

**ICRI MPA WORKING GROUP REPORT TO ICRI CPC  
MAY 5, 2003**

The ICRI MPA Working Group was mandated to participate in the planning of ITMEMS sessions on marine protected areas, at the CPC in Cancun. In addition to these efforts, some of the MPA Working Group membership attempted to advance ICRI MPA interests in other global fora, in particular, the Convention on Biological Diversity's review of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas, planning for the World Parks Congress and developing guidance on "Establishing No Anchoring Areas to Protect Coral Reefs." Similar efforts would be useful at a regional level as well, e.g., the UNEP Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean will be addressing criteria to listing of MPAs on a regional list to enhance cooperation over the next two years.

At this time, the ICRI MPA Working Group has yet to develop a strategy for collaboration over the next 18 months, leading up to the Okinawa ISCRS meeting, SIDS, or CBD review of protected areas.

CPC guidance to the MPA Working Group is requested:

- CPC should decide whether to continue this working group to address these (above) or other issues.
- how to promote and implement the MPA and other inter-linked ITMEMS recommendations at global, regional and national scales.
- How can ICRAN respond to emerging priorities identified in ITMEMS
- Process for finalizing Working Group products would be useful, e.g., on guidance for establishing no anchoring areas to protect coral reefs.
- Are there any procedures for finalizing products of Working Groups
- How to credit ICRI in the document introduction
- Access needed to ICRI logo for insertion into document.
- ICRI Forum would need to host web version of document

A brief report of activities follows. Time constraints did not permit circulating this report to Working Group in advance of the CPC meeting.

**ITMEMS**

1. ICRI's MPA Working Group planned three MPA sessions for ICRI. Special thanks to the planning team, the speakers, those who chaired sessions (several shouldered this responsibility at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour).
2. The WG actively encouraged the development of a statement of concern on spawning aggregations in the months leading up to ITMEMS, through close coordination with IUCN's Yvonne Sadovy, chair of the IUCN SSG on grouper and humphead wrasse, and a member of SCRFA.

- Representative areas where extractive uses are excluded, and other significant human pressures are removed or minimized, to enable the integrity, structure and functioning of ecosystems to be maintained or recovered; and
- Other marine and coastal protected areas which may complement the biodiversity objectives of the areas referred to in (1), where threats are managed for the purpose of biodiversity conservation and/or sustainable use and thus where extractive uses may be allowed.

## **WORLD PARKS CONGRESS**

The World Parks Congress will provide an early opportunity to disseminate ITMEMS outcomes, link them to a broader MPA and protected area agenda, and encourage other fora to address these concerns. A number of ICRI partners have been part of the planning process. Some of the key overlapping interest include: MPA networks, management effectiveness, fisheries and MPAs, financing, and resilient coral networks.

The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development called for the establishment of representative marine protected area (MPA) networks by 2012. This goal, linked to such other agreed WSSD goals as better protection of marine biodiversity and improved fisheries and coastal management, will transform existing scientific consensus into new political imperative to create effective MPA networks. We must be sure, however, that the WSSD call for representative MPA networks is not interpreted as portfolios or collections of individual MPAs – rather the call should be interpreted as functionally-connected networks, which is what we should be working toward.

The World Parks Congress (WPC) will help deliver the World Summit on Sustainable Development's commitments by providing relevant operational tools and programs built on the best available science, information and experience. Participants at WPC will explore and propose new and innovative policies, strategies, and practices for a world facing rapid change, with limited capacity and resources for the tasks ahead. The Congress will develop the MPA conservation agenda for the next decade with practitioners from around the globe. For example, UNESCO expanded its efforts to address the underrepresentation of marine World Heritage sites by convening an expert meeting to determine potential tropical marine sites in 2002. This has led to the development of a Marine World Heritage Strategy and network that will be launched during the WPC.

### **Achieving Objectives: Management Effectiveness**

MPAs are expected to protect marine biodiversity and ecosystem function, reduce poverty, and provide for healthier coastal communities with a strong foundation for economic growth. There are great challenges in meeting these expectations due to insufficient financial and technical resources, inadequate engagement of stakeholders, lack of trained staff, or lack of data. For example, in one region, of 342 MPAs that were

assessed for management performance, only 46 (14%) were rated as effectively managed, an additional 160 (48%) were rated as partially effectively managed, and 126 (38%) had inadequate management.

At the Congress, the WCPA and WWF will present approaches for program evaluation including cycles. Most will need to put in place a number of different mechanisms that, together, will provide sustainable financing. Some of these mechanisms will likely operate at a local level and generate resources for only one park or one type of activity. Others will function at a national or system-wide level, necessitating transparent arrangements to allocate resources across various protected areas. Still others will not be mechanisms to generate resources, but instead are collaborative management approaches that can lower costs and, at the same time, engender a greater sense of ownership for and participation in conservation and sustainable development activities by key stakeholders. The Parks Congress will include a discussion of cases where managers have begun to integrate different financing mechanisms and management approaches into sustainable financial strategy or business plan. The examples chosen will focus on developing a diverse sustainable finance portfolio for functionally-connected networks of marine protected areas.

## **ESTABLISHING NO ANCHORING AREAS TO PROTECT CORAL REEFS**

Draft guidance on no anchoring areas was developed in partnership with NOAA. The draft was available on the ICRI forum for a year for comment. (little comment). A draft was made available to ITMEMS and IMO seminars immediately following ITMEMS.

Guidance is requested on the following issues:

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