It is internationally accepted that coral reefs are in serious decline across the world, especially in very shallow coastal waters, and near dense populations. Coral reef survival depends upon the world community working together to protect reefs and their related ecosystems.

We must ensure that people's demands on reefs are not more than their natural ability to produce and regenerate in future years.

Such action requires co-ordination of efforts across the world. ICRI has proposed a framework to help mobilise governments and other interested parties to make their actions count.

The framework is based on four elements which are being put into action by ICRI and its operational networks: the need for management, for research and monitoring, for the development of capacities in countries with coral reefs and regular review of the status of coral reefs.