

## **Resolution to update the 2005 ICRI resolution on artificial coral reef restoration and rehabilitation**

*adopted on December 2019, at the 34<sup>th</sup> ICRI General Meeting (Australia)*

**Acknowledging** that coral reefs have a vital role providing food security, livelihoods and coastal protection for millions of people in the tropics and that they are now one of the most threatened ecosystems on the planet as a result of both climate change and local anthropogenic pressures;

**Noting** the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate which was accepted by the IPCC in September 2019

**Recalling** the 2001 ICRI Decision on Reef Restoration, which called for the urgent development and publication of a handbook (or guidelines) on reef restoration and enhancement techniques;

**Recalling** also the 2005 ICRI Resolution on Artificial Coral Reef Restoration and Rehabilitation, which acknowledged that there is often an urgent need to restore and rehabilitate coral reefs and associated ecosystems following major damage, but raised concerns about the lack of adequate scientific evidence about the ecological and economic effectiveness of artificial rehabilitation and restoration;

**Aware** of the 2019 United Nations Environment Assembly Resolution 4/13 on “Sustainable coral reefs management”, which requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with ICRI to assist with the compilation of best practices manual for coral restoration, for maintenance of ecosystem services, including coastal defense and/or restoration of fish nursery areas;

**Noting** that 2021-2030 is the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration;

**Aware** that degraded coral reefs no longer provide the goods and services that functional coral reefs provide, that the natural resilience and recovery ability of many coral reefs has degraded, and active interventions to support recovery are needed in some areas;

**Recognising** that considerable advances in coral restoration and adaptation techniques have been made since the 2005 resolution;

**Acknowledging** that greenhouse gas emission reductions in combination with management actions to mitigate local stressors are critical to support the improvement of coral reef health;



**Aware** that several ICRI member nations are developing and trialing new restoration and adaptation techniques to support the resilience of their reefs;

**The General Meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative:**

1. **Recognises** that reef restoration is a valid management option in areas when natural recovery is eroded and that restoration can complement other actions to support reef resilience;
2. **Recommends** that restoration and adaptation planning considers the likely environmental conditions predicted by the IPCC climate model;
3. **Encourages** ICRI members to engage in a coordinated, collaborative process to share knowledge and build capacity about coral restoration and adaptation techniques and their application;
4. **Encourages** the continued development of best practice restoration guidelines for coral reefs, including addressing equity aspects, in collaboration with coral restoration practitioner networks and other interested parties;
5. **Encourages** ICRI members to participate in and raise awareness of coral reefs and associated ecosystems in the UN Decade of Restoration; and
6. **Encourages** ICRI members to engage and collaborate with private sector, civil society and community in coral reef rehabilitation and restoration activities.