meeting will be circulated to Regional Coordinators when they become available.

The U.S. noted its recent contribution to the UNEP Environment Fund to further UNEP's sponsorship of GCRMN, support of the ICRI secretariat, and UNEP's catalytic participation in ICRI.

The CPC noted the financial constraints of the GCRMN and encouraged the GCRMN and ICRI secretariat to coordinate requests to CPC members and others to build a stable multinational funding cycle without which the network may collapse at the end of next year.

## **Item 8          UNESCO Coral Reef Management Handbook - Writers' Workshop**

The meeting was advised of the proposal to hold a workshop associated with the International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium to revise the Coral Reef Management Handbook. The ICRI Global Coordinator is to arrange to contact CPC members separately seeking assistance with this workshop.

## **Item 9          ICRI Secretariat Budget**

The meeting noted that the budget for the Secretariat was currently nearly fully expended. The meeting also noted that donor agencies could still be receptive to requests to fund particular projects such as ITMEMS. The Secretariat would pursue these avenues and advise CPC members as necessary.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would develop and implement a strategy to financially support the ICRI Secretariat, and ICRI goals for the coming year, e.g., ITMEMS and launch of the GCRMN. The Secretariat will request CPC members, among others to partner in making direct financial contributions to each of these priority ICRI activities, thereby leveraging modest individual contributions on mutual priorities.

## **Item 10        Future Directions for ICRI**

The meeting discussed future options for the operation of the ICRI Secretariat noting that the state of the Secretariat budget may dictate a contraction of Secretariat activities. It was generally agreed that to maintain momentum and regional action, ICRI required an international coordinating presence of some sort. The importance of the Secretariat for international coordination and political and practical support of regional and local actions was stressed. No region supported the notion of removal of the Secretariat from ICRI operations although it was noted that, should the current budget situation not improve, the activities of the current Secretariat will be necessarily reduced to those directly required for the maintenance of the Internet site and preparation for the International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium. The concept of establishing an ongoing fund to support the Secretariat's functions based on CPC member contributions was agreed as an option to pursue.

## **Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the CPC will meet in association with the International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium. It was agreed that a meeting prior to ITMEMS is required and that the Secretariat should explore the possibility of a meeting in mid 1998 at a central regional location. Given the likelihood that an ICRI regional workshop is to be held in the Middle East in May, 1998, this opportunity will be explored by the Secretariat.