

ICRI Resolution on Small Island Developing States and Coral Reefs

*Adopted during the ICRI Coordination and Planning Committee (CPC) Meeting
17-19 November 2003, Turks and Caicos Islands*

1. Recognizing the historic role of Small Island Developing States in ICRI and the particular sensitivity of the environment of Small Island Developing States and the link between sustainable development, poverty alleviation and coral reefs, ICRI calls upon the Small Island Developing States:
 - (i) to reaffirm their participation in the deliberations and activities of ICRI and its operational network and partners;
 - (ii) to endorse and implement the ICRI Call to Action, the Renewed Call to Action and the Framework for Action;
 - (iii) to endorse and implement relevant international agreements, in particular Decision VI/3 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

2. Reaffirming the need to reverse the decline in coral reefs in island regions, ICRI calls upon the Small Island Developing States to address as a priority:
 - (i) the impacts of coastal development on coral reefs;
 - (ii) the impacts of coastal tourism on coral reefs;
 - (iii) the impacts of reef fisheries on the health of coral reefs;
 - (iv) the impacts of land-based and marine-based sources of pollution on coral reefs;
 - (v) the unreported and illegal trade in coral reef and associated species.

3. In cooperation with other states, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and donors, ICRI calls upon the Small Island Developing States:
 - (i) to promote at national level integrated policies and approaches for integrated watershed, coastal and marine ecosystem management, with increased involvement of the community and the private sector, drawing lessons from, e.g. the WW2BW Initiative;
 - (ii) to develop national capacity to monitor, conserve and sustainably manage coral reefs and associated ecosystems;
 - (iii) to improve the knowledge on the present and future state of coral reefs and associated ecosystems;
 - (iv) recognizing the interconnectedness of coral reefs, to create representative networks of marine protected areas for the conservation and management of coral reef areas and in order to maintain healthy populations of reef associated organisms;
 - (v) to address the recovery of damaged and bleached coral reef communities;
 - (vi) to support and actively participate in regional efforts as useful mechanisms for addressing coral reef issues through regional cooperation, such as the regional seas conventions & programmes.

4. ICRI calls upon the international community, including the private sector:

- (i) to support tangible national and regional efforts, e.g. Regional Seas Programmes, regional monitoring efforts such as CARICOMP, CORDIO, and SPREP Programmes, aimed at establishing and coordinating assessment, monitoring and research focused on coral reefs, associated ecosystems and the impacts of human activities;
- (ii) to support the work of ICRAN and replenishment of the Coral Reef Fund;
- (iii) to support the development and strengthening of regional and national marine protected area networks, including efforts by government and NGO partnerships;
- (iv) to promote and support current monitoring networks, which provide input into global networks such as GCRMN and Reef Check;
- (v) to support the development of national and regional capacity for the research and monitoring of reef status and change, as well as data management, such as the ReefBase Programme.