



Summary Record

Presented by the ICRI Secretariat

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The third general meeting of the Japan/Palau secretariat was held from the 23rd – 24th April 2007 at the Crowne Plaza Metropolitan Hotel, Tokyo. The meeting was co-chaired by Fabian Iyar for The Republic of Palau and Yoshihiro Natori for Japan.
2. A total of 62 people attended the ICRI General Meeting. 14 countries were represented and 24 organisations. 15 apologies were received. ([Annex 1](#)). 28 ICRI members were represented by a nominated focal point.
3. The term of the current secretariat hosts ends 30th June 2007, and will be succeeded by the Governments of Mexico and the United States of America. The first general meeting under the new secretariat is planned for mid January 2008, in Washington DC and will be the occasion of the official ICRI launch of IYOR2008. Information will be posted at http://www.icriforum.org/sec_US_Mexico.html as it becomes available.

Summary of resolutions, decisions, *ad hoc* committees and outstanding actions:

Resolutions

4. One resolutions was adopted, one draft resolution was proposed:
 - (i) A [Resolution on Coral Reef & Climate Change](#) was adopted);
 - (ii) A draft resolution was proposed on the potential impacts of ocean acidification on coral reefs. The draft resolution has been posted on the ICRIForum for comment and further discussion at <http://www.icriforum.org/router.cfm?show=List/conflist.cfm> (for how to use the discussion forum see [Annex 2](#)).

Decisions

5. The meeting agreed:
 - (i) To welcome SCRFA (The Society for the Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations) as a new member and China, Tuvalu Japanese Coral Reef Society (JCRS), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and International Society for Mangrove Ecosystem (ISME) as observers to ICRI;
 - (ii) To adopt "[A Review of ICRI](#)" as a formal review and analysis of the activities of ICRI over the last 12 years;
 - (iii) To adopt the [Recommendation](#) encouraging ICRI members to take urgent actions to establish and effectively manage representative regional and national networks of MPAs that include coral reefs and related ecosystems;
 - (iv) On an official [IYOR 2008](#) Logo (click to download).

Summary of outcomes relating to *ad hoc* Committee

6. The work of two *ad hoc* Committees will continue to report to the next ICRI GM in January 2008:
 - (i) The **Enforcement and natural resource investigations in coral reef and associated ecosystems *ad hoc* Committee** (Lead: David Gulko); it is anticipated that the toolkit will be published for dissemination at [ICRS 11](#), July 2008;
 - (ii) The **International Year of the Reef (IYOR) *ad hoc* Committee** (Lead: ICRI Secretariat). The [TOR](#) of the *ad hoc* Committee was adopted by the meeting; the committee was

reformulated and a logo for IYOR was selected. The high resolution version of the logo can be downloaded at: http://www.iyor.org/logo_IYOR.html.

7. It was agreed that two *ad hoc* Committees be dissolved:

- (i) The work of the **ICRI Logo discussion** group concluded that there should be no change to the existing logo. The discussion group was thanked for its work in clarifying this issue and was dissolved;
- (ii) The **MPA *ad hoc* Committee** was thanked for its work fulfilling the TOR, and was dissolved.

Actions arising (see [Annex 3](#) for a list of Actions arising from the Japan/Palau hosted GMs)

8. The following actions arose from discussions:

- (i) ICRI members are requested to provide feed-back to the Secretariat on the structure and style of ICRI meetings. Comments to be sent to icri@unep-wcmc.org;
- (ii) Participants are referred to the annex of [ICRI GM Japan/Palau \(3\) 2007/SecRep](#) to confirm names of focal points and those who have not nominated focal points are requested to do so by contacting the Secretariat through icri@unep-wcmc.org;
- (iii) All active *ad hoc* Committees (paragraph 6 above) should report back to the ICRI GM, January 2008;
- (iv) All members, particularly country members are urged to share their activities, challenges and lessons by submitting members' updates to the ICRI secretariat at any time. The report template for the next ICRI GM will be made available on the ICRIForum or through the ICRI Secretariat at icri@unep-wcmc.org;
- (v) All ICRI members are urged to continue the implementation of actions in response to ITMEMS3 (ICRI Response to ITMEMS Resolution annex 1 and 2 where appropriate), and to update the ICRI Secretariat on any progress made in the implementation. The ICRI Secretariat will provide an update on progress at the next ICRI GM in January 2008;
- (vi) The ICRI Secretariat is requested to invite the incoming President of the International Society for Reef Studies to the next ICRI GM in January 2008;
- (vii) All ICRI members are requested to keep the IYOR Interim Coordinator informed of activities that are planned for IYOR 2008;
- (viii) ICRI and its members will, where appropriate, actively promote coral reef issues in various multilateral fora during 2008, such as G8 Environmental Ministers Meeting (in Japan), CBD COP9 (in Germany), and COP10 of Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (in Republic of Korea);
- (ix) Japan to follow up suggestions for the further development of the MPA Database for East Asia and Micronesia and report to the ICRI Secretariat on progress by the next ICRI GM, January 2008;
- (x) ICRI members, ITTO and ISME to consider implementing the list of suggested actions "Ways to implement mangrove issues within ICRI" developed by the mangrove discussion group (see [Annex 5](#));
- (xi) The secretariat were suggested to make contact with Seagrass Watch with a view to invite this organisation to the next ICRI GM in January 2008;
- (xii) ICRI members to submit comments on draft resolution on the potential impacts of ocean acidification to the Secretariat, for consideration of adoption according to the rules of the "Resolution on Organisation and Management Procedures";
- (xiii) Japan to establish and lead the *ad hoc* Committee on the potential impacts of ocean acidification to coral reefs after its recommendation has been adopted;

- (xiv) Incoming Secretariat to consider arranging a specialised working session on economic valuation of coral reefs and associated ecosystems and their services at the next ICRI GM, January 2008, including a question on this matter in the Member Report template;
- (xv) ICRI should further consider the issues of economic valuation of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, ICRI action relating to mangrove ecosystems and ocean acidification at the next ICRI GM (see agenda item 14);
- (xvi) Japan-Palau co-Secretariat to submit a review of its secretariat term particularly which examined the implementation of Secretariat's Plan of Action;
- (xvii) Incoming ICRI Secretariat co-hosts to confirm the date and location for the first ICRI GM, planned for January 2008.

1.0 – OPENING OF THE MEETING

9. The participants were welcomed by the co-chairs to the last meeting under the co-secretariat of Japan and Palau, and the last meeting before the launch of IYOR 2008. The meeting was opened by Minister Elbuchel Sadang, Minister of Finance for the Republic of Palau, and Mr Satoru Tamioka, Director General of the Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan. The invited dignitaries emphasised the importance of the alliance and cooperation between the two countries, and the continued commitment of Japan and Palau to ICRI into the future, and in support of the incoming Secretariat.
10. Over 400 people participated in the successful ICRI [Public Symposium](#) co-hosted by the Ministry of the Environment for Japan and Rikkyo University held on the 22nd April 2007 prior to the ICRI General Meeting. The symposium was open to all ICRI members and the Japanese public and provided the latest information about the importance of coral reefs and the threats to them, examples of good practice, and to further developing partnerships for coral reef conservation. The symposium also marked a start of IYOR 2008 in Japan. The high attendance and enthusiastic participation demonstrated the interest of the people in Japan in coral reef conservation. The co-chair for Japan thanked all ICRI members who contributed to the Symposium, in particular Minister Sadang, John Baldwin, Emily Corcoran, Christine Dawson and Clive Wilkinson.
11. The co-chairs thanked the dignitaries for their warm welcome to the ICRI members, and their words of support for this meeting of ICRI.

2.0 - ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

12. The co-chair presented the draft agenda for ICRI General Meeting (GM), which incorporated a special session on the IYOR 2008, and break out groups on key issues for ICRI. Feedback received following the Cozumel GM has enabled the Secretariat to continue to develop the format and content of GMs.
13. US Counterpart contributions to support UNEP's work on coral reefs had not been allocated at the time of the meeting. The meeting was informed that the implementation of the projects financed by the 2006 US counterpart contributions (contained in the last report presented at Cozumel) is progressing on track and in time. The MoU in support of the current ICRI Secretariat will be completed by end of June 2007. The 2006/7 MoU in support of coral reef monitoring under GCRMN and Reef Check is half way through with completion of this MoU/project expected by end of September 2007. A progress report will be submitted to the next ICRI GM in January 2008. The US was thanked for their continued support to coral reef work. Given this information, the meeting agreed to delete agenda item 8 from the agenda.
14. The co-chair presented the objectives of the meeting, including the opportunity to plan for IYOR, discussions of ICRI's role in the issue of MPAs, and how ICRI might add value to debates on new and emerging issues such as ocean acidification and economic valuation of coastal marine resources.
15. The draft [agenda](#) of the meeting was adopted as amended.

3.0 NEW ICRI MEMBERS

Supporting documents: A Request for membership was received from [SCRFA](#) (The Society for the Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations).

16. SCRFA made a brief statement, indicating their support to the ICRI Call to Action, Renewed Call to Action and Framework for Action; The primary focal point was identified as Martin Russell.
17. China, Tuvalu, Japanese Coral Reef Society (JCRS), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and International Society for Mangrove Ecosystem (ISME) participated as observers to ICRI.

18. The meeting noted the request that the ICRI Secretariat invite the incoming President of the International Society for Reef Studies to the next ICRI GM in January 2008.

4.0 – PROGRESS OF RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND ACTIONS REQUESTED

19. A review of progress on the resolutions and adopted at the previous GM, held in Cozumel, Mexico was presented.

20. **GCRMN**: Four decisions were taken relating to the work of GCRMN. Details of progress on these decisions were presented in a [GCRMN Report](#) and summarised in section 7.2 of this summary record.

21. **IYOR 2008**: The Resolution adopted at the Cozumel GM has been widely disseminated and the appointment of an Interim Coordinator for the IYOR 2008 has resulted in significant progress. This is reported under sections 6.2 and 10 of this summary record.

22. ICRI Resolution on ITMEMS 3:

- (i) In October 2006 at the Cozumel General Meeting, ICRI adopted a resolution on ITMEMS 3 to undertake action items identified in the ITMEMS 3 Action Statement that were considered most urgent in the context of the ICRI Call to Action and Framework for Action. The text of the resolution is at: http://www.icriforum.org/secretariat/cozumel/Reso_ICRI_ITMEMS3.pdf;
- (ii) Progress has been reported to the Secretariat on 8 of the 12 actions identified. Members were requested to keep the Secretariat informed of progress made on the actions identified in Annex 1 or 2 of the resolution for reporting to the next ICRI GM in January 2008. Please [click here](#) for the status of actions implemented;
- (iii) In conclusion the ICRI members were thanked for actions taken to date and the request to keep the Secretariat informed of progress was noted.

23. **ICRI Statement on Coral Reef Fish Spawning Aggregations**: A regional Project on Reef Fish Spawning Aggregations has been initiated in South Asia and the Andaman Sea, responding directly to the Statement adopted by ICRI, and to the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress Recommendation 3.100 on “Reef-fish spawning aggregations”. Further details are presented in the [IUCN Members Report](#).

5.0 – UPDATE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

5.1 –ICRI Secretariat Report

Supporting document: [Secretariat Report](#)

24. An update of activities of the Secretariat between November 2006 and April 2007 was presented. ICRI members were invited to note this report in particular:

- (i) Members are encouraged to fulfil the 3 criteria for ICRI membership (i.e. nominating a focal point (ideally 2); submitting a report of activities at least once per secretariat term and endeavouring to attend at least one General Meeting per secretariat term);
- (ii) The continuing request for members to check the list of nominated focal points attached to the Secretariat report, and either nominate focal points as appropriate (primary and secondary) or send any corrections of focal point names to the Secretariat at icri@unep-wcmc.org;
- (iii) The forthcoming handover of the hosting of the ICRI Secretariat from the governments of Japan and Palau to the governments of Mexico and the United States of America on the 1st July 2007.

25. The report was noted and the Secretariat thanked.

26. A summary of feedback received by ICRI members for the Tokyo GM is presented as [Annex 4](#).

5.2 – Review of ICRI

Supporting document: [ICRI Review](#)

27. It was decided at the ICRI General Meeting, Palau, October 2005, to undertake a review of ICRI in recognition of its 10 years anniversary. As a result of this decision, ICRI Secretariat conducted and submitted a draft review to the Cozumel General Meeting, October 2006. The review was posted as a working document for discussion on ICRIForum and comments from ICRI members were reflected to the draft. At this current GM the members were invited to adopt the draft ICRI Review.

28. In discussion members highlighted the need for the findings of the review to be taken up and acted upon by ICRI, and continue to build on what has been achieved to date. There needs to be continued momentum to strengthen the membership of ICRI, in terms of engaging more coral reef countries, and also private industry sectors who have interests in coral reefs, such as the tourism and fisheries sectors.

29. In conclusion ICRI members adopted the ICRI Review, as amended.

6.0- REPORTS OF ICRI AD HOC COMMITTEES

6.1- Enforcement and Natural Resource Investigations In Coral Reef and Associated Ecosystems ad hoc Committee

Supporting Document: [ICRI GM Japan/Palau \(3\) 2007/AHC/Enforcement](#) and [presentation](#)

30. This Committee was formed at the Palau GM in November 2005. Membership consists of representatives from eleven ICRI members, with total members numbering eighteen. From this, a small core development group with expertise in coral reef resource management, wildlife enforcement, wildlife forensics, ecotoxicology, ecological risk assessment, and homicide investigation has worked to develop the a series of draft products described in the report to the meeting.

31. A summary of activities undertaken since the last GM was presented including the successful implementation of the Cozumel pilot field training that took place in October 2006 for 24 participants. Current activities include the completion the toolkit, and its translation into Spanish in the first instance. It is expected that the toolkit will be launched at the 11th ICRI in Florida, July 2008.

32. Funding has been secured for three field-training workshops in South East Asia, Central America and the South Pacific. Funds are being sought for further workshops. At this point the Committee is well on its way towards meeting the original goals established during its creation relative to facilitating a coordinated and standardized approach towards coral reef injury investigation.

33. In discussion ICRI members

(i) Recognized the critical role of enforcement in the conservation of natural resources, and the need to build capacity of enforcement officers in order that they can be effective. ICRI members were pleased that the toolkit is being produced in different languages and have offered assistance in dissemination when the toolkits are available. If the tool kit could be produced in French CRISP could assist in holding a workshop in New Caledonia. It is anticipated that workshops will be undertaken in 12 regions, including Africa, although funds are not yet identified. There was interest from members in distilling the lessons learned across the different regions;

(ii) Asked if there are examples of material collected using these methods that has been used as evidence for prosecutions. The tools are still very new, but this aspect will be documented carefully. There are currently three prosecutions that are using components of the toolkit;

34. In conclusion the meeting agreed that the work of the Committee should continue into the next Secretariat term and report back to the next ICRI GM, Washington DC, January 2008.

6.2 - International Year of the Reef (IYOR) ad hoc Committee.

Supporting Document: IYOR Terms of Reference, Action plan and [presentation](#)

35. A report on the progress of the ad hoc Committee was presented by the Interim Coordinator for IYOR 2008. The IYOR Resolution has been widely disseminated through focal points, regional organisations, initiatives and newsletters. Good progress has been made in the preparation for the IYOR and the TOR established for the *ad hoc* Committee at the last ICRI GM have been implemented. The Interim Coordinator outlined the next steps for the Committee, including new terms of reference, and changes to the composition of the Committee for the next phase.

36. The official IYOR 2008 logo was selected as the result of a voting process. 27 entries were submitted and 77 votes received to select the five final designs. The final selection was by vote of the ICRI General Meeting participants. ICRI members are encouraged to use this logo in publicizing the events/activities concerning to IYOR and can be downloaded at http://www.iyor.org/logo_IYOR.html.

37. A special session was held to share examples of planning for IYOR activities, and brainstorm on three aspects of the IYOR preparation. The outcomes of this session are presented in section 10 of this report.

38. In conclusion the meeting agreed to:

- (i) Adopt the amended TOR as presented by the interim IYOR coordinator;
- (ii) Continue the IYOR 2008 *ad hoc* Committee, lead by ICRI Secretariat. The members of the IYOR 2008 *ad hoc* Committee are: Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Philippines, USA, CORAL, GCRMN, ICRAN, Reef Check, the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP).

6.3- Discussion Group on the ICRI Logo

Supporting Document: [ICRI GM Japan/Palau \(3\) 2007/AHC/logo](#)

39. A Resolution on the use of ICRI Logo was adopted at Cozumel ICRI General Meeting in October 2006. In the meeting, the concept of modifying the Logo to better reflect the connectivity of corals and terrestrial wetlands, in particular, to add “green element” in the current Logo was proposed.

40. Mexico and the World Bank were thanked for contributing design concepts for consideration.

41. After considering design proposals, the discussion group reached a conclusion not to modify nor change the current ICRI Logo.

42. In conclusion members agreed not to modify nor change the current ICRI logo. A modification to the Resolution on the use of the ICRI Logo will be made to allow for logos A and B in the annex of the supporting document to be used. The group were thanked for their work, and the discussion group was dissolved.

6.4- MPA ad hoc Committee

Supporting Document: [ICRI GM Japan/Palau \(3\) 2007/AHC/MPA](#)

43. The work of the MPA *ad hoc* Committee was re-initiated with the new terms of reference and new members at the Cozumel General Meeting, October 2006. The committee was tasked with providing a review report and draft statement pertaining to the WSSD 2012 MPA target to the current meeting.

44. The Committee put forward a draft recommendation for consideration by the ICRI Members, which sought to encourage ICRI members to take urgent action to establish and effectively manage representative regional and national networks of MPAs that include coral reefs and related ecosystems.

45. In discussion it was noted that:

- (i) There should be reference to existing work on establishment of MPA networks, for example through IUCN and the WCPA amongst others;
- (ii) Stressed the need for continuing work to understand and improve the effectiveness of MPA management, and therefore networks of MPAs;
- (iii) Japan will be organising an “International Reef Protected Area Network Conference” in 2008. An announcement will be sent in due course;
- (iv) The Philippines in collaboration with Malaysia and Indonesia initiated the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion Programme in 2003. A conservation plan has been developed and the framework is due to be implemented soon.

46. In conclusion the meeting:

- (i) Thanked members who contributed to the review;
- (ii) Adopted the recommendation on “[Developing MPA Networks](#)” as amended; and
- (iii) Thanked the Committee for its work and agreed to dissolve this *ad hoc* Committee.

7.0 - OPERATIONAL NETWORK REPORTS

7.1 – ICRAN

Supporting Document: [ICRI GM Japan/Palau \(3\) 2007/MR/ICRAN](#), [ICRAN Newsletter](#), [Presentation](#)

47. As an operational network of ICRI, the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) submitted its 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. These include the ICRAN/ UNF and CL Financial/Angostura Ltd. a new project that has come on line; the Mesoamerican reef Project (ICRAN MAR); the South Asia MCPA Project, announcing a new project officer; Reefs at Risk +10 with a 2 page concept made available as well as the on going activities of ICRAN. The details of the report can be found in the supporting documentation.
48. The report also indicated some recent and forthcoming outputs of ICRAN. The ITMEMS proceedings will be ready by July 2007. In advance, a climate change brief resulting from ITMEMS is available for dissemination. A new educational cartoon colouring book has been produced and the CORAL briefing sheets are now available as English/Arabic bilingual flyers.
49. ICRAN stressed highlighted its commitment to the forthcoming IYOR 2008, indicating its active participation in activities, and recent purchase of the iyor.org domain as a contribution to the campaign.
50. The concept for a new model for ICRAN was presented. In October 2005 the ICRAN Board decided that it was necessary to move to a new model for the network. The meeting was informed that a small working group is being established. This will comprise the ICRI co-chairs, board and executives to follow up on previous work. It is the aim that the ICRAN ICU will move away from grant based funding to a more sustainable model, for example a fee for service basis. The envisaged process will be to develop a draft paper and establish the working group meetings electronically, meeting face-to-face depending on need and opportunity. Once prepared the draft report will be presented to the ICRAN Board with a recommendation to dissolve the existing structure, adopting a new, leaner structure. This will be a consultative process and a progress report will be made to the next ICRI GM, January 2008.
51. ICRAN invited CRISP to present their recent activities and successes as one of their partners. CRISP reported the expansion of the programme beyond the South Pacific to include Palau. The Acronym now stands for “Coral Reef Initiatives of the Pacific”. Further information regarding the activities of CRISP is available at <http://www.crisponline.net/> .
52. In conclusion ICRAN was thanked and the report was noted.

7.2 GCRMN

Supporting Document: [ICRI GM Japan/Palau \(3\) 2007/MR/GCRMN_B](#) , [ICRI GM Japan/Palau \(3\) 2007/Network/\[GCRMN\], Half year report](#)

53. GCRMN presented an update on the outcomes and progress resulting from the decisions taken at the Cozumel General Meeting (see also section 4.0). The Global Coordinator also presented a report of activities from October 2006-April 2007. ICRI members are encouraged to visit the GCRMN home page for latest news, detailed information of activities, and information of GCRMN nodes. <http://www.gcrmn.org/>
54. The 2008 Status of Coral Reefs of the World Report would be launched at the 11th ICRS in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in July 2008. There will be a poster session, and approximately 5-6 presentations from the regions, AGRRA, Reefcheck and Soc Mon to demonstrate the partnership of people working together to monitor coral reefs. The ICRI members are encouraged to submit issues relevant to ICRI for inclusion in the 2008 Status report as special information boxes.
55. ICRI members are encouraged to promote the GCRMN methods book when supporting the development of monitoring programmes.
56. The global coordinator thanked CRISP for help in Pacific region, UNEP for efficient and transparent disbursement of funds and the USA for their continued financial support to GCRMN.
57. In conclusion the report was noted, with thanks.

7.3 – CORDIO

58. CORDIO reported to ICRI summarising activities from October 2006 to April 2007. CORDIO (Coastal Ocean Research and Development in the Indian Ocean) continues to develop its work programme. Following the expiry of the SIDA/SAREC grant to CORDIO in the first quarter of 2007, CORDIO expressed its sincere gratitude to SIDA/SAREC for 8 years of uninterrupted support. This new phase has provided an opportunity to review CORDIO's activities and broaden its scope.
59. A CORDIO workshop meeting will be held as a side session, and session at the 5th WIOMSA Scientific Symposium 22-26th October, 2007 with presentations of research findings, reef status etc. This will result in a progress Status report to be released by the end of 2007.
60. The report also highlighted collaborative work in partnership with IUCN and ICRAN. These are reported in the respective reports and at http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/coral_reefs/cccr/cccr_home.html. The Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C) established in September 2006. This is a NGO/IGO consortium to promote synergy and partnerships to advance marine and coastal research in the region. It is seeking formal endorsement of the Nairobi Convention at their COP in September 2007.
61. In conclusion the report was noted, with thanks.

7.4 – ReefCheck

Supporting Document : [ICRI GM Japan/Palau \(3\) 2007/MR/RC](#)

62. 2007 marks the 10 year anniversary of ReefCheck. The organisation is now represented in 83 countries with offices in Manila, Hawaii, Dominican Republic, Australia and Bali. ReefCheck delivered its report on activities from October 2006 to April 2007 highlighting:
 - (i) Surveys by Reef Check have increased in 2006 with more than 700 surveys;
 - (ii) Reef Check is coordinating planning for their activities for the International Year of the Reef, with ICRI, US CRTF and others. Reef Check have released the 'Declaration on Reef Rights' for signatures;

- (iii) Reef Check and partners MAC (Marine Aquarium Council) and CCIF (Conservation Corporate Initiatives Forum) in the Philippines established 6 new MPAs with ongoing coral rehabilitation in partnership with ECOCEAN using fish post-larvae;
- (iv) A 2005/6 Caribbean Bleaching report was released. The 10 year report is in preparation;
- (v) EcoAction program is self-financing with train-the-trainers workshops occurring in 12 countries and over 150 instructors trained. The EcoAction program is being sold throughout the world to support local teams conservation and monitoring efforts.

63. In conclusion the report was noted, with thanks.

8.0 – REPORT ON THE USE OF US COUNTERPART FUNDS

64. According to section 2.0 (para 13), this item was deleted.

9.0 – 11th ICRS, 2008

Supporting Document: [ICRI GM Japan/Palau \(3\) 2007/ICRS 11](#) and [presentation](#)

65. Plans for the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium, July 7-11, 2008 were presented. The Symposium will take place in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA co-hosted by the United States via the US Coral Reef Taskforce were presented. The meeting is held every four years and sanctioned by the International Society of Reef Studies. The theme for the 11th ICRS is **Reefs for the Future** it is hoped that the symposium will form the centerpiece of IYOR 2008. There will be 24 mini symposia and it is anticipated the 11th ICRS will attract over 2,500 attendees. A call for papers will be issued mid 2007. For the developing programme and other information, members are invited to visit the website at <http://www.nova.edu/ncri/11icrs/>.

66. Foundation and government Sponsorships are vitally important to defray costs and ensure success. The organizing committee respectfully seeks the help and support of sponsors. If members would like to consider a Sponsorship level they are invited to visit http://www.nova.edu/ncri/11icrs/sponsor_levels.html.

67. In discussion:

- (i) It was decided that a strong and planned ICRI presence was required at the ICRS. Plans to coordinate this will be addressed by the incoming secretariat. A booth will be made available for ICRI;
- (ii) CRISP confirmed financial support to assist students from the Pacific to attend the Symposium;
- (iii) It was stressed that all participants requiring a visa for entry into the USA, should ensure they make the necessary arrangements in good time.

68. In conclusion the meeting noted the report.

10.0 – IYOR SPECIAL SESSION

69. Following the designation of the IYOR for 2008, at the Cozumel GM, October 2006 an interim coordinator was designated by the Host Secretariat to develop a plan of action and fulfil the terms of reference established at the Cozumel meeting. This special session was designed to brief ICRI members of progress, to provide an opportunity for ICRI members to share plans for IYOR activities, and to discuss three central issues for the IYOR 2008 that would provide input to the IYOR 2008 Action Plan.

10.1 Development of IYOR activities to date

70. France, Japan and the US were invited to present their status of preparation to date for IYOR 2008 activities:

- (i) [France](#): A background was given to the work France undertakes on Coral reefs in the 8 Overseas Territories of France, particularly through IFRECOR. IYOR activities will be set within the context of the framework of IFRECOR's business and focus on education,

targeting schools, general public, scientists and decision makers. Materials will include a poster series and a special edition of a popular comic-strip (Collection Okissé) covering a wide range of coral reef issues;

- (ii) [Japan](#): IYOR in Japan provides an opportunity to build partnerships and awareness. To date there has been a kick off meeting in March 2007, which engaged a range of sectors, a website and mailing list have also been established. A tag line “Learn, Visit and Conserve Coral reefs” has been established to help people recognise the IYOR message. The Ministry of the Environment have prepared a booklet and a prototype poster;
- (iii) [US](#): The US presented an overview of the US Coral Reef Task Force, and the vision of the US CRTF for IYOR 2008. It is anticipated that IYOR will enhance the implementation of USCRTF mission and goals; broaden participation, partnership and collaboration; and facilitate communication of issues, threats and actions required for coral reef conservation. A mini-summit was held in February 2007, which identified some potential IYOR activities that could be implemented through inter-agency and cross sector collaboration. A selection of potential activities include creating a U.S. calendar of events, hosting a seminar series; developing a U.S. campaign and fora for stakeholders to come together which will take place throughout 2008.

71. A plenary discussion was held to provide the opportunity for ICRI members to share plans that are underway and suggestions for IYOR activities and approaches:

- (i) Secretariat of the CBD informed the meeting of the opportunity to hold a side event at the CBD COP 9 in Bonn, Germany. The IYOR Interim Coordinator will ensure that the Secretariat, and the German IYOR Committee liaise with the SCBD to develop this possibility;
- (ii) One suggestion was to identify a different theme or region as a focus for each month, ensuring the media is aware. A list of suggested themes was suggested in the IYOR *ad hoc* Committee discussion area;
- (iii) Involvement of a broad range of stakeholders is critical, from private sector, the media (CNN, BBC etc – potentially using SeaWeb to coordinate) and participation at the highest political level (e.g. connecting to the Global Island Partnership and other major initiatives) to ensure their engagement;
- (iv) Regional cooperation and joined up planning is needed to ensure one central and coherent message from all regions, put forward in a regionally appropriate manner;
- (v) High level opportunities to promote IYOR include the G8 Environmental Ministers Meeting in Japan;
- (vi) The International Declaration of Reef Rights is an NGO contribution to IYOR. In the first two weeks, over 2500 signatures have been collected. The aim is to reach 1million signatures by end of IYOR. ICRI members are asked to see how they could take the Declaration forward.

72. The meeting agreed that in order to succeed, the IYOR will need to carefully programme events through out the year, maintaining momentum and profile

10.2 Development of Partnerships and collaborations for IYOR 2008

73. The Interim coordinator presented an update on the partnerships and collaborations being developed. IYOR 2008 Designation has been widely communicated to most international organisations and governments. There are number of potential opportunities and several discussions are ongoing and include:

- (i) Organisers of the UN International Year of the Planet Earth have been contacted, and have expressed an interest in working with the IYOR;
- (ii) CI undertake annual “clean up” activities which involve around 15,000 people around the world. It could be suggested that a coral reef clean up could be the focus for 2008;
- (iii) February 2nd 2008 will be World Wetlands Day for Ramsar. The Secretariat of Ramsar has been contacted to see if there is any opportunity for focusing on coral reefs;
- (iv) CORAL’s Dive into Earth Day will have a special focus for IYOR;
- (v) The World Ocean Day is happy to do something coral reef related for 2008;

- (vi) World Tourism Day will happen on the 27th September 2008, and as yet the theme for 2008 has not been chosen, this will be done in November 2007. It is suggested that the Interim Coordinator/ICRI request that this theme is related to corals;
- (vii) GLOBE is an initiative that is active in 17,000 schools and would be good to link up with;
- (viii) ICRI providing a prize for the winner of the Young Reporter for the Environment – best coral reef article.

10.3 Summary outcomes of the Breakout Groups for IYOR

74. The General Meeting participants were divided into three groups to discuss three issues central to the planning of IYOR 2008. Each group was asked to develop some key points to be taken forward into the draft plan of action for IYOR 2008. The three issues were (1) Collaboration and Partnership; (2) Brainstorming on the Launch of IYOR; and (3) Central Information Resources.
75. **Collaboration and Partnerships:** The group focused the discussion on identifying key areas for cooperation and partnerships and establishing priorities to put forward to the IYOR 2008 Plan of action. These priorities are:
- (i) **Partnerships are developed with international institutions and MEAs (high priority for ICRI)** - ICRI to work with CDB, Ramsar and G8 and GEF secretariats and partners on side events and items of relevance to coral reefs, links are made to MDGs, Climate Change and SIDS;
 - (ii) **Partnerships with regional institutions through the regional seas and other mechanisms** - ICRI Members to promote IYOR in regional activities and ICRI to promote regional activities in IYOR events;
 - (iii) **Partnership with media** - ICRI to actively engage with international media outlets (see Paragraph 76);
 - (iv) **Private sector engagement (global and regional) (high priority for ICRI and ICRI members)** - ICRI to promote private sector engagement in international for a such as World Tourism Organization, World Fisheries Congress, UNEP tour operators initiative, World Water Forum, International Water Initiative; ICRI members to engage private sector regionally and nationally;
 - (v) **Political leaders and champions** - ICRI to identify mechanisms to access champions (ie celebrities and political leaders), using local governance structures to champion IYOR, after the success of the Local Government Leaders Forum at ITMEMS 3;
 - (vi) **Local communities** - ICRI members to support community activities as part of the IYOR.
76. Additional suggestions include, building partnerships with educators (schools and ministries); engaging the private sector perhaps seeking support for an event as an entry point to a longer term partnership.
77. It was emphasised that given the limited lead time, it is necessary to make use of partnerships and networks that exist within ICRI and its members.
78. **Brainstorming on the Launch of IYOR** - The group decided unanimously that it would be appropriate to have an official ICRI launch date, and that this should be the first meeting of the incoming secretariat, which will be held in January 2008. Beyond this partners in IYOR should be able to identify their own launch dates that locally appropriate. The brainstorm resulted in the following recommendations for the *ad hoc* Committee to consider:
- (i) There are two aspects to consider for the launch, the EVENT and the MESSANGER (who will carry the message). The top 5 carriers of the IYOR message in terms of their accessibility and value for effort were considered to be topical magazines (dive magazines, National Geographic etc), SeaWeb, Local radio, music/dance, the Declaration of Reef Rights. The top 5 events identified were the ICRI GM in January, Piggybacking existing events (eg CBD COP 9) and highlevel popular events (eg pro-surf, boat shows, diving shows), encouraging regional and national level launches, creative use of sport and media, public aquaria;

- (ii) It was recognised by the group that different suggestions will be applicable to different countries and countries will need to select what will work in their context;
- (iii) The lead time is ever shortening, and launch activities need to start planning now.

79. **Central Information Resources** - the group discussions focused on 7 themes for consideration by the IYOR *ad hoc* Committee:

- (i) The themes of IYOR should engage all countries in as inclusive manner as possible;
- (ii) A logo that is freely available, with scope for some translation;
- (iii) IYOR will not have an uniform slogan or a tag line but encourages regions and countries to develop their own as appropriate;
- (iv) That there are clear messages for IYOR as an opportunity to make a difference;
- (v) Development of PR materials, including non-verbal tools;
- (vi) Networking –Using IYOR to create new networks etc that will last long after 2008;
- (vii) Developing a website and online tools that will facilitate evaluating the impact of IYOR, in terms of the numbers of people reached, linkages etc.

80. In conclusion

- (i) ICRI members were thanked for their inputs, energy and enthusiasm that will make the IYOR 2008 a success;
- (ii) The list of contact points for IYOR at the national level are available on the IYOR website (www.iyor.org) – Organizations and countries who have not nominated a focal point yet are encouraged to do so;
- (iii) The information gathered during the special session will be incorporated into the Action Plan as the first task of the newly appointed *ad hoc* Committee and circulated to the ICRI members after 14 days via the ICRIForum.

11.0 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MEMBERS REPORTS

81. ICRI members were invited to submit reports to the ICRI Secretariat using the new report template. The template includes generic information, and also an option to ask questions pertaining to the issues of the GM. The questions on this occasion focused on members' plans for IYOR 2008 and activities relating to mangrove ecosystems. The information submitted was used to inform two of the break out sessions. 23 reports were received (10 from countries and 13 from organizations (4 of which were from regional bodies). 16 members responded to activities related to IYOR, and 12 to mangrove related activities. All members' reports are available on the ICRIForum. ICRI members were thanked for their contribution to this item on the agenda.

82. The session consisted of question and answer between members facilitated by the Co-chairs. It was to stimulate active discussion on issues of interest in the reports and facilitate the engagement of members.

83. In discussion:

- (i) Japan thanked the members who did submit reports. It was agreed by many members that the format will help members and the secretariat understand the wide array of activities undertaken across the ICRI membership;
- (ii) Apologies were received from a number of countries who did not submit reports on this occasion;
- (iii) A number of reports made requests for support and ICRI requested to consider how it might be able to facilitate such assistance. There is no current mechanism, although the submission of reports does provide a first step to enabling connections between members;
- (iv) Tuvalu, as a new observer and a SIDS provided a brief introduction to recent activities on going in the country. Recent funding from CRISP has enabled Tuvalu to reinstate

GCRMN activities. Coral reef work tends to be patchy as it depends on project funds. SPREP invited Tuvalu to discuss their needs and offered assistance to help sourcing resources. Japan indicated that it would like to extend cooperative support to Tuvalu in the context of establishment of MPAs;

- (v) CRISP and Japan will liaise to ensure complementarity of actions relating to the networking of MPAs in the Pacific region;
- (vi) IOI are seeking collaboration for a new initiative to develop "Seaweed Pacific" (www.seaweedpacific.org) to expand AlgaeBase. It is anticipated that the project will begin in early 2007 to enhance knowledge of Pacific Island benthic marine algae and will serve as a source of information for scientific, ethnobiological and commercial research.

82. In conclusion:

- (i) ICRI members agreed that the new reporting format was easy to use, and encouraged submission, even if it could not be complete;
- (ii) ICRI members, particularly country members were encouraged to continue to submit reports to the next ICRI GM in January 2008. Observers are also invited to submit reports, if they wish.

12.0 – PRESENTATION OF MPA DATABASE OF EAST ASIA AND MICRONESIA

Supporting Document : [ICRI GM Japan/Palau \(3\) 2007/12 MPAs, Presentation](#)

83. The "Coral Reef MPAs of East Asia and Micronesia is a collaborative project between The WorldFish Center (ReefBase Project) and Japan Wildlife Research Center (JWRC), and funded by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, as part of the Japan-Palau ICRI secretariat Plan of Action for 2005-2007. With support and permission of the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), UNEP-WCMC and MPA Global and the various countries partners, the project has been able to update the information about MPAs within East Asia and Micronesia, share the information with WDPA and update it on the MPA Global and ReefBase websites. Coral reef MPAs datasets of 16 countries (12 countries in East Asia and 4 countries in Micronesia region) have been updated.

84. The demonstration site for MPA project (<http://www.reefbase.org/mpa>) has been launched and now available to view and download information on MPAs in East Asia and Micronesia region. The demonstration site contains: MPA Site Data (updated data of MPA global and available for download), Country & Region Summary Report, and GIS Map (provides a link to ReefGIS and will show the MPAs point and related polygons).

85. The stand-alone CD/DVD-ROM with MPA information and GIS on East Asia and Micronesia is due to be released at the 21st Pacific Science Congress, 12-18 June 2007, Okinawa. The permanent website will be replaced with the demonstration site with links to MPA Global and ReefGIS, and be available at the same time.

86. In discussion:

- (i) It was suggested that additional field(s) could be added to contain information on management effectiveness of MPAs. This is not currently incorporated in the database;
- (ii) Clarification was given that the information contained within the database would be feeding into the WDPA; Other links to existing data portholes should also be explored, such as Conservation Geportal and links to the SCRFA global database showing locations of spawning aggregations.

87. In conclusion:

- (i) It was agreed the suggestions provided by members should be followed up by Japan to further develop the database;
- (ii) The Secretariat was thanked for initiating this work, and ICRI members encouraged to make use of data, and also consider supporting further updates of the database in other regions.

13.0 – CORAL REEF ASSOCIATED ECOSYSTEMS: MANGROVES

88. Following a recommendation from the Palau GM, and the ICRI Review to identify mangrove experts and invite them to participate in ICRI meetings the ICRI Secretariat took the opportunity to invite two international organisations with Mangrove mandates to attend the Tokyo GM. ITTO and ISME presented the scope of their activities, and co-facilitated the break out session on Mangrove and Coral reef interactions.

13.1 The International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO)

Supporting Document : [ICRI GM Japan/Palau\(3\) 2007/Coral reef associated Ecosystems: Mangroves/ITTO, Presentation](#)

89. The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) was established under the auspices of the United Nations in 1986 amidst increasing worldwide concern for the fate of tropical forests. While almost everyone was alarmed at the rate of deforestation occurring in many tropical countries, there was also considerable agreement that the tropical timber trade was one of the keys to economic development in those same countries. The reconciliation of these two seemingly disparate phenomena is ITTO's story.
90. ITTO has developed a broad portfolio of field-based mangrove projects implemented in partnership with local, national and international organizations. These projects are designed to assist countries and communities to conserve, rehabilitate and sustainably manage their mangrove ecosystems. At the international level, ITTO has funded the establishment of a network for the conservation and sustainable use of mangrove forest genetic resources, the creation of a manual for mangrove ecosystem restoration, the publication of a highly regarded World Mangrove Atlas (a thorough revision of which is now underway), and the establishment of a mangrove database known as GLOMIS – the Global Mangrove Database and Information System. Many of these activities have been implemented in collaboration with ISME, a key partner in ITTO's mangrove work program.
91. The Organization's mangrove program was strengthened by the ITTC's (International Tropical Timber Council) approval in 2002 of the ITTO Mangrove Workplan to guide those member nations seeking ITTO support for mangrove management, conservation and rehabilitation projects. With strong partnerships already in place with ISME and other mangrove-related organizations, ITTO is well placed to increase its assistance to mangrove-dependent communities and to promote the sustainable use of these threatened ecosystems.
92. ITTO is funded through two mechanisms: (a) the administrative budget which is paid by all members according to a formula; and (b) voluntary contributions from members. The donor community includes government and non-government and industry bodies. Proposals for projects can only be submitted by member countries, however increasingly, members are engaging wider stakeholder groups for the development and implementation of projects.
93. The next Council Session of ITTO will take place in Papua New Guinea, May 2007.

13.2 The International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME)

Supporting Document : [ICRI GM Japan/Palau\(3\) 2007/Coral reef associated Ecosystems: Mangroves, Presentation](#)

94. ISME is an international non-profit and non-governmental scientific society, established in August 1990. ISME Headquarters is in Okinawa, Japan. ISME took over various initiatives and followed the lead given by earlier UNDP/UNESCO Regional Mangrove projects which was terminated in 1990. Among other items, the Statutes of ISME indicates that "the Society shall collect, evaluate and disseminate information on mangrove ecosystems" and "promote international cooperation."
95. Since its inauguration in 1990, ISME has been carrying out its mangrove-related activities at global level in the following three pathways, these are, in brief: a) application of knowledge to particular situations; b) training and education; and c) exchange of necessary information

through GLOMIS (Global Mangrove Database and Information System, <http://www.glomis.com>), which was funded by ITTO. ISME's activities have been supported by ITTO for many years. ISME's activities have also been collaborated by other agencies, universities, research institutes and local communities. As of April 2007, ISME's membership stands at 950 individual members and 38 institutional members from 88 countries and regions.

13.3 Discussion of Mangrove session

96. Both ISME and ITTO thanked ICRI for the invitation to attend this General Meeting, and encouraged ICRI to take note of the information presented and consider opportunities for future collaboration.

97. In discussion the following points were made:

- (i) Japan expressed their wish to have the mangrove related organizations to participate in the "International Marine Protected Area Network Conference" that Japan intends to host in 2008;
- (ii) ITTO expressed their enthusiasm for identifying areas for collaboration. There are a lot of similarities to threats facing coral reefs and mangroves, with possible common solutions and opportunities for sharing experiences. Areas of possible interaction are:
 - a. Ecosystem linkages/ connectivity;
 - b. Effectiveness of protected area management (ITTO has funded many PAs in terrestrial and mangrove areas and have found that there is a big gap between establishment of PA and protection of resources). The issue of implementing PA management plans, or even having MPs is of crucial importance;
 - c. Looking into overarching guidelines that would be applicable to both management effectiveness of coral and mangrove ecosystems. Need to show that the PAs established are being protected;
 - d. Joint efforts on raising awareness. Given the links, there could be much work done to raise awareness as to the importance of conserving resources both at the level of the general public and decision maker.
- (iii) The question was raised as to how the issue of connectivity is being addressed in capacity building activities, given a history of sectoral interests. ISME stressed the importance of putting mangroves into context in their training programme. Not only in terms of marine ecosystems, but also interface between freshwater/marine environments;
- (iv) The Revised World Atlas of Mangroves project is looking at the loss of mangrove, and will endeavor to provide a baseline for future assessments that can be relevant over time;
- (v) Connectivity between all coral reef associated ecosystems must be taken into account, not just mangroves. IOI proposed making a link to Seagrass Watch, based in Australia;
- (vi) Economic valuation of ecosystem goods and services is something that forms a critical component of many ITTO projects. It is important to understand what mangroves are being used for and the aspects/services that require management. ITTO also has a thematic programme area on ecosystem services from tropical forests to explore the true value beyond the timber value. This issue is also of interest to ISME, who are trying to publish on this issues. This is currently held up by limitations on human resources;
- (vii) GCRMN intend to incorporate material on mangroves and seagrassess in the Status 2008 and Caribbean Bleaching reports. This provides and opportunity for collaboration with ISME and ITTO.

98. In Conclusion

- (i) Noting that it was the first time that the mangrove issue was taken up and discussed substantially at ICRI General Meeting, ICRI Members strongly assured that more

discussion and information exchange are necessary with bodies and organisations relevant to mangrove conservation;

- (ii) It was suggested that the secretariat contact Seagrass Watch with a view to invite this organisation to the next ICRI GM;
- (iii) The Co-chairs thanked ISME and ITTO for attending the GM, and for their important contribution on this first occasion.

14.0 – KEY ISSUES FOR ICRI: Working group sessions and round up

99. The working group sessions were focused on four issues for ICRI to consider and follow up on. The ICRI members were divided into groups based on a sign up process, and each group was facilitated. The following paragraphs present a summary of the outcomes from these sessions. More details are available on the ICRIForum. Initially three issues were identified, however a fourth issue was added at the request of members during the GM.

14.1 - ITMEMS 3:

100. The objective of the group was to follow up on the outcomes of ITMEMS 3, which took place in October 2006 in Cozumel, Mexico. The group discussed issues emerging from workshops, in particular to discuss the proposed [Resolution on Climate Change and Coral Reefs](#) and how to take forward regional ICRI activities.

101. In discussion, the group gathered together some lessons learned from the ITMEMS 3 experience which are outlined below:

- (i) Networking: the meeting ensured that networking was a major focus during the preparation of the meeting, in terms of collating information on participants, circulating participant lists, colour coding and speed networking. Following on from the meeting the networking has developed into peer-to-peer exchanges, providing a clearing house and expert mentoring;
- (ii) Science Management: a meaningful science – management dialogue is essential and could be the subject of future regional ICRI meetings, developed through ICRS/ITMEMS plenary sessions, collaborations with other scientific fauna or “problem clinics”;
- (iii) Outreach: involving the private sector in regional events, setting of priorities using multi-stakeholder forum in preparation of regional ICRI sessions, creating linkages to multilateral environmental agreements and engaging the media;
- (iv) The ITMEMS Secretariat: is responsible for formally disseminating ITMEMS 3 information through innovative tools, coordination, engagement in planning for regional ICRI events;
- (v) Tools: website for dissemination, key statements and clearly defined outputs, guidelines and advisory materials.

102. In conclusion, the group agreed to the proposed resolution on Climate Change and Coral Reefs, as amended and encouraged ICRI members to continue with the implementation of the Resolution on ITMEMS 3 outcomes.

15.2 - Mangrove-coral interactions:

103. ICRI recognises the significance of the connectivity between coral reefs and associated ecosystems in its Call to Action and Framework for Action. It is accepted that the consideration of associated ecosystems is explicit in the mandate of ICRI. However the review of ICRI undertaken by the current secretariat, and formally adopted by this current ICRI GM, identified that the initiative had limited success to date in broadening the reach of its programmes to encompass mangroves and other associated ecosystems.

104. It was the purpose of this working group to open the dialogue and explore how ICRI could address this matter and initiate activities. The group consisted of ICRI members, ITTO and ISME.

105. In discussion the group considered the background to ICRI and the mandates of ITTO and ISME. The interests and current activities of ICRI members, which were presented in the members reports. A series of short term and medium to long-term opportunities are suggested (see [Annex 5](#)) for ICRI to consider. As examples these include: mangrove messages be added in events concerning the IYOR 2008 and/or in ICRI Status 2008 report, and in the longer term that ICRI should cooperate in developing Mangrove Monitoring Networks.

106. In conclusion it was agreed that the results of the working group constitute a significant step to enable ICRI to integrate associated ecosystems into its activities. ITTO and ISME expressed their interest in continuing to engage with ICRI, so long as this remained compatible with their action plans. There is a need to continue discussions, information exchange and dialogue with organisations relevant to mangrove conservation.

14.3 – Ocean Acidification

107. Ocean Acidification is an issue that is emerging on the international agenda, and as such the objective of this working group was to consider if ICRI should take this issue up, and if so, how should this be done.

108. The background to this issue was presented by Dr. Suzuki, to provide the group members with an update of the current state of research and how coral reefs may be impacted (both warm and cold water coral reefs) through interruption of reef building.

109. In discussion;

- (i) The group recognised the need for further scientific activity in this field, and proposed a [draft recommendation](#) as to how ICRI may wish to respond. The draft recommendation will be posted on the ICRI Forum and open to comments from ICRI members. It was proposed that *ad hoc* Committee is developed to coordinate this issue and Japan has volunteered to take the lead, should the recommendation be adopted. The group felt that the recommendation for a briefing document from the ISRS would carry more weight than a single scientist in international debate;
- (ii) A paper by Ken Caldera “What coral reefs are dying to tell us about ocean acidification” was suggested as a suitable briefing document on this matter;
- (iii) The meeting was informed that there will be a special edition for Ocean Acidification in the Journal of Coral Reefs, due to be published June 2008 just prior to ICRS 11.

110. In conclusion: the chair requested that comments on draft resolution be submitted to the Secretariat, who will post the draft on the ICRI Forum for two weeks, following which it will be subject to adoption according to the rules of the “Resolution on Organisation and Management Procedures”

14.4 Economic Valuation of ecosystem services

111. During discussions emerging during this GM, it became clear that many members are engaged in activities addressing the economic valuation of coral reefs and their ecosystem services, and that there is a significant need to share experiences, and follow up on the recommendations emerging from ITMEMS, particularly relating to the need for a standardised set of methodologies. At the request of the Membership, a break out session was added to the agenda in order to explore the activities that members are engaged with, and if there is a need to explore this subject further in this fora.

112. In discussion, the break out group considered:

- (i) Whether or not the right tools are available for undertaking the types of economic valuation that are needed for different outputs e.g. damage assessment and compensation, zoning, placement of infrastructures;
- (ii) What the data gaps are that prevent us from applying the tools we have;
- (iii) What information on tools and data can be pulled together e.g. Existing methods, case studies where these have been applied;
- (iv) The need for a strategy for best use of the information for the sustainable use and conservation of coral reefs (recognising existing agreements).

113. In conclusion the group suggested the following points for action:
- (i) The subject of economic valuation is of significant interest to ICRI members;
 - (ii) That a suggestion be put forward for the inclusion of a question to be included in the members report on economic valuation activities for the next ICRI GM in January 2008 and that it be considered for inclusion on the agenda for the next GM;
 - (iii) That the secretariat consider arranging for a specialised working session at the next general meeting;
 - (iv) Reiterated the need for central area on the ICRI Forum to share this information and invited interested members to contribute information, case studies, relevant experts and approaches/methods relating to economic valuation activities.

15.0 – REVIEW OF DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS AGREED

114. A summary of the agreed decisions and resolutions are presented under section 18.0.

16.0 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

115. The Marine Aquarium Council were unable to attend at the last minute. A [members report](#) was submitted. No further statement was provided.
116. UNEP invites the meetings to note to the outputs of Working Group II (Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was launched on 6 April 2007 in Brussels its Fourth Assessment Report. The 'Summary for Policymakers' of this report is available on <http://www.ipcc.ch>. The report makes a number of references to coral reefs. The full report of this WG is due to be released soon.
117. GCRMN Management Group meeting was held on the 23rd April 2007. The meeting discussed:
- (i) Progress to date including the next status report on the Caribbean. No date or location has been set for the launch, and a couple of funding gaps still remain;
 - (ii) The issue of economic assessment/valuation, and encourage the ICRI Secretariat to consider how to take this up within ICRI. It was noted that this issue has been raised in many other fora at recent meetings, for example ROPME;
 - (iii) The completion of the COREMO III database by the World Fish Centre, although there are issues of resources, which will need to be addressed.
118. WCPA Marine Summit: As a point of information, IUCN reported on the recent WCPA Marine Summit held in Washington DC. This high level event discussed the WCPA marine plan of action. Those who are interested in this work are encouraged to contact Dan Laffoley. Further information, including contacts for Dan can be found at <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/biome/marine/marineprogramme.html>.
119. US Debt relief may open up to coral reefs and all forests: The US executive branch has proposed legislation that would open the debt relief programme to coral reefs and forests. It is now a matter of waiting to see if the legislation is passed by congress.

17.0 – HAND OVER OF THE SECRETARIAT AND NEXT GENERAL MEETING

120. : The term of the current secretariat hosts ends 30th June 2007, and will be succeeded by the Governments of Mexico and the United States of America.
121. The representatives of the outgoing secretariat thanked, and to the governments of Japan and Palau, the work of JWRC and UNEP-WCMC for their continuing support to the development of ICRI as the designated administrative body. The continuing support of Japan and Palau to ICRI over the coming years was emphasised in support of the incoming hosts of the ICRI Secretariat for the coming two years.
122. The incoming representatives thanked Japan and Palau for a highly successful tenure, and kind hospitality. The achievements of the past two years were highlighted,

increasing the productivity and dynamism of ICRI, approaching new and emerging issues, increasing focus and results. Mexico and the US look forward to continue ICRI's growth over the coming two years.

123. The first general meeting hosted under the new secretariat of Mexico and the US is planned for mid January 2008, in Washington DC. Information will be posted at http://www.icriforum.org/sec_US_Mexico.html as it becomes available.

18.0 CONCLUSIONS OF THE ICRI GM

124. The following conclusions arose from the General Meeting:
- (i) One new ICRI members and five observers were welcomed;
 - (ii) One new resolution was adopted on Coral Reefs and Climate Change and one draft resolution presented for consideration on the potential impacts of Ocean Acidification;
 - (iii) Six Decisions were taken;
 - (iv) The incoming host governments were welcomed and the official hand over of the Secretariat took place;
 - (v) An announcement was made that the next ICRI GM would take place in January 2008, the location and exact date are to be confirmed.
125. Details of conclusions, decisions, resolutions and statements are included in the [Executive Summary](#) and under the relevant agenda items.

19.0 – CLOSE OF MEETING

126. The co-chairs expressed their sincere gratitude to the Government of Japan for their generous hospitality and outstanding organisation in preparing for the ICRI General Meeting and for the success of the Public Symposium.
127. The co-chairs thanked the members for their active participation. Members were invited to send any feedback or suggestions on the structure and running of the GM to the ICRI Secretariat (icri@unep-wcmc.org) to help continue to develop ICRI, and make the most of the opportunity presented by having so many people coming together
128. The meeting thanked the financial support from Japan and Norway that facilitated the participation of a number of ICRI members.
129. It was agreed that the summary record of the meeting would be prepared and circulated in accordance with the agreed resolution.

Annex 1

Tokyo General Meeting Participants list

Participants are listed alphabetically by Representation

| Representation | Name | Surname | Main Email |
|---|----------------|--------------|---|
| AJH Environmental Services | Francis | Staub | fstaub@icriforum.org |
| China, P.R. | Heyang | Li | HeyangLi@126.com |
| Coral Cay Conservation | Simon | Harding | sh@coralcay.org |
| CRISP | Eric | Clua | ericc@spc.int |
| France | Bernard | Salvat | bsalvat@univ-perp.fr |
| GCRMN | David | Souter | david@soutermarine.org |
| GCRMN | Clive Robert | Wilkinson | Clive.Wilkinson@rrrc.org.au |
| Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority | John | Baldwin | j.baldwin@gbmpa.gov.au |
| ICRAN | Nicola | Barnard | nbarnard@icran.org |
| ICRAN | Richard | Kenchington | richard.kenchington@netspeed.com.au |
| ICRI Working Group on Enforcement & Investigation | David | Gulko | david.a.gulko@hawaii.gov |
| International Ocean Institute | Masako | Otsuka | ioijapan@qb3.so-net.ne.jp |
| International Ocean Institute | Robin | South | robin.south@jcu.edu.au |
| ISME | Shigeyuki | Baba | isme@mangrove.or.jp |
| ISME | Mami | Kainuma | Mami.Kainuma@mangrove.or.jp |
| ITTO | Steven | Johnson | johnson@itto.or.jp |
| IUCN | Jerker | Tamelander | jerker.tamelander@iucn.org |
| Jamaica | Ainsley | Henry | ahenry@nepa.gov.jm |
| Japan, ICRI Co-Chair | Yoshihiro | Natori | |
| Japan, Ministry of Environment | Satoru | Tomioka | |
| Japan, Ministry of Environment | Tsunao | Watanabe | |
| Japan, Ministry of Environment | Atsuhiko | Yoshinaka | ATSUHIRO_YOSHINAKA@env.go.jp |
| Japan, Ministry of Environment | Kiyoshi | Tanikawa | |
| Japan, Ministry of Environment | Takashi | Imai | |
| Japan, Ministry of Environment | Keisuke | Takahashi | keisuke_takahashi@env.go.jp coral02@env.go.jp |
| Japan, Ministry of Environment | Yuki | Mori | |
| Japan, Ministry of Environment | Wakako | Hondo | |
| JCRS | Moritaka | Nishihira | moritaka@mail.meio-u.ac.jp |
| JCRS | Mariko | Abe | shark@xc4.so-net.ne.jp |
| JCRS | Beatriz Estela | Casareto | casaretoBe@aol.com |
| JCRS | Kazuo | Nadaoka | nadaoka@mei.titech.ac.jp |
| JCRS | Yoshimi | Suzuki | seysuzu@ipc.shizuoka.ac.jp |
| JCRS | Yutaka | Tateda | tateda@cripi.denken.or.jp |
| Japan Wildlife Research Centre/ ICRI Secretariat | Kohei | Hibino | khibino@jwrc.or.jp |
| JWRC/ ICRI Secretariat | Tadashi | Kimura | tkimura@jwrc.or.jp |
| Korea, Republic of | Heung | SIK PARK | hspark@kordi.re.kr |
| Mexico | Robert | Cudney Bueno | rocudney@conanp.gob.mx |
| National Coral Reef Institute | Dick | Dodge | dodge@nova.edu |
| NOAA (USA) | Alissa | Barron | alissa.barron@noaa.gov |
| Palau | Andrew | Bauman | abauman@palau-oerc.net |
| Palau | Fabian | Iyar | fiyar@picrc.org |
| Palau | Elbuchel | Sadang | |

| | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Palauan Embassy in Tokyo | Peter | Adelbai | |
| Papua New Guinea | Rodney | Galama | rgalama@seaweb.org |
| Philippines | Rizalita | Edpalina | epinephilus@yahoo.com |
| Reef Check Foundation | Gregor | Hodgson | gregorh@reefcheck.org |
| Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity | Kalemani Jo | Mulongoy | jo.mulongoy@biodiv.org |
| Society for the Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations (SCRFA) | Martin | Russell | M.Russell@gbrmpa.gov.au |
| South Africa | Michael | Schleyer | schleyer@ori.org.za |
| SPREP | Dominique | Benzaken | dominiqueb@sprep.org |
| Thailand | Niphon | Phongsuwan | niphonph@gmail.com |
| The Nature Conservancy | Gerald | Miles | gmiles@tnc.org |
| Tuvalu | Moeo | Finauga | sleep_o31@yahoo.com |
| UNEP CAR/RCU | Andrade | Nelson | nac.uneprcuja@cwjamaica.com |
| UNEP, EAS/RCU | Srisunda | Jarayabhand | jarayabhand@un.org |
| UNEP-WCMC | Emily | Corcoran | emily.corcoran@unep-wcmc.org |
| United States of America | Christine | Dawson | dawsoncl@state.gov |
| United States of America | Kelly | Milton | miltonkk@state.gov |
| US Embassy, Tokyo | Bart | Cobbs | |
| US Embassy, Tokyo | Keiko | Kandachi | kandachikx@state.gov |
| US Embassy, Tokyo | John | Greug | |
| Vietnam | Nguyen | Van Long | nvanlong@dng.vnn.vn |
| World Bank | Marea E. | Hatzios | mhatziolos@worldbank.org |

Apologies Sent

| Representation | Name | Surname | Main Email |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Fiji | Aisake | Batibasaga | abatibasaga@yahoo.com |
| FSM | Marion | Henry | |
| GBRMPA/Australia | Virginia | Chadwick | |
| ICRAN | Kristian | Teleki | kteleki@icran.org |
| India | B.S. | Parsheera | parsheera-mef@nic.in |
| IUCN | Carl Gustaf | Lundin | carl.lundin@iucn.org |
| Palau | Youlsau | Bells | ybells@palau-oerc.net |
| PERSGA | Mohammed M. A | Kotb | mohammed.kotb@persga.org |
| Reef Check Europe | Georg | Heiss | georg@reefcheck.de |
| SACEP | Arvind | Boaz | draboaz@yahoo.com |
| Secretariat of the Pacific Community | Being | Yeeting | BeingY@spc.int |
| Seychelles | Rolph Antoine | Payet | ps@env.gov.sc |
| Thailand | Thamasak | Yeemin | thamasakyeemin@yahoo.com |
| The Nature Conservancy | Scott | Smith | ssmith@tnc.org |
| The World Fish Centre | Marco | Noordeloos | m.noordeloos@cgiar.org |
| UNEP CAR/RCU | Alessandra | Vanzella-Khouri | avk.uneprcuja@cwjamaica.com |

Annex 2

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 included 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

Annex 3

Status of Actions arising during the Japan/Palau Hosting of the ICRI Secretariat, 2005–2007

| | | | |
|----|---|---|------------------|
| 1 | ICRI membership were asked to note the following upcoming meetings: Ramsar COP, Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 th November 2005; 3 rd Deep Sea Coral Symposium Miami, Florida 29 th November – 4 th December 2005; Asian Pacific Coral Reef Symposium, 18 th – 23 rd June 2006, Hong Kong; The 21 st Pacific Science Congress, Okinawa 13 th – 17 th June 2007. Dates of these events to be posted on the ICRIForum | | <i>Completed</i> |
| 2 | Letter in response to CBD regarding the Global Partnership for Biodiversity to be drafted by Japan in collaboration with the US and opened for comment on the ICRI Forum. Keisuke Takahashi to draft and post by end November 2005 | | <i>Completed</i> |
| 3 | ICRI members are all encouraged to consider supporting the CBD Island Biodiversity Programme of Work through their national CBD representatives. | <i>ICRI members were encouraged.</i> | <i>Completed</i> |
| 4 | Andrew Bauman was requested to follow the progress of Climate Change COP 11 COP/MOP 1. Processes pertinent to ICRI should be reported at the next GM, with results placed on the ICRIForum in mid December 2005. | <i>There was no follow up pertinent to ICRI members</i> | <i>Completed</i> |
| 5 | ICRI 10 year review to be initiated. UNEP-WCMC to liaise with the correspondence group (see agenda item 8) and keep all ICRI members apprised of progress. A draft annotated structure to be posted on the ICRIForum by the 31 st December 2005. | <i>Following the ICRI Review Working Group in Cozumel, and final comments following the meeting the review was adopted at the Tokyo GM.</i> | <i>Completed</i> |
| 6 | The UNEP Coral Reef Unit (CRU) to consider preparing an ITMEMS 3 session on dredging activities in coral reef areas. To be assessed following the 1 st meeting of the PIANC working group. February 2006. Responsibility: Emily Corcoran. | This was successfully undertaken. | <i>Completed</i> |
| 7 | Data, case studies, and post-tsunami research for inclusion in the upcoming GCRMN Post-Tsunami Status Report to be submitted to Clive Wilkinson as soon as possible. ICRI Members with access to funds for printing and dissemination of these reports should again contact Clive Wilkinson. Responsibility of all members. | | <i>Completed</i> |
| 8 | ICRI to encourage members to support provision of advice on “marine aspects of protected areas networking” for CBD SBSTTA 13 in 2007, through relevant national representatives. CBD to inform ICRI of the dates as they become available for the SBSTAA. To be discussed by the MPA <i>ad hoc</i> committee once its work has been reactivated. | | <i>Completed</i> |
| 9 | ICRI members to discuss the possibility for an International Year of the Reef +10, 2007. Responsibility of Reef Check and ICRI Secretariat. Draft to be submitted for comment on the ICRIForum by end 2005. | IYOR 2008 designated | <i>Completed</i> |
| 10 | Identify mangrove experts from countries where coral reefs and mangroves co-exist and encourage their participation in ICRI meetings. Responsibility | <i>ISME and ITTO attended ICRI GM in Tokyo, April 200, and assisted in facilitating a break out</i> | <i>Completed</i> |

| | | | |
|----|--|--|---------------------|
| | of the Secretariat. Progress to be made by Cozumel GM 2006. | <i>session on mangroves.</i> | |
| 11 | ICRI Secretariat to decide on the location of the 3 rd GM of their hosting period and inform the ICRI Membership through the ICRIForum by Mid 2006 | | <i>Completed</i> |
| 12 | A members report template to be developed to incorporate aspects of the Score Card to encourage regular updates from members to ICRI for testing at the next ICRI GM, April 2007. Responsibility Francis Staub, ICRI Secretariat and Bernard Salvat | <i>Members report template used at Tokyo GM.</i> | <i>Completed</i> |
| 13 | ICRI Members are encouraged to circulate the Statement on Coral Reef Fish Spawning Aggregations | | <i>On going</i> |
| 14 | Member countries / organisations were reminded to ensure the secretariat has the names of two representatives to act as focal points for communication with ICRI. Responsibility of all members. | <i>Progress is being made on the identification of ICRI Focal Points and the roles of focal points.</i> | <i>On going</i> |
| 15 | Japan Coral Reef Society (University of the Ryukyus) to translate documentation on guideline of coral transplantation from Japanese to English. Action by Makoto Tsuchiya by August 2006 and to be presented at the next ICRI GM, October 2006. | <i>[Being followed up]</i> | <i>On going</i> |
| 16 | ICRI members encouraged to identify and contact country representative to the UNCCD and promote the inclusion of coral reef perspectives into this process. | <i>[On going through members]</i> | <i>On going</i> |
| 17 | ICRI Secretariat to discuss an ICRI/ITMEMS joint session at ICRS 11 in Florida 2008 with the ICRS organising committee and the USA. (Responsibility: Andrew Bauman). Progress to be reported at the next ICRI GM, October 2006. | <i>Correspondence is established between ITMEMS, ICRI and ICRS</i> | <i>On going</i> |
| 18 | ICRI Secretariat to follow preparations for the next Informal Consultative Process of Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP) meeting, June 2006. Once the themes of discussions have been identified the Secretariat shall inform the ICRI membership through the ICRIForum of the appropriateness of an ICRI response. Expect action first quarter 2006. | <i>No statement was prepared for ICRI at the UNICPOLOS 7 or 8. ICRI to continue to follow this process.</i> | <i>On going</i> |
| 19 | Representatives from East Asian and Micronesian states are encouraged to contact to Marco Noordeloos regarding contributions of MPA data to the new Asia Pacific MPA database. Responsibility of all members. | <i>MPA database completed and due to be launched at 21st Pacific Science Congress, June 2007, Okinawa, Japan.</i> | <i>On going</i> |
| 20 | FAO Pacific region representative to contact FAO Headquarters with ICRI invitation for increased participation in ICRI process. Responsibility of FAO | <i>No communication received]</i> | <i>On going</i> |
| 21 | ICRI members are requested to provide feed back to the Secretariat on the new structure and style of ICRI meetings implemented for the Cozumel GM. Comments to be sent to icri@unep-wcmc.org | <i>Feed back received and fed back to the Secretariat</i> | <i>On going</i> |
| 22 | All ICRI members are urged to implement the actions in response to ITMEMS3 (annex 1 and 2 where appropriate), and to update the ICRI Secretariat on any progress made in the implementation. The ICRI Secretariat will provide an update on progress at the next ICRI GM | | <i>On going</i> |
| 23 | Submission of cases studies on any dredging | <i>No case studies received from</i> | <i>On going (to</i> |

| | | | |
|----|--|---|-----------------------------|
| | activities in coral reef areas (including sedimentation, remediation etc) are invited to inform the first meeting of the PIANC Working Group 15. Responsibility of all members to contact Emily.corcoran@unep-wcmc.org . | <i>members</i> | <i>complete 2008)</i> |
| 24 | The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Samoa, American Samoa and the Marshall Islands attended the meeting as observers, and are considering membership to ICRI. ICRI Secretariat to follow up and provide support | <i>These countries decided not to become ICRI members at this meeting, follow up and communication through the ICRI Secretariat is on going</i> | <i>Ongoing</i> |
| 25 | Members requested to provide spatial data and feedback on currently held data by visiting the mangrove review IMAPS for the revision of World Atlas of Mangroves | <i>Information received, continued liaison with ICRI members.</i> | <i>Ongoing</i> |
| 26 | China, Tuvalu, ISME and ITTO attended the meeting as observers, and are considering membership to ICRI. ICRI Secretariat to follow up. | | <i>New as of April 2007</i> |
| 27 | All members, particularly country members are urged to share their activities, challenges and lessons by submitting members' updates to the ICRI secretariat at any time. | | <i>New as of April 2007</i> |
| 28 | The ICRI Secretariat is requested to invite the incoming President of the International Society for Reef Studies to the next ICRI GM in January 2008 | | <i>New as of April 2007</i> |
| 29 | The secretariat were requested to make contact with Seagrass Watch with a view to invite this organisation to the next ICRI GM in January 2008 | | <i>New as of April 2007</i> |
| 30 | All ICRI members are requested to keep the IYOR Interim Coordinator informed of activities that are planned for IYOR in preparation of the launch of IYOR in January 2008. | | <i>New as of April 2007</i> |
| 31 | Japan to follow up suggestions for the further development of the MPA Database for East Asia and Micronesia and report to the ICRI Secretariat on progress by the next ICRI GM, January 2008. | | <i>New as of April 2007</i> |
| 32 | ICRI members to submit comments on draft resolution on the potential impacts of ocean acidification to the Secretariat, for consideration of adoption according to the rules of the "Resolution on Organisation and Management Procedures". | | <i>New as of April 2007</i> |
| 33 | Japan to establish and lead the <i>ad hoc</i> Committee on the potential impacts of ocean acidification to coral reefs if the resolution is adopted. | | <i>New as of April 2007</i> |
| 34 | Secretariat to consider arranging a specialised working session on economic valuation of coral reefs and associated ecosystems and their services at the next ICRI GM, January 2008, including a question on this matter in the Member Report template. | | <i>New as of April 2007</i> |
| 35 | Incoming ICRI Secretariat co-hosts to confirm the date for the first ICRI GM, planned for January 2008 to be held in Washington DC. | | <i>New as of April 2007</i> |

Annex 4

Report on Feedback from ICRI Members for the Tokyo General Meeting

Feedback comments were received from 10 ICRI GM participants. All respondents felt that the meeting was a success and that the format developed is working well. Key elements in the responses were:

- The improved system for ICRI meetings is resulting in significant progress on several key issues;
- The meeting was a place for Learning and sharing;
- Productive interaction;
- Balance of substance;
- Benefits of the break out sessions on specific issues for progressing the work of ICRI, transfer of information, interaction of participants and building networks;
- The presentations on specific issues Enforcement, Mangrove Management and the Protected Areas database initiatives not only increased the value of the meetings for participants in terms of new information about issues and resources to address them, it helped to break up the tedium of all day meetings in which process often takes precedence over content;
- Appreciation of logistical and financial assistance from the Host Governments, and efficiency of the secretariat.

The following suggestions/ requests were made to ICRI:

- Request the Secretariat provide background documentation for the working sessions as early as possible to allow preparation before the meeting;
- Suggestion for the members update session: split the group up into smaller regional groups that could discuss activities at the regional level and then report back to the whole group with a short discussion period for all at the end, promoting opportunities for regional level collaboration;
- Suggestion for the inclusion of "tutorials" on timely topics and that they can be made more interactive so that there is even greater participation from the audience, and an additional incentive for member participation at the GMs;

Publicity resulting from the ICRI GM:

- A short article on the recent ICRI general Meeting has been published in the Linkages Update Newsletter (A fortnightly e-newsletter on what's happening in the international environment and sustainable development world): <http://www.iisd.ca/email/linkagesupdate.htm> (Issue 85. 3 May 2007). This newsletter is sent to over 18.000 emails;
- Daily Yomiuri (Government to take steps to protect coral reefs): <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/20070427TDY03001.htm>

Annex 5 Mangrove discussion group: Ways to implement mangrove issues within ICRI

The following report was submitted to the plenary session following the break out groups of Agenda Item 14. It presents suggestions for possible activities that could be implemented by ICRI that could improve the emphasis on mangroves (and the other related ecosystem, seagrass beds) within the ICRI framework as indicated through the 'Call to Action' and 'Framework for Action'. The mangrove discussion group has subsequently revised and developed the report. The continuing discussion is available through the ICRIForum.

Ways to implement mangrove issues within ICRI

(A) SHORT TERM

1. Use the ICRS mini-symposia – about 10 sessions are relevant, and the call for papers will be in August 2007.
2. IYOR-08 – include mangrove messages, e.g. at specific events, or through individual country promotional material, and stress the links between mangroves and coral reefs.
3. ITTO in 2008 are publishing the mangrove atlas – it can be publicised as part of IYOR. The Atlas is not yet completed, so it will not be completed until 2008. A related West African book on mangroves is also being published (there are no coral reefs in W. Africa).
4. Include something (e.g. a box) about mangrove-coral reef linkages in the mangrove atlas. Contact SME/ITO/UNEP-WCMC.
5. ICRI Status 2008 report.
6. ICRI Secretariat to invite countries with both coral reefs and mangroves to attend ICRI. Important countries with significant mangroves but no reefs are Nigeria and Brasil. Indonesia is not present at ICRI, and is an important mangrove-coral reef country. There is a need to make a special effort to engage countries with large coral reefs and mangroves to attend.
7. Refer to 3. ICRI to advertise ITTO fellowships and call for others.
8. Cross-linking of web-sites on all themes – Reef Base, GLOMIS.
9. Ask ICRS President to consider publication of a special issue in *Coral Reef* on mangroves.
10. Contact RAMSAR to increase focus on joint mangrove and coral reef sites. There are RAMSAR resolutions on "under represented wetland sites" – perhaps mangroves could be a theme at the 2008 COP.
11. Ask the ICRI Secretariat to continue to engage with mangrove bodies including ITTO, ISME and others (i.e. act as a linking body).
12. Sea Web has done coverage on a coral consumer campaign – include mangrove – coral reef link stories.

(B) MEDIUM TO LONG TERM

1. GIS overlays re: mangroves – reefs. GIS/ISME/OTTO/WCMC cf. WRI Reefs at Rick. Where are conservation "hot spots" – can use GIS regular reports on changes using a joint ICRI/mangrove activity.
2. Integrated courses on mangroves and coral reefs in universities.
3. ITTO gives up to 50 scholarships under their fellowship program on ICM to go to meetings such as ICRS.
4. Funding needed for combined economic assessments of seagrass, mangrove and coral reefs.
5. Assist SIDS to document their mangrove status.
6. Support ITTO/ISME in "GMMN" concept development.
7. Encourage fish assessment in mangrove (and coral reef) rehabilitation projects especially in reef fish spawning and migration between ecosystems.
8. ICRI/ISME/ITTO should develop a discussion paper on traditional knowledge uses and management practices for mangroves and coral reefs [check not already done in other areas]