

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

15 and 16 March, 1999

Paris, France

Monday 15 March 1999

10.30 – 12.30

1. Opening of meeting and apologies.

M. Garrigue-Guyonnaud, on behalf of the new ICRI Secretariat welcomed the participants and requested their advice to assist France with the task. He had recently undertaken meetings with the World Bank and the US State Department prior to the US Task Force meeting in Hawaii. Introduction of delegates (see delegates list).

2. The draft agenda (Appendix I) was adopted noting that the timing of items was only indicative.

3. Minutes of CPC Meetings, Townsville, 22 and 27 November 1998

The Co-Chairman (B. Salvat) requested confirmation of minutes, noting that requested reports are listed later in Agenda.

R. Kenchington announced that the “Renewed Call to Action” and “Priority Actions” adopted at ITMEMS, in November 1998 have been completed with a few editorial changes to put the documents into context with those of Dumaguete and for submission to the CSD meeting in New York in April. These are now at the printers. The second volume is in progress and will report the major workshop reports as they were presented to retain the original content. The Minutes from CPC Meetings, Townsville, 22 and 27 November 1998 were adopted.

4. ICRI-CPC Membership list, suggested changes and confirmation

Apologies and refusals were recorded from Canada, Denmark, European Union Commission, FAO, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, and UNDP. Philippines and Sweden were not represented by government representatives, however, Professors Edgardo Gomez and Olof Linden indicated that they could be observers for these governments respectively.

The donors who supported the following representatives were specifically thanked for their assistance:

Jamaica – supported by DFID, UK;

Mexico – supported by the World Bank;

Madagascar – supported by France;

GCRMN STAC Chairman – supported by Sida, Sweden;

SPREP – Supported by France, USA.

The membership of ICRI CPC has expanded to include several new agencies and countries at this meeting. It was recognised that the current balance between government representatives, international agencies, NGOs, and others was appropriate and should be retained and that membership should not be too formal, with the possibility of flexibility for specific meetings.

It was also noted that the CPC should not be too large to permit more efficient use of financial resources, and that the criteria for invitation to CPC meetings should be kept under review. However, those present at this meeting (e.g. CBD), should be requested to remain on the CPC list.

Two categories are not represented on CPC: Foundations and Regional Development Banks

Resolutions:

A. That CPC members are asked to assist in future meetings of the CPC by paying for the representation of developing countries.

B. That the UNEP RCUs or equivalent suggest to the ICRI Secretariat 1 or 2 countries from each region that may be invited to future CPC meetings.

- C. That representatives of ICRI CPC members are requested to continue promoting ICRI and its objectives.
- D. That regional development banks be invited to future CPC meetings as appropriate. M. Hatzios mentioned the Interamerican Bank and P. Garrigue-Guyonnaud suggested the Asian Development Bank. M. Hatzios, with the help of UNEP will coordinate and advise the ICRI Secretariat.
- E. That the ICRI Secretariat should consider inviting local NGOs to CPC meetings as observers in regions of future CPC meetings (S. Wells of WWF and others are to assist and advise the ICRI Secretariat)

5. CPC-ICRI Operational Units

5.1. GCRMN, including partnership with Reef Check (Reports by C. Wilkinson) Funding of GCRMN in Future

5.1.1. Presentation GCRMN and Reef Check: C. Wilkinson, Coordinator of the GCRMN presented the report (Appendix 2) and highlighted the major points including: publication of the 'Status of the Coral Reefs of the World: 1998'; the massive bleaching event of 1998; successful review for South Asia Node; the CORDIO project in the Indian Ocean with Sweden, Netherlands and World Bank; the training workshop in Vietnam; GCRMN and Reef Check cooperation; and the election of Edgardo Gomez as Chair of the STAC committee.

T. Done reported some confusion between the names and roles of GCRMN and Reef Check and requested that these be clarified for ICRI and the community. C. Wilkinson reported that the 3 levels: research, government (GCRMN) and community (Reef Check) are effectively independent and should retain their independence. GCRMN and Reef Check have formed a firm alliance and are cooperating fully. The research level is effectively represented by ISRS, with reporting of results facilitated directly to the CPC by the ISRS President. However, the meeting recommended that ICRI be represented in the names to reflect their affiliation under the umbrella of ICRI.

P. Bernal reported that IOC initiative with the diving community (World Wide Federation of Scuba Divers) to assist in conservation and data gathering. Initially on pilot basis with large numbers of divers for a long term monitoring under Coastal GOOS (informal and voluntary network).

Actions:

- A. The GCRMN should clarify names and roles of GCRMN and Reef Check and ensure both named under ICRI umbrella (C. Wilkinson).
- B. The GCRMN should clarify potential role of GCRMN in IOC volunteer diver initiative and report to next CPC (C. Wilkinson).

5.1.2. **GCRMN funding problems:** The CPC thanked the USA and Australia for providing funds and IOC and UNEP for coordination of funds for the GCRMN. A suggestion was made to fund coordination within budgets of regional monitoring projects, but several CPC members reported this as inappropriate for their funds. G. Verbrugge reported that the Secretariat had held meetings with the governments of Australia and USA seeking to solve funding problems.

P. Thomas reported that US State Dept funds would be put at the disposition of UNEP for ICRI and GCRMN related activities, including central coordination and monitoring within 4 regions. The CPC welcomed this statement and thanked the USA. Stop-gap funds are currently being transmitted to the GCRMN through IUCN in Washington.

R. Kenchington reported that Australia may fund some continuing activities if matching funds were provided, but suggested that mechanisms may be needed to compensate countries providing services for the global ICRI community e.g. the Australian contribution to GCRMN comes from the AIMS project administered by T. Done. Aid budgets cannot provide these services, but may be facilitated via contributions to international agencies (e.g. UNEP, IUCN, IOC, ICLARM). It was noted that the current mechanism via IOC is functioning efficiently. It is not possible for donors to finance global coordination from regional activities budgets (O. Linden). F. McDonald stressed this as a mechanism problem, not one of resources. Currently there is no single source of funds for GCRMN Coordination salary and expenses, therefore ICRI CPC resolved to further develop a multinational funding strategy.

Resolutions:

- A. Recognising the role performed for the international community by some agencies, a more stable and long-term funding mechanism must be found to support the coordination of the GCRMN (and other operating units) irrespective of their host location.
- B. In light of the announcement of funds from the USA and possibly other countries, the IOC, UNEP, IUCN and the World Bank should further elaborate financial and administrative mechanisms to facilitate rapid and efficient transfer of funds for GCRMN coordination.

5.2. Information Network – report and discussion (S. Colwell) Arrangements and Funding for Awareness Network

To complement the existing capacity in ICRI for creating public awareness, an International Coral Reef Information Network (ICRIN) was proposed. It would involve many ICRI members and is being coordinated by CORAL. There is no need to create new organisations as adequate existing networks and capacity available. What is required is minimal coordination of a mechanism to assemble and distribute materials within ICRI. The major questions are: what does ICRI want from an awareness network, who are target audience, how to fund the network?

Suggested framework for ICRIN is a:

- A. a reference and materials assembling centre;
- B. a communication network using the Internet and other mechanisms;
- C. a resource for identifying translators for major languages;
- D. a resource for identifying those who can 'translate' scientific information into material for the public; and
- E. an information source on financial support for underfunded public awareness programs.

Currently CORAL is involved in assembling awareness network within ICRAN proposal (6.4) and has a working list of 250 NGOs involved in coral reef activities and is also working with scuba divers and Dive Equipment and Marketing Association (DEMA). Awareness is needed on many levels. The ICRAN proposal focuses on two: global 'broadcasting' of well packaged media messages; and local level materials made for village distribution.

CORAL has registered www.coralreef.org. NOAA also has coral.list and hosts major home pages for coral reefs, including the GCRMN. CORAL is taking on the job now, as there is a 9-12 months lag phase is involved between planning for public awareness activities and execution.

Resolutions:

- That ICRI Secretariat define its role in information exchanges through a sub-committee (S.Colwell coordinating, with R. Kenchington, A. Nilsson, A. Paterson, A. Vanzella-Khoury, S.Wells, C. Wilkinson) to report to the next CPC meeting;
- that, based on a favourable assessment, ICRI create an information network (ICRIN) and that this should be based in the interim at CORAL;
- that CORAL scope the potential size of the project through the sub-committee;
- that CPC members and the ICRI Secretariat investigate mechanisms to fund salary, materials acquisition and expenses; and
- that strong links be developed between the ICRI awareness network and other operating units e.g. GCRMN.

5.3. Other Operational Units – capacity building, integrated coastal management, tourism (involving tourism in coral reef management - Report by R. Kenchington). Arrangements and possible funding

5.3.1. Training

P. Reynolds (UNDP) apologised for not attending CPC due to commitments with the April CSD meeting, but wants to work with ICRI. UNDP operates a train-the-trainer programme called Train Sea Coast based on determining what is required. This is a large network, but there are no specific programmes for coral reefs. Much of TSC funded through GEF projects e.g. coral reef training potential in GEF projects in Pacific, in Caribbean and with PERSGA, and these were considered as mechanisms to enhance ICRI training requirements (Capacity Building theme of Framework for Action).

Other programmes also developed such as UNEP East Asian Seas training packages, and these should be examined for possible integration (J. Tarbit). J. McManus reported that ICLARM interacts closely with the TSC programme of UNDP and has included TSC type training in the ICRAN proposal (6.4). I. Pranoto invited suggestions for integrating CBD into ICRI training and the meeting agreed there was scope to include coral reef training as part of the awareness raising role for CBD.

Resolutions:

- That ICRI should consider further the establishment of a training network and make this a point for discussion at the next CPC meeting;

- That ICRI investigate how to enhance coral reef training needs within Train Sea Coast programmes of UNDP and other organisations;
- In preparation for the report on training, CPC members are urged to provide the Secretariat with lists of coral reef training programmes and materials, including the UNEP and UNESCO training literature;
- UNEP and J. McManus to determine what programmes and materials are available within UNDP and report to the October CPC meeting

5.3.2. Tourism

The GBRMPA is currently preparing a report on tourism and coral reefs in conjunction with Green Globe and World Tourism Organisation and this will be reported at the next CPC meeting (R. Kenchington). UNESCO has also project to develop guidelines on ecotourism in the Pacific (P. Bernal), as are other organisations like WWF. Caution was urged as providing a label may endorse practices that may not be sustainable on coral reefs and there is often no follow up to determine whether good practices continue after labelling e.g. 'green washing, but dirty underneath'.

UNEP/Industry and Environment (Paris, G. Carbone) is undertaking 2 types of activities:

- good practices guidelines for tourist hotel management via industry associations achieving some success such promoting the adoption of a European Blue Flag system in the Pacific;
- voluntary interactions with the industry to initiate ecolabelling concepts (whilst not endorsing any of the 28 ecolabelling schemes currently underway). UNEP will compare the different schemes to determine most appropriate, and will include coral reefs in this comparison.

Voluntary compliance seen as the best method at the moment as involving government does not appear to be effective, particularly considering the fragmented nature of the industry (small boat operators to international hotel chains).

Different strategies will be required for each sector.

UNEP Caribbean (A. Vanzella-Khoury) has 3 year project on sustainable tourism, including training, with the production of a CD ROM, and manuals for hotel operators on Integrated Coastal Management. G. Verbrugge asked how tourism could assist in promoting the protection of coral reefs. UNEP/IE offered to assist thus ICRI will ask a greater cooperation with UNEP/IE. US Coral Reef Task Force is examining legal mechanisms of reducing dumping of ship wastes and removing ships abandoned on coral reefs; this is in parallel with GEF project on reducing wastes generated by shipping (P. Thomas).

Resolutions:

- That ICRI develop closer relations with the coral reef tourism organisations and private companies based on the common agendas of awareness raising, and stewardship of MPAs;
- that ICRI investigate the potential for funding some ICRI activities through the tourist industry; and
- that CPC members send information on tourism and related activities to the UNEP/IE in Paris for reporting to the next CPC meeting.

6. Funding of ICRI Activities

6.1. CPC International Secretariat (Secretariat)

The Secretariat has stressed the importance and objectives of ICRI at (1) UNEP General Assembly in Nairobi in February; and (2) at the intercessional meeting preparing the next CSD session in New York scheduled for April. An important theme in Nairobi was endorsement of the ICRAN (6.4) proposal between UNEP and ICLARM and adoption of a recommendation by Australia, France and the USA that the ICRAN proponents develop close ties with and operate under the ICRI umbrella. The CSD will stress two major themes 1) tourism and 2) Small Island Developing States, which are both pertinent to ICRI. CSD should endorse ICRI in Paragraph 16 of the Ocean Paper and endorse the 2003 Plan of Action such that all UN organisations will report on projects to the CSD. The CSD meeting programme is full and there is no specific opportunity for ICRI to present an individual display or event, however the opportunity exists to accentuate ICRI activities through national and agency representation. The USA (P. Thomas) congratulated France for initiatives since January 1st and confirmed the support of USA.

Resolutions:

- The meeting decided that the ICRI Secretariat should not develop an independent programme or event at the CSD meeting in New York in April;
- but instead CPC members are requested to ask their delegations to present ICRI objectives and the related materials and stress that delegations should support resolutions related to coral reefs at CSD.

The Secretariat reported that the workload in running the ICRI Secretariat was large and that it may secure the services of a NGO for the next 18 months to assist with ICRI administration. The Secretariat thanked those who had assisted with funding people to this meeting and requested that similar invitations be issued for the next meeting in October in Guadeloupe.

Resolutions:

- That CPC members examine ways of funding participation of developing countries at the next CPC meeting and those in the future; and
- CPC members are asked to report on progress of these efforts to the Secretariat.

6.2. ICRI CPC Members (Members)

Discussion of CPC membership was covered under Item 4 above. Reports by ICRI CPC members appear under Item 8 below.

6.3. Foundations (Report by S. Colwell)

S. Colwell of CORAL reported on Foundations. Over a dozen North American foundations are active in coral reef projects, but few have substantial programmes e.g. the Packard Foundation will give \$5 million per year in West Pacific for biodiversity conservation, including a strong emphasis on coral reefs of Philippines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Solomon Islands and Federated States of Micronesia. Most have strict guidelines and are difficult to access.

In general, the private foundations do not want to attend ICRI CPC meetings, but would like to be informed. The Total Foundation of Europe is active in coral reef diversity conservation.

Resolutions:

- That US and International Foundations be kept informed of ICRI and pertinent resolutions of CPC through the information network coordinated by S. Colwell;
- that the ICRI Secretariat maintain a watching brief on funding of coral reef projects to determine how foundation funds may be used to leverage others;
- that Foundations are asked to assist in funding appropriate projects and participate if they want to CPC meetings.

6.4. UN Foundation approaches, ICRAN (Report by ICLARM and UNEP)

6.4.1. ICRAN (International Coral Reef Action Network)

The ICRI CPC meeting congratulated UNEP and ICLARM on obtaining approximately \$1.5 million funds from the United Nations Foundation (D. Vene). The ICRAN proposal was catalysed through the ICRI process as is presented in the documentation submitted to the UNF, therefore it is welcome under the umbrella of ICRI. ICRAN provides an opportunity to strengthen the regional component of ICRI through the Regional Seas Programme. Under the UNF operating guidelines, funds can only be allocated to a UN agency, therefore UNEP is the primary coordinating agency, with ICLARM as the main implementing agency. Coordination with ICRI activities should occur because, in line with the UNEP Governing Council resolutions of February 1999, UNEP is responsible for initiating and maintaining stronger links with the ICRI Secretariat and CPC and for strengthening the regional capacity to address coral reefs and related ecosystems.

J. McManus reported that the initial proposal intended funding coordination and activities of ICRI Secretariat, GCRMN and Reef Check, but the proposal was trimmed to 1 year start up funds to develop a larger proposal, with start of April or May. McManus stated that he would welcome ICRI assistance in the development of a strong proposal that must compete with many others to progress to the next round. UNEP and ICLARM must develop a complete new proposal by November. A clear UNF instruction was to enhance UNEP Regional Seas Programme. ICRI CPC noted that it should have a significant role in coordinating with UNEP to develop a robust proposal.

Current ICRAN proposal is for pilot projects in Eastern Africa, East Asian Seas and the Caribbean and funding for next 3 years will depend on success of these. Pilot projects will include preparing better maps of reefs through WCMC, and updating the Reefs at Risk analysis of South East Asia. Pilot projects to be used as instructional tools. This will need input from GCRMN, CORAL and ICRI Secretariat for success.

P. Thomas suggested 3 specific proposals:

- 1) As preamble lists ICRI objectives and goals, it would seem appropriate to have an ICRI advisory body formed to assist in implementation of ICRAN;
- 2) UNF requires that there be counterpart funding from countries or agencies in parallel with UNF funding. Question to resolve is how funds provided for ICRAN and other ICRI activities (e.g. from US Government) relate to UNF counterpart basket requirements.
- 3) Future decisions on the substance of the larger proposal to be submitted in November 1999.

R. Kenchington suggested that ICRAN was clearly an ICRI related activity, and that ICRAN should seek advice from ICRI CPC mechanism, while ensuring that this does not disrupt the funding requirements of UNF. From Australian perspective, UNEP has to expand its role in coordination of coral reef activities at global scale, and that regional seas units should implement activities in the field following requests from individual countries. This is the vision of ICRI; to devolve activities to the regions with UNEP Governing Council assisting in finding funds. There is a need to assess UNEP experience with objective of improving capacity in the future. ICRI may assist by forming an informal umbrella committee.

Resolutions:

- That the ICRI Secretariat collaborate with UNEP to develop a mechanism to provide ICRI assistance and advice throughout the ICRAN project in line with UNEP Governing Council resolutions, and especially for developing a strong, endorsed proposal for larger, long term funding;
- That this mechanism is likely to be an informal advisory body (3 to 5 people);
- That this mechanism be the conduit to channel information on ICRAN into the ICRI Secretariat and CPC.

6.4.2. UNEP

UNEP (J. Illueca) has two divisions specifically involved in ICRI activities: the Division of Conventions; and Division of Assessment. 'Conventions' division specifically interacts with global conventions (Jakarta Mandate on Biodiversity and Climate Change, especially as it relates to Sea Level Rise) and administer the 14 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, of which 7 relate to countries and seas with coral reefs (Carthegena, Nairobi, Kuwait etc.). The next Regional Seas meeting (The Hague 5 to 9 July) will focus on land based sources of pollution and the ICRI secretariat will be invited to this meeting discussion as it relates to coral reefs.

The 'Assessment' Division specifically relates to the role that UNEP can play in enhancing coral reef monitoring. This Division will interact with ICRI, specifically for the functions of ICRI Monitoring and the GCRMN.

UNEP supports ICRI and wishes to develop stronger collaborations on coral reef activities, especially in implementing the ICRAN proposal and developing a strong one for possibly future funding. M. Garrigue-Guyonnaud stated that CPC agrees with closer collaboration and endorsed the suggestion of a joint advisory group to link ICRAN to the ICRI network.

Resolutions:

- that ICRI CPC reaffirms the crucial importance of strengthening regional capacity and partnership for the management of coral reefs and related ecosystems;
- that ICRI CPC welcomes the renewed commitment of UNEP to the Regional Seas Programme and Conventions and asks that these be further strengthened within UNEP;
- that ICRI CPC requests the UNEP Executive Director to recognise the importance of the RSP as a framework for implementing coral reef assessment activities when allocating resources;
- that ICRI CPC also requests the UNEP Executive Director urges partners to enhance the capacity of the tropical Regional Seas Programmes and Units to promote coordination, information and leadership in implementing the regional action strategies of ICRI;
- that ICRI CPC members are requested to assist UNEP by maintaining an efficient flow of information to both headquarters and to the regional units.

7. Survey of multilateral and bilateral funded projects (Report by Arthur Paterson and delegates)

A. Paterson presented a report on a database to list projects that agencies are undertaking or planning for coral reefs. He reported that slow progress was being made in entering information on US projects and activities and that finalisation under the US Coral Reef Task Force will take another 3 months. A request was made to CPC members to provide this information to produce the first global report of the 'what, where, who and how much' of coral reef activities. This will be on the Internet and searchable under keywords. This information will be useful to identify counterpart funding for applications, such as that for the UN Foundation.

J. Tarbit recommended a very simple approach, similar to the Fish Projects Information System of FAO. Others suggested that there are existing databases (e.g. ReefBase) and what was often needed was a directory of databases and links to the sources of information. A. Hooten indicated that within the World Bank, there is a small project to develop a relational database listing pertinent material on coral reefs. This 'shopping mall' approach would direct an interested reader to all valid sources of information on the Internet. Other suggestions were link database information onto map for easy scanning. This was accepted as a project for ReefBase and the WCMC.

Resolutions:

- _ that CPC members provide NOAA with a set of essential questions to add to database to keep it small and provide links;
- _ that NOAA and the World Bank coordinate sub-committee (A. Paterson chair, with S. Colwell, A. Hooten, J. McManus, S. Wells, J. Tarbit ??) to examine database mechanisms, Internet links;
- _ this sub-committee should investigate a map based database;
- _ the sub-committee should also advise on how to coordinate the listing of ICRI material on the Internet;
- _ in order to prepare a database about the projects funded, the following were requested to assist:
 - The World Bank to contact the other developmental banks;
 - France to contact other European donors;
 - USA to contact other countries.

8 - Focal points for ICRI (GCRMN and other operational units)

8.1. International, Regional and national (Synopsis of reports by countries and agencies)

8.1.1. SPREP

J. Aston presented a summary of SPREP activities highlighting interactions with the 26 member states (22 developing countries and 4 others). There was high political support for coral reef conservation, particularly following the successful Pacific Year of the Coral Reef in 1997. SPREP has been particularly active in assisting ICRI Monitoring, by conducting many GCRMN training workshops and recently 46 people have been trained in 6 villages in Samoa to monitor reefs using GCRMN methods with funding from the USA. ICM projects are underway in Kosrae, Tuvalu and Vanuatu and in future there will be increased emphasis on ecotourism, and problem resolution clinics with awareness raising in local languages being the best mechanism.

8.1.2. UNEP RCUs

EAS – H. Kirkman

The Unit has just laid the groundwork for the GCRMN/Reef Check training workshop in Vietnam for Cambodia, China and Myanmar using funds from Japan. Major future activity is preparation for a GEF project on trans-boundary problems in the South China Sea (\$ 3 to 4 million with 15% on coral reefs). The major pollution programme of UNEP (GPA) has been endorsed by COBSEA and will be implemented within regional action plans.

CEP Caribbean – A. Vanzella-Khoury

The Unit coordinates 36 states and territories with MPAs as the major theme and awareness of ICRI is high in the region. They will assist in the ICRAN proposal as a pilot region. They wish to accentuate ICRI Monitoring in the region and the major CARICOMP database is also hosted in Jamaica. The Unit will assist in forming GCRMN Nodes throughout the region, but under current definitions of their range, they do not include Brazil, which has indicated a strong wish to join ICRI Monitoring. Pacific coast countries of Meso-America, are now being accommodated by new UNEP initiatives. The region is particularly large and communication and coordination is difficult. CEP is also working with the diving community and will hold a regional workshop in late 1999 in conjunction with CANARI (a regional NGO).

C. Wilkinson reported that the wider Caribbean is comparable in size to Indo West Pacific region in terms of the states and territories. CARICOMP had expressed a strong willingness to assist as a coordinating node of the GCRMN, but there were many countries and states outside their network that have expressed an interest in participating in GCRMN monitoring. Therefore mechanisms should be developed to advance reef monitoring under ICRI for this region.

East Africa – A. Nilsson

They have produced a set of rapid assessment methods for coral reefs, including socio-economic parameters, and are active with government (KMFRI and KWS of Kenya, and IMS of Tanzania) and non-government organisations (WWF, IUCN) in coral reef projects, particularly for Integrated Coastal Management.

It was noted that the Indian Ocean Islands have not been included in recent reporting and M. Garrigue-Guyonnaud requested that they be approached to include material for future reporting.

SACEP -

Unfortunately, no representative from SACEP approached DFID UK for assistance to attend the CPC meeting. J. Tarbit reported that the initial stages of the GCRMN South Asia Node has been particularly successful, largely due to the efforts of Jason Rubens. The GCRMN is operating on a 3 month funding extension to prepare a proposal for longer funding. It is anticipated that funding for a continuation phase of 3 years will be announced by the Deputy Prime Minister of UK, who was visiting Maldives at the time of the meeting. CPC members thanked the UK for their contribution to the GCRMN and also thanked IOC/UNESCO for considerable assistance in administering the project.

Resolutions:

- That the UNEP and ICRI should develop mechanisms to involve countries outside RCU into ICRI e.g. Brazil
- That the Indian Ocean Commission should send reports on their activities to be included as part of RCU EAF/WIO reporting to ICRI.
- That GCRMN coordination should be strengthened in the Wider Caribbean Region through the offices of CEP in Jamaica; and
- that donors with interests in the region (e.g. France, UK, USA, World Bank) should be approached to assist in funding groups of compatible states and territories.

8.1.3. UN Agencies

UNDP

Apologies were received from P. Reynolds (see 5.3.1 above).

CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity – I. Pranoto)

The task is to implement the Jakarta Mandate in which coral reefs are a significant component of important biodiversity. The Secretariat of CBD requested ICRI assistance during the preparation for the 5th convention of parties meeting (January 2000). Assistance was also requested from ICRI for an analysis of the recent coral bleaching event and asked ICRI for assistance in the preparation of the background document for the meeting. The CBD also expressed the willingness to assist the ISRS in facilitating the preparation for the International Coral Reef Symposium in Indonesia in 2000.

FAO

CPC delegates expressed disappointment that FAO was unable to attend the CPC meeting given importance of coral reef fisheries in many developing countries and that many Small Island Developing States have asked FAO for assistance on developing sustainable fisheries on their coral reefs. J Tarbit reported that at the recent Committee on Fisheries meeting in Rome, participants drew attention to the overexploitation of coral reefs fisheries resources as an important element in degradation of reef environments and noted the urgent and critical need to propose sustainable fisheries management in coral reef environments. In line with the code of conduct for responsible fisheries, the ICRI CPC urged UN organisations and programmes to address this as a matter of priority, and also called on the ISRS for scientific advice.

Resolutions:

In light of the renewed ICRI Call for Action which highlights the crucial importance of sustainable fisheries, fisheries replenishment areas in coral reefs where fisheries are often the major resource of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), ICRI CPC:

- regretted that FAO was not able to attend and expressed the hope that FAO will work with ICRI in the immediate future;
- requested that FAO enhance its programme related to reef fisheries within the Code of Conduct;
- requested that member UN agencies develop stronger coordination on sustainable fishery practices e.g. UNEP GC/20 decision;
- requests that CPC members work together in these UN fora and their regional bodies to address sustainable fisheries practices, including effectively banning cyanide use, and increasing and enforcing no take areas.

8.1.4. World Bank (M. Hatzios)

Since 1994, the Bank has spent \$174 million on coral reef associated projects with COREMAP in Indonesia being the largest (contribution of \$40 million of \$80 million). The Bank is very active in developing global assessment methods and protocols, and work is still in progress. The Bank is forming a scientific panel in association with UNEP as a 5 to 10 year project (\$ 5 to 10 million) to determine the most appropriate mechanisms to assess reefs and wishes to involve the GCRMN

in this process. The major current activity is a rapid response to the massive bleaching in the Indian Ocean in association with the Netherlands and Sweden.

8.1.5. International NGOs etc.

IUCN (C. de Fontaubert)

It was reported that coral reef matters had been downgraded within the international network of IUCN with the closure of the Marine and Coastal Area Programme in Gland, Switzerland. Coral reef activities are, however, underway in many of the regional offices of IUCN and the Washington office has effectively taken over coordination of coral reef matters and interactions with ICRI and GCRMN. To this moment, the IUCN marine and coastal program not yet reopened

Resolutions:

- the ICRI CPC expressed regret that the coordination functions of the marine and coastal programme of IUCN international, specifically those pertaining to coral reefs, has been suspended;
- that the ICRI CPC Secretariat invite the new IUCN Director General to next CPC meeting in October;
- that ICRI CPC members encourage IUCN to re-establish a marine programme with a coral reef component and strengthen the focus on coral reefs throughout the IUCN.

WWF (S. Wells)

There is considerable focus on marine conservation, with many coral reef projects which are designed to maximise use of small budgets. Emphasis is on strengthening 40 to 50 Marine Protected Areas with coral reefs through education and developing management plans and slowing the use of cyanide and blast fishing. WWF works with IUCN on marine policy and is active in protecting endangered reef species through TRAFFIC and CITES. WWF is also developing a network on tourism (e.g. best management practices for divers) and suggests that ICRI develop stronger communication with the secretariat of the RAMSAR convention, particularly those parts pertinent to coral reefs

ISRS (T. Done)

The ICRI Secretariat welcomed the International Society for Reef Studies to the CPC. ISRS is a widely representative coral reef science organisation with over 750 members. The next major task is to assist the Government of Indonesia prepare for the next International Coral Reef Symposium in Indonesia, in October 2000. Following an offer from the CBD to assist, T. Done will provide copies of the MOU and related correspondence between ISRS and the Indonesian authorities. CPC members requested scientific advice from the ISRS on mechanisms to manage coral reef fisheries sustainably. It was noted that this was the topic of a SCOR/ICES 'Effects of Fishing on Ecosystems' meeting in Montpellier, March 1999.

Resolutions:

- ISRS and ICRI will consult on how to assist in the organisation of the Indonesia 2000 meeting to improve organisation and increase the exposure of ICRI at the meeting;
- That the CBD would advise ISRS and ICRI on the nature of the support that can be offered;
- ICRI CPC requested that the ISRS take a stronger lead position on fisheries on coral reefs, and consider preparing discussion papers from within its membership on developing sustainable reef fisheries; and
- that J. McManus report to the next meeting CPC on the SCOR/ICES Effects of Fishing on Ecosystems meeting in Montpellier.

The Ramsar and World Heritage Conventions (S. Wells)

This convention presents an opportunity to promote ICRI objectives and the RAMSAR Bureau is anxious to increase coral reef representation on the list of internationally important wetlands. The next CoP for RAMSAR is in Costa Rica, May 1999 and WWF and others partners will make representations for greater attention be paid to coral reefs.

The World Heritage Convention also presents an opportunity to further the objectives of ICRI and the World Heritage Secretariat have prepared a report listing reef sites with strong potential for nomination.

Resolutions:

- That the ICRI Secretariat provide copies of the Renewed Call for Action at the Costa Rica meeting and call for greater attention of coral reef sites;
- That ICRI prepare guidelines and recommendations on coral reef ecosystem restoration for presentation at the RAMSAR CoP meeting in Costa Rica, May 1999 (P. Thomas & D. Vene to coordinate);
- That the ICRI Secretariat establish contact with the World Heritage Secretariat and keep them informed of ICRI activities and objectives

DIVERSITAS (C. Skule-Adam)

DIVERSITAS has been requested to provide information on ecosystem restoration and they also are developing active coral reef programs using funds provided by the TOTAL Foundation. A coral reef biodiversity project has been developed within DIVERSITAS by T. Done and J. Ogden and funded through TOTAL Foundation.

8.1.6. Country Reports

Madagascar (Haja Razafindrainibe)

There are 2 main coral reef programmes: the marine and coastal component of the national environmental plan; and the national part of the regional environment program from the Indian Ocean Commission mainly focused on coastal environment and coral reefs. Madagascar has established a very active monitoring programme with 6 national sites and other pilot studies as part of the monitoring network of the Indian Ocean commission, the GCRMN node for Indian Ocean. These were established with meagre financial resources from the European Union and it is hoped that sustainability will be ensured with Madagascan government support in the future.

US Task Force and Trade in endangered species, corals etc.

P. Thomas reported on activities of the US Coral Reef Task Force, a government, state and NGO partnership. The first meeting was in October 1998 in Florida and 5 committees were developed to determine what the US was doing for coral reefs under its control and prepare proposals to improve coral reef management. The second meeting reported in March in Hawaii on success of the working groups: improved mapping of reefs under US jurisdiction; strengthening of the network of MPAs; development of emergency responses e.g to oil spills, ship wrecks etc.; formation of a US Coral Reef Initiative committee; and improved material on the Internet.

Discussion on the trade in marine products, sustainable fishing practices, ecolabelling and other certification

Action:

- report to be presented on trade and means of regulations and sustainable management of coral reefs to next CPC ; coordinated by: S. Wells, C. de Fontaubert, E. Gomez, J. Tarbit (delegate) and P. Thomas.
- Marine Aquarium Council to be invited to the next CPC meeting.

Japan (N. Nakajima)

Japan has experienced massive coral bleaching in the second half of 1998. A major programme of assessment has been undertaken to assess the extent of the damage and measure recruitment in the future. A major ICRI initiative has been supporting the development of a socio-economic manual for the GCRMN and funding of the current training workshop in Vietnam for Cambodia, China, Myanmar and Vietnam.

Mexico (D. Gutierrez)

The Mexican and ICRI agendas for coral reefs conservation are directly parallel. Mexico has recently created a national Coral Reef Initiative committee and is now in the process of the compilation of all information and data on Mexican coral reefs and associated activities. The Committee contains representation of all major educational and management groups associated with reefs. The next major task is to review all legislation associated with reefs.

UK (J. Tarbit)

ICRI is supported by the UK Foreign Office, which promotes ICRI in international fora. The major operational arm is through DFID, which is now organising and funding a meeting on biodiversity in Caribbean. In the 1980s, only \$0.5 million was spent of coral reef activities, whereas in the 1990s this amounts to \$20 million. There is, however, no national committee on coral reefs. The Department of Environment has an initiative program to designate a number of sites as RAMSAR sites, especially Chagos (already designated) and they are developing a strategy for overseas territories, mainly focused on diminution of poverty. UK will continue to fund the GCRMN network in SW Asia, with a new focus on assessing socio-economic values and in developing ways of improving the livelihood or local reef users. DFID has just granted 600,000 pounds for ICLARM work on sustainable fisheries in the Caribbean. J. Tarbit thanked IOC for their assistance in managing the GCRMN South Asia project.

Sweden (O. Linden)

Sida confirms its support for ICRI allocated the funds for the ICRI Secretariat are to be used to obtain better representation at CPC meetings of developed countries. Sida is supporting development of the GCRMN in East Africa and is currently producing CD ROMs on the environment in the Indian Ocean on corals, mangroves etc. This information will also be available on an Internet WEB site

France (D. Vene, B. Salvat)

France announced the creation of the French Coral Reef Initiative and formation of a national committee. The main tasks will be: to elaborate and implement a strategy and action plan for the overseas departments and territories; to prepare State of Coral Reefs reports in French overseas departments and territories and produce these in French and English; to propose coral reefs to be designated as RAMSAR sites; to fund 2 projects on corals reefs under 'French GEF' funds, one in the lesser Antilles another in Mayotte (another in the Seychelles is under discussion).

8.2. Focal Points for ICRI (and GCRMN and other operational units)

At the present moment, the following countries have national coral reef committees:

- USA, Mexico, Jamaica and France

The following countries have national coral reef monitoring systems:

Colombia, Madagascar, Australia and others are possible and should be determined through the GCRMN and ICRI process.

The following countries have national coral reef scientific associations:

- Australia, France, Japan, Indonesia and Taiwan.

ICRI needs to establish a listing of country focal points (active ones as opposed to 'sleeping' contacts), which should also include the specific contact points for ICRI Monitoring (GCRMN/Reef Check) and the ICRIN information network.

This list must clearly clarify those actual official points of contact versus de facto, non official contacts which may prove to be more actively involved. Currently several ICRI partners have contact point listings : GCRMN/Reef Check; IOC/UNESCO; Governments; the World Bank; and NGOs like IUCN and WWF.

Resolution:

CPC members are requested to send their lists of focal points to the ICRI Secretariat, specifically designating one responsible person in each organisation.

8.3. Linked activities and Mechanisms

UNEP:

J. Illueca of UNEP gave an explanation of how the Regional Seas network could assist in implementing ICRI objectives. Currently the GCRMN is a top priority activity and UNEP considers that it can coordinate and improve information flows at the regional seas level. The first need is to determine what information is required within the regions and then develop mechanisms to assemble and distribute that information. Therefore UNEP is positioned to undertake the role of a 'clearing house' on the GPA and on other conventions and can link with ICRI to prepare listings by region of projects currently underway. The ICRI CPC welcomed this potential 'clearing house' role.

This mechanism would share experiences of success and failures; consider a mechanism for better synergy among the Regional seas programmes and strengthen cooperation between the Regional Seas convention (Barcelona, Carthage, Nairobi etc.). The next major opportunity will be at the Nairobi 2000 meeting and efforts should be made to strengthen the support from UNEP to the main conventions: (1) Land Management, (2) Integrated Coastal Management (3) Water Management.

R. Kenchington welcomed renewed enthusiasm in UNEP for the Regional Seas network and recognised a need for very practical levels of contacts for these exchanges between regional coordinators.

Resolutions:

- ICRI CPC requested that UNEP strengthen cooperation amongst the Regional Seas units for better sharing of information and lessons;
- ICRI CPC members urged to stress to UNEP the importance of the Regional Seas networks as a priority mechanism to carry out ICRI objectives and ask UNEP to strengthen these networks.

Indian Ocean and the 1998 Bleaching Event

O. Linden outlined the CORDIO (COral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean) which was assembled rapidly by Sweden, the Netherlands and the World Bank in response to the massive coral bleaching and mortality in 1998. The project has 5 themes: assessment of the damage; measurement of the recruitment and recovery; determination whether rehabilitation methods are applicable; economic assessment of the short and long-term consequences; and providing alternative

livelihoods for the affected peoples. SACEP will be provided with funds from the project, as will countries of Eastern Africa for reef monitoring. Other delegates asked to be informed to increase coordination: I. Pranoto for the CBD; A. Paterson for USAid projects on Indian Ocean islands; UNEP for all activities in the region. CORDIO will hold another workshop within 6 months to assess progress, prepare status reports, and decide on future activities.

P. Thomas congratulated the agencies in being able to make such a rapid response and drew attention to the workshop on remote sensing possibilities of detecting bleaching to be held in Hawaii, June 1999.

Resolutions:

- GCRMN was requested to link its monitoring capacity with Indian Ocean projects (especially CORDIO) to strengthen monitoring and to develop a node structure that will ensure continuity;
- CORDIO (Sweden) was requested to exchange pertinent information on the CORDIO project with ICRI and the GCRMN, and insure that this is also given to CORDIO coordinators.

Caribbean

The GCRMN was requested to make ICRI Monitoring available to all projects within the region and strengthen links to UNEP and other agencies. Where possible, existing coordination structures should be retained and used for development of the GCRMN. A. Vanzella-Khouri reported that monitoring was a specific case with CARICOMP already monitoring using a series of methods and there is a need to develop strong coordination mechanisms with this existing body and ensure all data end up in ReefBase.

Severe bleaching was also reported in many parts of the Caribbean during 1997-98. Monitoring will be necessary to assess the extent of the damage and measure the rate of recovery. D. Vene suggested invigorating the Association of American States to cooperate with UNEP to advance monitoring of the post-bleaching events.

9 - ICRI-CPC information networks

10 - Up coming meetings

The following meetings of interest to ICRI were reported:

- 14 to 16 April 1999, Scientific Aspects of Coral Reef Assessment, Monitoring and Restoration, Ft Lauderdale, Florida co-hosted by NOAA (contact C. Wilkinson);
- 28 June to 9 July 1999, IOC General Assembly, Paris, France with a presentation on coral reefs by GCRMN (contact G. Grice and N. Cyr);
- 4 to 9 July 1999, Pacific Science Association Sydney Australia with a special session on coral reefs chaired by C. Birkeland (contact B. Salvat);
- 3 to 5 August 1999, Science and Technical Advisory committee on the protocol for Biodiversity, Havana Cuba (contact A. Vanzella-Khouri);
- 18 to 22 October 1999, 4th International Symposium on the Marine Biology of the South China Sea, Manila, Philippines (contact E. Gomez);
- 28 and 29 October, 1999, ICRI CPC meeting in Guadeloupe (contact Secretariat);
- November 1999, Workshop on extent and effects of coral bleaching in the Arabian Region in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia hosted by National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (NCWCD) in conjunction with ROPME and PERSGA (contact F. Krupp);
- 5th meeting of the subsidiary body on the scientific, technical and technological advice (STAC) of the convention of the biological Diversity January 2000, Montreal, Canada, followed by another CBD meeting in Nairobi in May (contact I. Pranoto)
- 3 meetings will be held in April-May 2000 in Noumea, New Caledonia: a) ICRI CPC meeting; b) France – Australia regional symposium and cooperative project meeting in conjunction with SPREP; c) SPREP – Climate Change in the Pacific meeting (possibly in New Caledonia); (contact M. Garrigue-Guyonnaud);
- 9th International Coral Reef Symposium Indonesia (Bali) 2000 and 4th ICRI CPC meeting and transfer of Secretariat to another country: ISRS and ICRI to establish contacts and conduct dialogue on how to further ICRI in program. Consider mechanisms to provide financial and technical support for Bali program development. (contact T. Done);
- World Conservation Conference of IUCN assembling over 700 organisations, October 2000, Jordan (contact C. de Fontaubert);
- Fifth meeting of the conference of the parties to the Convention of the Biological Diversity.

ICRI CPC members are encouraged to notify Secretariat of forthcoming meetings for listing on ICRI Home Page.

11 - Other reports

12 - Status, priority of actions CPC secretariat and members ; next CPC meeting

- _ Next CPC meeting : 28 and 29 October, Guadeloupe
Chance to formulate symposia for Indonesia (Bali) 2000
- _ April-May 2000 CPC meeting in New Caledonia as part of a common project French/Australia under the auspices of SPREP

13 - Any other business

14 - Close of the meeting

M. Sylvestre (Secretariat General of the Sea) representing the Prime Minister thanked CPC participants for their efforts and wished them every success, while emphasising that they had the support of the Government of France.

M. Garrigue-Guyonnaud, also thanked delegates and suggested that ICRI must always retain its flexibility – ‘a soft instrument’ and this will increase the credibility with experts and diplomats. ICRI must continue with the process of regionalisation and the mechanism offered by UNEP with its regional seas programme offers the best way of achieving this. Thus France in line with this policy will hold the next two ICRI CPC meetings in the regions: Guadeloupe in October 1999 and New Caledonia in April-May 2000. He hoped to have the pleasure of meeting delegates again at these meetings and closed the meeting at 17.15 on Tuesday, 16th March 1999.

Participants ICRI-CPC 15-16 March 1999, Paris

Name/Surname	Country	Organisation
Adam Colleen Skule	France	Diversitas
Aston James	Samoa	SPREP
Carbone Giulia	France	UNEP
Colwell Stephen	USA	CORAL
Done Terence	Australie	ISRS
Fontaubert Charlotte de	USA	IUCN
Gomez Eduardo	Philippines	
Grice George	France	IOC
Bernal Patricio		
Gutierrez David	Mexico	
Hatzios Marea	USA	WORLD BANK
Hooten A.	USA	
ILLUECA Jorge E.	Kenya	
Kenchington Richard	Australia	
Kirkman Hugh	Thailand	RCU
Linden Olof	Sweden	
McDonald Franklin	Jamaica	
McManus John	Philippines	ICLARM
Nakajima Naoka	Japan	
Nilsson Agneta	Kenya	UNEP/Water Branch
Paterson Arthur	USA	NOAA
Pranoto Ina	Canada	CBD
Razafindrainibe Haja	Madagascar	
Tarbit John	United Kindom	
Thomas Peter	USA	
Vanzella- Khouri Alessandra	Jamaica	RCU
Wells Susan	Switzerland	WWF
Wilkinson Clive	Australia	GCRMN

Gabrié Catherine	France	Consultante
Salvat Bernard	France	EPHE
Vène Denis	France	MATE
Verbrugge Geneviève	France	MATE
Garrigue-Guyonnaud Pierre	France	Ambassadeur Secrétaire Permanent pour le Pacifique
Bodin Jean-Luc	France	Adjoint au Secrétaire Permanent pour le Pacifique
Roncière Paul	France	Secrétaire Général de la mer auprès du Premier Ministre
Colin Pascal	France	Secrétariat aux DOM-TOM
Aveline Christiane	France	MAE
Maroger Dominique	France	MAE
Massin Jean-Marie	France	MATE