



Record of the Meeting

Presented by the ICRI Secretariat

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1) The second general meeting of the Mexico-United States ICRI Secretariat was held from the 12-13th July, 2008 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA. The meeting was co-chaired by David Gutierrez, Mexico and Stephanie Caswell, United States.
- 2) A total of 67 attended the ICRI General Meeting, including the participation of 9 of the 14 scholars that ICRI supported to attend the 11th ICRS. 15 countries were represented and 31 organisations. Ten apologies were received. ([Annex 1](#)). Thirty-three ICRI members participated in the GM, 29 of which were represented by a nominated focal point.
- 3) The GM urged ICRI members and the Secretariat to take steps to strengthen participation at General Meetings, including from under represented regions, the scientific community, relevant international organization Secretariats, such as the World Heritage Convention and UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB), as well as from coral reef countries which are not currently ICRI members.
- 4) The GM welcomed the statement by France of their intention to host the 2009-2011 term of the ICRI Secretariat.
- 5) The third General Meeting hosted under the Mexico-United States Secretariat will be held in the Indian Ocean region and is planned for the end of the first quarter of 2009. The details will be circulated to the ICRI Members and posted in due course on the ICRIForum www.icriforum.org.

Summary of Actions:

Recommendations

- 6) The GM adopted one new ICRI Recommendation on "[Improving Shark Conservation for Coral Reef Resiliency](#)" which highlights the alarming rate of shark depletion worldwide, stresses the importance of sharks to the health and resiliency of coral reef ecosystems and calls upon ICRI members and other governments and relevant organizations for action.

Decisions

- 7) The General Meeting agreed:

- (i) To the substance of a letter from the ICRI Co-Chairs to the UN-DESA Secretariat recommending peer review of the coral reef related chapters of the pending publication, "Innovative Technologies for Sustainable Development and Reversing Climate Change," in particular with respect to the use of artificial or engineered reefs;
- (ii) That ICRI will send a statement to the World Conservation Congress (5-14 October, 2008 - Barcelona, Spain) on the urgent need for action to address threats to coral reefs, especially stressors in order to make reefs more resilient;
- (iii) On the need for a concise analysis of the coral reef management implications of the 11th ICRS outcomes;
- (iv) That ICRI should work more closely with the Secretariats of relevant international organizations and conventions;
- (v) The GM agreed to sponsor an ICRI-IYOR side event at the upcoming Conference of Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (29 October–5 November 2008, Changwon, Korea);
- (vi) The GM noted that Jamie Oliver was elected as a GCRMN Co-Chair and that updated GCRMN Terms of Reference will be completed prior to presentation at the next

meeting. The GM confirmed that the *Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2008* report will now be released in December 2008 with a short summary presented at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in October. The GM was requested to provide advice on who could sign the Foreword, to contribute any special items for the report, to assist Nodes to complete their chapters and assist Nodes with parallel launches of Status 2008 in the regions.

Ad Hoc Committees

- 8) The GM adopted updated terms of reference for the continuation of the [Ad Hoc Committee on Economic Valuation of Coral Reef Ecosystems](#) and the [Ad Hoc Committee on the East Asia Regional Workshop](#) (Annex 2 and 3). The ICRI secretariat will post on the ICRI Forum, for a six week comment period, proposed additional terms of reference for the *Ad Hoc Committee on Enforcement & Investigation*. The Secretariat will revise the proposal based on members' comments and post the revisions, with a view to having the terms of reference approved as soon as possible. It was agreed that the work of the *Ad Hoc Committee for the International Year of the Reef* continue.

Outstanding Actions

- 9) The following actions arose from discussions:
- i) Enforcement *ad hoc* Committee Chair to follow up requests for Coral Reef CSI training for the Southern/East Africa regions;
 - ii) CRISP committed to translating the Coral Reef CSI toolkit into French, in preparation for workshops in the South Pacific;
 - iii) The Enforcement *ad hoc* Committee was requested to consider the preparation of (i) a short policy brief to explain CSI to a broader audience who might have responsibilities for shallow water habitats; (ii) to gather together the success stories and lessons learned from the CSI training workshops and follow up activities post training;
 - iv) The ICRI Secretariat will conduct a review of the "Organization and Management Procedures for the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)," including Article 6 - ICRI Networks. Proposed revised rules will be posted for comment on the ICRI Forum prior to the next General Meeting when they will be discussed and if possible finalized;
 - v) The IUCN World Conservation Congress will be taking place from October 5-14th 2008 in Barcelona. Members are encouraged to visit www.iucn.org/marine for more information. The ICRI Secretariat will engage with IUCN to develop ideas as to how ICRI and ICRI members could highlight their work during the WCC, in particular through the Oceans Pavilion;
 - vi) The World Ocean Conference will take place from the 11-15 May 2009 in Manado, Indonesia. There will be side events for international ocean science, technology and industry as well as the launch and formal high-level kick-off meeting of the Coral Triangle Initiative (to be held on the margins of the WOC at a separate venue). More information is available at www.woc2009.org.
- 10) ICRI Members are encouraged to:
- i) Inform the Secretariat when they take forward ICRI recommendations or decisions in their work, or into other fora through icri@unep-wcmc.org;
 - ii) Inform the IYOR Coordinator (info@iyor.org) of related activities that are being undertaken;
 - iii) Continue to submit reports in the run up to the next ICRI GM. Observers are also invited to submit reports, if they wish;
 - iv) Distribute the ICRI publicity postcards, which are now available to download in English, French or Spanish <http://www.icriforum.org/html/postcard.html>.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

- 11) The participants were welcomed by the Mexico and the United States Co-Chairs as the ICRI Secretariat for 2007-2009. The meeting was opened with remarks by David Gutierrez Carbonell, Director General for Regional Operation, CONANP, Mexico and Stephanie Caswell, Director of the Office of Ecology and Natural Resource Conservation at the U.S. Department of State.

NEW ICRI MEMBERS

- 12) No new membership requests were made at this meeting.
- 13) The Co-Chairs recognised members who have reactivated their role in ICRI. In particular, the meeting welcomed the presence of the Philippines, Tanzania, the Maldives, the Ramsar Secretariat and the Secretariat for the Convention for Biological Diversity.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- 14) The co-chair presented the draft agenda for the General Meeting (GM), which had been posted on the ICRIForum. The agenda focused on the outcomes of ICRS, and the identification of ways in which ICRI could build on these outcomes.
- 15) The draft [agenda](#) of the meeting was adopted with some modification to its timing.

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- 16) The Secretariat presented a [report of activities](#) undertaken by the host governments since January 2008, as well as a calendar of forthcoming events. The representatives of the Mexican and U.S. governments highlighted:
- i) The creation of an emergent fund of one million US Dollars for negative impacts on coral reefs in Mexico;
 - ii) The vast array of activities being undertaken in Mexico in support of IYOR 2008;
 - iii) The ICRI IYOR Side event at the CBD Conference of Parties in Bonn;
 - iv) With support of the Governments of the U.S. and Japan, the uptake of the IYOR message by the G8 environment ministers and the illegal wildlife trade (including corals, turtles) message by the G8 leaders;
 - v) The production and release of three public service announcements resulting from collaboration between the U.S. Department of State and Harrison Ford.

Progress on Resolutions and Decisions

- 17) No updates on the application of ICRI Decisions and Resolutions were received for this period. The Secretariat repeated its request to ICRI Members to inform the Secretariat when they take forward ICRI recommendations or decisions in their work, or into other fora through icri@unep-wcmc.org

FOLLOW UP FROM THE JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

- 18) At the last ICRI GM held in Washington DC, January 2008, ICRI members agreed to build on the 2007 UN General Assembly Resolution of Fisheries with regards to sharks. Recognising the fundamental role of sharks as apex predators and the relationship between shark conservation and resilience of coral reef ecosystems, the United States in consultation with CRISP, Japan and IUCN, drafted a recommendation presented for the consideration of the ICRI membership. The discussion and conclusion of this agenda item are presented in *"introduction of proposed resolutions"* below.

REPORTS OF ICRI *AD HOC* COMMITTEES

Enforcement and Natural Resource Investigations in Coral Reef and Associated Ecosystems *ad hoc* Committee

19) This Committee was formed at the Palau GM in November 2005. Membership consists of representatives from 11 ICRI members, with a total of 18 members. Progress and recent developments were presented to this meeting. The last six months have seen the operationalisation of the toolkit and underwater field flip book. A CSI Field kit has been developed and a [quarterly newsletter](#) is a tool to help keep in touch with trainees and develop a network between trainees. Feedback on these products, and testimonies from their use and application were invited. Training workshops are being evaluated to ensure that lessons learned can be taken up. More information, including a schedule of planned training workshops can be found by visiting <http://www.icran.org/action-csi.html>.

20) In discussion

- (i) Further requests for training were made for the Southern/East Africa regions, CRISP committed to translating the toolkit into French, in preparation for workshops in the South Pacific. The *ad hoc* committee was requested to consider the preparation of (i) a short policy brief to explain CSI to a broader audience (e.g. regional seas conventions) who might have responsibilities for shallow water habitats; (ii) to gather together the success stories and lessons learned from the CSI training workshops and follow up activities post training;
- (ii) The Chair of the *ad hoc* committee proposed the terms of reference be expanded to apply the experience from the CSI activities to illegal trade in wildlife. The GM agreed that there is a potential role, although it would require careful consideration and be in alignment with key groups engaged in wildlife trafficking (e.g. CAW, IUCN SSC, TRAFFIC and CITES).

21) In conclusion the meeting thanked CSI Committee Chair David Gulko for his leadership and agreed on the continued significance of this work. The US Government was thanked for its continued support for this successful initiative. The Secretariat will, based on members' comments, post on the ICRIForum the draft additional terms of reference for the *Ad hoc Committee on Enforcement & Investigation* to explore and, if feasible, develop appropriate tools, including educational tools, to combat the illegal trade in wildlife, building on the experience of the Crime Scene Investigations program. These amendments will be posted on the ICRIForum for a six week comment period the revisions, with a view to having the terms of reference approved as soon as possible.

International Year of the Reef (IYOR) *Ad hoc* Committee.

Supporting Document: [ICRI GM Mexico/US \(2\) 2008/AHC/IYOR](#)

22) The terms of reference for the IYOR *ad hoc* Committee were adopted in April 2007, during the Tokyo GM. The IYOR Coordinator presented a report of progress for the first six months of IYOR 2008.

23) The presentation highlighted the impressive array of activities and programmes being undertaken across the world and demonstrated the action inspired by the designation of IYOR2008. There has been a strong buy-in from countries, with 18 countries having proclaimed and launched IYOR, 75 focal points around the world and more than 150 articles published in the first six months of 2008. Public Service Announcements produced for IYOR are available through www.iyor.org or www.youtube.com/IYOR2008. Details for IYOR focal points, as well as activities and products, are available at www.iyor.org. Members are encouraged to follow events and contribute.

24) In discussion, Members suggested a number of fora at which IYOR2008 can be promoted, including the Diving Equipment & Marketing Association (DEMA), World Food Day, Ramsar, WCC, International Youth Conference.

25) Barbados has conducted social surveys to assess the impact of IYOR and IYOR activities to review what works and what does not. Other Members are invited to consider this approach to enable lessons to be drawn and experiences to be shared at the end of the year.

26) In conclusion:

- (i) Among the many activities planned by the IYOR Coordinator to raise awareness about coral reefs, the GM agreed to sponsor an ICRI-IYOR side event at the upcoming Conference of Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (29 October-5 November 2008, Changwon, Korea). The IYOR Coordinator will plan the side event with input from Members to highlight the coral reef-mangrove relationship;
- (ii) ICRI members thanked the IYOR Coordinator for his motivation and dedication in realising the IYOR Campaign, and keeping such high momentum. The continued value of maintaining the IYOR 2008 *Ad hoc* Committee was acknowledged and the Committee will report to the next ICRI GM.

ICRI ad hoc Committee on Economic Valuation of Coral Reef Ecosystems

Supporting Document: [ICRI GM Mexico/US \(2\) 2008/AHC/Economic Valuation](#)

27) The *ad hoc* Committee on Economic Valuation of Coral Reef Ecosystems was established at the Washington, DC GM, January 2008. A report of progress was presented. The compilation of resources developed as a result of consultations with ICRI Members is available at <http://www.icriforum.org/ecovallCR.html> and www.wri.org/project/valuation-caribbean-reefs. Members are encouraged to submit examples of the application of economic valuation which has had tangible results, to Sharon Khan (sharon@coastalvalues.org).

28) The GM decided that ICRI does have a continued role to play in providing information and support to the coral reef community with) in this field to avoid duplication.

29) In conclusion the meeting thanked WRI and the Secretariat for the work undertaken to date. It was agreed that the *ad hoc* committee should continue for an additional period of one year under the adopted revised terms of reference. (Annex 2) and report to the next ICRI GM.

ad hoc Committee for the ICRI East Asia Regional MPA Workshop

Supporting Document: [ICRI GM Mexico/US \(2\) 2008/AHC/EARW](#)

30) The *Ad hoc* Committee for the ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop was established by interested members, and draft terms of reference (TOR) were agreed by the Washington DC GM, January 2008. The Chair presented progress made since the previous GM.

31) All action items have been undertaken. The workshop to be held between the 17-19th November 2008 in Tokyo, Japan will co-hosted by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the ICRI Secretariat. Details of the meeting including participating countries, objectives and expected outputs were presented and are available in the supporting document and presentation.

32) The chair of the *ad hoc* Committee was thanked for his leadership on this matter, and requested to continue the work of the committee under the adopted revised terms of reference (Annex 3). The committee will report on the outcomes of the workshop at the next ICRI GM.

COLD WATER CORAL UPDATE

Supporting Document: [ICRI GM Mexico/US \(2\) 2008/6/inf](#)

33) At the General Meeting in Cozumel, Mexico (22-23 October 2006), ICRI agreed to dissolve the *Ad hoc* Committee for Cold Water Coral Reefs, and that UNEP should act as the informal focal point for cold water corals. In light of this commitment, the UNEP Coral Reef Unit (in collaboration with Norway) informed the GM of recent reports, meetings and projects related to cold-water coral reefs. The first cold-water coral reef IYOR 2008 event was held as a side event at the OSPAR Commission meeting in Brest, France (June 2008). This was jointly organised by France, WWF and UNEP. More information can be obtained from www.ospar.org.

- 34) In discussion, the members were reminded that information relating to cold water coral reefs can be found through www.icriforum.org, including links to the recent publication under the CBD Technical Series; No 37: [Synthesis and review of the best available scientific studies on priority areas for biodiversity conservation in marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction](#). Attention was drawn to a recent Pew Environment Group proposal to the Australian Government, which sets out plans to declare a protected area from the edge of the GBRMP to the edge of the Australian EEZ, which includes seamounts as well as warm water reefs.
- 35) The GM thanked UNEP and Norway for this update, recognizing the increasing interest and attention on this habitat. It was restated that ICRI remains a suitable forum for addressing issues related to cold water coral reefs, as and when the need for discrete contributions is identified.

CORAL REEF NETWORKS AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)

Supporting Document: [ICRI GM Mexico/US \(2\)2008/MR/GCRMN](#)

- 36) GCRMN presented an update on activities under the contract between UNEP and Reef and Rainforest Research Centre financed by U.S. Counterpart contributions to UNEP to support GCRMN and Reef Check Asia – Pacific. The U.S. Government was thanked for their continued support, and UNEP for their administration of these funds.
- 37) The GM noted that Jamie Oliver was elected as a GCRMN Co-Chair and that updated GCRMN Terms of Reference will be completed prior to presentation at the next meeting. The GM confirmed that the *Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2008* report will now be released in December 2008 with a short summary presented at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in October. The GM was requested to provide advice on who could sign the Foreword, to contribute any special items for the report, to assist Nodes complete their chapters and assist Nodes with parallel launches of Status 2008 in the regions.

International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN)

Supporting Document: [ICRAN Newsletter](#)

- 38) As an operational network of ICRI, the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) submitted its most recent newsletter and presented an oral progress report to the ICRI Members. This report focuses on the most recent developments and milestones of ICRAN and its network since the last ICRI GM. Further information on outputs and the wide range of ICRAN activities and partnerships. The Director also provided the meeting with a briefing of the ITMEMS session held during the 11th ICRS Management mini-symposium. Further information on all activities is available in the July 2008 ICRAN Newsletter, or at www.icran.org

Coral Reef InitiativeS of the Pacific (CRISP)

Supporting Document: [ICRI GM USA/Mexico \(2\) 2008/MR/\[CRISP programme\]](#)

- 39) The CRISP Programme Manager presented updates of activities and outputs under eight areas/themes, highlighting in particular ReefBase Pacific, a collaboration with the WorldFish Centre, the soon to be released Pacific Coral Reef Atlas and the outcomes of the recent economic valuation workshop held in May 2008. Further details of CRISP's activities and reports can be downloaded at www.crisponline.net.

Coastal Ocean Research and Development in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO)

- 40) CORDIO reported on activities undertaken since the last GM, highlighting the forthcoming CORDIO 2007 Status Report. The report contains 47 papers and over 100 contributing authors. It will be launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, in October 2008 and be available for download in the coming weeks at <http://www.cordioea.org>.

ReefCheck

Supporting Document: [ICRI GM Mexico-US \(2\) 2008/MR/ReefCheck](#)

41) Reef Check presented a report of activities for the period January to June 2008. The report highlighted (i) the initial findings from an analysis of the first ten years of data from ReefCheck Surveys. These results were presented at the 11th ICRS and will be published shortly; (ii) a recent joint publication in Science on the red-listing of Scleractinian corals; (iii) as part of the IYOR activities, BodyGlove have sponsored a singing competition with a prize fund of US\$1,000. More details of ReefCheck activities can be found at www.reefcheck.org

Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI)

42) An update of recent activities under the CTI were provided by Cherryta Yunia, ICRI Focal Point for Indonesia. A recent meeting of the Coral Triangle Countries (CT-6) held in Bali, December 2007 led to the establishment of an interim Secretariat for the Initiative. A second meeting is due to take place during September 2008 to discuss the functioning and logistics of the Secretariat. More details of the CTI and activities of CTI can be found at <http://www.cti-secretariat.net/>.

43) In discussion, the GM was informed that the GEF umbrella funding includes an adjoining area of the Pacific that includes some of the neighbouring countries to the CT-6 (including Fiji, Vanuatu and others).

Caribbean Challenge

Presentation: [Caribbean Challenge](#)

44) An update of progress of the Caribbean Challenge was provided, emphasising the key opportunities, risks and challenges for the initiative. After a 2-year planning phase the Challenge was officially launched by governments of the Caribbean during the CBD Conference of Parties in Bonn, May 2008 at a high level event of the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA). The challenge aims to implement the CBD Programme of Work on protected areas, expanding managed areas to three million hectares and to generate sustainable financing for marine protection. Grenada spearheaded the Caribbean challenge with commitments, along with five other initial countries, through the Grenada Declaration to protect 25% of representative marine and terrestrial ecosystems by 2020.

45) The Caribbean has seen an opportunity to piggy back on success of other regional initiatives to leverage resources. The countries that have joined up so far are at various stages progress towards targets. All countries have been invited to participate; Overseas Territories are also becoming involved and are expected to endorse the Caribbean Challenge before the end of 2008. There is some discussion for a similar initiative for the Central American countries of Mexico, Belize and Guatemala, perhaps through the existing MBRS Project.

International Union for the Conservation of Nature – World Conservation Congress 2008

Presentation: [Update on Barcelona Congress](#)

46) IUCN provided an update to the GM on the status of the World Conservation Congress (WCC) to be held in Barcelona from the 5th – 14th October 2008. The Congress will bring together representatives from more than 1000 IUCN members from more than 80 countries. The Governing Council will meet following the initial 4 day public forum, during which IUCN will adopt its Strategic Plan for the next 4 years (2009-1012).

47) An overview of the WCC agenda was provided. The Marine forum will include 7 secretariat led sessions, and include member partnerships and initiatives showcased at the Oceans Pavilion. ICRI members are encouraged to visit www.iucn.org/marine for more information.

MATTERS ARISING FROM GOVERNMENT AND ORGANISATION REPORTS

Supporting Documents: http://www.icriforum.org/secretariat/ICRSGM/gmICRS_docs.html

48) Due to the significant number of reports received for the January meeting (27), and in light of the short time elapsed since that meeting, Members were invited to submit reports on progress since January, if they had not submitted a previous report, or if they were unable to attend this meeting so as to convey progress to the membership in their absence. The template was adapted to provide information pertinent to the agenda of the GM. Twelve reports were posted on the ICRIForum, as of Friday 11th July. Seven of these were submitted by governments.

49) In discussion:

- (i) SPREP highlighted a project of CRISP and WWF to document the status, size, location and effectiveness of community based areas, with a view to assessing the potential contribution they could make towards international targets for protected areas. This initiative will be launched at the World Conservation Congress in October 2008;
- (ii) SPREP through a schools competition have allocated US\$13,000 to fund 11 action plans developed through this process. A film will be made to show the implementation of these projects and shown at WCC; These activities are funded through CRISP as activities towards the Pacific Year of the Reef.
- (iii) The importance of the regional approach of ICRI was stressed to facilitate engagement of different countries. Where regional bodies exist (such as the East Africa Coral Reef Task Force, and South Asia Coral Reef Task Force) it would be advantageous for these bodies to be present as regional representatives. It was noted that countries also contribute to ICRI objectives through participation in other processes e.g. GCRMN;
- (iv) Project Aware will, with Ocean Conservancy, host an International Coastal Clean up, which will be branded as an IYOR event. This will be the biggest international volunteer event, for which Project Aware will coordinate the underwater cleanup. Data from this event will contribute to a 20 year database on the debris collected;
- (v) France was congratulated on the successful designation of >50,000km² of the reefs and lagoons of New Caledonia (7% of the world's reefs) as a World Heritage site;
- (vi) Barbados announced that monitoring results show for the first time in 30 years, an increase in coral abundance in the fringing reefs;
- (vii) The Philippines announced that the DENR, Philippines will host the East Asian Seas Congress in Manila 23-27 November 2009. Data demonstrating progress on designation of marine protected areas (331) with approximately 8-10% of the coral reefs protected was presented;
- (viii) The Ramsar Secretariat invited ICRI to consider a side event at COP 10, taking place in Korea, November 2008;
- (ix) The United States presented three Public Service Announcements on the illegal trade of wildlife, featuring Harrison Ford. The PSAs were shown to 500 million people worldwide prior to the airing of the new Indiana Jones movie. Engaging celebrities to send these messages is a very powerful tool to help build awareness. For example, a recent PSA developed by WildAid focusing on shark fining, featured a popular Chinese Olympic athlete. After being shown in Hong Kong, consumption of shark fin soup dropped by 20%.

REVIEW OF ICRS OUTCOMES AND ICRI RESPONSE

Supporting Document: [ICRI GM Mexico/US \(2\) 2008/10.2 inf](#)

50) In preparation for the previous ICRI General Meeting in Washington, DC in January 2008, members of ICRI were invited to include in their governments' and organizations' reports, comments on emerging issues that they felt ICRI should consider. Twenty-seven reports were submitted by member governments and organizations and it was agreed that the Secretariat will compile the emerging issues identified for further analysis and discussion at this current ICRI General Meeting in the light of the outcomes of the 11th ICRS, with a view to prioritize and demonstrate how ICRI could add value to particular issues.

- 51) The Secretariat presented a summary of the issues put forward by members, against the major themes of the Mexico/US ICRI Secretariat Action Plan for 2007-2009; a review of past actions taken by ICRI relating to the emerging issues identified; a list of emerging issues identified by ICRI members that will be discussed during the 11th ICRS; and a list of forthcoming meetings relevant to coral reefs, and the major themes for these meetings.
- 52) As chair of the organising committee, Dick Dodge made a [presentation](#) on the provisional outcomes of the 11th ICRS, which was attended by more than 3300 participants, from over 80 countries. There were more than 1000 oral presentations, 1600 posters and six plenary sessions covering 26 mini symposia. summary of the highlights presented by each of the five thematic chairs are presented as Annex 4 to this report.
- 53) The meeting discussed a range of possible responses to the emerging issues, within ICRI's mandate and the current Secretariat Action Plan. A summary of the discussions can be found at http://www.icriforum.org/secretariat/ICRSGM/PDF/ICRI_ICRSGM_ICRSoutcomes.pdf and covers:
- i) Resiliency;
 - ii) Ocean Acidification;
 - iii) Fisheries depletion and sharks;
 - iv) Integrated ecosystem management and nutrients;
 - v) Environmental services, monitoring and research, looking at linkages between science and management.
- 54) In conclusion:
- i) The GM agreed on the need for a concise analysis of the coral reef management implications of the 11th ICRS outcomes, noting that Conservation International (CI) would be undertaking such an analysis regarding marine protected areas and connectivity issues in particular. USAID Barbara Best agreed to contact CI and World Bank Marea Hatzios (ICRS Super Chair for coral reef management mini-symposia) to explore the possibility of combining efforts to produce a concise analysis of the ICRS management-related outcomes in select areas;
 - ii) The GM agreed that ICRI will send a statement to the World Conservation Congress (5-14 October, 2008 - Barcelona, Spain) relaying the urgency for management actions expressed at the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium (11th ICRS) where over 3000 experts from 80 countries discussed the state of coral reef science and management and highlighted the urgent need for immediate actions to address threats to coral reefs, especially chronic stressors such as overfishing and decreasing water quality, in order to make reefs more resilient to climate change impacts. The ICRI statement will be useful to ICRI members in their own work. The USA (USAID Barbara Best) will coordinate preparation of a draft statement, drawing on the [11th ICRS outcomes as discussed by the GM](#). The draft statement will be posted on the ICRIForum for inputs from ICRI members.

OPERATIONAL NETWORKS DISCUSSION

- 55) During the Washington DC General Meeting in January 2008, the ICRI Secretariat agreed to consider how ICRI interacts with the operational networks. The networks were invited to submit their thoughts on how they envisage future interactions with ICRI. Responses were received from ICRAN, ReefCheck, CRISP, CORDIO and GCRMN.
- 56) In a letter to the ICRI Secretariat, ICRAN presented one model for the future of ICRAN, which would build on an existing relationship with UNEP-WCMC, providing institutional structure and a financial safety net. The governance structure of ICRAN will be rationalized and will include representation from ICRI members and the ICRI Secretariat. It is expected that a more

developed structure will be presented to the next GM in early 2009. The ICRAN Director stressed the importance for ICRAN to focus resources on addressing coral reef conservation and management, as per its existing mandate: to operationalise the ICRI Framework for Action. ICRAN would envisage continuing as an operational network, continuing to implement the Framework for Action, and engage ICRI. It is hoped that ICRAN will have a role to play in organizing the next ITMEMS in 2010. It was recognized that ICRAN has persisted well beyond its originally intended timeline of 4 years, developing from a project to a programme and engaging a broad range of partners, implementing a significant programme of important programmes. It was felt that there is a continuing role for ICRAN.

57) Operational networks are tools of ICRI, but require support from the Initiative to fulfill this role. Keeping in mind the informal nature of ICRI, it was agreed that clarification of the relationship between ICRI and its networks would assist in addressing how to maximize the work of the networks, within the ICRI context.

58) It was suggested that ICRI might consider a formal process for the adoption of new networks within ICRI, to ensure the appropriate application of ICRI branding, and to maintain focus on implementation of the Framework for Action.

59) In conclusion:

- i) ICRI is comprised of members. Members form partnerships between themselves and with non-members. It was agreed that there are some members with whom the ICRI Secretariat has a special relationship, each one is different. The current organization and management procedures of ICRI do not provide sufficient flexibility for these different relationships;
- ii) The ICRI Secretariat will conduct a review of the "Organization and Management Procedures for the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)," including Article 6 - ICRI Networks, with a view to streamlining and updating the procedures based on experiences gained since 2005 when the procedures were revised. The Secretariat will work with a small group including France, GBRMPA (Australia), GCRMN, ICRAN, IYOR Coordinator, ReefCheck, and UNEP. Proposed revised rules will be posted for comment on the ICRI Forum prior to the next General Meeting when they will be discussed and if possible finalized.

INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

ICRI Response to UN-DESA on the use of artificial reefs

60) In response to an upcoming report by UN-DESA, 'Partnership on Implementation of New Technologies for Sustainable Development,' through which the issue of artificial reefs as a mitigation response will be highlighted, a draft resolution was submitted to ICRI on Artificial Coral Reef Restoration and Rehabilitation, calling for careful review of advice on this matter in the report, by appropriate experts.

61) A resolution on "Artificial Coral Reef Restoration and Rehabilitation" was passed by ICRI in April 2005. The text of this resolution was still felt to be relevant in the present context. As a result it was proposed that a letter be sent to UN-DESA from the ICRI Co-chairs.

62) In conclusion the GM agreed to the substance of a letter from the ICRI Co-Chairs to the UN-DESA Secretariat recommending peer review of the coral reef related chapters of the pending publication, "Innovative Technologies for Sustainable Development and Reversing Climate Change," in particular with respect to the use of artificial or engineered reefs. The letter will be sent to UN-DESA, from the ICRI Secretariat and signed by the Co-chairs immediately following the close of the meeting. *[P.S. Immediately following the General Meeting, the United States Co-Chair sent inquiries to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York to ascertain the current status of publication and determine its current phase of production. After several inquiries to senior staff within the UN-DESA Secretariat, the U.S. Mission informs us that the publication did not receive approval from DESA and will not be published. In light of*

this information, it is the recommendation of the ICRI Co-Chairs that no letter be sent to the UN-DESA secretariat at this time. The Co-Chairs will remain vigilant with respect to staying informed on the status of this publication. Should it appear to receive later approval for publication, we will resurrect the letter, revise the text as needed and send it forward to UN-DESA if appropriate.]

ICRI Recommendation on Improving Shark Conservation for Coral Reef Resiliency

- 63) At the last ICRI GM in Washington DC, January 2008, members raised the importance of sharks to the health and resilience of coral reef ecosystems. Addressing this issue is consistent with the 2007-09 Mexico-U.S. Secretariat Action Plan. In this context, a recommendation concerning shark conservation was drafted by the ICRI Secretariat with input from Japan, IUCN and CRISP. The draft was posted on the ICRI Forum in advance of this GM for comment, in accordance with the rules on Operation and procedure.
- 64) Evidence presented during the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium held directly prior to the July ICRI GM, indicated shark populations across the globe are declining at alarming rates from the combined effects of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, over-exploitation, incidental by-catch, and the increased demand for shark products. The lack of basic data on many reef and coastal shark populations is hindering efforts to improve shark conservation. The proposed recommendation was welcomed as a timely intervention. SPREP informed the meeting of a collaboration between AFA and SPC to develop a shark action plan in the Pacific. Updates of this process will be reported at the next GM.
- 65) In conclusion the GM adopted a [recommendation on shark conservation](#) (Annex 5) which highlights the alarming rate of shark depletion worldwide, stresses the importance of sharks to the health and resiliency of coral reef ecosystems. The recommendation calls upon ICRI members and other governments and relevant organizations to raise awareness of the importance of sharks, improve data collections, support increased research, and promote implementation of the UN General Assembly resolution on Sustainable Fisheries and the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 66) The GM agreed that ICRI should work more closely with the Secretariats of relevant international organizations and conventions, including the CBD and Ramsar secretariats, with a view to delivering shared messages on coral reefs to relevant governing and subsidiary bodies, sponsoring ICRI related side events, and identifying opportunities for shared activities.
- 67) The GM urged Members and the Secretariat to take steps to strengthen participation at General Meetings, including from under represented regions, the scientific community, relevant international organization Secretariats (such as the World Heritage Convention and UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program), and coral reef countries that are not currently ICRI members, as well as to re-engage countries and organizations that have not recently attended ICRI meetings. It was noted that events sponsored by ICRI and ICRI members, such as the East Asia Regional Workshop planned for November 2008, might provide opportunities for engaging new partners.
- 68) In preparing the draft organization of work for the next GM, the Secretariat will consider suggestions from Members to explore a thematic and/or regional focus with targeted reporting on case studies and lessons learned, inviting experts to make presentations on the status of coral reefs, and the use of break-out sessions and lunch time and evening side events to discuss specific issues. The Secretariat will also explore with Members the merits of revising the format for Member reporting.
- 69) France drew the attention of the GM to the recent conference held in La Reunion, SW Indian Ocean under the EU French Presidency. The four day conference was organised by IUCN and brought together the 28 EU Overseas Territories to discuss issues related to climatic change, and their relationship with continental Europe. 18 of the 28 OTs associated with the Netherlands, France and UK have coral reefs and mangroves in three oceans. More that 400

participants attended and it is anticipated that the results of the meeting will result in greater support from the EU to the OTs.

- 70) The World Ocean Congress will take place from the 11-15 May 2009 in Manado, Indonesia. There will be side events for international ocean science, technology and industry as well as the official high-level adoption of the CTI Action Plan. More information is available at www.woc2009.org.
- 71) The ICRI Secretariat will engage with IUCN to develop ideas as to how ICRI and ICRI members could highlight their work during the WCC, in particular through the Marine Pavilion.

CLOSE OF THE GENERAL MEETING

- 72) In closing the Co-Chairs thanked the Members for their fruitful and objective participation. The need for ICRI to remain reflective and cognisant of its objectives was emphasised, as was the need to evaluate progress toward the goals of the Initiative and its resultant impact. Members are invited to send any feedback or suggestions on the structure and running of the GM to the ICRI Secretariat (icri@unep-wcmc.org).
- 73) The Co-Chairs expressed their sincere gratitude to the United States Government for their generous hospitality and organisation in preparing for the ICRI General Meeting.
- 74) The Governments of Norway and the United States were thanked for providing financial support to enable the participation of 13 ICRI members at this meeting.
- 75) The GM welcomed the offer by France to host the ICRI Secretariat for the 2009-2011 biennium.
- 76) The next ICRI general meeting will be held in the Indian Ocean March/April 2009. Details will be posted on the ICRIForum as they become available.
- 77) It was agreed that a summary of the meeting would be prepared and circulated as soon as possible. The full record of the meeting will be posted on the ICRIForum within one month of the meeting, in accordance with the agreed management and organisation procedures.

ANNEX 1

ICRI GENERAL MEETING, FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

PARTICIPANTS LIST

Participants are listed alphabetically by Representation

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ANNEX 2

ICRI *AD HOC* COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS VALUATION OF CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS

UPDATED TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (1) The *ad hoc* Committee is extended through the next two ICRI General Meetings under the chairmanship of the ICRI Secretariat and the World Resources Institute (WRI) and will continue to include but not be limited to the following ICRI Members: Australia (Great Barrier Reef Marine Protected Authority), Colombia, Conservation International, Crisp, IUCN, NOAA and UNEP-WCMC.
- (2) The *ad hoc* Committee will develop cost estimates and post them on the ICRI Forum for each of the following activities, building on the compilation of references and materials on economic valuation methodologies, manuals and examples of applications/case studies developed by the Committee based on a survey of ICRI members and other experts and now available through the ICRI Forum and at the WRI web site (www.wri.org/project/valuation-caribbean-reefs):
 - a) Expand the current online compilation to include additional examples and case studies of applications of economic evaluation information to public policies and private sector actions.
 - b) Develop an online searchable data base providing summaries of key economic valuation literature with emphasis on coral reefs, utilizing the expertise of UNEP-WCMC and the Coral Reef Economics Community of Practice (Coral CoP) among others, and taking into account the potential fields contained in the annex to these terms of reference. Such a database should integrate existing efforts and avoid duplication.
 - c) Develop a web-based site to access additional literature and references on economic valuation within the user community, including copyrighted journals with permission of the publishers, in coordination with the Coral CoP. The user groups that will have access to the site should be delineated.
 - d) Host web-based seminars (“webinars”) utilizing expert facilitators for timely discussion of matters related to the economic valuation of coral reefs;
- (3) The *ad hoc* Committee will initiate the activities in (2) above pending the availability of sufficient funds.
- (4) The *ad hoc* Committee will report progress and make recommendations for continued work of the Committee at the next two ICRI General Meetings.

AHC ANNEX

Potential fields in a database summarizing key economic valuation literature with an emphasis on coral reefs

- a. Citation
- b. Year of study (date of valuation – not date of publication)
- c. Number of surveys (if relevant)
- d. Ecosystem valued (i.e., coral reefs, mangroves, forests, etc.)
- e. Total ecosystem valuation or marginal or average valuation?
- f. Geographic area
- g. Goods and services evaluated
- h. Method(s) used
- i. Area (km²) covered
- j. Type of value(s) estimated (described by category, such as direct use value, indirect use value, non-use value)
- k. Management issue/research question being addressed
- l. Summary of results
- m. Link (provide a link if the study is available on-line)

Note: Fields a, d, f, and g comprise the simplest summary for a reference catalogue

ANNEX 3

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ICRI EAST ASIA REGIONAL WORKSHOP *AD HOC* COMMITTEE

1. The following tasks are to be done by the ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop *ad hoc* Committee as preparation, organization, and follow-ups for the workshop in 2008, and preparation for the workshop in 2009:
 - a. Further develop workshop agenda and other relevant materials, and post on ICRIForum;
 - b. Prepare and organize the preparatory meeting by the workshop organizers, co-chairs and facilitators (tentative time/location: September 2008, Tokyo);
 - c. Provide necessary arrangements and supports to expected participants (e.g., invitation letter, travel, visa, etc.);
 - d. Organize the workshop;
 - e. Draft workshop summary and circulate to participants;
 - f. Post finalized workshop summary on ICRIForum;
 - g. Develop plans for the 2009 workshop; and
 - h. Any other matters what the *ad hoc* Committee regards deemed necessary.
2. The activity of the *ad hoc* Committee based on this TOR will be reported to the next ICRI General Meeting, These instruments would be required to be discussed and adopted.
3. *Ad hoc* committee members: existing *ad hoc* committee members, other interested members, relevant countries and organizations.

ANNEX 4

ICRS OUTCOMES AND POTENTIAL EMERGING ISSUES FOR ICRI

Based on General Meeting Discussions
Keyed to Mexico-U.S. Secretariat Action Plan Major Themes

ICRS Outcome Resiliency = ICRI Action Plan Overarching Theme

- Need scientists to determine reef “resiliency thresholds” (managers need to know)
- Conserve marginal reef ecosystems (often stress adapted), as well as pristine systems (ICRS)
- Bolster reef resiliency to climate change (ICRS)
- Marine protected areas
 - Reef recovery in no take areas
 - Positive effect on surrounding areas
 - Potential for coral nurseries
 - ICRI East Asia MPA workshop

ICRS Outcome on Climate Change

- **Ocean Acidification**
 - Look at ways to bolster reef health and promote resilience (ICRS)
 - Can ICRI contribute to raising awareness of problem?

ICRS Outcome on Fisheries = ICRI Action Plan Theme 1 on Fisheries

- **Fisheries depletion**
- **Sharks**
 - Indicator species related to coral coverage
 - ICRI recommendation on sharks
 - Can ICRI contribute to global campaign focused on reef sharks?

ICRS Outcome on Nutrients = ICRI Action Plan Theme 3 on Integrated Ecosystem Management

- Catchment management
- Water quality (reefs are only as good as their water)
- Address/mitigate “extreme” coastal development

ICRS Outcome on Integration of Science and Management = ICRI Action Plan Themes 2 and 4 on Environmental Services and Monitoring and Research

- Strengthen linkages between science and management
- Scientists explain/interpret their findings
- Managers identify communicate their needs to scientists
- Improve quality of global databases
- Consider science codes of conduct to minimize damage to reefs
- ICRI reaches out more to science community
- **Targeted environmental education**
 - Fisherman, scientists, communities, decision-makers
 - University programs
 - Children’s programs (kids in the water)

ANNEX 5

ICRI RECOMMENDATION ON IMPROVING SHARK CONSERVATION FOR CORAL REEF RESILIENCY

REVISED & FINAL (13 JULY 2008)

http://www.icriforum.org/secretariat/ICRSGM/pdf/ICRI_recommandation_sharks_2008.pdf

Sharks play a fundamental role as apex predators on coral reefs in maintaining the ecological balance that promotes ecosystem health and resiliency. The removal of sharks from coral reefs can have cascading effects on the structure and function of food webs, causing shifts in reef fish communities and negatively impacting the reef ecosystem. Scientific surveys have confirmed that shark populations, including coastal reef sharks, are being depleted at alarming rates, and the impact of their removal is being felt even in the most pristine and remote coral reef ecosystems.

Evidence presented during the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium held in Florida in July 2008 indicates shark populations across the globe are declining at alarming rates from the combined effects of IUU fishing, over-exploitation, incidental bycatch, and the increased demand for shark products. The lack of basic data on many reef and coastal shark populations is hindering efforts to improve shark conservation.

Recalling that the 2007-2009 ICRI Secretariat Action Plan seeks to ensure the long-term survival and productivity of coral reefs by discouraging unsustainable fisheries, extraction or trade;

The General Meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative strongly encourages its members and networks, other governments, donor agencies, non-governmental organizations, the scientific community, and other relevant organizations to take the following actions to improve shark conservation:

- i) Promote the implementation of the 2007 United Nations General Assembly Sustainable Fisheries Resolution, which calls upon States and international organizations to take the necessary measures to protect, conserve and manage threatened and vulnerable shark populations;
- ii) Promote the implementation of the 1999 FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks), including facilitating the development of Regional and National Plans of Action by coastal and small island States, the adoption of binding shark conservation and management measures by regional fisheries management organizations, and the monitoring of trade in sharks and shark products at appropriate multilateral or international fora as well as among states and fisheries management organizations concerned;
- iii) Raise awareness of the importance of sharks in promoting healthy, resilient coral reef ecosystems;
- iv) Improve data collection, monitoring and ecosystem-based shark management measures by regional fisheries management organizations and national fishery management authorities; and
- v) Support increased research and capacity-building to improve our understanding of the role sharks play in coral reef ecosystems, invest in research on shark bycatch reduction methods and technologies, and promote best practices to decrease incidental shark mortalities in line fisheries or reduce damage to coral reefs

ANNEX 6: F.A.Q. AND TIPS FOR THE ICRIFORUM (WWW.ICRIFORUM.ORG)

The ICRIForum is a central gateway that organizes coral reef information, and offers an interactive communication space for its members. The ICRIForum is also the official website of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Secretariat. You don't have to be a member to browse the Forum, but **by registering you can benefit from the full range of services available.**

- **Discussion Forums/Conferences:** ICRIForum Members may post either public or private discussions (or conferences) to debate particular issues, or collectively review documents. In private discussions, you can select the members you want to participate in the conference. *To set up a conference or reply to a message, users must be registered and logged in to the ICRIForum.*

Important: Every time a new conference is set up, a notification email will be sent to all the ICRIForum members (for public conference) or to the selected members (for private discussion).

Reply to a message by email

You can reply to a message posted on a discussion directly from your email (in this case, you do not need to be logged in). Every time a new message is posted on one of the discussion areas, a notice is sent to your email address. You can directly reply to this email if you wish to answer, and your message will be directly included in the discussion thread of the conference where the notice originated.

In order to answer to the message, you have to:

- Reply to the sender (list@icriforum.org)
- The first line of your message needs to be MSGID=X where X is the message ID includes in the notification that you received (if you do not receive email, you can find the message ID on the website).
- The subject of the email is by default: "Posting in International Coral Reef Discussion Area", please feel free to change it to better describe the subject of your reply.
- Do not reply with history
- Attachment can not be posted by email
- Make sure the email address you are using is the one that received the notification message.

Important: We noticed that when your message contents special characters such as: "" or # # or <> it may be truncated, so please try to avoid these characters.

What is your subscription profile?

Your *subscription profile* lists the conference(s) in which you are registered to participate. When the "subscribed box" is marked, it means that you will receive an email every time a new message is post within this conference. If you do not wish to receive this email, just "uncheck" the box. You will be still able to view the message on the website.

You have also the option to choose if you want to receive attachments.

You can access your *subscription profile* just after logging in (then choose "view your discussion profile" - first bullet point).

- **Calendar:** The ICRIForum is also coordinating events for its members. All ICRIForum users and guests can browse the events posted on the calendar. Members can also post upcoming events. *To post a new event, users must be registered and logged in to the ICRIForum.*
- **Bulletin Board:** The purpose of the Bulletin Board is to allow members to post any type of information (such as a publication of a new book, press release, job announcement...). *To post information, users must be registered and logged in to the ICRIForum.*
- **How to register?** You do not have to be a member to browse this Forum but by registering you will be able to fully benefit from its range of offerings. To register you have to complete a small form. If you want to give us more information about you, you can also complete the *Contact Info* form. Registration form: <http://www.icriforum.org/router.cfm?show=register.cfm>
- **Problem to access your account?** If you have any problem to access your account, please send an email to the ICRIForum administrator: fstaub@icriforum.org