

34th ICRI General Meeting

Meeting outcomes

Australia, led by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, hosted the 34th ICRI General Meeting from 2-7 December 2019. This year marked 25 years since ICRI was first established by the governments of Australia, France, Japan, Jamaica, the Philippines, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

The General Meeting was well attended, with over 80 delegates from all over the world discussing the global challenge of caring and advocating for coral reefs and associated ecosystems. The first day of the meeting was held at the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), followed by two days at the Mercure Townsville, concluding with a coach trip from Townsville to Port Douglas with a field visit to the Great Barrier Reef on Saturday 7 December.

A number of key outcomes of the 34th ICRI General Meeting include:

- 8 new members were welcomed into ICRI; Canada, Germany, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Encounter Edu, Mars Inc., Mirpuri Foundation, World Underwater Federation (CMAS).
- Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) – data collection and synthesis are well under way to produce a global coral reef status report by mid-2020. Data is still needed from certain regions, as such the deadline for submitting data has been extended until the end of January 2020. Organisations and countries who contributed data during the meeting were thanked.
- The contribution from the ICRI ad hoc committee for the post-2020 biodiversity framework to the CBD Secretariat and Co-Chairs on the process for developing a post-2020 framework to provide an interim contribution from ICRI was adopted. It was noted that 3 February 2020 is the deadline for submission of views on possible targets, indicators and baselines for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and peer review of a document on indicators. The ad hoc committee will compile a submission based on contributions sent to the ICRI Secretariat by the 15 January 2020.
- Hosted by the Government of Indonesia, ICRI will convene the 6th International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium, a major initiative of ICRI, from 14-17 April 2020 in Manado, Indonesia. The theme of the symposium will be “Healthy Reef, Wealthy Ocean”.
- ICRI will also host side events at a number of major fora next year, including the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the 14th International Coral Reef Symposium, and possibly Our Oceans in Palau.
- The following documents were adopted during the meeting:
 - o Resolution to update the 2005 ICRI resolution on artificial coral reef restoration and rehabilitation
 - o Resolution to extend the ICRI ad hoc committee on coral reef restoration and adaptation research and development
 - o Resolution for the Inclusion of a coral reef-related target in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

- Recommendation to address the decline of herbivorous fish populations for improved coral community health throughout the Tropical Eastern Pacific, the Eastern and Western Atlantic, and the Greater Caribbean Region
 - Resolution to support the global fund for coral reefs
 - Terms of Reference for the ad hoc committee on resilience-based management
- The current Secretariat is currently actively look for a successor state(s) to take on Host Secretariat responsibilities.

“Managing for Resilience” workshop

A side event of the ICRI General Meeting was the “Managing for Resilience” workshop, which the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority hosted and jointly facilitated with The Nature Conservancy and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

The workshop provided an opportunity for international coral reef managers and experts to build their understanding of resilience-based management and share examples of how to apply it to best manage our reefs.

The workshop was also designed to enhance international collaboration between ICRI partners on scaling up resilience-based management actions. More information on the workshop will be shared with ICRI members in the weeks to come.