

**United Nations Environment Programme**  
Report of the Governing Council on the work of its twenty-first session  
5-9 February 2001

Decision 21/12. Coral reefs

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 18/33 of 26 May 1995, 19/15 of 7 February 1997 and 20/21 of 4 February 1999,

Recalling that several members of the Governing Council, international agencies including the United Nations Environment Programme, non-governmental organizations and scientific bodies are partners of the International Coral Reef Initiative which in 1995 developed the Call to Action, the Framework for Action to address the decline in the world's reefs and in 1998 the Renewed Call to Action,

Noting the concern and apprehension of the partners of the International Coral Reef Initiative that the extensive evidence that coral reef ecosystems continue to be damaged or severely degraded as the result of both direct human activities and global climate change as witnessed by the increased global incidence of episodes of "coral bleaching" since its twentieth session,

1. Welcomes the Executive Director's circulation of the Renewed Call to Action statement of the International Coral Reef Initiative;
2. Notes with satisfaction the United Nations Environment Programme's increased commitment to coral reef related activities, through the establishment of a new United Nations Environment Programme Coral Reef Unit, its continuing role in the International Coral Reef Initiative and its coordinating role in the International Coral Reef Action Network;
3. Supports the United Nations Environment Programme's continued participation and existing cooperation in the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network to implement the global coral reef monitoring network to support conservation and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems, especially in light of the recently released report which presents the prospect that 60 per cent of the world's coral reefs could be lost by 2030;
4. Underscores the need to strengthen the role of the regional seas conventions and action plans as partners for implementing the International Coral Reef Initiative Framework for Action, including the action phase of the International Coral Reef Action Network;
5. Requests the Executive Director to take appropriate action to ensure that each of the regional seas programmes work as partners in the International Coral Reef Initiative to prepare and implement regional or subregional programmes, in the area of conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs;
6. Requests the Executive Director to increase existing collaborative efforts between the United Nations Environment Programme's ongoing coral-related activities and multilateral environmental conventions, especially with the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat and the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage;

7. Requests the Executive Director to develop collaborative approaches with United Nations agencies including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to address the economic, social and environmental urgency of achieving sustainability in the management and use of coral reefs;

8. Requests the Executive Director to further increase fund raising efforts to support coral reef related activities and to work with partners including the International Coral Reef Initiative to maximize the contribution of existing and potential new funding mechanisms to address the urgent needs of conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs;

9. Requests the Executive Director to submit a progress report on the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session.

10th meeting  
9 February 2001