INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE (ICRI)
General Meeting
Mahé, Seychelles, 25-27 April 2005

Summary Record

Presented by the ICRI Secretariat

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The third general meeting of the UK/Seychelles secretariat was held from the 25th – 27th April 2005 in Mahé, The Seychelles. The meeting was co-chaired by Rolph Payet of the Seychelles and John Roberts of the UK.

75 participants including three new members attended the 10th anniversary meeting of ICRI. The next general meeting was scheduled for 31st October 2005, and will be hosted by the new co-chair of Japan and Palau in Koror, Palau. Those in attendance, and those sending apologies are listed.

Summary of decisions adopted and actions agreed.

Resolutions

1. One Resolution was adopted and one draft resolution proposed:
   (i) Revision of the Resolution on ICRI Operational Management Procedures.
   (ii) Draft ICRI Resolution on Artificial Coral Reef Restoration and Rehabilitation.

Decisions

2. The meeting agreed:
   (i) A Statement of ICRI's "Global Vision for Local Action".
   (ii) That GCRMN undertake an update of the Status of Coral Reefs of the World, for countries affected by the tsunami of 26th December 2004.
   (iii) The acceptance of three new members: Coral Cay Conservation, The Nature Conservancy and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community
   (iv) The next ICRI General Meeting will be held from 31st October – 2nd November, Koror, Palau.
   (v) ITMEMS 3 will be held in October 2006, Cozumel, Mexico.
   (vi) ICRI was given the opportunity to present its views in response to an invitation to submit material to the ICP in the form of a letter and statement.

Committee outcomes

3. The meeting endorsed the establishment of the cold-water corals committee and, subject to comments over 14 days on the ICRI Forum, agree the proposed work programme. The committee will report progress at the next ICRI Meeting.
4. The MPA working group continued discussions as a means of communication and exchange of information. The Committee will develop yearly strategies to take full advantage of events such as CBD liaison group - Montecatini, CZ05 and others.

Actions arising

5. The following actions arose from discussions:
   (i) Member countries/organisations should put forward to the ICRI Secretariat (icri@unep-wcmc.org) the names of 2 representatives to act as focal points to ensure effective communication. Responsibility of all members. On going.

(ii) List of focal points will be compiled and made available on the ICRI Forum. Responsibility of ICRI Secretariat. On going.

(iii) The ICRI scorecard to be posted in a prominent position on the ICRI Forum. Responsibility of F. Staub. ASAP

(iii) Recommendation for the dissolution of ICRIN: communication to be led by the Secretariat.

(iv) Minor amendments were made to Articles 7, 8 and 12 with some restructuring of article 6.

15. In conclusion the ICRI meeting agreed the revision of the resolution with the amendments noted above. This revised document will serve as the procedural basis for ICRI for the foreseeable future.

3.3 – The role of the ICRI Focal point

16. Article 1 of the Resolution on organisation and management procedures requires ICRI members to nominate a focal point. The role of the focal point is to act as the link between ICRI and the constituency that they represent to Communicate issues of concern from their constituents to ICRI; Circulating information of interest sent to them by ICRI and; Feeding back the discussions and outcomes of ICRI general meetings.

17. In conclusion:

(i) It is requested that member countries and organisations propose 2 names each to ensure effective communication;

(ii) A list of focal points, once compiled by the ICRI Secretariat, will be maintained and available on the ICRI Forum.

(iii) Focal points are encouraged to communicate with their constituents through the organisation of local/ national meetings of stakeholders.

3.4 – Use of ICRI Score Cards

18. As a condition of membership, ICRI members are required to report annually to the ICRI General Meeting. This has proven to be an onerous task, which results in a low number of reports. A scorecard has been developed by the World Bank to enable self-evaluation by members, and evaluation of ICRI. It is proposed that the ICRI scorecard would be a useful tool for members to use for reporting. Once initially completed, these would just need updating actions as they occur.

19. The ICRI Scorecard could also provide a means for enabling country reporting to the GCRMN process.

20. In conclusion

(i) The use of the ICRI scorecard was commended as a means of providing feedback from ICRI members.

(ii) The score card will be posted in a prominent position on the ICRI Forum

3.5 - An overview of the next ICRI Secretariat 2005-2007, Japan and the Republic of Palau -

Supporting document: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3)2005/3.5/1; Presentations 1, 2

21. At the 2nd ICRI General Meeting, 3-4th July in Okinawa, the ICRI membership accepted the proposal from the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Palau to co-host the ICRI Secretariat for the period of 1st July 2005 – 30th June 2007.

22. Representatives of Palau and Japan presented an overview of plans for the structure of the ICRI Secretariat under the new host countries including the retention of UNEP-WCMC to continue its role and develop ICRI's institutional memory. The ICRI membership was invited to provide feedback and/or advice to the Japan-Palau Secretariat by completing the distributed questionnaire.

23. In discussion members noted that the proposed dates for the 1st ICRI General Meeting of the incoming secretariat will clash with various other marine meetings.

24. In conclusion:

    (i) The information provided to the General Meeting was noted

    (ii) The results of the distributed questionnaire requesting feedback from members will be compiled and be posted on the ICRI Forum and be incorporated into the ICRI Plan of Action for 2005-2007 as appropriate.

    (iii) The first ICRI General Meeting to be hosted by the incoming Secretariat will be held from the 31st October – 2nd November in Koror Palau.

3.6 – Financial Matters: Administration of US Counterpart Contributions

Supporting Document: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3) 2005/3.6/1

25. In recent years, the United States Government has kindly provided UNEP with annual counterpart contributions to support UNEP's work on coral reefs and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). This contribution has again been made for the year 2005.

26. In discussion:

    (i) GCRMN and Reef Check expressed their thanks and indicated that these funds have enabled an increased level of monitoring activity in the South Pacific, particularly in Vanuatu.

    (ii) The Seychelles and East African Coral Reef Task Force also expressed their gratitude to the Government of the United States for providing these enabling funds.

27. In conclusion ICRI:

    (i) Noted the update in the administration of US counterpart contributions

    (ii) Gratefully acknowledged the US for their continuing and significant contribution and recognising the importance of the work carried out using these funds urged the US to continue this support The UNEP CRU was acknowledged and thanked for its work in ensuring the transparency and partnerships in the revised administration of these funds.

3.7 - Communications

ICRI Newsletter and Brochure

28. An A5 4 page colour ICRI Brochure has been produced and distributed to provide an overview of the Initiative, and its objectives.

29. Three editions of the ICRI newsletter have now been produced and members were thanked for their contributions. A Small working group has been established for the production of the Newsletter, consisting of. Arthur Patterson (NOAA), Robert Baldi (DEFRA), Emily Corcoran (UNEP-WCMC) and Francis Staub (AJH Environmental Services). ICRI members are encouraged to contribute articles and disseminate the newsletter.

30. In conclusion ICRI members:

    (i) Expressed their support for the newsletter as a valuable form of communication;

    (ii) Noted that the number of hits on the ICRIForum doubled ever since the introduction of the newsletter;

    (iii) Agreed that the newsletter be produced three times a year (changed down from quarterly) to consist of secretariat news, members' news and a special report to be contributed by members;

    (iv) ICRI requested members to submit news from the regions and to make suggestions on special topics for the rest of the year. Material for the next newsletter is due by the 30th September 2005 to newsletter@icriforum.org.

    (v) Rolph Payet will submit an article on small island states and coral reefs from the Seychelles for the next issue.

ICRIForum

31. The ICRIForum is the online communication centre for ICRI enabling the rapid exchange of information around the world. Statistics show that the website use has increased four fold over the last 3 years with a greater number of repeat visitors

32. In discussion:

    (i) It was remarked that the ICRIForum is a useful tool both as a source of information and as a means to engage in electronic discussions and in facilitating organising committees that are geographically distant (e.g. ITMEMS organising committees and the incoming ICRI Secretariat).

    (ii) Members expressed intent to explore the Forum more to become more familiar with it. A review of the basic tools such as joining discussion forums was requested.

33. In conclusion ICRI:

    i. Noted the report with thanks acknowledging the important role of the ICRIForum for the Initiative.

    ii. Encouraged members to develop their familiarity and use of the ICRIForum and to explore its potential.

CORAL's Issue Briefs

34. Apologies were received from Brian Huse (CORAL) who was unable to attend the meeting.

35. CORAL has produced six Issue Briefs with the support of the US Department of State via UNEP for their contributions to ICRI. The briefs have now been distributed through ICRI and CORAL networks available in English and Spanish, downloadable from http://www.coralreefalliance.org/resources/briefs/. The six briefs, covering a range of issues affecting coral reefs are based on consultations with the coral reef and ICRI community. Each of the 6 briefs consists of a simple 2 page information leaflet outlining issues, and policy implications.

36. In conclusion ICRI:

    (i) Noted the Issue Briefs with thanks.

    (ii) Encouraged its members to distribute these briefs widely

4.0 - ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER PROCESSES

4.1 – CBD/SBSTTA

Supporting document: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3)2005/4.1/1

37. The tenth meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 10) was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 7 to 11 February 2005. The SBSTTA addressed a number of issues that are of relevance to ICRI, as follows:

    (i) The adoption of recommendation X/4 on global **outcome-oriented targets** for the implementation of the programmes of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and marine and coastal biodiversity;

    (ii) Recommendation X/1, SBSTTA adopted the goals, global targets and timeframes, and island specific priority actions of the **programme of work on island biodiversity**;

    (iii) Launch of the "The Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2004" report in a side event jointly organized by the GCRMN and the CBD Secretariat supported by a presentation to Working Group II of SBSTTA by Clive Wilkinson. SBSTTA participants received the report very well.

38. The meeting were advised of four upcoming CBD meetings of relevance to ICRI members (further details are provided in the supporting document):

39. In conclusion:

    (i) ICRI members noted the report.

(ii) The US specifically requested that ICRI members review the proposed programme of work on Island Biodiversity in preparation for the CBD COP in 2006.

4.2 – IUCN World Conservation Congress, November 2004, Bangkok

40. The Congress proved a useful meeting for the coral reef community as it concentrated on natural defence systems and natural disasters.

41. The Congress hosted the first launch of the "Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2004" report and resulted in good discussions on cold-water coral reefs.

42. New IUCN publications include a coffee table book to showcase marine biodiversity in late 2005 and a new initiative in collaboration with the Species Survival Commission network, to assess marine species, to map out in more detail the status of all reefs.

43. IUCN's work on Invasive Aquatic Species in the marine environment is discussed under agenda item 11.4.

44. In conclusion the information was noted by the meeting.

4.3 – UNEP's 23rd Governing Council

Information document: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3) 2005/4.3/1

45. A number of ICRI related reports were presented and resolutions adopted at the 59th session of the United Nations General Assembly held in 2004. All these documents are available via the web site of the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/index.htm). The UNGA resolutions can also be found on http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/r59.htm

46. The 23rd Session of the UNEP Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC- 23/GMEF) was held in Nairobi from 21-25 February 2005. This meeting adopted 12 Decisions. Of particular significance is the integration of corals in the UNEP water policy for the first time. Decision 23/2. 23/5 and 23/7 are of particular interest. An advance text of these and other Decisions adopted at UNEP GC-23/GMEF can be found on http://www.unep.org/gc/gc23/. The text of the final version of the up-dated UNEP water policy and strategy (UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.5/Rev.1/Add.1) is available on http://www.unep.org/gc/gc23/working_docs.asp.

47. In conclusion the ICRI membership noted the document. Extracts from the key reports, resolutions and decisions are included in the information document.

4.4 – HERMES

48. Stefan Hain (UNEP CRU) presented this agenda item in the absence of Andre Freiwald, leading world expert on Cold-Water coral reefs and lead author of the UNEP-WCMC Biodiversity Series publication who sent apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

49. HERMES (Hotspot Ecosystem Research on the Margins of Europe's Seas) is a major international research project funded by the EC Framework VI programme and designed to gain new insights into the biodiversity, structure, function and dynamics of ecosystems along Europe's deep-ocean margin (including cold-water coral reefs). With a budget of 15 Million Euros over 4 years, it aims to understand relationships between biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. More information is available at: http://www.eu-hermes.net/

50. In conclusion the meeting noted the information provided.

4.5 – PIANC Working Group to discuss dredging and port and harbour development around coral reefs

Supporting document: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3) 2005/4.5 Inf.

51. An update was provided on progress of the collaboration between the UNEP Coral Reef Unit and the dredging industry (Agenda item 7.4, Okinawa, July 2004) as requested by the Okinawa General Meeting.

52. Annex 1 of the report summarised the background situation and Annex 2 and 3 provided details of activities undertaken between July 2004 and April 2005. Of particular note are:

53. The UNEP Coral Reef Unit thanked ICRI members for their input to date, in particular Paul Holthus (MAC) and Robert Cudney (Mexico).

54. In conclusion the ICRI meeting:

    (i) Noted and encouraged the developing cooperation between the dredging industry and UNEP;

    (ii) Requested that ICRI members interested in providing advice or support in terms of case studies, lessons learned, reports or information pertaining to past, present or future dredging operations in coral areas (successful or problematic) contact the UNEP CRU through Emily.corcoran@unep-wcmc.org;

    (iii) Noted that a paper will be presented by UNEP CRU, IADC, GPA and CEDA at CEDA's Dredging Days Biennial Conference in November 2005

4.6 ICP UN Consultative Process on Oceans

Supporting documents: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3) 2005/4.6/1; ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3) 2005/4.6/1

55. ICRI was given the opportunity to present its views in response to paragraph 74 and an invitation to submit material to the ICP by the Under-Secretary General for Legal Affairs of the United Nations. The Secretariat proposed a draft letter in response to the letter of the Under-Secretary General, a draft statement for presentation at the ICP in June 2005, invited discussion of the type of material that ICRI should submit to DOALOS and discussion as to the role ICRI should play at the GMA workshop in New York, following the ICP meeting.

56. In discussion it was noted that it was essential for ICRI to become engaged in this debate.

    (i) Coral reefs beyond national jurisdiction are predominantly cold water coral reefs. Work is on going as to the distribution of these reefs;
    (ii) UNEP CRU have responded to this debate and are happy to provide the text of their response

57. In conclusion it was agreed that

    (i) The proposed letter be amended as per discussion and sent immediately following the close of the ICRI general meeting;
    (ii) The draft statement to the ICP be posted on the ICRI forum for comment before the end of May;
    (iii) An information document will be drafted following the meeting and posted on the ICRI Forum for comment;
    (iv) Comments should be provided to the GMA workshop in June 2005. Clive Wilkinson and Richard Kenchington agreed to assist the secretariat in its preparation. Other ICRI members attending should inform the Secretariat.

4.7 – IMPAC 2005

Supporting document: Presentation

58. The First International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC) will take place in Geelong, Australia from 24-28th October. Members are encouraged to register for this very important meeting. All information is available at www.impacongress.org and on line registration is open. There is a possibility for some support to delegates from developing countries, and donor support is encouraged.

4.8 – ITMEMS 3 (2006)

Supporting document: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3) 2005/4.8/1 and Presentation

59. International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Symposia (ITMEMS) have been convened by ICRI Secretariats in 1998 and 2003 to consider management issues and provide a forum for practical management, peer group interaction, professional development and the lessons of experience in management of coral reefs and related ecosystems. The 2004 ICRI General Meeting in Okinawa agreed to the establishment of an ITMEMS3 planning working group.

60. Interest in ITMEMS 3 and the utility of previous ITMEMS has been confirmed through an email questionnaire (noting that limited response was received through the ICRI Forum discussions).

61. In discussion it was noted that:

    (i) An expression of interest to host ITMEMS 3 in Cozumel was put forward by Mexico, supported by the Mayor of Cozumel, the university and local hotel association.

    (ii) Previously ITMEMS have been held in the Asia Pacific, and with ICRS 2008 being held in Florida, holding ITMEMS in the Caribbean region would be an opportunity to develop closer links between ICRS and ITMEMS.

    (iii) With some progress on the identification of a location and how the symposium will operate, the next step will be to elaborate a budget. It is anticipated that registration fees will cover the on site costs of the programme with a break even at 300 participants. Preparatory work and organisation is to be funded by the ICRI secretariat

    (iv) ITMEMS 2 proceedings are now available through the ICRAN Coordinating Unit, Reefbase and the ICRIForum.

62. In conclusion ICRI members:

    (i) Agreed to proceed with ITMEMS 3 as a core activity of the ICRI Programme for 2005-2007 to be held in Cozumel, Mexico in October 2006 (low season to ensure accommodation requirements can be met). The UK/Seychelles ICRI Secretariat will write an official letter to Mexico to invite hosting ITMEMS3 (Robert Cudney will prepare draft)

    (ii) Noted progress made to date including the establishment of a Programme Committee to be chaired by Richard Kenchington and a Site Organizing Committee chaired by Robert Cudney with terms of reference for each committee.

    (iii) Were encouraged by the chair to actively participate in ITMEMS 3, and to pass on this encouragement within their own networks.

    (iv) Supported the notion of ITMEMS 3 and the 2nd ICRI GM of Japan and Palau being held back to back

    (v) Requested a progress update from The Programme Committee and Organizing Committee at the next ICRI General Meeting, including confirmation of time, location, venue, programme, budget, etc.

4.9 – Update on the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands

Information Document: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3) 2005/4.9/inf

63. The Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands was organized informally in 2001 and formalized at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (WSSD). It serves as a multi-stakeholder forum for cross-sectoral discussion, policy analyses, and mobilization of knowledge and other resources to achieve the full implementation of international agreements related to oceans, coasts, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

64. In conclusion, ICRI members:

    (i) Noted the Forum and were encouraged to become involved in the process and invited to read and note the information document, contacting the co-chairs for further information.

    (ii) Also noted that UN OCEANS, established after WSSD provides a mechanism for cooperation and coordination in the UN System, working through task forces that may provide an entry point for ICRI to access several UN agencies.

5.0 – ICRI COMMITTEES (Previously ICRI Working Groups)

5.1 – Introduction of the Marine Protected Areas Committee

Supporting presentation

65. A summary of the activities and on line discussions of the MPA Committee since July 2004 was presented.
66. The committee discussions agreed that:
    (i) MPA on line discussion group should continue as a means of communication and exchange of information. Such discussions could then provide input or assist organizers of symposia and congresses such as ITMEMS, ICRS, IMPAC to determine desirable outputs and information gaps.
    (ii) The Committee should develop yearly strategies to take full advantage of events such as CBD liaison group - Montecatini, CZ05 and others.
    (iii) The committee will prepare a statement on the importance of M&CPA's as protection from natural disasters.
    (iv) Promote and support assessment and enhancement of management effectiveness and as a consequence encourage the sharing of lessons learned.
    (v) Encourage CBD to continue to develop user-friendly versions of documents to be posted as readily available information on the ICRI Forum website.
    (vi) Encourage discussion/information exchange to share learning and guidelines on the establishment of MPA networks and discuss ways of filling any gaps identified.

67. In conclusion:
    (i) The meting encourages and endorses the work undertaken by the committee on marine protected areas. The committee will report progress at the next general meeting.

5.2 – Cold-water Coral Reef Committee – proposal of a draft Programme of work

Supporting Document and Presentation

68. At its General Meeting in Okinawa (3-4th July 2004), ICRI adopted a Decision on Cold-Water Coral Reefs, that decided to: "*extend the Ad Hoc Committee in order to prepare terms of reference and a draft work programme on cold-water coral reefs and related ecosystems for consideration by the next general meeting".*
69. The Committee met during the General Meeting and in conclusion;
    (i) ICRI agreed to the establishment of the committee on cold-water corals.
    (ii) The cold-water coral committee work plan will be posted on the ICRI Forum for 14 days for comment before being agreed, once agreed the committee are requested to take their activities forward.

6.0 – STATUS OF CORAL REEFS AND ASSOCIATED ECOSYSTEMS IN SOUTH ASIA AND SUMMARY OF POST-TSUNAMI ACTIVITIES

6.1 - Presentations and discussion

Supporting Documents:

70. Many participants from affected countries as well as organisations and agencies active in the region contributed papers and presentations to inform the debate on the status of coral reefs and associated ecosystems in South Asia following the devastating tsunami of 26th December 2004.
71. All the papers and presentations are available on line, as well as a page on the ICRI Forum, dedicated to information relating to the activities undertaken following the tsunami.
72. In discussion it was noted that:
    (i) Assessments show that capacity has been damaged in some areas through loss of life and equipment;
    (ii) It should be recognised that recovery will be a slow and involved process. Quick fixes are being offered but are misaligned and will serve to complicate the situation in the future.
    (iii) Environmental issues need to be moved in to strategic planning.

(iv) Post tsunami assessment has for the most part been undertaken by national jurisdiction, rather than regionally. A regional perspective is essential to understanding the impact on systems.

(v) There have been impacts on habitats other than coral reefs, but in many cases these were not assessed (e.g. mudflats);

(vi) The breadth of presentations made demonstrated the huge variations of the experiences faced by the 11 countries and variation in progress towards recovery. The variation of impacts is significant in terms of economics, social impacts (e.g. changes in livelihoods) and ecology;

(vii) It is essential to note and incorporate an understanding of geomophological aspects in assessments and assessing impacts.

(viii) It is anecdotal evidence for the role of coral reefs and mangroves in mitigating the impact of the tsunami.

(ix) Methods for clear up could cause more damage than the tsunami itself. Indonesia has produced "Green Reconstruction guidelines" which focus on an integrated approach and the use of Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

(x) It is essential that lessons learned be recorded to provide information for the future.

(xi) UNEP-WCMC is producing a booklet on the value of functioning ecosystems to shoreline protection. This will explore the buffering capacity of coral and mangrove ecosystems.

(xii) Chronic impacts such as bleaching from increasing sea surface temperature, pollution and unsustainable use of resources from an ever growing demographic continue to be the most serious impacts to the sustainability of coral reefs and their associated ecosystems.

73. In conclusion:

(i) All contributors to this discussion where thanked by the chairs for their input

(ii) Resources (e.g. reefbase, UNEP-WCMC IMAPS, reports and assessments etc) made available to ICRI will be posted on the ICRIForum Tsunami pages

6.2 – ICRI's response to the South Asia Tsunami disaster (Agenda item14)

74. In discussion it was noted that:

(i) ICRI should have a positive role to play in guiding sustainable rehabilitation activities;

(ii) A great deal of work has been or is being undertaken. ICRI members have been fully engaged in many of these activities.

(iii) A comprehensive assessment is needed to bring together local assessments which exist for most affected areas

(iv) Any assessment should include explanations of oceanographic and geomorphological processes and the role these play in how the tsunami affected the region.

(v) The IOC has been commissioned by the Indian Ocean states to set up a tsunami warning system in the Indian Ocean. The preliminary system will be operational by 2006, and the full system linked to the Global Oceans Observation System in 2007.

75. In conclusion it was agreed that:

(i) GCRMN should undertake an assessment as a Status report update as a result of the Tsunami. This should focus on the tsunami and incorporate consideration of geomorphology and oceanography and where appropriate draw on other reports (e.g. UNEP-WCMC work on buffering capacity). Concept to be posted on the ICRI forum by Clive Wilkinson as soon as possible.

(ii) ICRI members (particularly donor organisations) were urged to respond to the proposal as resources will be required to undertake the assessment, and to provide information, including updated status reports.

(iii) The draft recommendations and conclusions of this report will be posted on the ICRI forum for comment by the ICRI membership and discussed at the next ICRI meeting in October, 2005.

(iv) ICRI endorse the conclusions that emerged from the Coastal Zone Rehabilitation and Management in the Tsunami Affected Region meeting (Cairo, 17 February 2005), which

include the guideline principals for reconstruction. The guidelines are posted on the ICRIForum and ICRI members encouraged to circulate these principals through their networks.

(v) ICRI should revisit post tsunami activities at the next ICRI meeting in Palau.

7.0 – ICRI OPERATIONAL NETWORKS

7.1 – International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN)

Supporting Documents and MAR project update:

76. As an operational network of ICRI, the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) is required to report its progress to ICRI Members at the General Meeting. This information document aims to fulfil this requirement. Much of this information is presented within the February 2005 edition of the ICRAN newsletter and is a summarized account of further ICRAN activities that have taken place outside the scope of the newsletter.

77. In conclusion the report was noted.

7.2 – The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)

78. GCRMN presented its report of activities since July 2004.

79. The key event was the global launch of the Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2004, which has been very well received with excellent media coverage. The full text is available on line at: http://www.aims.gov.au/pages/research/coral-bleaching/scr2004/index.html Thanks were extended to a wide range of organisations for their support in the production of this latest report.

80. Other activities, including the diversification of socio economic monitoring, COREMO3 data entry, ROMPE sea area meeting will be held in June 2005.

81. Announced that a Status of the Coral Reefs 2006 is planned, and propose the production of a Status update for countries affected by the South Asian tsunami.

82. In conclusion the GCRMN was thanked for its continued work, and an excellent Status report and the activity report was noted.

7.3 – CORDIO

83. CORDIO reported a feeling of pessimism with regard to the continuing negative trend of reef degradation. Socio-economic and policy issues must be addressed to support the science and monitoring. The report highlighted some of the regional factors resulting in increased poverty and vulnerability to poverty

84. CORDIO has received funding for 2 years from SIDA with potential funding from Finland. SIDA has also provided CORDIO with a grant to support ICT development in East Africa to facilitate reporting and on line recording of data.

85. A grant has been issued as a follow up from post tsunami activities to establish a centre in the Andaman Sea to support Thailand, Indonesia and Myanmar.

86. In conclusion CORDIO was thanked and the report noted.

8.0 – MAINSTREAMING CORAL REEF ISSUES INTO NATIONAL POLICY-MAKING: SYSTEMS FOR MEMBERS' FEEDBACK

8.1 – National Reports

Norway

Supporting Document: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3) 2005/8.1a Inf.

87. A report of activities was submitted to the meeting by Norway.

88. Norway announced a small fund of US$12,500 to assist travel to the next ICRI meeting. Countries requiring support should contact the secretariat.

89. The meeting noted the report and thanked Norway for its contribution

Malaysia

Supporting document: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3)2005/8.1/2 and Presentation

90. Malaysia presented a report on the "Research on the Seas and Islands of Malaysia" (ROSES), an ambitious national project aimed at studying the seas and islands of Malaysia for the purpose of wealth creation for the nation. Its research focuses on the fields of marine biotechnology and biodiversity with its first expedition through the waters of the Straits of Malacca and the South China Sea completed in August 2004.

91. There are many reefs in south east Asia that are beyond national boundaries, or that are in areas of disputed jurisdiction which provide a significant challenge to conservation due to the intense political sensitivity of these areas. A question was raised as to whether it should be a role of ICRI to support regional activities that promote cooperation.

92. The report was noted.

India

Supporting Presentation 1, Presentation 2

93. India presented a report on the status of the coral reefs of India; some of the least disturbed and least researched reefs in the world.

94. India has legislation in place to protect all reef building hard corals, and supports 6 Marine National Parks (MNPs).

95. India is a signatory to the CBD, CITES, UNFCCC and the Kyoto protocol and the Jakarta Mandate on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity.

96. Coral reef conservation is gaining momentum with closer ties with ICRI becoming established and linking sites with the Indian Ocean Biogeographic Information System (IndoBIS). The National Institute of Oceanography and the Chemical Laboratory are developing this.

97. The 26th December 2004 tsunami had a devastating effect to the coastal communities and environment to the southwest and eastern coasts of the country.

8.2 – Use of stakeholder meeting and focal points

98. Dealt within agenda item 3.3

9.0 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MEMBERS REPORTS

9.1 – IFRECOR French Coral Reef Initiative Report and 2nd Programme 2006-2010

Supporting document: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3)2005/9.1-9.2

99. Since the last general meeting that took place in Okinawa, Japan, IFRECOR has continued the implementation of its activities throughout the 7 French overseas territories, which participate in the initiative. A report was provided of given of IFRECOR activities since July 2004.

100. In conclusion the meeting noted the report and thanked IFRECOR for its continued work.

9.2 – AFD-CRISP, French South Pacific Initiative 2005-2008

101. Supporting document: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3)2005/9.1-9.2The CRISP project was announced in September 2004, and the general planning meeting held in January 2005 with the technical support of ICRAN. On the ground activities have now begun. A brief overview was provided of the current state of the project.

102. Further information is available from the supporting document and on CRISP website www.spc.int/CRISP.

103. Bernard Salvat and Clive Wilkinson have been nominated as scientific advisors to CRISP.

104. In conclusion the meeting congratulated the French delegation on the implementation of this project and noted the report

9.3 - Ramsar

Supporting document: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3)2005/9.3

105. As the Ramsar Secretariat was unable to attend the Okinawa meeting, the submitted report covered the period from November 2003, date of submission of the latest report for the Turks & Caicos GM meeting, to the present day.

106. The highlights of the report include the addition of 6 new parties to the convention and an increase of sites with coral reefs to a total of 54 since November 2003. A list of these sites as well as further details of Ramsar activities can be found in the supporting document.

107. In discussion it was noted that Japan is preparing to nominate a Ramsar site by the next ICRI general meeting, which will include coral.

108. In conclusion the meeting noted the report.

9.4 – Caribbean Environment Programme of UNEP

Supporting document: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3)2005/9.4/1

109. A report of the Regional Seas activities in the Wider Caribbean Region since the last ICRI general meeting was put forward.

110. In discussion:

(i) ICRAN thanked the CEP, recognising the value of their work. The CEP has acted as a catalyst for a number of activities not least the successful initiation of the Mesoamerican Reef Alliance.

(ii) Despite support from the CEP, progress for GCRMN has been slow for the Caribbean. Reef check is active in the area, but small-scale support is invited to increase activities in SIDS.

(iii) It was noted that Brazil is currently lying outside of a regional seas programme and it was mooted that a way needs to be found to support the activities of Brazil in terms of coral reefs.

111. In conclusion:

(i) The meeting noted the report;

(ii) The CEP will investigate opportunities for involving Brazil in coral reef activities of the Caribbean

9.5 – SACEP

Supporting Presentation

112. The Executive Director introduced SACEP and the scope of its work, in particular coral reef work and SACEP's role in the recovery following the tsunami.

113. In conclusion the meeting noted the report

9.6 – PERSGA

Supporting Presentation

114. The Secretary General of PERSGA conveyed his thanks to the UK Government for supporting the attendance of PERSGA to the meeting.

115. A report was provided to inform the meeting of PERSGA's current activities and efforts to develop national and regional action plans. Advice is sought from ICRI members with experience in this field.

116. Further information is available at http://www.persga.org/

117. In conclusion the meeting noted the report

9.7 – Reef check

118. An over view was provided of two major projects and publications. Information is available at www.reefcheck.org. www.reefcheck.org/datamanagement allows the browser to look at any reef check data set/information that they wish.

119. In 2004 Reef Check worked with NOAA on a programme dubbed "SOC CHECK" – a one day clinic on socio economic indicators.

120. There is a need to get the coral reef message out further beyond our current community – need to come up with business/ financial incentives. Suggested ideas include:

    (i) A tourism programme which would involve a multi level reef check certification programme, where people pay to be come a certified Reef Check trainer, and train paying tourists (e.g. in Cozumel).

    (ii) Marine Aquarium Certification Programme along with MAC. With Reef check following up on the certification process that is undertaken by MAC. Working with EcOCEAN, Serge Planes and hopefully CRISP. There are on going investigations.

    (iii) Moving into monitoring of temperate corals in California.

121. In discussion it was noted that:

    (i) Duplication of resources is a key issue; transparency of data is a key issue, although data is still considered sensitive by many.

122. In conclusion Reef Check was thanked for its continuing efforts and the report noted.

10.0 – REPORT OF UK SMALL GRANT PROJECTS

123. The small grant scheme was an innovative and important element of the UK/Seychelles Secretariat involving the funding of three small-scale coral reef projects (each costing about £15,000 GBP). The objective is to provide tangible, quick-win outcomes in line with ICRI's Framework for Action. This calls for integrated management of coral reefs, capacity building, research, monitoring and review. From the results below it demonstrates that tangible outputs are possible from relatively small amount of money.

124. Of 11 projects submitted, 3 were funded

10.1 - Bonaire

125. Two exchanges between Soufraire (St. Lucia) and Bonaire National Parks have successfully taken place, which was recorded and broadcast on the Bonaire national television.

126. The support of the UK small grant scheme was highly significant to the undertaking of this project, which has been a very positive experience with high impact results.

127. The face-to-face contact enabled by the project has been critical. The Bonaire representatives took away ideas from the St Lucians for the use of FADS, fisheries organisations and other management measures, and like wise the St. Lucians have benefited from learning about the involvement of the private sector in Bonaire.

10.2 – Jamaica

Supporting document: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3) 2005/10.2/1

128. The project is being conducted through the Caribbean Coastal Data Centre (CCDC), Centre for Marine Sciences, University of the West Indies in partnership with ICRAN and UNEP CEP.

129. The completion of the project to Monitor the status of coral reefs in the Portland Bight Protected Area (PBPA) of Jamaica has been delayed as a result of the impacts of Hurricane

IVAN. However the opportunity has been taken to look at the reefs (using a modified reef check methodology) before and after the hurricane passed through.

10.3 – Philippines

Supporting document: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3) 2005/10.3/1

130. The project area of Lapu Lapu City (Province of Cebu, Central Philippines) is included within the country's second largest metropolitan area, with over 2 million residents. This area includes Mactan and Olango Islands, one of the country's premier coastal tourism and diving destinations, which includes an estimated 500 hectares of prime reef habitat.

131. The project was designed to provide needed technical and financial support to reinforce commitments and counterpart resources of local community members, government units and organized dive operators / resorts to establish a sustainably funded management and monitoring system for MPAs within Lapu Lapu City.

132. The reader is referred to the supporting document for a full report of the project.

11.0 – EMERGING ISSUES

11.1 – Enhancing the role of economic valuation in coral reef management

Supporting document: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3)2005/11.1

133. In promoting the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs, it is essential that we can express the direct economic benefits of healthy coral reefs, and what are the costs that would be incurred if their function and services were lost. Evaluation should involve the private sector and requires long-term financing of monitoring of coral reef health and its implications.

134. In discussion it was noted that:

(i) The benefit of economic valuation is not just for conservation *per se*, but well-founded, legally supported values are essential for restoration efforts, e.g. estimating damage (and claims) as a result of ship groundings.

(ii) Information discussed during the meeting regarding on going work by ICRI members (TNC, Palau, World Bank, Thailand and others) will be posted on the ICRIForum as a new discussion thread.

135. In conclusion the meeting:

(i) Recognised the importance of this developing work in this area;
(ii) Agreed to establish a thread on the discussion forum to enable information exchange. The importance of contributions to the discussion to further this very important debate was stressed.

11.2 – Promoting the ICRI message through public aquaria

136. With thousands of public aquaria around the world and millions of visitors each year representing a broad range of society, it is suggested that this would provide a potential route to ICRI to raise awareness of coral reef conservation and sustainable use, especially given that education and awareness raising is a key activity of aquaria.

137. The meeting was asked to consider if public aquaria could provide a useful forum for channelling and disseminating information reflecting the issues of concern to ICRI, and how this might work.

138. In discussion, interest in this concept was shown by a number of ICRI members, notably South Africa and Australia. The idea of linking up to share and disseminate ICRI information would be appropriate and relatively straight forward to implement, although the promotion of ICRI itself would be more problematic

139. In conclusion ICRI agreed:

(i) The concept of using public aquaria as a route for promoting the ICRI message should be explored further.

(ii) Australia, South Africa and other interested ICRI members will investigate the potential in their aquaria.

11.3 – Resilience and adaptation to bleaching in the Indian Ocean

Supporting document: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3)2005/ 11.3 and Presentation

140. Most accounts of coral bleaching rarely take the story further than an initial report of the event, yet it has become clear that longer-term effects may occur at several scales. One effect is the change in wave energy striking shorelines after the corals in shallow waters die and decay. This may result in a drop in the height of reef flats where corals used to thrive, leading in turn to a 'pseudo-sea level rise'. Added to this, there is a smoothing of the reef flat as the colonies disintegrate. For both reasons, reef flats thus affected offer less resistance to wave energy. A model is available on the 'Research' tab at http://www.bio.warwick.ac.uk/res/frame.asp?ID=42 which will enable any researcher to enter data for any fringing reef, to determine what wave energy strikes the shore behind the reef, in average conditions. While the model itself is very complex, it has been designed as a simple Excel spreadsheet, permitting easy entry of data.

141. Participants were invited to obtain this model to support management decisions and add to the cumulative body of information on changes to energy impacting shorelines following coral mortality.

142. It was noted that to date no atoll reefs or continental mainland shores have been assessed.

143. In conclusion the meeting noted the report with thanks and participants encouraged to explore the model for their countries.

11.4 – Impact of invasive aquatic species on coral reef ecosystems

Supporting documents: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3)2005/11.4/1 and Presentation

144. The spread of marine non-indigenous species (NIS) has become a global environmental issue due to a rapid increase in commercial shipping and recreational boating over the past century. Activities that may introduce species to locations outside their native biogeographical range constitutes one of the 4 biggest threats to marine biodiversity.

145. IUCN presented their current project looking at non-indigenous marine species on coral reefs Seychelles. This will provide reef managers with an easy and cost-effective tool to monitor the health of the reefs and a set of options to mitigate potentially deleterious effects.

146. In discussion it was noted that

(i) Work in the Caribbean on this subject has been very limited to date, although there are proposals in development (Phase 2 of Globallast for example). It is recognised that the port surveys require high resource input for survey and analysis.

(ii) With the IMO ballast water convention now in place, ICRI members are encouraged to ratify and implement this convention,

(iii) There is a museum and taxonomy network available to help support work on identification of non-indigenous species for the pacific basin as well as a sequence of recommendations and publications by the APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) Secretariat.

147. In conclusion ICRI noted:

(i) The significance of this matter, the need to share the information of this emerging threat, requesting members to consider the significance (including the economic costs to the environment) of this matter in their own regions and action that might be appropriate;

and endorsed the need for:

(ii) The development of an inventory of marine introduced species in high use ports associated with coral reefs;

(iii) Targeted monitoring of high-value areas for early detection of NIS in degraded, pristine and protected coral reef habitats;

(iv) Monitoring complemented with incursion response strategies and action plans for managers.

11.5 – Coral reef education and awareness

Supporting Presentation

148. Environmental education has been an essential component of marine and coastal management in the Seychelles. Although there are activities targeted to all sectors of the population, the majority focus on the young working through schools, and NGOs. Such programmes are already beginning to show positive changes in behaviour of children and evidence that the messages they learn are being taken home.

149. Capacity in environmental education is critical to build the awareness required to understand the impacts our everyday activities have on the world around us. Building environmental education into non-standard curricular areas (e.g. in maths and English) is vital to impressing the mainstream nature of environmental issues.

150. In conclusion ICRI agreed to:

(i) Urge its members and networks to continue to build capacity in environmental education and awareness and support the production of local education and awareness materials;

(ii) Initiate a discussion on the ICRIForum to discuss the types of materials that exist and are needed. Members are reminded that a kiosk site is already available to share education materials and CORAL has an inventory of education information available on line (www.coral.org), Australia has a programme of reef guardianship, information available at www.gbrmpa.gov.au. Members are also reminded that ReefED has kiosk within the ICRIForum

(iii) Find ways to get environmental educators more involved in its deliberations and consider how ICRI could adopt a resolution on marine awareness and education.

11.6 - The Need for Scientific and Financial Evaluation of Coral Reef Rehabilitation Methods
Supporting document: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3)2005/11.6 and Presentation

151. Coral reefs suffer from chronic and acute events; from pollution to natural events e.g. tropical storms and the tsunami of 26 December 2004. Those with economic interests in coral reefs are seeking ‘quick’ solutions in attempts to restore the coral reefs, some based on engineering principles to ‘repair’ the damage and to accelerate natural recovery processes.

152. A resolution to provide advice regarding rehabilitation techniques was proposed in response to concern over the methodologies being promoted claiming the rehabilitation of coral reefs and the importance of the engagement of the appropriate expertise when considering rehabilitation of coral reefs. In particular the use of artificial reefs, electric reefs and transplantation techniques.

153. In discussion it was noted that:

(i) Where coral reefs are being degraded (e.g. In countries affected by the tsunami) there is a great desire to rectify damage caused and frustration experienced in not being able to restore reefs to their former state in a short time frame.

(ii) In some cases rehabilitation and/or restoration are appropriate (usually limited to small scale acute events e.g. hurricane damage, ship groundings). The main concern is that many of the claims of engineering solutions being offered to governments and other organisations have not been subjected to scientifically rigorous tests. Often the proposed solutions are not appropriate until other chronic issues (such as local water quality) have been addressed and conservation measures are in place.

(iii) The investigation into rehabilitation techniques should be encouraged but in cases where testing of electrical engineering methods have been conducted, either no advantage has

been shown (e.g. South Africa, Egypt (Hagarda)) or they are inconclusive (e.g. Thailand, Jordan).

(iv) There was strong support for the engagement of the promoters and manufacturers of engineering solutions in the process of establishing guidelines for producers of such systems. The proposed resolution should serve to bring parties together and not to polarise the debate.

(v) A working group was established to revise the resolution to reflect the discussion (incl. France, Mexico Palau)

154. In conclusion the ICRI meeting

(i) Supported the move to adopt a resolution (subject to revision) advising governments and other organisations to carefully examine claims from commercial and non-commercial groups selling or proposing 'engineering' solutions for coral reef rehabilitation and to seek advice from appropriate expert bodies before investing in potentially risky, unproven and expensive engineering techniques which may exacerbate environmental damage and divert funds away from more effective measures;

(ii) Advised governments, international agencies, NGOs and other parties that the most effective mechanism of rehabilitating coral reefs is through mitigation of chronic human disturbances (e.g. sedimentation, pollution and over-fishing). This will facilitate natural recovery mechanisms, build resilience against further disturbances, and be effective over large areas;

(iii) Encourage all those interested in coral reef rehabilitation to carry out rigorous scientific and economic studies of all potential rehabilitation techniques; and

(iv) Request the International Society for Reef Studies (ISRS) and/or the Coral Restoration and Remediation Working Group of the CRTR program to prepare a discussion paper that focuses on the scale of the problems facing coral reef countries and assesses the viability of such proposed engineering solutions compared to natural recovery mechanisms. (A suggested list of potential questions and discussion points is appended in of the supporting document)

(v) Agreed that a document be produced to compile experiences of reef restoration and rehabilitation across the ICRI community. This could be used to develop a list of questions to be considered before rehabilitation is undertaken.

(vi) Agreed that a committee be established with terms of reference. The committee will report back at the next ICRI General Meeting.

11.7 - Possible effects of ocean acidification

Supporting document ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3) 2005/11.7

155. Information was provided on recent debate relating to acidification and rising CO_2 level in the oceans as an emerging global threat to marine biodiversity, in particular the possible effects on calcifying organisms including all types of corals.

156. In discussion the UK indicated that they are currently carrying out research on this issue which indicate serious implications for carbonate systems.

157. In conclusion the document was noted and Norway thanked for raising this issue:

12.0 – INTRODUCTION TO ICRI SIDS/ISLAND BIODIVERSITY (AGENDA ITEMS 12 AND 13 COMBINED)

12.1 – Introduction to the scope of discussion, Outcome of Mauritius Meeting and ICRI High-level Side Event,

Please contact ICRI Seychelles

158. It is vital that SIDS keep marine and biodiversity issues, in particular coral reefs high on the international agenda, given the dependency of SIDS economies on marine resources. In order to ensure ICRI is able to play its role, SIDS from the Caribbean, Indian and Pacific Oceans were represented at the General Meeting.

159. Some key questions that need to be answered include:

(i) How do we mainstream environmental issues in to the sustainable development dialogue?

(ii) How can lessons learned be passed between SIDS of different regions?

(iii) How can the key players be involved, and what are the resources needed?

13.0 – (SEE ABOVE)

14.0 – THIS ITEM IS DELT WITH IN POINT 6

15.0 RETURN DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS – SEE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

16.0 – A GLOBAL VISION FOR ICRI ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Supporting document: ICRI GM (UK/Sey 3)2005/16.1/1

160. The vision for ICRI is a statement on its 10th anniversary to state the achievements and future objectives of the Initiative. The concept was posted on the forum in advance of the meeting for comment.

161. In discussion:

i. The vision statement will need to recognise the continued relevance of the Call to Action, Framework for Action and Renewed Call to Action, complementing and re-enforcing them.

ii. The vision needs to incorporate fully coral reefs and *associated ecosystems* (e.g. seagrasses and mangroves) recognising the inextricable connections between these ecosystems.

iii. It is essential that the opportunity is taken to recognise and reflect on the experiences of the past 10 years, both where we have succeeded and where we have struggled so as to inform the future and enable the initiative to learn as it grows. Examples considered to be ICRI's past failings include failure: to establish ICRIN; to engage in the long term certain intergovernmental organisations such as FAO, UNDP; to engage private foundations. This needs analysis to see how these issues can move forward.

162. In conclusion it was agreed that:

(i) A review of ICRI's successes and failures be undertaken by the ICRI secretariat with input from previous secretariats to inform the future direction of the initiative (NORWAY SUGGEST EXTERNAL REVIEW due to difficulties of organisations assessing their own effectiveness)

(ii) ICRI should maintain its focus on coral reefs, but should within this include associated ecosystems (implying Seagrass beds, mangroves and others).

(iii) The ICRI Vision was agreed by the participants of the General Meeting

17.0 – HAND OVER OF THE ICRI SECRETARIAT

163. The UK and Seychelles co-chairs thanked each other's teams, who have ensured the success of the hosting period and the mutual benefits of the host countries. They also thanked the continued support of ICRI members.

164. Japan thanked the UK and Seychelles for the great achievements of their two year hosting of the ICRI Secretariat, recognising also the work of all previous secretariat host countries.

Japan are honoured to succeed this role and are looking forward to taking up the role as of 1st July 2005.

165. Palau thanked the current secretariat for a productive meeting and acknowledged the effort that is required in the preparation of such a meeting. Palau has been exposed to successes and the challenges faced by ICRI over the last 10 years, and is looking forward to working with Japan to build on successes and learn from the challenges.

166. The Incoming secretariat was presented with the ICRI Flag, and the Coco de Mer, which will be passed on from Host country to Host country. The outgoing Secretariats were presented with gifts from Japan and storyboards from Palau, representing the work of ICRI, with the desire and expectation that this work will continue.

18.0 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

167. The meetings urgent attention was brought to a report submitted by Sri Lanka reporting on a declining situation in the country, which appears to have been accelerating over the last couple of years. An increase in peace and reduced civil disturbance has opened up the uncontrolled exploitation of resources. The meeting notes this report with a high degree of concern as to the seriousness of this situation. It is hoped that Sri Lanka will be able to attend the next meeting to report more fully. Supporting document: Sri Lanka Country Report (see www.icriforum.org).

168. The secretariat reminded all participants to make full use of the ICRIForum as a tool for finding information relating to ICRI as well as for communication between meetings.

CLOSE OF MEETING

169. On behalf of the ICRI Meeting, the Co-chairs expressed their sincere gratitude to the Seychelles Organising Committee headed by Elvina Payet for their generous hospitality and excellent preparatory arrangements. They also thanked the contribution of UNEP-WCMC in their role as administrative support for the ICRI secretariat, the ICRI Forum moderators and to the ICRI members present for the constructive and positive atmosphere, allowing for such fruitful discussions on a number of substantive and very challenging issues. It is hoped that these discussions can be continued through the ICRI forum and to the next General Meeting.

170. The meeting recognised the work undertaken by the ad hoc committees and their coordinators.

171. The Co-chairs were recognised for their effective and efficient guidance of the meeting to enable formative discussion allowing the objectives of the meeting to be met.

172. The meeting thanked the financial support from the UK that facilitated the participation of a number of ICRI members.

173. It was agreed that the summary record of the meeting would be prepared and circulated in accordance with the agreed resolution.