

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

28 and 29 October 1999

Guadeloupe, France

1. Opening of meeting and apologies

The opening address by Denis VENE (Co-Chair ICRI Secretariat, French Ministry of the Environment) emphasised his pleasure in welcoming all participants to one of the French Departments that actually has coral reefs. Pascal COLIN reinforced that welcome on behalf of the agency that coordinates the overseas parts of France. The agenda and schedule of the session was introduced. The Participants introduced themselves.

Apologies were recorded from: Olof Linden and Anders Granlund, Johan Sundberg (Sweden), Mercedes Tauler (Fundacion Biodiversidad), Stephen Colwell (CORAL), Kalli De Meyer, Duane Silvestrini (Seacology Foundation), Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury (UNEP), Yves Renard, Rolph Poyet, Laretta Burke (WRI), Fareed Kupp (PERSGA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Philippines).

2. Minutes of CPC Meeting, March 1999 and approval of minutes

Bernard Salvat (Co-Chair ICRI Secretariat, University of Perpignan) introduced the Minutes of CPC Meeting, March 1999. These were approved by the meeting. B. Salvat announced that a brochure on ICRI will be printed in several languages with a possible print run of 20,000 copies. He asked delegates to examine the draft, make comments and inform the Secretariat how many brochures they need.

3. Adoption of draft agenda

Bernard Salvat introduced the Agenda and called for additions. Brooks Yeager (Department of State, USA) requested the addition of an item on coral bleaching to be made (see document 11).

Additional information was presented on the logistics of the meeting. The Agenda was adopted.

4. Report from ICRI Secretariat including Reports and Actions from Paris CPC meeting

Geneviève Verbrugge (ICRI Secretariat, French Ministry of the Environment) presented the activities of the French Secretariat. At the last meeting in Paris, the participants agreed on a series of resolutions and the Secretariat wrote to the delegates in July, requesting those involved to report progress on their activities (see document 5 for a compilation of these reports).

G. Verbrugge explained that the first part of the year was dedicated to diplomatic attempts to put coral reefs on the agenda of various organizations and agencies. The long-term objective is to mobilize expertise from other European Union countries, and approaches were made to Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, and Spain which are considering participation. Germany declined, preferring to focus their aid activities on forest conservation. More contacts have also been made with the tourism industry. Positive support for the ICRI process has come from : European Commission (DG 8) ; the Deputy Prime Minister of UK, John Prescott ; US Coral Reef Task Force and other government representatives. The Secretariat will continue to seek support for the ICRI agenda from other high levels throughout next year.

A brief report was provided on the ICRI database project, such that the ICRI Partnership Forum will be linked with the database of Arthur Paterson (NOAA, USA) and Marea Hatzios (World Bank, USA). While the database format had been revised, data collection from ICRI donor partners and Multilateral Development Banks has not begun.

D. Vene participated in several meetings : RAMSAR (Costa Rica), UNEP Regional Seas meeting (The Hague) and distributed brochures on ICRI.

To fulfill the request of the UNEP Governing Council in February 1999, the Secretariat recommended the constitution of a small ICRI-ICRAN team with B. Yeager, Richard Kenchington (Australia), Shawn Reifsteck (CORAL, USA), Clive Wilkinson (GCRMN), Miguel Jorge (WWF, USA) to meet the principal ICRAN coordinators during this meeting.

5. Tourism and coral reefs

5.1. Action at the Global Level

Giulia Carbone (UNEP, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, France) gave a brief report on progress and increases in the level of cooperation from industry and agency bodies. Little more can be reported since the March meeting, as ICRI members have not given any new input. Tourism is a major industry (employing many people), which may have many impacts on the environment, but also provides potential benefit in raising awareness and furthering conservation. Many activities currently exist and should

be developed with this industry through volunteer initiatives such as development of guidelines and manuals of good practices (see documents 13, 14, 15).

A Tour operators initiative was presented during CSD VII in April 1999, which consists of an association of tour operators agreeing on a statement on sustainable development (including environmental, social and economic aspects). So far, 32 tour operators have signed a commitment of support. There is a procedure of reporting on these practices and a yearly program of activities is issued. As this is a fully voluntary initiative, the tour operators will develop their own statement and submit it to UNEP in December. The initiative will be officially launched 12 March 2000 in Berlin at the International Tourism Bourse. Thus there is good possibilities of co-operation with ICRI, through diving tour operators.

The Blue Flag certification scheme for tourism areas contains criteria for eligibility involving water quality, education and awareness, environmental management, safety and services. This scheme cannot be transferred directly from Europe to other parts of the world, and is being modified and adapted via a workshop in Bangkok, and another planned in Puerto Rico (13,14 dec. 99). The main task is a feasibility evaluation in non-European regions. UNEP is working with different countries in order to develop their criteria, in collaboration with UNESCO and the World Heritage Commission. It was suggested that ICRI could help define these criteria in areas where coral reefs occur, and also by carrying out part of the significant monitoring required. UNEP could develop workshops and manuals with a stronger implication of ICRI. And UNEP has a mandate from CSD to act as an umbrella organisation for tourism.

D. Vene noted delegates that the Blue Flag is a French initiative (Pavillon Bleu) that has spread from Europe.

5.2. Action at the Regional Level

Nelson Andrade (UNEP CAR/RCU, Jamaica) highlighted the Cartagena Agreement and pollution from land-based sources in the Caribbean. UNEP is working on developing standards for sustainable tourism, carrying capacity and the implementation of the Blue Flag scheme in the Caribbean.

James Aston (SPREP, Samoa) reported on the South Pacific Conservation Program. SPREP encourages adoption of adequate legislation, joint-ventures between the private sector and the governments, and development of tourism guidelines. Two objectives :

- help establish environment protection guidelines;
- identify sustainable tourism funding sources.

They would like to be able to teach tourism operators 'dos and don'ts' of tourism operation. Hugh Kirkman (UNEP, Thailand) reported on similar ventures in the East Asian Seas region.

Barbara Best (USAID, USA) reported that USAID will give USD10 million over 5 years for development of sustainable tourism in association with UNEP. Agneta Nilsson (UNEP, Kenya) reported on research on how MPAs achieve their objective of conserving coral reef resources.

G. Verbrugge asked delegates for specific requests to ICRI on what can be done to help and for advice on sources of funding. Several international tourism agencies were invited to participate in ICRI meetings but declined. Possible sources of funds are cruise line operators, and consideration should be given to providing tourism guide books produced with the UNEP office in Paris to raise awareness.

G. Carbone reported that the year 2002 will be the 'year of eco-tourism' with focus on eco-tourism and coral reefs. They are developing a framework for cooperation with tour operators as an ongoing activity. The Blue Flag program is being developed globally, prior to being implemented at local levels, with a need for local governments to define criteria. She requested the assistance of the ICRI network and contributions from delegates.

M. Hatzios noted that the Ecotourism Society (USA) is writing guidelines for tour operators and recommended making approaches. S. Reifsteck stated that guidelines on good practices for divers has been produced (sustainable diving tourism checklist) and USD 0.5 million allocated to assist process of dive tourism being direct managers of MPAs. Eknath Muley (Ministry of Environment and Forests, India) stated that India is not very well equipped for sustainable tourism, especially in coral reefs areas. Nevertheless there is an ongoing UNDP programme in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and he requested assistance from ICRI.

Paul Holthus (Marine Aquarium Council, USA) reported that IUCN started a project (USD 1 million) on sustainable tourism focused on Central America and East Africa with pilot areas on linkages of protected area management and sustainable tourism. A strong association has been developed for marine conservation with cruise ship industry. Edgardo Gomez (GCRMN/STAC, Philippines) requested that all this good material be made available in many parts of the developing world. Distribution of guidelines should be accelerated so that local operators have access to these materials. Sophie Van der Meeren (Department for International Development, UK) reported that DFID is working on an international program on sustainable tourism.

Philip Reynolds (UNDP, New York) noted that GEF International Waters program are working on coral reef management. Jeremy Woodley (CARICOMP, Jamaica) noted that there are often difficulties in relationships between tourism and other resource-users in order to minimise impacts of tourism.

Actions :

The process of involving the tourism sector will require that ICRI partners and UNEP develop stronger cooperation.

Partners should ensure greater accessibility to existing material. Partners should prepare lists of available material and communicate these through the ICRI Secretariat.

UNEP is asked to prepare a report for ICRI on this subject, noting that the French Government may have money to assist in the process (D. Vene).

6. International trade of coral reef resources

6.1. Trade in coral

B. Yeager detailed initiatives from USA on live coral trade, which is a rapidly developing issue for coral reef conservation. ICRI has not focused on this previously, although it was reported in the Renewed Call to Action (ITMEMS, November, 1998). It is very important to improve understanding of the impacts of trade as another stress on coral reefs, particularly in the case of collection of rare, slow growing and large polyp species. The USA consumes 80% of the trade, making it imperative that the US government agencies increase their commitment to sustainable management of the trade. There is also an increasing harvest of live food fish for Asia, which the US forbids direct trade and importation of these products. The US Coral Reef Task Force is currently reviewing information on laws, regulations etc. for both importing and exporting countries. There is a need to work with the aquarium industry in the US and governments and industry in exporting countries. ICRI could help by facilitating the development and communication of best practice. Other countries can assist through technical assistance in developing sustainable practices e.g. co-operation with Europe (UK, Germany) to see if a common approaches can be found. Co-operation through ICRI was requested and the need for fact-finding missions into the Pacific was recognised.

Information : << <http://coralreef.gov> >>

Action : (see 6.2 & document 22)

6.2. Trade in fishes and invertebrates

P. Holthus reported on the establishment of MAC which is a true partnership of all stakeholders based in Hawaii with 3 goals : establish 'Best Practice' in the industry ; establish an accredited system for marketing products and create the demand for accredited products. The USA is a major supporter of MAC (see document 20).

M. Astralaga (RAMSAR, Switzerland) noted that many people are unaware that their country exports corals (reported at ICRI meeting in Bali, 1996) with no connection between people involved in coral reefs conservation and export trade. She requested that ICRI take a coordination role for international trade and cooperate with CITES, APEC and SPREP to develop up-dated guidelines. This call was supported by USA delegation

(B. Yeager), which also requested assistance of GCRMN and Reef Check in assessing the impacts of collection and monitor these in the future (see Action below).

E. Gomez (Philippines). Many countries have laws, but there is too much leakage in the system. He supported a workshop on coral trade for preparation of guidelines. He also recommended stronger efforts in cultivation of endangered species for aquarium trade. However current CITES rules restrict trade in endangered species that can be cultured in bulk because of high fecundity e.g. Tridacnid clams. G. Carbone recommended that tourists be sensitised on legal souvenir trading and what is not.

B. Yeager proposed a series of actions to be supported by the USA. These were approved by the ICRI CPC meeting.

Actions :

Host a coral trade workshop in the Indo-Pacific region, in order to bring together exporting and importing countries, and the private sector, to discuss common challenges and approaches to problem resolution.

Send a fact-finding team to the Indo-Pacific region to explore in-depth the extent and impact of the trade in coral and coral reef species.

Support a session on the trade in coral and coral reef species at the 9th International Coral Reef Symposium in 2000.

Promote expansion of the GCRMN and Reef Check programs to enable monitoring and assessment of the ecological and socio-economic impacts of trade in coral and coral reef species.

7. Mechanisms for managing coral reefs

7.1. Marine Protected Areas

Jordan West (IUCN, USA) and A. Paterson reported on IUCN's approach to MPAs. Paterson, now representing the Vice-President Marine of WCPA, reported that The WCPA-Marine Strategy's overarching goal is to facilitate the establishment of a Global Representative System of Marine Protected Areas. The WCPA - Marine has identified 3 priority themes below :

- Sustainable Fisheries.
- Sustainable Tourism.
- Integrated Coastal Management (ICM).

These themes would be supported by cross cutting efforts to build capacity and enhance overall management effectiveness. It was noted that there has not been an assessment of

the numbers and status of MPAs since 1995. Two requests were made : to update the 1995 report on Marine Protected Areas to detect whether gaps still exist in coral reef ecosystem representation and a request to the GCRMN to incorporate a focused effort to address monitoring requirements of marine protected areas.

S. Reifsteck informed delegates that the Packard Foundation has recommended funding of the Western Pacific Biodiversity Program to focus on conserving coral reefs with establishing MPAs as a major tool in that process. World Resources Institute have been commissioned to prepare maps of the region.

Actions :

That an ICRI working group be formed to consider a a focused role on marine protected areas e.g., on management effectiveness to be coordinated by A. Paterson.

The GCRMN should ensure that, where possible, all MPAs be included in ongoing coral reef monitoring to support MPA management.

7.2. Biosphere Reserves MAB (UNESCO)

B. Salvat requested whether there was recent information on UNESCO biosphere program with respect to coral reef sites e.g. biosphere reserves with coral reefs exist in French Polynesia and the Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin (Guadeloupe). The ICRI objective should be to have coral reefs as well represented in biosphere reserve sites, compared to tropical forests. Neither IUCN nor WWF have information lists. G. Carbone reported that the World Heritage Commission and UNEP are preparing a manual on tourism management in World Heritage sites to be put on the Internet.

Other Biosphere Reserve were reported in: Madagascar with 4 being planned (Haja Razafindrainibe, Madagascar) ; Philippines (E. Gomez) with one reef site showing much reduction in fishing due to tourism ; India (E. Muley) has 9 sites, including 2 reef sites which are monitored by GCRMN and supported by UNDP-GEF and National biosphere committee; Mexico (Ernesto Arias) has 2 sites, 1 with coral reefs and another subject to evaluation; Northern Kenya (A. Nilsson) has a marine area with mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs. WWF works with the local population in this sensitive and remote site.

Actions :

The ICRI Secretariat, with the help of UNESCO, will make a list of coral reef biosphere reserves and World Heritage sites, to be coordinated by B. Salvat.

This list should be placed on the ICRI Internet Page and made available to delegates.

7.3. Criteria for selecting RAMSAR sites

M. Astralaga reported that coral reefs are under-represented with only 17 out of 1005 Ramsar sites. There are 8 principle criteria used to select a site, with guidelines available. Prioritization of sites depends on how many of these criteria apply. The procedure for selecting a Ramsar site is explained in resolution VII-11 of the web page. A lot of the work of describing sites, and listing the species is done by NGOs (see document 25).

Actions :

ICRI partners were requested to promote the Ramsar convention to list more coral reef sites to assist in their conservation; M. Astralaga will assist and provide advice.

The Ramsar criteria and principles for selection of sites should be listed on the ICRI web page, with links to the Ramsar page for full details for easier submission.

Ramsar sites including coral reefs will be listed and placed on the ICRI Internet page (B. Salvat).

7.4. Biodiversity – CBD and Coral Bleaching

John McManus (ICLARM) and Jamie Reaser (US Department of State) reported on a CBD workshop in Manila with wide representation to review the draft presented by CBD and write recommendations for presentation to SBSTTA and the Conference of Parties which was supported financially by the USA, France and IUCN. This report was made available to ICRI before the workshop, and is also available on the website (<http://coralreef.gov>). The report will also be presented to US Coral Reef Task Force and follows the report by the State Department on coral bleaching and climate change in April 1999. The Task Force urged agencies to examine the impact of climate change on coral reefs and seek mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (see document 11).

J. Reaser reported that a paper on coral bleaching and climate change was in press in *Conservation Biology* and requested further support for Reef check and GCRMN, especially in the Pacific Region following a contribution of US\$640K announced in March, 1999. The US intends approaching the US-Japan Common Agenda for enhanced assistance. She and C. Wilkinson prepared a press release and statement on coral bleaching to support the Small Island Developing States and for presentation to the Framework Convention on Climate Change. The pattern of coral bleaching in 1998 was very complex, with coral mortality of 80 to 95 % in some areas, but quite high recovery in other areas. The GCRMN is preparing a series of case studies to illustrate this complexity. It was recognised that the GCRMN and Reef Check should obtain rapid baseline assessments of reef status as well as establishing long-term monitoring. The second status report due in October 2000 will provide that baseline.

M. Jorge (WWF) reported that a meeting of the Marine Advisory Group in Istanbul recognised that the status of many areas cannot be predicted without assessments of

global climate change. There is a long-term commitment for detailed assessments in 3 eco-regions: Caribbean and Meso-America, Eastern Africa and Sulawesi.

The ICRI partners noted with approval the conclusions and recommendations on priority areas for action resulting from the CBD expert consultation on coral bleaching in Manila in October and recommended the following actions based on draft statements on climate change and coral reefs prepared by the US delegation.

Actions :

ICRI encourages the CBD and its SBSTTA to adopt the conclusions and recommendations on priority areas for action resulting from the CBD expert consultation on coral bleaching at the International Climate Change meeting in Bonn, early November.

CBD and its SBSTTA are requested to consider ICRI as a forum for the discussion of the ecological and socio-economic impacts of climate change on coral reef systems.

CBD and its SBSTTA should consider the ICRI partners as potential facilitators for the CBD work with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), the Ramsar Convention, and the World Heritage Convention to achieve their shared objectives on coral bleaching and mortality.

Furthermore the ICRI partners reaffirmed the ITMEMS and ISRS statements and the USCRTF resolution on coral bleaching, particularly the significant threats to coral reef ecosystems and the human populations which depend on them, particularly, small island developing states. They recommended the following to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC).

Actions :

The FCCC is requested to: develop approaches for assessing the vulnerability of coral reef species to global warming; build capacity for predicting and monitoring the impacts of coral bleaching; identify approaches for developing response measures to coral bleaching; and provide guidance for financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility, to support such activities.

The UNFCCC is encouraged to note the conclusions and recommendations on priority areas for action resulting the CBD experts consultation on coral bleaching.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is explicitly asked to address the causes and consequences of mass coral bleaching and mortality, including possible societal impacts, in future assessments reports, from the perspectives of both biodiversity and marine ecosystems.

The IPCC is requested to consider ICRI as a forum for the discussion of the ecological and socio-economic impacts of climate change on coral reef systems and consider the ICRI partners as potential facilitators for the FCCC and CBD to achieve their shared objectives on coral bleaching and mortality.

8. Education, Training and Awareness Raising

8.1. Role of Private Foundations

Yves Le Goff (Fondation d'Entreprise Total, France) is the Managing Director of the Foundation. Total is a 75 year old company, and the 4th largest oil company worldwide after merging with Fina and Elf Aquitaine. The Total foundation was created in 1990 following French government rules enabling companies to finance public good activities. In 1992, the effort was put on protection of biodiversity (funding of Port Cros National Parc, France). In 1998, action was reoriented towards protection of marine biodiversity e.g. protection of marine mammals, mangroves, coastal protection. Besides providing funds, Total can also give access to the expertise of a network of people in 120 countries.

Paula Sartorio (UN-UNFIP, USA) : the United Nations Fund for International Partnership (UNFIP) was established to manage the Ted Turner pledge to the UN of USD 1 billion to be given over a period of 10 years. Currently, environment is priority and with the linkages between biodiversity and climate change. Funding at the moment is on 2 themes: biodiversity conservation in World Heritage Areas; and coral reef conservation. The ICRAN project has been funded by UNFIP for USD 1.5 million through UNEP for the start-up phase.

Web site: <<www.unfoundation.org>>

D. Vene confirmed the importance of having the private sector working with ICRI.

8.2. ICRIN (Awareness Network) arrangements and Funding

G. Verbrugge introduced ICRIN by reminding delegates of the decision to implement an awareness network during last CPC meeting.

S. Reifsteck (CORAL) : The role is to raise awareness via distribution of material to the public in suitable formats. CORAL was selected as the lead agency and since March, 1999, they have gathered information with Sea Web to form a database. There is also a need for a image bank for publicity. As funds will be limited the critical decisions are to decide :

- who is the audience;
- how to gain access to that audience;
- what is the geographic and language scope of ICRIN.

Linkages to other networks like ReefBase was recognised as was the need for a high level of training. Several budgets were presented to cover a range of levels of activities, however it was noted that funding was not included to produce documents in different languages. Part of the funding of ICRIN may come from ICRAN budget.

8.3. Train-Sea-Coast and UNDP

P. Reynolds as Chief of the UNDP Water Program with a budget of around USD 200 million, welcomed the chance to be involved with ICRI and requested closer cooperation, as he could foresee many fruitful possibilities to enhance mutual activities. The Water Program has four themes :

- training and information exchange networks;
- dissemination of best practice information;
- coordination of donor activities;
- capacity building with Train-Sea-Coast ; this being the most pertinent activity for ICRI.

Train-Sea-Coast is supported by GEF International Waterways program and is used by 9 UN agencies to supply training based on a prior determination of what is required by the recipient (see documents 12 & 18).

J. McManus noted they use Train-Sea-Coast in many activities e.g to train people to explain to local fishermen why they have to comply with conservation practices, etc. He indicated that there is a need for material at different levels and as short courses, since people are rarely available for long courses.

9. Focal Points for ICRI by IOC, GCRMN and other operational units

G. Verbrugge noted that this was another resolution from the March CPC meeting. To be fully effective, there is a need to have ICRI national committees all over the world. The first step is to identify key people in all countries and the IOC is helping by contacting IOC focal points. A problem was identified by M. Astralaga that IOC focal points are frequently Navy officers, and not responsible for coral reef preservation.

Actions :

IOC is requested to send a letter to all focal points advising them of ICRI and requesting nomination of contact persons for ICRI communication.

All ICRI operational units and the ISRS are requested to provide IOC with their contact points in order to compile a single database.

10. UNEP coral reef activities - ICRAN and Regional Seas units

A. Nilsson stated that the ICRAN project was initiated by UNEP to develop good practices for sustainable coral reef management and broadcast these to improve coral reef management. UNFIP has provided UNEP and ICLARM with USD 1.5 million in start up funds for ICRAN and now it is essential to identify other sources of funding to match UNF funds for the 4 year action phase. Decisions on funding will be made in Cape Town, early November.

There will be 3 start up components :

- Coral reefs at risk analysis in South East Asia by World Resources Institute.
- Development of demonstration MPA sites in the Caribbean (UNEP CEP).
- An analysis of the problems facing Eastern Africa and the development of a comprehensive strategy (WCMC + UNEP).

G. Verbrugge noted that there was need for a business plan as a strategy for additional fund raising, particularly if private foundations are the target. A. Hooten (AJH Environmental Services, USA) is currently working on a potential donor database. R. Kenchington stated that AusAID provides money for projects, but there is need to identify products and valid project management network before funding starts.

P. Holthus uses private sector funding and is ready to help ICRI CPC and ICRAN identify possible sustainable finance through private sector. J. McManus recognised need to design a range of schemes for financing. H. Kirkman reported that Jorge Iluecca and the UNEP Regional Seas convention units endorsed ICRAN at the Hague in July.

A sub-group of ICRI met out of session to discuss the ICRAN project and offer advice to the proposers on how to achieve sustainable funding and establish a transparent management mechanism.

Reports from UNEP Regional Units were presented by H. Kirkman (see document 33), Nelson Andrade (UNEP CEP Jamaica) ; A. Nilsson for UNEP offices in the Seychelles and J. Aston for SPREP.

D. Vene stressed the importance of such exchanges and communication to ensure delegations are informed of activities around the world, e.g. recent activities by SPREP.

P. Reynolds requested a mechanism be developed to share this useful and interesting information, and provide a newcomer with a briefing on the full range of ICRI activities and partners. G. Verbrugge reported that the Secretariat is preparing a brochure and the ICRI partnership forum being developed with help from the World Bank and NOAA that will be used for exchange of information.

Action :

ICRI delegates will advise the Secretariat on additions and editorial changes for the multi-language brochure being prepared to publicise the activities and breadth of ICRI;

All delegates are requested to inform the Secretariat of approximate numbers of brochures required for their distribution.

11. ICRI associated activities

11.1. Environmental effects of fishing – Montpellier, March 1999.

J. McManus stated that his was the only paper on coral reefs to the conference, which reported that most coral reefs were over-fished, often to the level of Malthusian destruction.

11.2. Remote sensing workshop in Hawaii

B. Salvat and J. McManus reported on the meeting (see document 27). Many other delegates reported on the status of reef mapping in their countries and via their projects. The US Coral Reef Task Force has started mapping of all US reef areas using the latest technology.

B. Salvat noted that it is difficult to estimate the global surface of reefs, thus hampering conservation efforts. Estimates have varied depending on what was taken into account as reef (e.g. surrounding sediment). Knowledge of reef area would be a good management tool, therefore he suggested each country to map its own reefs and assess surfaces.

Action :

ICRI partners are requested to encourage each country and region to map and assess surface areas of reefs with division into different habitats.

11.3. GCRMN progress report

C. Wilkinson reported considerable progress in funding and implementing monitoring in countries around the world. The US State Department provided funds to UNEP in March and some of these are discussed with IOC for funding central coordination. After these funds are exhausted, no more available and the repeated call is for ICRI partners to develop mechanisms to fund the operational units like the GCRMN. C. Wilkinson thanked the US Department of State, NOAA and the governments of Australia and France for financial help.

Major progress is being made in developing the socioeconomic manual through assistance of NOAA USA via Leah Bunce.

Funds have been received from the Packard Foundation to initiate the major project for next year – Status of Coral Reefs of the World : 2000. This will be based on 50 to 80 national reports that are summarised into regional reports to form the chapters for the global report. These reports will be presented as posters at the 9th International Coral Reef Symposium in Bali, October 2000.

The GCRMN Coordinator requested all ICRI partners for assistance to produce the national reports, particularly in those countries with little capacity. This can either be in the form of logistic, technical or financial help. National reports should be completed by 31-MAY-2000 and Regional reports by 31-JUL-2000. Other details are in document 9.

P. Holthus assisted with the strategic plan, and stressed the importance of good mapping, including soft sediment, since this is where many commercial species are. B. Salvat thanked the US Department of State for supporting ICRI financially, especially the GCRMN, from the beginning.

Actions :

ICRI Delegates, donors and agencies are requested to assist the GCRMN in the preparation of National Status reports by providing technical and financial support.

Similarly delegates are requested to consider funding participants from coastal projects and others from developing countries to attend the 9th International Coral Reef Symposium in Bali, October 2000.

11.4. ICRI Partnership Forum

A. Hooten presented a report on the ICRI Partnership forum indicated at the previous CPC meeting.

11.5. Survey of multilateral and bilateral funded projects

M. Hatzios presented a progress report on World Bank coral reef activities, including progress on the MesoAmerican Barrier Reef project, which has established an office in Mexico.

11.6. Current or planned activities - GEF Targeted Research

M. Hatzios drew attention to the Targeted Research proposal that was being developed by the Environment Department of the World Bank in association with many senior coral reef scientists.

G. Verbrugge expressed the interest of the Secretariat and requested more information on funding proposals to enable approaches to be made to the person responsible for managing GEF in the ICRI member countries. The Secretariat suggested that with prior knowledge of project proposals, they may be in a position to assist by providing supporting statements.

Actions :

ICRI supported the Targeted Research Project and requested a further report on progress at the next CPC meeting in May 2000.

The ICRI Secretariat requested regular contact with the proponents to inform GEF government members.

The proponents were requested to consider stronger emphasis on performing research to assist management as well as applying scientific rigour to the Precautionary Principle of minimal disturbance.

11.7. Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Project

M. Hatzios reported that progress in the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Project was satisfactory, although there was a setback for the reefs and other ecosystems as a result of severe Hurricane Mitch.

11.8. Role of CARICOMP

J. Woodley presented a progress report on CARICOMP (see document 26). There is only one paid employee, the data manager for Jamaica (paid by University of West Indies). A lack of funds has reduced activities and there is a need to review and change some methods e.g. to include assessments of fish, carry out more monitoring, and perform more educational work.

11.9. US Coral Reef Task Force - Virgin Island

J. Reaser informed that the third meeting of US Coral Reef Task force will be held in St. Croix, 1, 3 November 1999 with a number of ICRI CPC representatives attending. USCRTF has been working for 2 years towards a comprehensive integrated action plan for coral reef conservation in US coral reef areas through 7 working groups that recommend extensive mapping, monitoring, and harmonisation of laws and regulations between the different arms of government. ICRI activities are covered under an international working group of USCRTF, headed by the US State Department and USAID. It was stressed that US reefs are not isolated and cannot be successfully managed without simultaneous management of neighboring reefs, particularly those immediately upstream.

Action :

ICRI requested that the US Delegation stress to the USCRTF meeting that consideration should be given to assisting adjacent countries with management of their reef resources.

11.10. Presentation of National Programs

E. Muley presented a detailed program of reef activities in India, including participation in the South Asia Node of the GCRMN (see document 21). Similarly E. Arias presented activities in Mexico (see document 23), Prasantha Dias (SACEP, Sri Lanka) reported on activities of SACEP in Sri Lanka noting that major reef programs are on Integrated Coastal Management, Capacity Building and Status of Environment reporting. An IMO consultant is visiting the region to assess capacity e.g. oil spill contingency planning, to develop local management capacity.

11.11. CORDIO progress

In the absence of Olof Linden (Sweden) a brief report was presented by C. Wilkinson. The CORDIO project was assembled very rapidly to assess coral reef damage in the Indian Ocean and seek ways of ameliorating the losses of corals and other benthos. CORDIO is funded by Swedish government, and the World Bank using Netherlands Trust Fund money. Strong coordination is being achieved with the GCRMN and the project will provide a boost for monitoring activities in the Indian Ocean.

11.12. Indian Ocean Commission

The Indian Ocean Commission was invited to the CPC meeting in Guadeloupe but was unable to attend. B. Salvat presented a summary of this regional program in Indian Ocean involving Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Reunion. There has been active training and more than 30 coral reefs have been surveyed. Information being collected is assembled and analysed at the regional level. A GEF proposal has been signed by all countries, for adoption by the World Bank. The next program will be on sustainable development.

12. Upcoming ICRI and associated meetings on Coral Reefs

12.1. Next CPC meeting

The next CPC meeting will be held in Noumea, New Caledonia on 25 and 26 May 2000.

Prior to that there will be a Pacific Ocean scientific meeting (22, 24-MAY-2000) with two major themes : presentation of National Status reports ; and workshops to assess factors damaging reefs and their resources with the goal of developing action strategies. This is being hosted by French Government agencies, the local authorities and SPREP. Announcements will go out soon.

Pascale Joannot (New Caledonia) issued a welcome to ICRI delegates noting that New Caledonia has 2,000 km of reefs, and 40,000 km² of lagoons, in addition to strong hospitality and a mixture of Melanesian and French culture.

Action :

ICRI delegates were requested to assist the attendance of Pacific Island countries to this meeting by providing funds for at least 1 national delegate.

12.2. 9th International Coral Reef Symposium, Bali 2000

C. Wilkinson reported that after a difficult period of poor communication with the Indonesian conference organisers, due largely to the recent changes in the political climate of Indonesia, arrangements are on track for the meeting scheduled 23 to 27 October 2000. The International Society for Reef Studies has assumed responsibility for organisation of the scientific program, but does not have the personnel or financial resources to continue this arrangement and requested financial assistance for the consultant, David Hopley.

Actions :

ICRI delegates were requested to assist the ISRS with any funding possible to ensure that this major meeting continues to showcase coral reef activities, including ICRI.

Furthermore ICRI Delegates were requested to assist attendance of people from developing countries.

12.3. Other Meetings/Business

The UNEP-AIMS-CRC Reef Workshop to determine information needs of management will be held in Townsville, 6 to 10 December 1999 and ICRI members are welcome to attend.

The IUCN General Assembly will be held in Amman, Jordan 4 to 11 October 2000 and ICRI should consider using this as a forum to promote coral reef conservation.

B. Yeager offered to present ICRI concerns and information at the CITES Convention of Parties meeting in Nairobi, April 2000. He was concerned that Cuba may wish to downlist Hawksbill turtles from the CITES listing.

SPREP will be holding a coral reef and climate change meeting in Rarotonga, Cook Islands in April or May 2000.

G. Carbone reported that 3 recently issued documents ("Environmental Outlook" Western Indian Ocean, Caribbean, Pacific Islands reports by UNEP) were available to delegates,

and R. Kenchington reported that the 530 pages proceedings from ITMEMS (November 1998) is being published and will be distributed soon to ICRI members.

13. Closing statements

Closing statements were made by B. Salvat (on behalf of D. Vene), G. Verbrugge, and B. Yeager. The meeting was closed at 18.30 on Friday 29 October.