

Resolution to extend the ICRI Ad Hoc Committee on coral reef restoration and adaptation research and development

Adopted at the 35th ICRI General Meeting (online), February 2021

In response to the recent disturbances affecting coral reefs, particularly thermal stress induced, global mass coral bleaching events between 2015 and 2017, there is growing recognition that traditional coral reef management approaches alone will be insufficient to counter the increasingly frequent and more severe stresses imposed by a changing climate. This had led to a surge in interest in active interventions to restore coral reefs.

The ICRI Plan of Action 2018-2020 calls for the promotion of leading reef restoration practices by facilitating partnerships, investment and capacity-building among ICRI members. In order to fulfil the objectives of the Plan of Action, ICRI established an Ad Hoc Committee on Coral Reef Restoration and Adaptation Research and Development at its General Meeting in Monaco in December 2018. The Committee has sought to identify common interests, facilitate global and regional collaborations, and help identify opportunities for co-investment in research and development on coral reef restoration and adaptation.

While undertaking this work, opportunities have emerged to work with a broader group of nations and partners including the Commonwealth Blue Charter Action Group on Coral Reef Protection and Restoration, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the French Coral Reef Initiative (Ifreco) and the Coral Restoration Consortium (CRC) to further advance the work of the Committee and the ICRI Plan of Action.

Annex: Amended terms of reference

Working with ICRI members, reef-bearing nations and relevant partners, the Committee will:

- Provide a coordinating mechanism for international collaboration on coral reef restoration research and development.
- Advocate for the use of best practice restoration techniques and highlight examples of relevant policy and legislation as part of a broader strategy that involves traditional management and reducing carbon emissions in order to maintain coral reef function, structure and resilience.
- Facilitate the transfer of new knowledge of restoration techniques to managers and restoration practitioners.

Chair: Australia



Members: Experts from the ICRI Membership, other reef-bearing nations and relevant partners.

Duration: The *ad hoc* committee will last not more than one year, with the final report to be presented at the 36th ICRI General Meeting. The report will be available on the ICRI Forum.

Working procedures: The *ad hoc* committee will conduct its work via emails, telephone, video conference and, when necessary, internet-based services.