



**International Coral Reef Initiative  
Coordinating and Planning Committee (CPC) Meeting  
June 2 & 3 - Singapore**

**Present:**

Richard Kenchington	ICRI Global Coordinator
John Baldwin	ICRI Secretariat
Ian Dight	ICRI Secretariat Consultant
Clive Wilkinson	GCRMN Coordinator
Lucille Apis-Overhof	SPREP
Bernard Moutou	SPREP
Mr Pierre Aussage	French Embassy, Singapore
Ahmed Shehata	ICRI Egypt representative
Agneta Nilsson	UNEP H.O. & EAF/RCU representative
Prasantha Abeyegunawardene	SACEP
Hugh Kirkman	UNEP - EAS ICRI Coordinator
Bernard Salvat	GCRMN-STAC Chairman
Naohisa Okuda	Environment Agency of Japan
Kathleen Reyes	ICLARM representative
James Martin	United States Embassy, Bangkok

**Apologies:**

Joe Reti	SPREP
Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury	UNEP - Caribbean ICRI Coordinator
Abdulla Naseer	ICRI Maldives representative
Peter Thomas	U.S. State Department
Arthur Patterson	NOAA
Marea Hatzios	World Bank

**AGENDA**

1	Welcome and Opening	Richard Kenchington
2	Action Arising from Oct. '97 CPC	John Baldwin
3	GCRMN Update	Clive Wilkinson
4	Regional Updates	Regional Coordinators
5	Future directions for ICRI Secretariat	Richard Kenchington
6	ICRI links to 1999 CSD meeting	Richard Kenchington
7	Preparations for ITMEMS (logistics)	John Baldwin
9	Preparations for ITMEMS (program)	Ian Dight

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## Item 1

Accepted

## Item 2

The meeting noted the outcomes of the CPC meeting held in Washington D.C. in October, 1997 with no outstanding action arising.

## Item 3

A copy of the GCRMN Coordinator's report is at **Attachment 1**. Significant aspects of the report are:

- ◆ Stronger links are being developed with the Reef Check process building on existing links with REEFBASE;
- ◆ GCRMN funding support is being renegotiated following the closure of the IUCN Marine and Coastal Program;
- ◆ GCRMN activity is taking place in most ICRI regions with most activity in South Asia and the Pacific.
- ◆ GCRMN progress will be reported at ITMEMS with the timing of the Symposium also being used as a forum for methodology discussions and training.

The meeting noted a suggestion from Mr Shehata that a lot of work was taking place in the Middle East on coral reef management and monitoring. It was important to realise that, despite tensions in the region, a second Regional ICRI meeting could be considered in order to get contributions from other countries of the Region. Mr Shehata agreed to provide the Secretariat with a copy of a recent paper outlining tourism involvement in coral reef monitoring in the Middle East. The Secretariat will forward this paper to the Regional Coordinators.

## Item 4

### Pacific

Ms Apis-Overhoff reported on the review of the Pacific Year of the Coral Reef (PYOCR) Campaign. The Campaign was reviewed at a regional forum at Fiji in April. This review was also attended by the ICRI Secretariat and a representative from NOAA. Subjective success measures of the Campaign include:

- ◆ the development and positive reception of a variety of awareness building activities including music videos, poster and art competitions;
- ◆ high participation rates by young people in "reef clean-up days";
- ◆ high levels of international cooperation;
- ◆ the reintroduction of traditional and cultural practises in reef management;
- ◆ the declaration of over 40 marine reserves;
- ◆ the "export" of the Campaign strategy plan for implementation in the Caribbean.

### South Asia

Mr Abeyegunawardene reported on activities of SACEP in implementing ICRI objectives. Significant items include:

- ◆ the development of a regional oil spill contingency plan in association with the IMO. SACEP is seeking links with the EAS/RCU to more effectively finalise the plan.;
- ◆ plans to establish a staff position in SACEP to implement ICRI activities;
- ◆ strong progress for the regional GCRMN project;
- ◆ a Regional Training Program in coastal management to commence in September; and
- ◆ the commencement of a SACEP INTERNET site in June, 1998.

### Middle East

Mr Shehata reported briefly on the ICRI workshop held in Jordan in September, 1997 and on the possibility of a follow-up workshop in 1998 to involve those countries not represented in Jordan. There is a high level of willingness to work on coral reef protection and management projects in the Middle East and a number of initiatives are now underway including the following in Egypt:

- ◆ a major sustainable tourism project in the Red Sea involving management and the tourism industry; and
- ◆ the development of a policy stance on waste discharge and landfill in the coastal zone.

### East Asian Seas

Dr Kirkman reported on recent developments in implementing the COBSEA 15 year regional plan. He also described activities he would like to see established in the region to assist implementation of ICRI:

- ◆ the establishment of a regional Metadatabase for use with a GIS approach to coastal management;
- ◆ the development of a regional collaborative monitoring program;
- ◆ the development of a regional education program; and
- ◆ implementing a high resolution resource mapping program.

In addition, Mr Okuda reported success in the establishment of the Regional Coral Reef Research and Monitoring Center in Okinawa which it is anticipated will act as a node of the GCRMN. Japan is interested in helping facilitate coordination in the region for monitoring - possibly through a coordinating workshop. Mr Okuda also reported on the successful poster competition held in Japan last year as well as action to support the coral reef research centre in Palau.

### East Africa and the West Indian Ocean

Ms Nilsson reported on behalf of Mr Richard Congar (EAF/RCU Coordinator) as well as activities on the East African coast. Major events have been:

- ◆ the commencement of a review and revitalizing of the Nairobi Convention;
- ◆ the holding of a workshop on mapping critical marine habitats utilising remote sensing techniques sponsored by IOC and UNEP. West Indian Ocean island states as well as Mozambique will be involved in this process in late 1998;
- ◆ continuing effort in a major East Africa rapid assessment project;
- ◆ the development of a coastal resource atlas for Kenya.

Ms Nilsson also reported on recent developments at UNEP Headquarters including the appointment of the new Executive Director and the commencement of a restructuring exercise in the organization. However, the Regional Seas Programme is considered one of the priority programmes to be revitalized.

Ms Nilsson also reported on outcomes of correspondence between the Secretariat and UNEP concerning funding for ICRI and the GCRMN. The principal outcome is that the US contribution of \$US275,000 to UNEP suggested for coral reef activities, such as support of ICRI and GCRMN, was not made available for this purpose. Unlike contributions to the Trust Funds, Government's contributions to the Environment Fund can not be "earmarked" for any specific activity and the US\$275,000 was therefore not directly available to the Water Branch for coral reef activities. In spite of this, the Water Branch supported the GCRMN with \$US54,000 in 1997. The US contributions to the Trust Funds are available as follows: US\$30,000 to the EAF/RCU (used for rapid assessment methodology implementation), US\$30,000 for the East Asian Seas and US\$90,000 for the Caribbean region. Proposals for activities in East Asia and the Caribbean are under development by the Regional Coordination Units. In addition, UNEP will be providing \$US25,000 to ITMEMS preparations through support to regional participation (\$US15,000) and preparation of regional reports (\$US10,000).

## Caribbean

A copy of the report for the Caribbean is at **Attachment 2**.

### **Item 5**

Mr Kenchington lead discussions based on the discussion paper at **Attachment 3**. The following represents the major outcomes of discussion on the four recommendations. Note that no formal decision was taken on any of the recommendations rather the outcomes of the discussions as presented in these Minutes would form a basis for discussions on these topics at ITMEMS.

**RECOMMENDATION 1:** *That, following the outcomes of the 1998 ITMEMS, the CPC reconfirms its role in the next phase of global ICRI activity.*

There was general agreement that the CPC and Secretariat play an important political and support role for ICRI activities taking place in the regions. The CPC and Secretariat were seen to provide important credibility to coral reef management initiatives. These roles were seen as important to pursue in the future.

**RECOMMENDATION 2:** *That, in order to promote accountability and a better sense of "team", the CPC reaffirm the composition of the Committee and establish firm ground rules for the conduct of meetings.*

Most discussion centred on two points: the need to promote a sense of equity and "openness" within the CPC and the need to promote an efficient CPC that is not hampered by a clumsy administrative arrangement. There was consensus that, as a minimum, a core team representing:

- ◆ the ICRI Secretariat;
- ◆ the GCRMN;
- ◆ UNEP Headquarters and each of the UNEP Regional Seas Programs (RSP);
- ◆ each of the eight founding ICRI governments.

It was suggested that other, ad hoc representation by countries or organisations could be effected through their respective RSP's. To promote openness, details of pending CPC meetings should be promulgated on the Internet.

**RECOMMENDATION 3:** *That a minimal expected role for the Secretariat, focussing on capacity building support for regional forums or meetings, secretarial support for the CPC and enhancement of communications be set. Secretariat functions beyond that will need to be dependent on the resources available.*

Members discussed a range of role options and noted that the extent of that range will be, as it is now, limited by the amount of funding available. Discussions supported a minimal role as identified in the recommendation if funding continues to be limited. However, in the event of adequate funding the following were identified as appropriate:

- ◆ act as secretary and coordinator of ICRI CPC meetings;
- ◆ manage the ITMEMS symposium series on a four year basis;
- ◆ facilitate communication between ICRI partners and regions using electronic media (eg. Internet) where possible including ensuring topical issues on coral reefs receive wide publicity within the ICRI network;
- ◆ act as a catalyst for promoting coral reef management in international forums; and
- ◆ facilitate and assist ICRI regional associations and countries in connecting with donor support networks.

**RECOMMENDATION 4:** *That the CPC, through the Secretariat, explore the establishment of an international trust fund for the purpose of support for the ongoing functions of the Secretariat.*

The notion of a mechanism to provide certainty to the operations of the Secretariat was strongly endorsed. Discussions centred on possible mechanisms and the degree of complexity that a trust fund system may require. Particular discussion points were:

- ◆ a trust should be limited in supporting the role of the CPC and Secretariat and not be established to provide wider financial support for ICRI projects;
- ◆ the trust, ideally, should encompass support for the coordination of ICRI and the GCRMN;
- ◆ a trust system should not prevent direct support to the Secretariat from either the host country or another agency or government.

The Secretariat undertook to rewrite the discussion paper for wider circulation within the ICRI community reflecting a need for continuing international coordination, recognising difficulties in establishing trusts and considering a formula for governments and agencies to contribute efficiently through intermediaries.

## **Item 6**

It was noted that the outcomes of the ITMEMS conference including statements on the future of the Secretariat, the CPC and GCRMN would need to be finalised in order to present a clear and coordinated vision for ICRI into the 21st Century to UNCSD.

## **Item 7**

Mr Baldwin presented an update on logistics preparations for ITMEMS covering information on:

- ◆ the registration brochure;
- ◆ the venue;
- ◆ the utilisation of the Internet to facilitate ITMEMS preparations; and
- ◆ the ITMEMS budget and project management.

## **Item 9**

Dr Dight led discussion on the guidelines for preparation of ITMEMS reports (**Attachments 3 and 4 refer**). The content of the guidelines was accepted by members. The following points arose from discussions:

- ◆ the Secretariat is to canvas CPC members for both the names of potential members of the ITMEMS output document drafting committee and the names of agencies that support particular projects and programs in their region.
- ◆ some slight editing of the guidelines will be undertaken to make them more readable;
- ◆ CPC members will make a strong effort to advertise ITMEMS within their region and to advise the Secretariat of organisations and agencies that will be attending or who should specifically should be advised of ITMEMS;
- ◆ appropriate political representation at ITMEMS will be managed by the Secretariat;
- ◆ regional reports should include, as an appendix, a list of ICRI oriented projects;
- ◆ the GCRMN coordinator will institute a process to ensure adequate and efficient involvement of GCRMN matters in the regional reports;
- ◆ the Secretariat will ensure that it is made clear to delegates what is expected of them in terms of their involvement in ITMEMS; and
- ◆ proposals for case studies and discussion questions for the working groups will be canvassed with CPC members by correspondence prior to finalisation.

## **Other Business**

### Coral Bleaching

Brief updates were presented by members identifying known and reported cases of coral bleaching from around the world. Bleaching events from South Asia, Eastern Africa, the Pacific, Australia and the Middle East were noted. It was noted that a variety of Internet sites are available on this topic. Dr Wilkinson undertook to collate a summary statement for posting on the ICRI Internet site.

### **Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the CPC will take place in Townsville, Australia immediately prior to the commencement of ITMEMS. A brief follow-up meeting at the conclusion of ITMEMS associated with the formal handover of the Secretariat to France will also take place.

# Agenda

Item	Time	Topic	Presenter
<b>Tuesday</b>			
1	0900	Welcome	Richard Kenchington
2	0910	Action arising from Washington CPC	John Baldwin
3	0930	GCRMN update	Clive Wilkinson
	1000	<b>Morning Tea</b>	
4	1030	Regional News (informal updates by Regional Coordinators)	Lucille, Prasantha, Hugh Alessandra, Agneta
5	1130	Future Directions for the ICRI Secretariat	Richard Kenchington
	1300	<b>Lunch</b>	
5	1400	Future Directions for the ICRI Secretariat (cont'd)	Richard Kenchington
	1515	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>	
6	1545	ICRI Links to 1999 UNCSD Meeting	
7	1615	Preparations for ITMEMS (update on planning to date)	John Baldwin
	1730	Close	
8	1930	Dinner!!	
<b>Wednesday</b>			
9	0900	Preparations for ITMEMS	Ian Dight

(preparation of reports and  
case studies)