

## **Resolution on Priority Actions Arising from the New Findings Presented at the 9th International Coral Reef Symposium**

*Adopted during the ICRI Coordination and Planning Committee (CPC) Meeting  
28 and 29 October 2000, Bali (Indonesia)*

Recognizing that scientists presented new evidence at the 9th International Coral Reef Symposium, October 23-27, 2000 in Bali, Indonesia, that:

climate change is having a significant impact on the world's coral reefs;

there is little indication that corals are able to acclimate or adapt fast enough to changes resulting from global climate change to ensure their survival; and

current actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are not proceeding fast enough to prevent further damage to the world's coral reefs;

a large potential decrease in coral reef building capabilities (calcification) due to the direct influence of carbon dioxide on sea water chemistry may be taking place which further threatens coral reefs; and

in some regions, destructive fishing practices that directly damage coral reefs and associated ecosystems (such as blast and cyanide fishing) are a primary threat to coral reefs and have a significant negative economic impact upon those who depend on coral reef ecosystems.

Recognizing that the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) endorsed the recommendations of its experts' group on coral bleaching and climate change and that impacts such as over-exploitation of resources, pollution and sedimentation will exacerbate - and are exacerbated by - coral bleaching.

The ICRI CPC therefore:

calls upon ICRI partners and all countries with coral reefs to take immediate steps to:

Halt activities that may damage remaining live corals, such as destructive and other unsustainable fishing practices and anchoring on reefs as outlined in the ICRI "Renewed Call to Action";

Effectively manage and establish networks of marine protected areas and provide ecological reserves to protect coral reefs from overexploitation, and promote resilience and recovery of damaged reefs;

Raise these concerns in all appropriate fora, in particular the CBD and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS)

calls upon CBD to incorporate the key findings of the 9th International Coral Reef Symposium into the program of work on the coral reefs and conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity; and to recognise ICRI as a lead partner on coral reef issues.

calls upon the UNFCCC to take note of the conclusions expressed at the 9th ICRS listed above and note the call from scientists for a substantial reduction in greenhouse gases over the next decade to protect and conserve the biodiversity and vital ecosystem services of coral reefs.