

Decision on Global Monitoring of Seagrasses and Mangroves

*Adopted during the ICRI Coordination and Planning Committee (CPC) Meeting
5-6 April 2001, Cebu City (Philippines)*

Like coral reefs, seagrasses and mangroves are characterized by high biodiversity, productivity and provide a wide spectrum of services to coastal communities, especially in relation to fisheries and coastal protection.

Coral reefs, seagrasses and mangroves frequently exist in close association with coral reefs and often interact through exchanges of biodiversity and productivity. Monitoring, research and management should take this into account by ensuring that relevant programmes are integrated.

Seagrass beds and mangrove forests are being adversely impacted by aquaculture development, industrialization, forestry, recreation, watershed runoff, agricultural land uses, dredge and fill operations, eutrophication and unsustainable fishing practices such that the fisheries productivity, and the physical and biological integrity of these systems is decreasing alarmingly;

The International Coral Reef Initiative CPC therefore:

Welcomes the development of global seagrass and mangrove monitoring networks, possibly based on the model of the GCRMN, because these coral reef associated ecosystems are essential for the livelihoods and food security of many tropical coastal communities.

Invites the global seagrass and mangrove monitoring networks, possibly based on the model of the GCRMN, because these coral reef associated ecosystems are essential for the livelihoods and food security of many tropical coastal communities.

Invites the global seagrass and mangrove monitoring networks to present a report on their progress to the next ICRI CPC meeting in Maputo, Mozambique, in November 2001.