

Resolution on sustainable fisheries and Food security

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

Recognising that coral reef and other coastal fisheries are being depleted at an alarming rate;

Recognising further that such fisheries are critically important for the food security of many tropical coastal nations around the world, especially Small Island Developing States, with severe implications for vulnerable coastal communities;

Noting that there are few effective management guidelines for such fisheries available to advise and assist the governments and communities in tropical coastal countries. There are extensive studies on some aspects of these coastal fisheries in some institutions but more work is needed to develop sustainable management practices to ensure future food security in such countries;

Noting further that Iceland will host a Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) fisheries meeting in late 2001 on 'ecosystems and fisheries' to discuss sustainable fisheries;

Noting further that the FAO 'Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries' provides an excellent conceptual and institutional foundation for promoting the special needs of coral reef ecosystems and fisheries;

Recalling that the Renewed Call to Action of ICRI, at ITMEMS 1998, identified the importance of healthy coral reefs to the food and resource security of communities of small islands and coastal areas of tropical developing countries;

Recalling further that many governments have requested assistance from the United Nations and other Agencies for the development of sustainable tropical coastal fisheries;

The International Coral Reef Initiative Coordinating and Planning Committee:

Warmly welcomes the FAO as an active member of the ICRI CPC and encourages the FAO to link with ICRI partners and other agencies such as the International Marinelife Alliance in a coordinated programme to research and develop sustainable management practices for tropical coastal fisheries to ensure food and resource security for fisher communities in association with the governments and communities of affected countries;

Requests that the latest information on sustainable management of tropical coastal fisheries be made available to the governments at all levels and communities concerned;

Calls upon ICRI Partners to recognise the urgency of this need and where possible provide assistance to the relevant implementing agencies and organisations to develop such sustainable fisheries management practices in coral reefs and related ecosystems;

Calls on ICRI Partners to participate in and where possible support the participation or representatives from developing countries in the meeting in Iceland later in 2001.