

MINUTES OF THE ICRI COORDINATION AND PLANNING COMMITTEE (CPC) MEETING

28 and 29 October 2000

Bali, Indonesia

1. Official opening of meeting

Participants were welcomed by Ambassador Michel Jolivet on behalf of the Secretariat. Prior to introducing Mr. Sarwono Kusumaatmadja, Minister for Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the Government of Indonesia, M. Jolivet noted that there are 17,800 islands in Indonesia with large areas of coral reefs that are currently under considerable threat. He hoped that Indonesia would seek to play a larger role within ICRI as the possessor of the largest area of coral reefs with the richest biodiversity in the world. Mr Sarwono was pleased to attend and congratulated the organisers of the 9th International Coral Reef Symposium in Bali that had been a considerable success. This contrasted with the organization of a complex mix of peoples and problems that constitute Indonesia. There has been considerable recent attention focused on reefs in Indonesia although it is not a high priority area for government. The COREMAP project is particularly large, but is small compared to the problems facing reefs in Indonesia. In seeking more attention to reefs, Minister Sarwono has been encouraging fellow ministers to go diving on reefs to see what he is trying to conserve. He himself is a keen diver and has participated in reef monitoring in Sulawesi. His new ministry seeks to take a coordinating role to reduce inter-sectoral disputes and also encourage the devolution of authority to the level of the regional governments. Indonesia has much to learn from the ICRI process and looks forward to the time when it will be able to carry the torch for coral reefs into international forums. Bernard Salvat (Co-Chair ICRI Secretariat) introduced participants to the documents tabled at the meeting and recorded apologies from: the Netherlands, UK, WRI, CITES, Ramsar, FAO, CIDA (Canada) UNF. The Agenda (Document 1) was accepted by the meeting as were the Minutes of the Noumea meeting in MAY-00. The resolutions from Noumea were presented as Document 11 and the Action statements as Document 4.

2. Report of the French Secretariat of ICRI (Document 13)

Genevieve Verbrugge (France) reported on progress towards the original Programme of Action outlined in 1998. Attempts had been made to mobilise other donors (points 1, 2 and 3) amongst the European Governments but with little success, because the large internal changes in the European Commission has resulted in a loss of key contacts. There was also a poor response from the ICRI partners to the questionnaire sent out on projects. When these were sent out through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, there was more success, but the database still does not present a full picture of projects under way. The ICRI Secretariat attempted to establish a Trust Fund to assist activities and now considers that this task should be handed to the next partnership Secretariat. Following discussion on the need for mechanisms to secure sustainable funds for ICRI activities, a

drafting committee was formed with Arthur Paterson and Barbara Tobias (USA), Richard Kenchington (ICLARM), G. Verbrugge (ICRI), Edgardo Gomez (Philippines) and Clive Wilkinson (GCRMN).

Resolution # 6 on Funding and Collaboration was endorsed by the ICRI CPC meeting on 29-OCT-00.

Regional cooperation (point 4) is strong, especially through the Regional Seas units of UNEP and CORDIO. B. Salvat noted that ICRI CPC membership (points 5 and 6) was not fixed in order to retain the nature of ICRI as a non-bureaucratic partnership without fixed rules. All units of the Regional Seas Program of UNEP have been invited regularly. New partners enter at each CPC meeting such as Foundations, and developing countries according to the location of each CPC meeting, but invitations to other development banks and FAO have proved fruitless. Philip Reynolds suggested that UNDP could invite FAO along with other UN agencies. Edgardo Gomez (Philippines) suggested that country representation should be more balanced with more developing countries, along with a larger core of supporting countries e.g. Germany. They have been asked but refused, but other potential countries include Netherlands, Denmark and Norway. Membership is automatic for countries that form national ICRI committees with only France, USA and Mexico with committees that contain at least 2 government departments concerned with coral reefs. Other countries are planning to form ICRI committees e.g. India, Malaysia. It is anticipated that the Philippines will form a National ICRI committee. Japan (the host for the 10th International Coral Reef Symposium in 2004) noted that they had a scientific committee, but the Environment Agency will investigate forming a National ICRI Committee as soon as possible. It was noted the IOI (the International Ocean Institute) was invited with the participation of Robin South from the Fiji branch.

Decision: The ICRI CPC welcomes the current informal nature of ICRI CPC membership with a core group of members who regularly attend and another group who attend when opportune, especially when meetings are within their region. The list of invitees to ICRI CPC meetings should be left to the discretion of the nations hosting the Secretariat; a decision welcomed by the Philippines.

The listing of ICRI Country Focal Points (point 7) is incomplete and may not represent the key contact in each of the 80 countries as those nominated to the IOC often represent oceanographic institutes or navy departments which have few interests in coral reefs. Only 6 additional responses have been received since the Noumea meeting in May, including the department of Minister Sarwono of Indonesia.

Decision: The incoming ICRI Secretariat of the Philippines and Sweden was tasked with updating the ICRI National Focal Point list to ensure that the key coral reef decision makers are identified in all coral reef countries.

The ICRI Secretariat has produced brochures to instruct divers on how to conserve coral reefs in 3 languages available early this year and which will be sent to ICRI partners on request. The ICRI Web Site and Partnership Forum are examples of gathering best

practice examples (point 9). Support for the GCRMN central coordination (point 10) continues to be satisfactory and France thanked the USA (Department of State) and Australia (AIMS) for their continuing support since the launching of ICRI and GCRMN. The Secretariat noted that the process of funds transfer was unfortunately slow and complicated and requested the agencies to seek improved mechanisms. The ICRI Awareness Network (point 11) has been transformed into ICRIN – but funding for this is still not adequate (see 4. ii. below). The Secretariat has represented ICRI on the UNEP Governing Council in association with partner governments. Representation has been made to the CSD focussing on the Oceans Session, and to the support Small Island Developing States in their efforts to put coral reefs on the UN General Assembly agenda. Through the US delegation, coral reefs were emphasised at the CBD and on the FCCC, although there has been less success at getting reefs into the Kyoto protocols. Contact with FAO have not been succeeded.

3. ICRI Web Site and Partnership Forum

Andy Hooten and Francis Staub presented the ICRI web site (Document 12) indicating that this can be a permanent location, thereby avoiding changes with each Secretariat. Major support has come from the World Bank and the ICRI Secretariat through France. A summary was provided on the Partnership Forum (www.icriforum.org) using the analogy of kiosks for partners to lodge their interests. G. Verbrugge stressed the need for all to use the site and sign onto as users, as it rapidly becomes out of date and many areas. The site does not aim to store all material, but instead act as a pointer to other home pages.

Decision:

- A. Hooten and F. Staub were congratulated for their efforts in establishing these products;
- all ICRI partners were urged to sign on as users before the next meeting;
- partners were urged to ensure that data on their activities and projects were entered and regularly updated;
- partners were requested to inform project managers of the web site and forum and ensure their information was entered;
- the incoming ICRI Secretariat of the Philippines and Sweden was tasked with updating the ICRI National Focal Point list to ensure that the key coral reef decision makers are identified in all coral reef countries.

4. The Next ICRI Secretariat

E. Gomez (Philippines) introduced the Under Secretary (= Vice Minister) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Mario Rono to present the future

plans for the Secretariat (Document 20). Medel Lim Suan also was representing the Philippines and Hakan Berg, Mathias Lund and Olof Linden were representing Sweden at the meeting. The following schedule of meetings was proposed (with the dates being provisional):

first ICRI CPC meeting to be in Cebu City 5,6-APR-2001 preceded by a 3 day ICRI Regional meeting for Southeast Asia;

the second was for Eastern Africa (location to be decided) 25,26-OCT-2001 preceded by a 3 day ICRI Regional meeting for Eastern Africa and Indian Ocean states in conjunction with a CORDIO meeting;

the third in the Caribbean on 28, 29-MAR-2002 with a 3 day regional meeting preceding it;

ITMEMS II was scheduled for Manila between 21-24-OCT-2002 in association with an ICRI CPC meeting.

The next ICRI Secretariat and ITMEMS II themes are scheduled to be:

- capacity building and strengthening of local government for coral reef conservation activities;
- reviews of laws, policies and indigenous knowledge at community levels;
- enhancement of training packages for field workers and technicians;
- community based monitoring and research;
- development of alternative livelihoods and sustainable fishing.

The new secretariat will continue to seek support for the operational units (GCRMN, ICRIN, ICRAN) and ensure closer linkages among and between other agencies. Sweden and Philippines have proposed indicative budgets and obtained high level support from respective governments, but other donors are requested to consider providing additional support, especially to allow greater participation of developing countries in ICRI-CPC meetings and Regional symposia just before. H. Berg informed the meeting that the Swedish Government agencies of SIDA and SAREC are pleased to support this initiative, as their goals are to enhance scientific research and environmental activities. They will accept the offer to co-chair the Secretariat with the Philippines for the next 2 years. Marea Hatzilos suggested that the ICRI Regional Workshops be used to assess project success by preparing a scorecard with a set of criteria to measure projects success with the possibility of presenting awards for the better projects. This suggestion was welcomed by the Philippines.

Decision: A working group was constituted to determine the validity and nature of an ICRI Scorecard and Award system to report to the next CPC meeting: M. Hatzios, Barbara Best, Mark Spalding, R. Kenchington, John Tanzer, Dixon Waruinge, O. Linden, Jamie Oliver, Mary Power, A. Hooten, Scott Atkinson, Bernard Salvat, Mark Eakin.

5. Reports from ICRI Networks:

5.1. Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network - GCRMN:

C. Wilkinson presented the progress report since the last Noumea meeting (Document 14) which focussed on the production of 'Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2000' report that was released in Bali with copies provided to all participants and considerable media coverage, including reports in Science, Nature and Newsweek. Status 2000 was accompanied by a colour brochure containing an executive summary. Also produced was the GCRMN Socioeconomic Manual edited by Leah Bunce and others with major support from NOAA, IUCN, Japan and UNEP and distributed also in Bali. Another product (a plain language book on coral reef management) is ready for production, but funding is required. Funding of central coordination to establish and maintain the Network and produce these reports continues to come from the USA and the host institution, AIMS, but there is a need to spread the load of funding to other donors. The Regional Nodes continue to expand, but there is need for mechanisms for the Middle East, Southeast Asia and parts of the Caribbean. Reef Check has moved the headquarters to Los Angeles with Gregor Hodgson taking up a post at UCLA and activities continue to expand, including a field workshop following the Bali Symposium. (Note added after the CPC Meeting: tragically the Reef Check Operations Manager, Ms Ladan Mohajerani was killed in the Singapore Airlines crash in Taiwan during her return from Bali). E. Gomez announced that the next Chair of the GCRMN STAC will be Mark Eakin of NOAA in Colorado. A. Paterson noted that an informal meeting of UNESCO, IUCN and UNF will be held to identify suitable World Heritage sites in early 2001 and GCRMN assistance was requested to assist in monitoring these sites. Gilberto Cintron reported that Ramsar has received funding from the USA to promote more wetland sites especially in the Caribbean with coral reefs. E. Mulay noted that without the GCRMN project funded by DFID UK, there would have been no progress in India in coral reef monitoring and management. The GCRMN was congratulated on producing the Status 2000 report in time for Bali. A working group of B. Salvat, Ned Cyr, M. Spalding and C. Wilkinson was formed to draft a resolution to expand support to GCRMN.

Resolution #2 on Expanded and Sustained Support for the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) was endorsed by the ICRI CPC meeting on 29-OCT-00.

5.2. International Coral Reef Information Network - ICRIN:

Stephen Colwell reported that there had been some progress but nowhere near full development as funding was still not available. The initial 'mission' themes had been decided, raising awareness in three important audiences, a) key decision-makers in public and private sectors, b) tourists and the tourism industry, c) fishers and fishing industry.

ICRIN seeks to act as a reference point for existing public awareness materials – rather than creating new material in association with Regional Seas units, NGOs, National ICRI committees, etc. to create regional networks to access end users. CORAL has a database of over 200 public information pieces (videos, brochures, teacher's kits) in 20 languages. CORAL and ICRIN assisted in organising Dive into Earth Day and the Press Centre at the Bali Symposium. The major problem continues to be funding and a repeat was made of the call at the CPC Meeting in Noumea for improved funding (item 14) now that the ICRAN project was further delayed. Specific focus was required in the regions and cooperation with the UNEP Regional Seas network was requested. P. Reynolds offered assistance in the NETAID site and suggested the 'adopt a reef program' to raise funds for coral reef activities.

Resolution # 4 on the International Coral Reef Information Network (ICRIN) was endorsed by the ICRI CPC meeting on 29-OCT-00.

5.3. Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean - CORDIO

O. Linden reported on the 35 projects in the wider Indian Ocean funded by a combination of Sweden, the World Bank, Finland and WWF and including cooperation with many regional partners. The full details are presented in the 2000 progress report of CORDIO, as well a book by Herman Cesar was presented on economics of coral reefs. Current funding covers about 30% of project plans until 2003 and more funds are required to complete this program. The next CORDIO regional meeting will coincide with the ICRI CPC meeting in Eastern Africa in October 2001.

6. The International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) proposed project

Art Dahl reported that already the proposal document had been prepared and USD2million had been awarded to the partners during Phase I (Document 19). Decision on expansion into the action Phase II had been postponed by UNF until November 2000 and further delayed until March 2001, but some funds remain until June 2001. The critical point to make to ensure funding is to demonstrate that the project will make a positive impact on the conservation of coral reefs. The Regional Seas network of UNEP and associated regional agencies are considered as the key mechanisms to implement the ICRAN projects and this is a theme of the UNF – strengthening capacity of UNEP. The project has proposed a system of governance with i. a Steering Committee of partners UNEP (Chair), ICLARM, ICRI Secretariat, WCMC, WRI, ICRIN/CORAL, GCRMN, with a representative of the UNEP RCUs gaining a place; and ii. a Management Board with senior representation of donors, a senior UNEP official, ICRI Secretariat representative, a senior coral reef person nominated by the ICRI CPC partners, a NGO representative, and a nominee of UNF to oversee the project and assist in gathering donor funds, which would be channelled through the Coral Reef Fund. The Board will elects its own Chair. A meeting for donors is planned in April in USA, around the time of the CSD meeting in New York. The post of Director of ICRAN has been advertised for location in WCMC in Cambridge UK. This will not be confirmed until funding is notified, possibly at the UNF meeting in March 2001. Discussion of the appointment of a senior coral reef

person appointed by the ICRI CPC was deferred until an ad hoc group of CPC members had discussed the role of ICRI in the ICRAN project and the determined the terms of reference and terms of appointment of the Management Board and Steering Committee. These decisions were due prior to the March 2001 meeting of UNF and a decision on an appointment to the Management Board should be made prior to the UNF meeting. A. Hooten presented an outline of the proposed project emphasising the three themes: Communication; Assessment; and Implementation, outlined in earlier ICRI CPC Documents on ICRAN. Discussion ensued on the need to find mechanisms for obtaining parallel funding through the private sector. A working group was formed to draft a resolution on private funding sources consisting of R. Kenchington, A. Paterson, Johan Bell, G. Verbrugge, Paul Holthus, S. Wells and S. Atkinson.

Resolution # 5 on the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) was endorsed by the ICRI CPC meeting on 29-OCT-00.

7. Tourism and coral reefs

Alessandra Vanzella-Khouri reported on the UNEP-DTIE sustainable tourism activities (Document 8) focussing on 5 issues - a) Tours Operators Initiative for Sustainable Development, which was planning a study on tourism impacts on coral reefs, the production of the divers leaflet and promotion of good practice case studies, b) ICRIN tourism project with the French Ministry of Environment on the development of targeted awareness tools during 2001, c) Blue Flag in the Caribbean where the feasibility evaluation had been completed and the process to identify a suitable regional organisation to coordinate had been initiated by FEEE with UNEP and regional partners, d) International Conference on Sustainable Tourism in Small Islands for Asia and the Pacific (China, 6,8-NOV-2000) organised by UNEP and WTO, and e) preparations for Ecotourism Year 2002 which UNEP and WTO are organising. Several planned activities will provide opportunities for raising coral reef issues, including the World Ecotourism Summit in Quebec, Canada, 19,22-MAY-2002. The CPC was encouraged to consider these activities to further promote the ICRI agenda.

Francis Staub presented the diver information brochure which was endorsed by partners including WCMC that has a listing of 8000 dive schools. The brochure is in the 'public domain' for ICRI Partners and they can translate into any language and add any logo as the sponsor (provided that the original source is acknowledged).

8. Trade in coral reef species

P. Holthus reported progress on the Marine Aquarium Council development of international standards and certification for sustainability in the marine aquarium trade. There are now MAC officers in the Philippines, Fiji, Europe, the US and, soon, in Indonesia, as well as two full time certification development specialists. An international multi stakeholder working group is reviewing and revising the standards and the MAC certification will be tested by mid 2001 and launched later in 2001. The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) has commenced the global marine

ornamentals database it is developing in partnership with MAC. The GCRMN/Reef Check has begun to develop the MAC reef monitoring protocol through its partnership with MAC.

B. Best informed that the USA will sponsor a meeting in Indonesia in association with MAC during 2001 on sustainable coral harvesting. B. Best noted that the US Coral Reef Task Force has not proposed a coral trade ban, but focusing on CITES-listed which can be traded if sustainably managed. On a related matter, there is renewed concern in the Philippines about the shell trade with an attempt to manage the trade to ensure that is sustainable.

9. Sustainable coral reef fisheries

Terry Done reported that the statement on bleaching produced by the International Society for Reef Studies had been acknowledged as useful by ICRI partners. A similar statement on other topics such as issues in sustainable coral reef fisheries could be produced by the Society. The calls for progress in assisting Small Island Developing States develop sustainable fisheries have not produced progress from agencies with these tasks e.g. FAO. He undertook to propose to ISRS Council the preparation of a statement for wide distribution with the following general themes:

- Reef species are site attached;
- Concept and limitation of maximum sustainable yields (MSY);
- Spatially sensitive aspects such as patchiness;
- Fishing down the 'trophic pyramid';
- Collateral damage to coral reefs during fishing;
- Indicators of sustainability;
- Biodiversity enhancement;
- Removal of functional groups
- Spawning aggregations;
- Variability of fish populations and recruitment;
- MPAs.
- Values of fish - living versus eaten
- Onus of proof of sustainable fishing

J. Bell indicated that ICLARM wishes to be involved by examining linkages and how fish stocks recover after damage, including using replenishment methods. J. Tanzer also suggested joining the process as current fish management practices have failed especially the use of MSY because technology is always improving effort. The emphasis should be on providing food security to fisher communities and not just on the ecology of reef fishes; and an emphasis should be made on finding solutions, not just reiterating the problems. This report was recommended for release at the ICRI-CPC and CBD meetings in April 2001.

A report such as this should also be written by both donor and developing countries as a challenge to improve current activities to agencies involved in such management e.g.

FAO. A regional meeting in Southeast Asia in February 2001 will discuss these issues and ICRI partner governments should put this on the agenda of FAO and before the next COFI meeting in Rome. D. Waruinge offered to take this up with FAO as he was an employee of the organisation. R. Kenchington offered to assist in drafting material for presentation.

Decision: That the ICRI CPC requests the ISRS to form a group of experts to prepare a discussion paper on sustainable fisheries on coral reefs in time for the ICRI CPC meeting in April 2001 and the CBD and CSD meetings in April 2001. This discussion paper should include both an outline of the science behind the problem and suggested solutions directed at agencies with a mandate to implement sustainable fisheries for Small Island Developing States and other tropical countries.

T. Done also reported that funds for fundamental basic research appeared to be declining in favour of funds applied for directly applied research on coral reefs. It was stressed that most progress in applied research was based on the findings of basic research and there was a need to continue fundamental and targeted research needed to explain how reefs function and respond to stresses and changes in the environment. A working group was constituted of T. Done, B. Salvat, J. Bell, and A. Hooten to draft a resolution.

Resolution in Support of Balance in Research Funding # 1 was endorsed by the ICRI CPC meeting on 29-OCT-00.

10. Rehabilitation of coral reefs following climate change impacts

O. Linden referred to a resolution at the Noumea Meeting in May 2000 on the need for a guide to communities and reef managers in how to respond to coral reef bleaching, such as the events of 1998. The request then was for a discussion paper advising managers how to respond. IUCN in partnership with the CBD, USAID and WWF prepared a booklet for distribution at the 9th ICRS in Bali Symposium 'Management of Bleached and Severely Damaged Coral Reefs' (Westmacott et al. 2000). This booklet arose out of recommendations and discussions by the CBD Expert Panel meeting on coral bleaching in October, 1999, and the urgent need for such information. The IUCN booklet was welcomed by the CPC partners. It was noted that the booklet did not specifically address the effectiveness of various methods of reef rehabilitation that are being proposed to counter bleaching damage. Currently there are claims that reefs can be repaired by methods employing technological fixes that is raising false expectations, when most of these methods can repair only very small areas of reef at considerable cost. Other mechanisms of repairing reef damage should also be included in a discussion paper e.g. giant clams, fishes.

Decision: The ICRI CPC requests that a discussion paper be prepared on methods of reef rehabilitation to address the following issues: what rehabilitation methods are currently being proposed; what scale do these methods operate at to repair all or parts of reefs; what costs are involved and what equipment is required for the process; what is the relative success rate of each rehabilitation method; what is the cost effectiveness of each

method; can these be applied by local communities; and what is the long term viability of the results in rehabilitating the reef. The following offered to coordinate the paper for ICRI: J. Bell, E. Gomez, O. Linden, J. Oliver, M. Power, B. Salvat, D. Waruinge, S. Wells, and C. Wilkinson

11. Reports of ICRI Partner agencies:

11.1. UNDP

P. Reynolds presented SIOCAM, the UNDP strategic plan for coral reef activities in association with GEF and the World Bank (Document 22) which will be listed as a database on the ICRI Forum site. Details are contained on projects on ballast water, Train-Sea-Coast training, IW Learn. ICM has been renamed International Convention Management following the need to respond to the plethora of Conventions e.g. CBD, CSD, GPA, FCCC, FAO, Agenda 21, LOA, SIDS etc. P. Reynolds is due to retire in April 2001 as Head of the Water, Sustainable Energy and Environment Division. The US State Department is funding a Transboundary River Basin Initiative through UNDP. Partnerships like ICRI are essential as the UN General Assembly is unfocussed with respect to coral reefs and approaches should be made to UNICOLOS (UN Informal Consultations on Oceans and Law of the Sea) to ensure that reefs are well reported in the UNGA Report on the Oceans due in November. The focus of the next session of UNIPCOLOS (spring 2001) will be piracy and marine science.

11.2. The World Bank

M. Hatzios noted that the World Bank support for coral reefs focuses on 4 principal areas (Document 24): a) a targeted research program for coral reefs to determine the responses of reefs to climate change and human impacts with a Block B application to GEF proceeding (Document 25); b) the ICRI Forum which fits into the Bank strategy as a linkage and information exchange mechanism; c) projects on coral reefs that amount to USD120 million with GEF and UNDP etc, including COREMAP in Indonesia, those in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, IW Learn, ICM training and the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef project due to commence in February 2001; d) and efforts to improve marine policy options in countries with coral reefs, especially on coastal and marine resource management, and to ensure that these concerns are considered across all relevant sectors in Bank projects, through integration into the Bank's various strategies on water, environment and rural development.

11.3. The IOC

N. Cyr acts as the Chair of GCRMN Management Group and assists in coordination of the South Asia Node of the GCRMN. The IOC is launching a new initiative by forming a study group to examine the indicators of coral bleaching using physiological techniques, specifically: a) detection of early warning signals; b) mechanisms of adaptation in corals; and c) long-term responses of reefs to repeated bouts of coral bleaching and mortality.

The group is Chaired by Yossi Loya and includes B. Salvat and it is aimed to link in with the World Bank Targeted Research Project;

11.4. Ramsar

G. Cintron tabled the Ramsar Documents 16 and 17 and again stressed that coral reef sites were under-represented as Ramsar sites. He drew the attention of ICRI partners to the Guidelines (Document 16) and indicated that the Ramsar Secretariat would assist countries with nomination of suitable coastal sites.

12. Reports of ICRI National Committees:

12.1. Mexico

Claudia Padilla presented Document 21, a report on the Mexican National ICRI Committee (Ernesto Arias is President) which includes scientists, academics, government and non-government representatives and support from the Environment Ministry. The initial functions have been: to establish a database on what activities are under way and the capacity and players within Mexico; to participate in the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef project; assess the status of Mexican coral reef fisheries (published); nominate Ramsar sites with coral reefs; to establish a National Monitoring Network and determine suitable methodology; to establish more MPAs to form a network along the coast, and determine a national program for the sustainable use of coral reefs that will link in with international activities;

12.2. US

Roger Griffis reported that the US Coral Reef Task Force consists of 11 national agencies and 8 state agencies that function in 6 working groups under a US National Action Plan. The Action Plan outlines U.S. goals and actions, both national and international, to conserve coral reefs (Documents 5 & 6). These groups aim to: map all coral reefs under US jurisdiction; establish a national monitoring program; form a network of MPAs with the eventual goal of having 20% of U.S. coral reefs in 'no-take' ecological reserves; fund long-term research on coral reefs; assist local and state governments with coral reef management; and improve education and outreach, including working with the aquarium industry to introduce sustainability. The USCRTF works closely with government and non-government stakeholders, scientists, and others. Funds for the FY 2000 were USD10 million, and for FY 2001, funds are anticipated to be USD26 million.

12.3. France

Pascal Colin presented, in French, Documents 10 and 18 on the French National Committee IFRECOR (under the auspices of the Minister of Environment and Minister of Overseas). He reported on the last meeting in Bora Bora, French Polynesia, with participation of all French overseas departments and territories (Caribbean, Indian and Pacific Oceans). A national programme has been adopted and funds allocated. Document

10 is the French contribution to GCRMN Status of the Reefs 2000. The major themes are management of French coral reefs and assistance for developing countries. An invitation was issued to the national committees of Mexico and USA to attend the next IFRECOR meeting in the Caribbean, late 2001;

12.4. India

E. Muley represented the Indian National Committee, which acts as both the ICRI and GCRMN focal point for India. This committee coordinates input into the new National Institute of Coral Reef Research, the Coastal Marine project with GEF, the CORDIO project, the UNDP-GEF project and coordinated participation and presentations at the Bali Symposium. In future, India plans to improve Integrated Coastal Management policies to involve more community involvement, establish effective databases, produce an atlas of Indian coral reefs, improve monitoring including assessing socioeconomic aspects and identify suitable Ramsar sites. They are seeking to strengthen international links and wish to be involved in both the ICRIN and ICRAN projects;

12.5. Indonesia

Ning Purnomohadi reported for the Indonesian Environment Department stressing that the major activity was the large COREMAP project that concentrated on devolving responsibility for coastal management to local and state governments. COREMAP is assisted by 5 agencies: World Bank; Asian Development bank; AusAID; JICA... Raising public awareness about reefs was also a major theme for Indonesia so that communities will take responsibility for reducing the amount of damage to coral reefs e.g. blast fishing. Any activities are difficult at the moment due to the economic crisis and changing political situation. Training was an ongoing major need in Indonesia, particularly now as responsibility is being transferred to local officials who often have little formal training in coral reef conservation;

12.6. Malaysia

Kevin Hiew noted that the National Advisory Council for Marine Parks Malaysia was formed in 1990 and is headed by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture with representatives from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Economic Planning Unit (Prime Minister Dept.), Implementation and Coordination Unit (Prime Minister Dept.), Dept. of Wild Life and National Park, Dept. of Fisheries Malaysia, representatives from five state governments, 2 local universities, 3 environmental NGOs and 2 business NGOs. The Council meets twice a year to provide advice and set policy guidelines on the management and conservation of coral reefs. Malaysia wishes to be a member of ICRI but it would require an act of parliament to change the title to include ICRI. The Council also operates and manages a Marine Park Trust Fund with contribution coming from all sectors.

12.7. Vietnam

Vo Si Tuan reported that Vietnam had formed a ICRI Core Group with provisional membership, and with the major themes being coral reef monitoring and capacity building, however, there are serious gaps in funding for activities (Documents 9 and 23). The use of tourist divers has enabled some activities to start. Vietnam is applying management to existing MPAs and planning more in association with ADB, but most are terrestrial parks with coral reefs being an addition. Two MPA demonstration sites have been established: Hon Mun; and Con Dao with funds from the World Bank, DANIDA and the ADB. Vietnam would like to work through the ICRI partners to increase funding for coral reef activities. It was noted that the GCRMN training for March 1999 was successful but there were no funds or equipment for essential follow up training, such that there may be a loss of expertise. Sweden has suggested that it may be able to provide support.

12.8. Japan

Kei Osada reported that Japan only has a scientific coral reef committee, but would like to look over the details of the nature and structure of National ICRI committees of other countries to form their own ICRI Committee. The ICRI Forum will lodge such documents so that they are available for all countries forming national committees. C. Wilkinson reported that Japan will host the 10th ICRS in 2004 in Okinawa.

13. Climate Change and Coral Reefs

B. Best spoke on behalf of IUCN and introduced Resolution #7, which encapsulated and endorsed the three press statements issued by scientists and managers during the 9th ICRS in Bali. These covered the known impacts of climate change on coral reefs, the release of a new publication by IUCN on how to manage damaged and bleached coral reefs, and the devastating impacts that destructive fishing practices, such as blast fishing, are having on reefs. The press releases highlighted the urgent need for actions to reduce greenhouse gases, and the urgent need to reduce additional human stresses on reefs, such as destructive fishing practice, over-fishing, and poor land-use practices.

Resolution #7 on Priority Actions Arising from the New Findings Presented at the 9th International Coral Reef Symposium was endorsed by the ICRI CPC meeting on 29-OCT-00.

14. Biodiversity - CBD program on Coral Reefs

J. Mulongoy reported that the CBD was working on a coral reef program in order to fulfil articles within the Jakarta Mandate. They use an ecosystem approach and rely on local community knowledge and involvement. A group of experts formulated a discussion paper on coral bleaching that was widely distributed at previous CBD meetings and Resolution #7, drafted by experts during the Bali Symposium, also calls for CBD involvement. These approaches will be used by the CBD to recommend more focus on

coral reef activities including increased funding and the CBD will aim to consider ICRI and its partners as the lead body for coral reef coordination and consultation.

15. Reports from UNEP Regional Seas Bodies

15.1. SACEP

Prasantha Dias reported that SACEP operated on coral reefs through the GCRMN South Asia Node and CORDIO project. They have also run workshops on Integrated Coastal Management with the next due to start on 05-JAN-2001.

15.2. SPREP

Lucille Apis-Overhoff (Document 27) noted that many SPREP programs were associated with coral reefs including a large GEF project, one on marine pollution and another on Global Climate Change. She thanked the GCRMN for assistance in producing national and regional status of coral reefs reports and also B. Salvat for organising the ICRI Pacific meeting in Noumea which brought many Pacific countries together to discuss the status of their reefs;

15.3. EAS-RCU

Hugh Kirkman reported that the EAS-RCU had obtained a large GEF project for the South China Sea that had a coral reef component. The EAS/RCU was holding USD150,000 provided by USA for ICRI and GCRMN activities because it was not convinced that current monitoring was being coordinated and that monitoring data were going into recognised databases and being reported back to the collectors in an analysed and understandable fashion. To resolve this the EAS/RCU organised a monitoring workshop in Phuket in April 2000 with the meeting report available to ICRI partners. As a result of this workshop the EAS/RCU is supporting the establishment of a database of monitoring metadata within the START program in Bangkok, and preparing a guide to coral reefs in three languages, supporting 4 monitoring programmes, and a training workshop in Hainan. Other support activities are planned. He was asked to report on ICRI activities to the Regional Seas meeting in Monaco in early November and report back to the ICRI Secretariat on findings;

15.4. CAR-RCU

A. Vanzella-Khoury reported on the three major coral reef themes within UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme (Document 7): a) strengthening of MPAs, including training of 26 managers, a Small Grants Fund, best practice management sites to use as demonstration sites (part of the ICRAN project), b) assisting in forming Nodes of the GCRMN and assembling national and regional reports for the GCRMN global report with the regional representatives present in Bali being pleased with the final product. She thanked the USA for supporting travel for these people, for supporting projects on monitoring, coral diseases and assisting CARICOMP with the database. Some GCRMN

Nodes are functioning with start-up funds, but there is weakness with others and she hoped that funds would be forthcoming from the UK, France, USA, GEF and the World Bank; and c) developing 2 GEF PDF-B projects on reducing pesticide runoff and integrated management of Caribbean watersheds. She thanked France for their leadership of the ICRI Secretariat;

15.5. EAF-RCU

D. Waruinge stated that the East African region included 9 African and Indian Ocean Island states with the major activity being an assessment of MPA effectiveness and ICM as part of the Phase I ICRAN project. They also assisted with the Mombasa socioeconomic workshop with WIOMSA.

16. WWF projects on Coral Reefs

S. Atkinson tabled Document 28 'Reefs and People', and summarised WWF's global work. WWF is moving to an ecosystem approach with coral reef ecosystems, this means partnering with all stakeholders, working to establish MPA networks, conducting needed training, developing sustainable financing for coral reef projects. In this connection, WWF is developing a Marine Protected Area toolkit for managers' use. He discussed WWF's Sulu-Sulawesi Sea area project, which is a collaboration with Malaysian and Indonesian governments, NGOs, scientific institutes, and tourist and fishing industries.

17. IUCN projects on Coral Reefs:

S. Wells reported that IUCN had not been a regular participant in CPC as a result of a lack of available people, not a lack of enthusiasm for ICRI. IUCN supported ICRI objectives through representation at meetings of FCCC, Ramsar, CBD, CSD, UNESCO WHC and as support for the GCRMN, regional workshops and development of the socioeconomic manual (Document 15). IUCN has 6 commissions, two of which are particularly active on reef related issues. The World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) has a marine component, chaired by Charles Ehler of NOAA, and assisted by A. Paterson. Many of its activities on MPAs relate to coral reefs. The Species Survival Commission has Specialist Groups on Coral Reef Fish, Groupers and Wrasse, and Sharks, among other taxonomic groups. IUCN also works closely with the World Heritage Convention, which has a growing interest in coral reefs. She presented copies of a booklet providing guidelines on the management of reefs damaged by bleaching or otherwise severely damaging, which was sponsored by IUCN, WWF, the Secretariat of the CBD and US-AID.

18. WCMC Report - Atlases of coral reefs

M. Spalding (WCMC) presented a progress report on the Atlas of Coral Reefs (Document 26) with illustrations of example pages from the atlas. The University of California Press will publish the atlas, hopefully by the end of the year. The atlas will include maps with MPAs, threatened areas, coral diseases, damaging activities, sites for coral trade etc. The

atlas is based on material from ReefBase at ICLARM, the GCRMN Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 1998 and 2000 reports; the Reefs at Risk report from WRI. The home page www.wcmc.org.uk will contain this material which is aimed at decision makers.

19. Upcoming ICRI and associated meetings on Coral Reefs:

There will be a meeting of UNEP Regional Seas Regional Coordinators in Monaco in November.

The MARCUBA meeting will be held in Havana Cuba 4, 8 December with a large list of invitees, including the Secretary of IOC-UNESCO Patricio Bernal.

The next ICRI CPC will be held in Cebu City, April 5 and 6 (provisional dates).

20. Other business:

G. Cintron invited comments on Ramsar's draft documents on designating coral reefs as wetlands of international importance, noting that Ramsar had 122 contracting parties and had designated more than 1000 sites. Ramsar focal points could also coordinate coral reef activities. He invited posting of coral reef information on the Ramsar website, as well as establishing a hyperlink between ICRI and Ramsar sites.

21. Closing of Meeting:

R. Kenchington on behalf of all partners conveyed thanks and appreciation to the French secretariat for building the momentum in international and regional activities. Their great enthusiasm has achieved a lot on behalf of the ICRI partnership.

The French secretariat extended special thanks to Andy Hooten and Clive Wilkinson for all their efforts and wished the best to the Philippines and Sweden as the new secretariat. B. Salvat expressed thanks and appreciation to all, noting that it was a pleasure to work with the partners. Genevieve Verbrugge named in particular Denis Vene and Catherine Gabri e.