

Decision on GCRMN Reports for 2007 and 2008

This decision was Presented by Clive Wilkinson and approved by the ICRI members at the ICRI General Meeting held in Cozumel, Mexico (22-23 October 2006)

Background:

1. In 2005, there was extensive coral bleaching and mortality in the wider Caribbean, adding to the stress in the region; an event comparable to the severe bleaching in 1998. There were also many Category 4 and 5 Hurricanes;
2. NOAA, USA issued regular 'Hot Spot' alerts based on increased sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the wider Caribbean and also the 'Degree Heating Weeks' product. GCRMN, Reef Check and other coral workers provided regular reports on damage to corals.
3. The 1995 ICRI Call to Action and Framework for Action included the associated ecosystems of mangrove forests and seagrass beds with coral reefs. These have received considerably less attention than reefs from ICRI, as was noted at the Palau ICRI meeting in a review of 10 years of ICRI.
4. The IOC sponsored review of the GCRMN in 2001 and GCRMN Management Group meetings (Seychelles, April 2005 and Palau, November 2005) recommended that the GCRMN produce alternating global and thematic reports over four year cycles.
5. The 11th International Coral Reef Symposium in Florida in July 2008 presents an opportunity to release the 2008 global report to a wide audience.
6. The UNEP GPA office proposed at the GPA meeting in Beijing in October 2006 that the GCRMN produce a report on catchment effects on downstream coral reefs.

Proposal to ICRI

This proposal is for the GCRMN and partners to produce 2 reports in 2007 and 2008:

1. 'Status of Caribbean Coral Reefs after Bleaching and Hurricanes in 2005 (and 2006?). This will be similar to 'Status of Coral Reefs in Tsunami Affected Countries 2005' with explanatory chapters, regional reports of the consequences, and predictions for the future (Appendix 1). The aim is to produce the report in English, Spanish, and possibly French, for release in April-May 2007 with a total budget between \$120,000 and \$160,000 (\$30,000 production; \$6,000 translation; \$60,000 printing in 3 languages; \$7,000 production of CDs and brochures; \$30,000 shipping and launches). If funds are insufficient, the English report could contain large summaries in other languages.
2. 'Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2008'. This will follow a similar format to the global report of 2004, and the plan is to release this at the 11th ICRS in Florida in 2008 (Appendix 2). It is intended that this report will be shorter and include data on the status of mangrove and seagrass resources associated with coral reefs, and cold water corals.
3. 'Effective Catchment Management and Coral Reef Conservation: Case Studies on reducing downstream damage to coral reefs and other coastal ecosystems', scheduled for November 2007. This will resemble 'Monitoring Coral Reef Marine Protected Areas' produced released at the World Parks Congress, Durban 2003. The proposed book will contain case studies from around the world and explanatory text on catchment effects and management.

Decision Requested from ICRI

ICRI Partners are requested to:

1. Endorse the recommendations of the GCRMN to produce a thematic report in 2007 on coral reef damage in the Caribbean from bleaching and hurricanes in 2005, and include damage to the associated ecosystems;
2. Assist the GCRMN and partners Reef Check, NOAA and others to compile information, data and graphic material on the damaging events of 2005, and possibly 2006, including material on mangroves and seagrasses;

3. Assist the GCRMN and partners to produce, print, launch and distribute the 2007 report;
4. Endorse the plan to produce a global report for release in July 2008, and request that nations, nodes, regions also produce reports for release in several languages;
5. Endorse the plan to include cold water reefs, mangroves and seagrasses resources associated with coral reefs in the global Status 2008 report; and
6. Endorse the plan to produce 'Effective Catchment Management and Coral Reef Conservation ...' in late 2007 and assist the GCRMN and associates with the case studies, publication and distribution of the books and messages