

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

25 and 26 May 2000

Noumea, New-Caledonia

Official Opening of Meeting

Bernard Salvat (Co-Chair ICRI Secretariat) welcomed participants on behalf of the Secretariat. Lourdes Pangelinan, Director of the Pacific Community Countries welcomed participants to the host establishment and offered assistance with activities with the Pacific, especially fisheries. P. Garrigue-Guyonnaud (French Ambassador - Secrétariat Permanent pour le Pacifique) in his opening address noted the three themes: to make ICRI visible within the UN system, and he specifically thanked UNEP Director, Klaus Topfer for support, along with other supporting agencies; to ensure that all coral reef regions were involved; and mobilise all parties – states, agencies and NGOs into a committee to diffuse information on the importance of reefs. He also introduced a booklet produced by IFRECOR New Caledonia in French and English. Yves Magnier (representative of the Government of New Caledonia) welcomed participants on behalf of the host governments. Pascal Colin reinforced that welcome on behalf of the Ministry in charge of overseas department and territories. Pascale Joannot welcomed participants on behalf of the New Caledonian IFRECOR and showed slides of the beautiful reefs of New Caledonia.

1. Opening of Working Meeting and Apologies

P. Garrigue-Guyonnaud opened the working meeting, the second last of the French Secretariat. B. Salvat introduced the Agenda and explained how the meeting would operate for the next 7 quarter day sessions.

Apologies were recorded from India, Spain, FAO, CBD, CIDA (Canada) CITES, CARICOMP, Indian Ocean Commission Mauritius, DIVERSITAS, Vietnam, Tonga, and the TOTAL and CEM Foundations. Minutes of the CPC Meeting, October 1999 in Guadeloupe were tabled.

2. Marine Protected Areas

B. Salvat submitted Document 9 (draft summary of 250 pages paper to be published) : a listing of coral reef areas protected under the international conventions (WHC, MAB, RAMSAR), noting a serious under-representation of coral reef habitats in the listings. There was discussion on how to increase the number. UNDP, WCMC, SPREP, IUCN all reported that listing and classification of MPAs were within their ambit and they had databases with relevant information.

K. Eyles (Ramsar) presented a brief report on the Ramsar Convention from an Australian perspective (Document 23) and reiterated that coral reef areas were under-represented. She stated that the Ramsar central office and the Australian Ramsar office in Environment Australia would assist countries with listings, especially those in the Pacific. At the previous meeting M. Astralaga indicated that the guidelines for listing sites were widely available at the following web site :

http://www.ramsar.org/key_res_vii.11f.htm

B. Yeager (USA) proposed a resolution on strengthening the representation of MPAs and noted that 'replenishment zones' was more pertinent terminology with the public than 'no-take zones'. The 20% suggested figure is the goal for the USA and may or may not be appropriate for other countries. He also discussed a suggestion from the US Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) that approaches be made to IMO for specific « no anchoring zones » on and around coral reef areas be designated to protect corals from the damage caused by large ships. It was decided to leave this issue until the next meeting in Bali in October.

A number of participants made suggestions on amendments to the resolution, including on the low numbers of coral reef sites listed in the international conventions (Document 9). The proposed resolution was adopted (Document 20-2).

Action 2: ICRI CPC Members are requested to inform their governments and agencies of the resolution and work to increase both the numbers and effectiveness of management of MPAs as valuable tools for the conservation of coral reefs

3. International Trade in Coral Reef Resources

B. Yeager (USA) reported on the draft resolution on the trade in corals presented to the CITES meeting in Kenya in April, 2000 (Document 17). CITES is calling for a standard format in reporting the level of trade in aquarium species. The USA is drafting legislation for the sustainable trade in coral reef species because approximately 85% of the trade passes through the USA. He also tabled the USCRTF report on the coral reef trade. Funding for activities to make this trade sustainable is available so that communities in the Asia-Pacific region can obtain alternative livelihoods.

The USA requested assistance and advice from countries involved in the export of aquarium specimens and others with a direct interest in order to develop sustainable management practices. As the major importer, the US wishes to stimulate best practice at all levels from collector to final sale to reduce damaging impacts on the ecosystem, while providing sustainable livelihoods for people in developing countries.

The USA thanked the ICRI Secretariat and Members for their assistance in having the resolution accepted at the CITES meeting (Nairobi - Kenya). M. Spalding (WCMC) also

tabled a document on the trade in hard corals, including detailed trade statistics. While noting that they only had data on corals, a new project at WCMC is now looking into trade in "marine ornamentals", including fishes. A. Nilsson (UNEP) specifically thanked the ICRI Secretariat, USCRTF and WCMC for assistance at the Nairobi meeting.

E. Gomez (GCRMN) requested restraint in dealing with collectors as officious governments will only drive the trade « underground ». He repeated an earlier request that consideration be made for special provision within CITES listings for invertebrate species that can be cultivated by the thousands e.g. giant clams, or corals that can be cultivated from small cuttings. Sudariyono (Indonesia) supported the request and highlighted the need for CITES to review the listing of corals in Appendix 1. Other participants supported the need to assist communities develop sustainable methods of harvest.

4. Aquarium Fish Trade

P. Holthus (MAC) updated progress on the Marine Aquarium Council (MAC) in establishing international standards and certification for sustainability in the collection and trade in marine ornamentals and thanked ICRI partners for support at the CITES meeting in Nairobi. He stressed that this trade can be environmentally sound and offer economic incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of reef biodiversity. Government agencies in the key export countries, such as Indonesia, the Philippines, and Fiji (e.g. the Indonesian Ministry for Marine Resources and Fisheries) are working with MAC to ensure the trade is sustainable through standards and certification.

The GCRMN and Reef Check are developing monitoring protocols for MAC to assess and monitor the sustainability of certified collection operations, showing how the sustainable economic use of reefs can support monitoring.

E. Gomez (GCRMN) noted that the collectors may receive only a small percentage of the eventual sale price and requested mechanisms to increase returns to collectors, e.g. by cutting out some 'middle men'. M. Spalding (WCMC) noted the lack of comprehensive data on trade in non-CITES species, but drew attention to a major new project being undertaken by WCMC and MAC, with support from the Packard Foundation, to develop a database on this trade : the Marine Ornamentals Information System (MOIS). G. Billings (Fiji) reported that authorities in Fiji lack capacity to monitor trade and requested assistance. B. Ponia (Cook Islands) requested a listing of rogue operators to assist small countries develop their trade effectively. T. Tekinaiti (Kiribati) also reported a lack of capacity to monitor operators on Christmas Island. F. Krupp (PERSGA) stated that the trade was small in the Red Sea but uncontrolled and also requested guidelines for the management of the trade. J. Bell (ICLARM) recommended that buyers be informed of village cooperatives that are producing sustainably reared corals and receive a premium price. V. Palaganas (Philippines) noted that their government is working with CITES to control trade but they have insufficient cyanide testing stations.

Following these calls, a motion was proposed that a set of aquarium collection guidelines be prepared and made available through ICRI for distribution to governments concerned about managing the industry. R. Kenchington and P. Holthus were requested to assemble the requests and suggestions and subsequently prepared the draft guidelines (document 36).

Action 4: R. Kenchington and P. Holthus are to coordinate drafting of aquarium collection guidelines under the ICRI banner for distribution to governments concerned about managing the industry and present to ICRI Partners at the ICRI CPC Meeting in Bali.

5. Survey of multilateral and bilateral funded projects

G. Verbrugge (ICRI Secretariat) presented the first draft of the survey of multilateral and bilateral funded projects accumulated by a questionnaire and surveying web sites (Document 6). She requested assistance from ICRI Partners to examine the draft on diskette and ensure that all bilateral and multilateral agency projects are listed accurately. There were many obvious projects that were missing and few ICRI partners had filled in the questionnaire.

Action 5: ICRI Partners are requested to examine the draft report and ensure that their project activities are accurately reported.

6. Climate Change and Coral Reefs

7. Biodiversity – (CBD-SBSTTA)

J. Reaser (USA) reported follow-up of resolutions from Guadeloupe (Document 4) which were considered at the CBD meeting in Montreal in February. There was a successful side meeting on reefs hosted by IUCN, National Wildlife Federation and the US Government featuring a talk by Alan Strong of NOAA. Jamaica and the Seychelles were particularly active in convincing governments to affirm that Global Climate Change was having detrimental effects on coral reefs and directly linked to the bleaching of 1998. The CBD is currently meeting in Nairobi and has adopted word-for-word the position statements on coral reefs and climate change which illustrates the effectiveness of ICRI in international fora. ICRI can recommend action priorities by the Secretariats of CBD and FCCC to focus more attention on coral reefs. The USA has contributed USD24,000 for a session on coral bleaching at the Bali Symposium featuring E. Gomez (Philippines), P. Thomas (USA) and the CORDIO case studies.

J. West (IUCN) reported on a new education and outreach effort of IUCN, WWF, the Secretariat of the CBD and CORDIO. These groups are cooperating on a booklet to inform reef managers and policy makers of the current state of knowledge on the coral

bleaching phenomenon, with options for best practices and policies before and after bleaching occurs. The Western Indian Ocean was considered as a good case study for this booklet which will be presented in Bali, October 2000. She requested assistance in editing the booklet.

Action 7: Pacific countries are requested to prepare a report on the 2000 coral bleaching for submission to both CBD and FCCC under the banner of ICRI.

8. Reports of Regional Seas Units

8.1. H. Kirkman (EAS/RCU – Document 8) reported that the USD36 million South China Seas project with GEF is still under consideration after an earlier pause. This aims to reduce losses of coral reefs to 1% per year. Experience from a Viet Nam Workshop held in mid-1999 highlighted that careful attention should be put on the effectiveness of training as few trainees have continue with monitoring. A recent workshop in Phuket in May showed clear problems between the process of monitoring and archiving the data and better links to ReefBase are necessary. The resulting actions derived from this workshop and the workshop itself are to be funded by USD100K of US derived funds.

8.2. A. Nilsson (Eastern Africa – Document 25) reported that most of activities have derived from ICRAN project. National reports have been produced by 7 countries and these are being combined into 2 regional reports. A CD-ROM on training and databases has been produced by the island states.

8.3. A. Nilsson reported for A. Vanzella-Khoury (Caribbean Environment Programme - Document 11) that progress is satisfactory with coral reef monitoring and management training conducted for trainers and a manual produced to advise local resource managers.

8.4. F. Krupp (PERSGA – Document 30) reported that PERSGA and ROPME are cooperating on producing a Regional Action Plan following the meeting in Riyadh in February, 2000. The region has very limited capacity with training a major priority. PERSGA is executing a 5 year project with USD 19 million GEF assistance, which addresses biodiversity conservation and rehabilitation of coral reefs.

8.5. L. Apis-Overhoff (SPREP) organised an MPA workshop in Palau in October to diversify the use of coral reef resources and reduce exploitation on key animals. Another workshop in the Cook Islands was on community based incentives to conserve resources and produce alternative livelihoods. They have implemented a small grants scheme (USD5 to 10K) to support establishment on community-based MPAs. SPREP have produced an excellent video emphasising coral reef conservation for release on Environment Day 06-JUN. She reports on the successful meeting on Pacific Reef resources jointly held by SPREP, CPS and France under the umbrella of ICRI, just before the CPC Meeting. More than 20 countries attended the meeting and almost all Pacific countries reported on the status of coral reefs as participation to GCRMN.

8.6. Prasantha Dias (SACEP) reported that most activities associated with coral reefs were through association with the GCRMN South Asia Node, with which they have a close working relationship. One current activity is investigating the development of national databases for coral reef data.

8.7. Coral Bleaching – several countries reported on recent coral bleaching including: G. Billings (Fiji) reported heavy bleaching over past 3 months affecting up to 70% of corals; T. Tekinaiti (Kiribati) reported slight bleaching in the outer islands; R. Kenchington reported that a survey of Helen Reef in Palau showed that reef top corals that had bleached in 1998 had recovered but deep water corals had died, except for small individuals; B. Ponia (Cook Islands) saw severe bleaching in Raratonga with about 80% bleached in the exposed crests and fringing reefs and 50% in the lagoon, but mortality is too early to assess; P. Joannot (New Caledonia) reported insignificant recent bleaching, as opposed to severe bleaching in 1994; F. Poasa (Tokelau) also reported insignificant bleaching this year. B. Salvat reported on bleaching in French Polynesia, only on some reef compared to 1991 and 1994 bleach events which were at the much largest geographic scale. Participants volunteered to produce a press release from the meeting (Document 35).

9. CORDIO progress

O. Linden (CORDIO, Sweden) presented a report on progress of CORDIO project which was developed in response to 50% to 80% mortality of corals in the Indian Ocean in 1998. Membership involves all 12 countries in the Indian Ocean in 30 projects with funding by Swedish government, and the World Bank using Netherlands Trust Fund money, plus Finland and the WWF. The emphasis is on both biological and socioeconomic projects to track the damage and follow potential recovery of the reefs. They have produced one status report and the second is in press following a regional meeting in Lamu, Kenya in February.

It was decided that CORDIO project be invited as a member of ICRI as it was implementing most of the ICRI Agenda in one large region with multiple sources of funding (Document 22).

10. Reports of National ICRI Committees

B. Salvat mentions that according to previous recommendations of ICRI-CPC, national ICRI committees have been invited to the meeting after correspondence with such existing committees (USA and France) and with those in progress,"

10.1. W. Brown (USA) reported on US Coral Reef Task Force activities since it was formed following a Presidential Executive Order in 1998 for all US agencies to protect coral reefs and control all activities likely to damage reefs within US territory. He presented the Action Plan that summarises the larger reports from working groups and

noted that material was on the web site www.coralreef.gov. The goal is to include 20% of all US coral reefs as no-take areas. Currently the budget is USD3 million per annum with some special themes such as acquiring Palmyra Atoll for USD30 million.

10.2. P. Colin (France) said the IFRECOR (French Coral Reef Initiative) committee was formed following a meeting convened by the Prime Minister. France has reefs in 3 oceans and local IFRECOR committees have been formed in each overseas territories. All have prepared action plans for sustainable management of reefs in French territories and these plans are available to ICRI partners (www.environnement.gouv.fr/ifrecor).

10.3. N. Nakajima (Japan) reported that a national committee was being formed to be based in Okinawa. She requested assistance from other countries with National Committees for their printed material and addresses of web sites.

10.4. T. Camarena (Mexico) stated that the National committee formed in 1998 has the support of the government, scientific and academic institutions. Currently 30 to 40% of Mexican reefs are within MPAs and will be gazetted in official documentation. A report was tabled (Document 32).

10.5. E. Gomez (Philippines) reported that a national committee will be formed via national government agencies as part of the proposal to Chair the ICRI Secretariat. This was supported by the Government representatives M. Lim Suan and V. Palaganas.

10.6. Sudariyono (Indonesia) reported that they have played a major role in coral reef activities and are gearing up to host the 9th International Coral Reef Symposium in Bali in October. Unfortunately only 6.2% of reefs are in good condition, whereas 75% are in fair to poor state. The major activity is a large 12 year project, COREMAP, to improve local management of reef resources.

10.7. K. Hiew (Malaysia) stated that there is a national committee for marine parks that includes coral reef areas. He inquired whether this fitted the description of a National Coral Reef Initiative Committee.

10.8. L. Apis-Overhoff (SPREP) stated that the Pacific countries have jointly prepared a Pacific ICRI Strategy with some countries like Samoa having national committees. SPREP represents the interests of all Pacific countries on ICRI, if they are unable to attend ICRI meetings.

10.9. N. Cyr (IOC-UNESCO) sent a request to all national focal points to nominate ICRI contact persons or agencies. So far 30 have replied, but the list excludes many large countries, some of which are seated at the ICRI CPC table. IOC will put the list on the ICRI web site to prompt countries to add their contacts.

Action 10 : A need was demonstrated for guidelines on what is a National ICRI committee and how to constitute it, thus USA, France, Australia, and EAS/RCU will provide guidelines for the next ICRI CPC meeting in October 2000.

11. Sustainable fisheries on coral reefs :

C. Wilkinson (GCRMN) reported that ICRI partners expressed concern at the increasing pressures on the livelihoods of coastal communities dependent on coral reef fisheries, especially in Small Island Developing States. E. Whittingham (UK) suggested the need for an ICRI resolution which would highlight the important role of UN agencies in achieving sustainable fisheries on coral reefs. She also noted the valuable coordinating role which could be played by the ACC Sub-Committee on Oceans and Coastal Areas.

J. West (IUCN) stated that IUCN was implementing a program on sustainable fisheries and agreed that increased emphasis was necessary. The resolution was supported by B. Yeager (USA) with suggested amendments; H. Kirkman (UNEP RCU Bangkok) urged that seagrass ecosystems also be included; J. Bell (ICLARM) also supported, noting that this was on the ICLARM Strategic Plan. P. Reynolds (UNDP) reported they were members of ACC Sub-Committee on Oceans and urged ICRI national partners to bring this up through the Sub-Committee and other forums. D. Hiew noted that FAO has coral reef sustainable fisheries with the FAO Committee on Fisheries guidelines. Similar concerns were raised at the Paris CPC meeting (MAR-99).

A resolution (Document 26-3) was approved unanimously.

Action 11 : ICRI partners are requested to inform their governments and administrations of the Resolution and address the recommendations therein.

12. Rehabilitation of Coral Reefs

O. Linden (Sweden and CORDIO) tabled a proposed recommendation on assessing methods of rehabilitating coral reefs. He stressed the need for ICRI to provide advice on the applicability of the many methods proposed to rehabilitate reefs damaged during the 1997-98 worldwide coral bleaching and mortality event. Recently schemes have been proposed to restore reefs using technological fixes that were inappropriate for the space and time scales of the bleaching related problem and were inordinately expensive. He indicated that a paper was being prepared by partners in ICRI to develop guideline for management activities on how to react to bleaching mortality. M. Spalding (WCMC) reported on a scheme proposed to investors for reef rehabilitation in Madagascar that appeared unreasonable. The recommendation (Document 19) was approved unanimously.

Action 12 : ICRI partners to cooperate with CORDIO to prepare a discussion paper on rehabilitation methods as out lined in the adopted recommendation for presentation at the next ICRI CPC meeting in Bali, October 2000.

13. Secretariat after France

G. Verbrugge (ICRI) reported that 2 proposals were sent to the Secretariat for Chairing ICRI from 2001-2002: from Jamaica; and a joint proposal from Philippines and Sweden (Document 27). Jamaica was not represented at the meeting. She supported the idea of a shared arrangement between a developing and developed country

M. Lim Suan (Philippines) reported that high level discussions had been held between the two governments, particularly through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture and the Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines in Manila and the Swedish Embassy. Philippines could provide technical staff, office accommodation and logistic support for the Secretariat. E. Gomez (GCRMN STAC) confirmed that discussions on a joint chairing arrangement were well advanced. O. Linden reported that Foreign Affairs and Sarec/Sida of the Government of Sweden had given tentative approval, subject to formal approaches from the Philippines and Sweden could provide both financial and technical support.

G. Verbrugge will contact the UK to explore if a partnership with Jamaica is feasible for the Secretariat in 2003/2004, noting it would be a favorable shift in geographic focus. Sudaryono (Indonesia) suggested that as ICRI is becoming larger, a mechanism for determining the Chair of the Secretariat should be developed. B. Salvat suggested that the new Secretariat should consider this.

The meeting accepted the provisional offers from Philippines and Sweden by acclamation and invited the partners to present a plan for the next Secretariat for the next CPC meeting in Bali, October 2000.

Action 13 : The governments of the Philippines and Sweden will prepare a proposal on hosting the next Secretariat of ICRI for the next CPC meeting in Bali, October 2000.

14. ICRIN Information/Awareness Network

S. Colwell (CORAL) thanked ICRI Secretariat for assistance with development of ICRIN (Document 12). One theme of Earth Day was to seek the involvement of 'stars' to promote coral reefs or to select a few media-friendly events such as the purchase of the Palmyra Atoll. The critical point will be ongoing funding and this is where the results of the ICRAN proposal are critical to the development of ICRIN.

ICRI Members discussed the themes of ICRIN and provided advice and suggestions on future additions, including the need to focus on good news stories as the public will be turned off by continued stories of degradation and may see the case for reefs as beyond recovery.

G. Verbrugge requested that ICRI CPC Members consider ways of assisting the ICRIN process by putting in seed money to get it started and provide materials and stories for dissemination.

Action 14 : ICRI CPC Members are requested to consider providing financial and logistic support to catalyse the early formation of ICRIN as a means of carrying the ICRI message to global audiences.

15. Tourism and Coral Reefs

G. Carbone (UNEP, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, Paris) gave a progress report (Document 31) emphasising that the UNEP unit in Paris does not carry out field work, but functions through - for example - the UNEP Regional Seas Units. UNEP DTIE mission is to encourage all parties to introduce environmental considerations into their decision making. A number of activities are then undertaken, among which the Tour Operators Initiative for Sustainable Tourism Development, launched in Berlin (12 March 2000) with the WTO and the transfer of the Blue Flag system to Asia, Caribbean etc. Their major role in ICRI will be in working through partnerships with ICRIN. ICRI members supported progress and offered some suggestions for actions. Planning is underway for a listing of indicators of best practice to achieve sustainable tourism.

Action 15 : ICRI CPC Members are requested to provide support for the implementation of sustainable tourism on coral reefs and cooperate with the UNEP office and report to next ICRI CPC Meeting in Bali.

16. ICRI Partnership Forum

A. Hooten presented a report on the ICRI Partnership Forum which aims to strengthen the private and public partnership forum concept originated by former vice president I. Serageldin. The ICRI Secretariat has formed an alliance with SeaWeb to assist the World Bank with stewardship of the Forum.

G. Verbrugge noted the problem of transferring the ICRI web site to a new server each time there is a change in the ICRI Secretariat. She thanked the World Bank for the offer to host the ICRI web site for the future.

Action 16-1 : ICRI CPC Members are requested to assist in providing material for the Partnership Forum (contact : Ahooten@worldbank.org)

Action 16-2 : ICRI CPC Members are requested to register with the Partnership Forum : <http://www.icriforum.org>

17. WWF Coral Web Program

M. Jorge (WWF) introduced their new program concept for coral reef conservation. This effort is based on their Joint Marine Policy with IUCN. He provided an overview of WWF's coral reef conservation work, which currently spans 29 countries and has been going on for over 30 years with tens of millions of dollars invested. He reported that in spite their many successes, the scale of the problems in marine conservation overwhelms the capacity of WWF, therefore they have developed new ways to magnify their impact; namely their global campaigns on over-fishing and climate-change, their new project networking effort and ecoregion conservation. Their ecoregion conservation effort, for example, establishes 50 year biodiversity visions for large marine ecosystems. WWF's new CoralWeb initiative will combine these three efforts to conserve coral reefs. CoralWeb will focusing on three major threats: extractive and destructive use; pollution; and climate-change. This combination will generate greater coordination within WWF, combining policy reform efforts with improved conservation in the ocean. CoralWeb will be a network of 11 coral reef ecoregions of which Mesoamerican Reef, Sulu-Sulawesi Seas and East Africa Marine currently represent the most advanced large-scale efforts.

Action 17 : WWF have requested ICRI CPC Members to form partnerships within the Coral Web Program and provide feedback and suggestions for future collaboration.

18. ICRAN Progress Report

A. Hooten (ICRAN consultant) presented a short summary of ICRAN and a diagram clarifying the relationships between the GCRMN (monitoring), ICRIN (information) and ICRAN (action) with the ICRI frameworks (Document 34).

A. Dahl (UNEP) summarised UNEP's involvement and commitment to the ICRAN project, and discussed the comparative advantage for UNEP regional seas units. A. Hooten briefly summarised the organisation of the Draft Strategic Plan and emphasized that a major goal of ICRAN is to broaden the potential support beyond the UNF to involve other co-financiers.

A. Nilsson (UNEP) reinforced the theme of developing demonstration sites and many of the proposed sites have been selected. They will be developed in the following priority order: Caribbean - sites selected: Eastern Africa - more time is required to select the demonstration sites; East Asian Seas sites are being selected, and the South Pacific. Current activities are to develop a clear management structure with a management board, an operational steering committee and an expert technical advisory group. ICRAN was adopted by the ICRI-CPC as an operational unit, similar to the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), and the Information Network (ICRIN). ICRI CPC and the Secretariat are being requested to assist in the establishment of a management process to assist in all stages of ICRAN. Many of the ICRI partners are also partners in developing the ICRAN Strategic Plan.

M. Spalding (WCMC) presented a model in which ICRAN will seek to produce products throughout each year of the Action Phase, rather than appearing to finalise activities after 4 years. An example is the current Reefs at Risk for Southeast Asia, combined with coral reef mapping and other assessment activities. He also reported on progress of the Regional Reefs at Risk effort.

Other members asked questions and offered suggestions for improving or broadening the goals of the ICRAN project, and especially to ensure that there is sustainability of project activities and funding after the next 4 year period. This will under consideration by the ICRAN steering committee when it convenes.

P. Lundgren (Sweden) suggested that ICRAN could benefit from increased co-operation with CORDIO and other ongoing projects in the region, and should make better use of already established networks and results from such projects. C. Wilkinson supported this suggestion noting that CORDIO : had been formed in response to a crisis with the reefs in the whole Indian Ocean; had a very effective network of the key people and organisations in the regions; and had demonstrated the ability to gather money and make to available rapidly for field activities. H. Kirkman (UNEP EAS) noted that UNEP was essentially a linking agency in projects and not necessarily the operational body, therefore field activities could be effectively performed by CORDIO or any other regional network. A. Dahl noted that as CORDIO is part of ICRI, then this is a suggestion that should be advanced by the Secretariat and CPC Members.

N. Lapham (UN Foundation) has observed the ICRAN project since inception and noted that a strategic plan had been prepared and a management plan was in progress. The Reefs at Risk project was now progressing well and there was progress in other areas. He requested close collaboration with the ICRI CPC partners and the Secretariat.

A resolution (Document 33-2) was approved unanimously.

19. WCMC Report – Atlases of Coral Reefs

M. Spalding (WCMC) presented a progress report on the World Atlas of Coral Reefs (Document 13) which was illustrated with attractive examples of pages from the atlas. The final product will include maps with locations of MPAs, threatened areas, coral disease and other damaging activities, sites for coral trade etc. The atlas is drawing on material from ReefBase at ICLARM, the GCRMN Status of Coral Reefs of the World : 1998 report ; the Reefs at Risk report from WRI. The WCMC web-site (www.wcmc.org.uk) will also contain much of the material contained in the Atlas, which is aimed at scientists, managers and decision makers. It will contain 280 maps in about 320 pages along with NASA photographs taken by astronauts. Funding so far has come from UNEP, the Dulverton Trust. NASA may also become involved, but more is needed to complete the project.

P. Holthus (MAC) indicated that MAC may be able to add support; M. Jorge (WWF) offered assistance with information and images.

ICRI CPC Members congratulated the WCMC on their progress towards production of the global Atlas of Coral Reefs and encouraged them to complete this project. ICRI CPC Members would welcome the opportunity of being involved in promoting and distributing the atlas and propose that it carry the ICRI logo.

Action 19 : ICRI CPC Members are requested to assist the WCMC complete the global Atlas of Coral Reefs through the provision of data, information, maps, images and also with financial support.

20. National Reports from Asia-Pacific Region

Salvat requested that ICRI CPC Members from the Asia-Pacific region table their reports to be appended as attachments for the Minutes, as there was insufficient time to go through these reports because the meeting was behind schedule. Reports submitted so far are: K. Hiew (Malaysia) – Document 15 on Marine Parks of Malaysia as tools for fisheries management; T. Camarena (Mexico) on Mexican coral reefs (Document 32).

21. Upcoming ICRI and associated meetings on Coral Reefs

21.1. T. Done (ISRS) reported that the 9th International Coral Reef Symposium, Bali 23, 27 October 2000 was being managed by a partnership between Indonesia and the International Society for Reef Studies (Document 14). The Indonesian Government has indicated that a senior member of government will open the meeting. Currently there are over 1400 intended participants with more than 1400 abstracts submitted by 25-MAY. Over 300 people have requested financial support, whereas grants to ISRS from the Packard and Summit foundation will only support half of these. He acknowledged support already provided directly to individuals to attend, and requested ICRI CPC Members consider assisting young scientists and managers from developing countries attend the meeting. Also assistance will be required to publish the proceedings. As has been the case for previous Symposia, the registration fee does not cover the cost of proceedings and the Symposium organizers need to raise additional funds for this purpose (approx. \$100-150,000).

21.2. G. Verbrugge announced that the next CPC meeting will be held in Bali on 28 and 29 October 2000 at the Sheraton Hotel in Bali, following the 9 Symposium.

21.3. J. West (IUCN) reported that the IUCN World Conservation Congress will be held in Amman, Jordan 4 to 11 November 2000. There are 4 relevant sessions for ICRI : Health of Island and Coastal Ecosystems; Climate Change; Biodiversity Business; and Sustainable Trade. ICRI should consider using these as forums to promote the ICRI coral reef conservation agenda (<http://www.iucn.org/amman/index.html>).

21.4. W. Brown (USA) informed that the US Coral Reef Task Force will meet in American Samoa 5, 7 August; all ICRI Members are invited to attend.

21.5. P. Reynolds (UNDP) reported that the Conference on all UNDP, UNEP and World Bank International Waters GEF projects will be held from 14-18 October in Budapest. He offered to carry ICRI Member messages to meeting.

21.6. P. Colin (France) noted that the next French Coral Reef Initiative (IFRECOR) meeting will be in Bora Bora in September (<http://www.environnement.gouv.fr/ifrecor>).

21.7. T. Camarena (Mexico) stated that the 1st National Coral Reef Congress will be held in Vera Cruz in September : <http://veracruz.infosel.com.mx/acuario>

21.8. C. Wilkinson (GCRMN) informed that 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.

22. Study on Good Practices for Coral Reef Management

F. Staub (ICRI Secretariat) presented a report on good practices in reef management (Document 5) which will be lodged on the ICRI web page. This study is based on a series of case studies.

G. Verbrugge asked all ICRI partners to send comments to validate the selection criteria of good practices.

Action 22 : ICRI Partners are requested to examine the draft report and send comments.

23. GCRMN and Reef Check

C. Wilkinson (GCRMN) reported encouraging progress for the GCRMN and Reef Check with most nodes funded and functioning (Document 10). Currently the global program is running in excess of USD1.5 million with support from the GEF (a grant just announced for Southern Indian Ocean Node of \$737K), France, Sweden, UK, USA and World Bank. The GCRMN has been endorsed by many international agencies and programs, with many calling for further support and monitoring. The major activity is preparation of the Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2000 report with approximately 50 national reports in final draft form and others anticipated. The report will be released in Bali and the GCRMN will seek assistance of ICRI partners to increase exposure of the report and findings.

C. Wilkinson specifically thanked the USA, via the Department of State and NOAA for strong financial support for global coordination. This stability in coordination funding is

now reflected in the significant progress in all regions. AIMS, the host institution was also thanked for providing strong financial and logistic support. The thanks to USA were also supported by N. Cyr (IOC/UNESCO), A. Nilsson (UNEP) and G. Verbrugge for the ICRI Secretariat. B. Yeager (USA) congratulated the GCRMN on progress and requested that the support for GCRMN be broadened to include other ICRI partners.

P. Reynolds reported on a successful visit in February to UNDP by C. Wilkinson and R. Kenchington with considerable enthusiasm by GEF project officers for GCRMN monitoring in tropical coastal projects. G. Verbrugge requested a listing on the financial support (direct and in-kind) for GCRMN activities to be presented to the next CPC meeting in October 2000. R. Kenchington reported on excellent national status reports presented in the Pacific Symposium 3 days earlier and recommended a workshop on monitoring methods for the Bali Symposium. P. Holthus (MAC) is working with GCRMN and Reef Check to develop monitoring of reef sites used for aquarium specimen collection and anticipates that this will provide sustainable funding for future monitoring of reefs. E. Gomez (GCRMN STAC) reported that the GCRMN is considered as a valuable component of Coastal GOOS and is further advanced than another ecosystem observing system.

C. Wilkinson proposed a motion that the GCRMN Management Group and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committees be formally recognised as sub-committees of ICRI and responsible to report to ICRI CPC meetings; seconded by N. Cyr (IOC/UNESCO); passed unanimously.

Action 23 : The GCRMN Coordinator is to prepare a listing of financial contributions for the GCRMN and present to the next CPC meeting in Bali, October 2000.

24. Seagrass Project and Mangroves

M. Spalding (WCMC) introduced a report on a Global Seagrass Initiative (Document 18) to produce maps and status reports on seagrass ecosystems as well as establishing a monitoring network with funding from the UK and UNEP with approaches being made to the Netherlands.

E. Gomez indicated that an existing seagrass network already exists and is publishing a manual of methods, edited by Fred Short of University of New Hampshire and Rob Coles, Primary Industry Department, Queensland. H. Kirkman notified that the International Seagrass Biology workshop will be held in Corsica in September 2000. C. Wilkinson reported that during recent meetings in UNDP and GEF, strong interest was expressed in having independent monitoring networks for seagrasses and mangroves, in parallel with the GCRMN.

25. Other business

J. Tanzer (Australia) presented Richard Kenchington, previous Chair of ICRI Secretariat (1997-98), with the Australia Medal, a prestigious award from the Australian Government for services to the environment, especially coral reefs throughout his 30 years career at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. ICRI CPC participants recognised this award with a standing ovation.

J. Baldwin (Australia) reported that the ITMEMS 98 Proceedings had been published and will be put on the ITMEMS component of the GBRMPA Home Page and reopened soon. This is to avoid the extra expenses required for printing and posting these large documents.

A press release presented by R. South and P. Skelton (Fiji) containing information from K. MacKay (Canadian CIDA) on the extensive bleaching in Fiji and elsewhere in April and May (Document 35) was adopted.

B. Salvat urged members to register for the 9th International Coral Reef Symposium in Bali and make reservations, preferably at Sheraton Hotel where the ICRI CPC meeting (28 - 29 October 2000) will be held.

26. Closing of Meeting

Farewell messages were given by B. Salvat, and G. Verbrugge on behalf of ICRI; by P. Joannot and P. Colin on behalf of the local and regional hosts; and by B. Yeager who thanked the organisers and hosts on behalf of the visiting participants.