

Decision on Improving Monitoring in MPAs

*Adopted during the ICRI Coordination and Planning Committee (CPC) Meeting
8-9 May 2003, Gland (Switzerland)*

Preamble:

The 'Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2002' report focused on the level and effectiveness of performance evaluation and monitoring in Marine Protected Areas. A particular emphasis was on monitoring in the ICRAN Demonstration, World Heritage, Man and the Biosphere, and Ramsar Sites, however the reporting from many of these special sites showed little or no effective monitoring. When monitoring had occurred, it was generally irregular and was not particularly suitable for management decision making.

Future 'Status' reports will aim to update this reporting to demonstrate improvements in monitoring and provide case studies of how effective monitoring can assist in management of MPAs by providing data for use in adaptive management and in raising the awareness amongst all stakeholders. There were some of good examples of effective monitoring illustrated in 'Status 2002'.

ICRI has recognized that developing MPAs and ensuring that they are effectively managed with a significant proportion of highly protected zones is the most effective mechanism of ensuring sustainable conservation of coral reefs. ICRI recognizes that monitoring of ecological and socio-economic parameters is a major component towards effective management permitting the use of adaptive management to ensure long-term sustainability.

Decision:

Recognizing that the GCRMN focused on monitoring of coral reefs within Marine Protected Areas in the 'Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2002' report;

Noting that ICRI recognizes that ecological and socio-economic monitoring is essential for performance evaluation of the effectiveness of management in Marine Protected Areas and a critical tool in raising awareness amongst all coral reefs stakeholders and supporting MPA management and is an integral part of management;

Noting that in the above mentioned report many of the ICRAN Demonstration, World Heritage, Man and the Biosphere, and Ramsar Sites had insufficient ecological and socio-economic monitoring, and that while there were a few examples of effective ecological monitoring in MPAs, socio-economic monitoring is poorly represented.

The ICRI CPC decided to:

Specifically encourage that the agencies responsible for the ICRAN Demonstration, World Heritage, Man and the Biosphere, and Ramsar Sites increase the level of coral reef

ecological and socio-economic monitoring, and assist the GCRMN with its reporting function to document the status of the world's coral reefs and record progress in monitoring and management of Marine Protected Areas;

Encourage that governments and agencies responsible for establishing and managing MPAs ensure that regular and effective ecological and socio-economic monitoring be built into all MPA Management Plans and that monitoring data be provided to the GCRMN;

Request the ICRI Secretariat write to the responsible governments and agencies encouraging increased monitoring and offering the advice and assistance of ICRI and the GCRMN in implementing coral reef monitoring.

Approved: 9 May 2003