



The International Coral Reef Initiative

A unique, worldwide partnership that aims to reverse the global degradation of the world's coral reefs and related ecosystems, such as mangroves and seagrasses, through the promotion of their sustainable use and conservation for future generations.

"If at one time what happened on and beneath the seas was 'out of sight, out of mind', that can no longer be the case."

Kofi Annan,
Secretary-General of the United Nations

"Palau is seeking to protect its future – the future of its oceans, the future of its coral reefs, and most of all, the future of its children. But we cannot do it alone."

The Honorable Elias Camsek Chin,
Vice-President of the Republic of Palau

"...without coral reefs, the economies of many small island developing states and the livelihoods of other coastal communities will collapse."

**Ronny Jumeau, Minister for Environment and
Natural Resources, Republic of Seychelles**

The world's coral reefs

Coral reefs are continuing to decline throughout the world, especially off the coasts of highly populated areas. In 1994, when ICRI was established, 10 percent of all coral reefs had already been seriously degraded. Bleaching events in 1998 affected a further 75 percent, leading to widespread mortality.

The survival of coral reefs and the livelihoods of more than 1 billion people in more than 100 countries rely upon the world community working together to protect reefs and their related ecosystems.

The ICRI Call to Action and the Framework for Action guide activities in conservation, monitoring, research and capacity building for the protection of coral reefs. ICRI convenes annual or biannual meetings of the ICRI membership and is coordinated by a Secretariat, voluntarily hosted for two years by the governments of one or two member countries.

ICRI has provided advice to the international community on a wide range of coral-reef related issues, including marine protected areas; destructive fishing; environmental and socio-economic monitoring of reefs and reef resources; seagrass and mangrove ecosystems; trade in coral reef species for food and aquaria; the impacts of dredging; the importance of coral reefs to small island developing states; and conservation of cold-water coral reefs.

In continuing to provide a focus for the plight of coral reefs, ICRI is looking in the future to link coral reef health with the well-being of the people who depend on them, to achieve sustainable and equitable use of coral reef resources.

ICRI's operational networks

ICRI established a number of operational networks in recognition of the need for a coordinated approach to respond to the Call to Action and successfully implement the Framework for Action.

The International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) is a global partnership that seeks innovative ways to manage coral reef ecosystems. ICRAN assists local communities by promoting successful management techniques through the transfer of experience and knowledge, and the development of regional, national and local partnerships.

Managing Director: Kristian Teleki (kteleki@icran.org; www.icran.org)

The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) gathers and compiles monitoring data from nearly 100 countries and reports regularly on the status of coral reefs to raise awareness and assist resource managers in coral reef conservation.

Central coordination contact: Clive Wilkinson (clive.wilkinson@aims.gov.au)

Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO) is a regional, multi-disciplinary programme to investigate the ecological and socio-economic consequences of the mass coral bleaching in 1998 and subsequent degradation of coral reefs in the Indian Ocean.

Programme coordinator: Olof Lindén (olof@timmermon.se)

The International Coral Reef Information Network (ICRIN) is a coral reef outreach and awareness-building programme that provides coral reef information and tools to the public and policy makers.

Contact: icrin@coral.org or www.coralreef.org

Finding out more...

The ICRI Forum serves as a central electronic gateway, bringing together coral reef information from around the world and providing the coral reef community, researchers, managers, policy makers and general users with an interactive space for sharing their views and ideas.

As the official website of ICRI, the Forum makes information relating to ICRI widely available, including documents and records of the discussions, decisions and resolutions agreed at the general meetings.

Other services provided by the ICRI Forum include:

Keeping ICRI talking across the world: The ICRI Forum enables members to talk across the world and debate emerging issues on the 'discussion forum'.

Keeping up with other organizations: The 'kiosks' are online profiles of organizations and individuals working towards the conservation of coral reefs around the world.

Keeping up to date about corals: By linking to other sites, the Forum provides educational and online resources on coral reefs and a calendar of coral-related events.

To get the best out of the ICRI Forum, you can register for free by contacting the administrator@icriforum.org or visiting the website at www.icriforum.org

Getting in touch...

To contact the ICRI Secretariat, please address enquiries to:
icri@unep-wcmc.org