

## ICRI: Global Vision for Local Action

### Statement marking ICRI's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Ten years following its inception, the ICRI partnership continues to recognise the 'Call to Action', the 'Renewed Call to Action' and the 'Framework for Action'.

Recognising those fundamental statements of direction for ICRI, it is appropriate to identify future challenges at this time. Accordingly, this statement of vision should be read in the context of those documents.

For the benefit of coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems and for the benefit of communities and people whose very existence and livelihood depend on the health of the coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems themselves, **ICRI's Global Vision for Local Action** is to:

- Recognize and promote the role that effective management of coral reef resources can play in sustainable development and poverty alleviation;
- Stimulate the participatory assessment of management effectiveness to plan actions in order to achieve better the objective for conservation and sustainable use;
- Foster and strengthen new and existing partnerships at the local, national, regional and international levels (e.g. ICRAN, GCRMN, CORDIO, WW2BW, CRISP) with particular emphasis on local communities;
- Strengthen implementation of existing programs, international agreements and processes at the local, national, regional, and international level to prevent degradation, conserve, restore and promote sustainable use of coral reefs and (related ecosystems – to change) coral reef ecosystems;
- Enhance ICRI's attention to issues relating to ecosystems ecologically connected to coral reefs that may not have received appropriate emphasis in the past;
- Encourage implementation of the CBD programmes of work, in particular, on marine and coastal biodiversity, and protected areas and related targets.
- Incorporate management provisions for protection, restoration, and sustainable use of the structure, processes and biodiversity of coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems into existing local, national and regional development plans;
- Strengthen capacity for development and implementation of policies, management, research, and monitoring of coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems for direct action on the ground and with communities;
- Promote and maintain coordination among international, regional, and national research and monitoring programs, including the GCRMN, CORDIO, Reef Check, World Bank's Targeted Research Programme, and to ensure efficient use of scarce resources and a flow of information relevant to management of coral reefs and associated environments;
- Recognize the role which coral reefs play within national economies, particularly with respect to tourism, fisheries and coastal protection;

- Work with the private sector to encourage sustainable operations and promote alternatives to minimise damaging practices which have the potential to impact coral reefs in an attempt to make their operations sustainable and prohibit damaging practices;
- Encourage the development of representative MPA networks as an important tool for the conservation of biodiversity and to promote sustainable development;
- Respond proactively to events, natural and human-caused disasters affecting coral reefs by promoting approaches which focus on resilience (both ecological and human) rather than just restoration and/or reconstruction;
- Address drivers of global climate change and engage in adaptive management options;
- Place emphasis on actively engaging policy-makers, consumers and local communities;
- Promote the reduction and, where possible, removal of the direct pressures on coral reefs and related ecosystems, locally and regionally, through integrated catchment and coastal management so as to minimize the impacts of pollutants and nutrients on coral reefs;
- Assist countries in the development of alternative livelihoods to combat poverty and reduce over-exploitation of coral reef resources;
- Educate and raise awareness of the importance of using only sustainably harvested coral reef resources;
- Assist and recognise appropriate traditional knowledge and its role in marine environmental management;
- Develop the ‘capacity to build capacity’ and use train-the-trainers and peer-to-peer exchanges as low cost mechanisms to ensure that capacity building is a self-sustaining mechanism.
- Promote transboundary arrangements to protect coral reefs and related ecosystem.

ICRI will continue to focus the world's attention on the need for protecting and managing coral reefs at local, national, regional and international levels. It will do so with communities and people in mind, promoting concrete action which responds and supports national and international commitments and responsibilities. ICRI has the Global Vision and needs the coral reef community to undertake Local Action.

ICRI's Global Vision can only be realised through continued commitment from all of its members and it behoves us all to make sure the membership is reaching out to all of the global coral reef community.