# International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

© Nicola Barnard

Mabul Island, Borneo, August 2006

## CORAL REEFS
## Synergies between ICRI and the GPA

**Coral reefs continue to decline globally at an alarming rate, and with them the vital functions, resources and services they provide for marine life and millions of people. To stop and reverse the degradation of coral reefs and associated ecosystems is a shared and common goal of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA).**

### Demographic Trends

Maldives Urban Development © James Oliver

Coral reefs, especially those near dense populations, are in serious decline globally. Up to 60% of the world's corals could be lost by 2030 and with them the benefits communities depend on.

### Tourism

Tourist damage © Vo Si Tuan

Tourism is a major source of income for coastal communities and this depends on healthy and beautiful reefs. In the Maldives, 56% of the national economy is dependent on reef-based tourism and employment.

**Threats:** Coral reefs are threated by a multitude of human activities, especially where they occur in close proximity to sprawling coastal urban centres. A vital step for healthy and resilient reefs and communities is to prevent, reduce and control coral reef degradation from land-based activities.

**Action:** ICRI and the GPA are two leading international bodies that allow governments to establish cross sector actions in favour of coral reefs in consultation with stakeholders. They facilitate concerted efforts to help reduce the effects of physical alterations, land-based pollutants, nutrients, and sediments from reaching coral reefs and the marine environment. Both fora act as source of conceptual and practical guidance for devising and implementing an integrated, ecosystem-based approach in coastal zone management to enable sustained benefits and development.

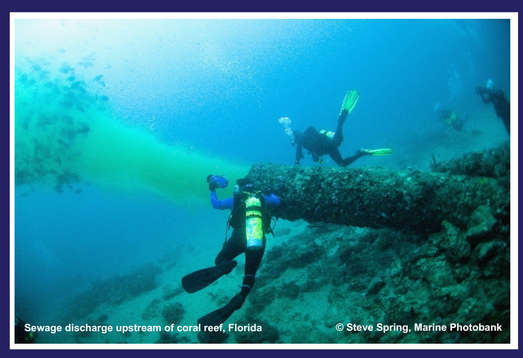
http://www.icriforum.org

### Land-Use

Anambas, Indonesia © Joelle Lai N. Sivasothi

Pollution from agricultural, industry, and urban sources is creating ocean dead zones costing nearly US$16 billion/year, largely in response to resulting human health concerns.

### Improved Management Regimes



Sewage discharge upstream of coral reef, Florida © Steve Spring, Marine Photobank

Appropriate technology including voluntary programs, economic incentives and best management practices have to be developed and implemented for an effective control of land-based sources of marine pollution.

UNEP WCMC ICRI

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ICRAN International Coral Reef Action Network
UNEP Coral Reef Unit

Photos provided by ReefBase (http://www.reefbase.org).