

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

Name of the Partnership/Initiative:

Coral Reefs and Fisheries Network

Expected date of initiation: 2003

Expected date of completion: 2005

Partners Involved:

Governments: Asia-Pacific governments, including Australia, Thailand, New Zealand, Indonesia, and the Philippines

Intergovernmental organizations: (NACA and ICLARM – The World Fish Center)

Major groups: WWF, IMA, TNC

Other: regional and global coral reef networks (e.g. Asia-Pacific Marine Finfish Aquaculture Network, ICRAN)

Leading Partner:

Name of the contact person/focal point: Mr Glenn Hurry, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia

Address: GPO Box 858, Canberra, ACT 2601

Phone: +61 2 6272 5777

Fax: + 61 2 6272 4875

E-mail: glenn.hurry@affa.gov.au

Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative:

This project aims to build an Asia-Pacific region-wide network that provides a forum for collaboration and information exchange to link and build capacity among coastal communities, coral reef organizations and industries, working to ensure long-term sustainable livelihoods from healthy and well managed coral reefs and fisheries.

Expected results:

The Coral Reef and Fisheries Network will result in a broader understanding and information base on the economic, environmental and trade issues affecting coral reefs in this region, leading to:

- Sustainable use and conservation of coral reefs and fisheries;
- Enhanced business (including SMEs) investment in sustainable coral reef industries and trade;
- Improved knowledge of the trade and market links for coral reef industries (e.g. the live reef fish trade);
- Improved standards and codes of practice for individuals and businesses involved in coral reef industries;
- Improve the range and quality of products derived from coral reefs, thereby safeguarding

human health (e.g. reducing ciguatera poisoning);

- Improved technology to support sustainable aquaculture of coral reef biota;
- Improved food security and a reduction in poverty for coastal communities through sustainable management of their fisheries resources;
- Develop opportunities for women in coral reef industries and aquaculture;
- A shift from destructive to sustainable industry practices for coral reefs and reef fisheries through new opportunities to invest in aquaculture, bio-discovery and eco-tourism;
- Improved capacity for effective management, sustainable use, and effective and appropriate legislation;
- Building stronger partnerships among Economies – Industry – NGOs – Coastal Communities as the Network develops.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:

- Jan 2003 – Start Project, establish Principle Node, design and implement web/database content
- March/December 2003 - Facilitating development of collaborative programs
- May 2003 – Establish First Regional Node
- June 2003 – Inaugural workshop of Coral Reefs and Fisheries Network Partners
- January 2004 – Review of project, review research programs
- February 2004 – Preparation of Annual workshop of network partners
- Ongoing – production of newsletter and update of web content

Note: These are indicative dates, dependent on finalisation of arrangements for ‘start-up’ funding.

Coordination and Implementation mechanism:

Annual workshop – will serve to bring together network partners, interested agencies and individuals to develop the Networks work program and the responsibilities of the participating institutes, prioritise programs, allocate funding and form collaborative teams to carry out the prioritised initiatives.

Two coordination nodes – (one hosting a Senior Network Coordinator, the second a Regional Network Coordinator) will facilitate collaboration among agencies, the running of the annual workshops, dissemination of information on projects and agency activities, securing of additional funds to support prioritised programs and ongoing sustaining funds for the operation of the Network.

GIS Data base – (will use innovative technology) to further the distribution of information among partner agencies and organisations and coastal communities.

Website – a key mechanism for the dissemination of information regarding the Networks’ vision, objectives, activities, prioritised programs, network partners, and contain links to other valuable coral reef and fisheries websites.

Arrangements for funding:

Funding sources are currently being identified for project start up. The project has been designed to be self funding after three years.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer:

The Network will initiate training and capacity building programs for researchers, managers, policy makers and coastal community group representatives where required. These programs will form an effective means of exporting the skill base, expertise and knowledge base within the Network to the greater community in the Asia-Pacific region.

Monitoring Arrangements:

To be developed during start-up phase.

Other relevant information:

N/A

Name and contact information of the person filling in this table:

Name: Mr Glenn Hurry, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia

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