

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

Name of the Partnership/Initiative

INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF ACTION NETWORK (ICRAN)/INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE (ICRI)

Date of initiation: June 2001 (First Action Phase); December 2003 (Second Action Phase)

Date of completion: November 2005 (2nd Action Phase); 2010-12 (Subsequent Phases)

Partners Involved:

Governments: Philippines, Sweden (current International Coral Reef Initiative Secretariat) and France and numerous coral range and donor states particularly through the Regional Seas Conventions/Programmes and ICRI

Intergovernmental organizations: United Nations Environment Programme, International Coral Reef Initiative, Caribbean Environment Programme, Eastern African Regional Seas Programme, East Asian Seas Regional Seas Programme, Global Environment Facility, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, UNFIP, World Bank, UNEP Division of Technology, Industry, and Economics (UNEP DTIE), UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. *Invited:* South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment Programme (PERSGA), Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME - Kuwait Action Plan)

Major NGO groups: Coral Reef Alliance, Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, Australian Institute of Marine Science, ICLARM - World Fish Center, Reef Check, World Resources Institute, World Wide Fund for Nature

Private Sector: McCann-Erickson, International Hotel & Restaurant Association and the World Travel & Tourism Council

Other: United Nations Foundation

Further partners are being sought, including those representing local user communities and the private sector

Leading Partner:

Contact person/focal point:

Arthur Dahl, Acting Director

International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN)

Address: Coral Reef Unit, United Nations Environment Programme, 13 Chemin des Anemones, CH-1219 Chatelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917-8207

Fax: +41 22 797-3471

E-mail: dahla@unep.ch

Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

The main objective of ICRAN is to halt and reverse the decline in health of the world's coral reefs. ICRAN is an innovative and dynamic global partnership of many of the world's leading coral reef science and conservation organizations. The partnership draws on its partners' investments in reef monitoring and management to create strategically linked actions across local, national and global scales. ICRAN is thus the first partnership to respond to conservation needs at the global scale by recognizing both traditional and scientific perspectives of coral reef dynamics and respective social dependency. It seeks to put financial mechanisms in place that support the translation of findings into direct on-the-ground action throughout the world's major coral reef regions. For WSSD, ICRAN is proposing type 2 initiatives:

- To expand its scope and its range of global partners
- To extend its field action to new regions (including three regional seas in the Indian Ocean area) not presently included in the network
- To focus on tourism by raising awareness on responsible holiday-making

Specific proposals for this are now being negotiated for presentation at WSSD.

Relationship with the objectives of Agenda 21 and the United Nation Millennium Declaration: Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 gives specific priority to coral reefs in living marine resources management and protection, as well as its general provisions for integrated coastal management, climate change impacts, international and regional cooperation, and small islands. The Millennium Declaration refers to sustainable management of living species and natural resources, protection of the common environment through an ethic of conservation and stewardship, implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (which has a coral reef programme), and addressing the needs of small island developing States (many of which depend on coral reef resources).

The tourism activity builds on the conclusions and commitments made by the tourism industry in the report prepared by the main trade tourism associations (IH&RA, WTTC, IFTO and ICCL) as part of the UNEP DTIE report series 'Industry as partner for sustainable development', issued in May 2002, to improve their efforts to communicate to their customers on sustainable development and sustainable holiday making. Furthermore, the tourism activity aims at promoting wider use of UNEP's communication tool kit on coral reef conservation for the tourism industry – 'It's my choice', developed in 2001, that contains four communication tools ready for printing to be used by tourism industry players as part of their communication strategy targeting customers.

Expected results:

Improved coral reef management leading to better reef health and benefits to local communities at specific priority sites in major coral reef areas around the world. Strengthened international and national support for coral reef action, and close collaboration among all the major international partners involved.

Raised tourist and tourism awareness on the responsible behaviour in coral reef destinations while on holiday. Tourists – most of the times – are unaware that certain actions may have negative impacts on coral reefs. These actions include walking on reef flats, throwing plastic bags in the water, use of water, to purchasing of endangered species as souvenirs and many more. The tourism industry (from hoteliers, to recreation providers, tourism information centres, park

managers etc) can play a crucial role in raising this awareness by disseminating information on responsible behaviour.

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

In the context of new type 2 initiatives for ICRAN: expansion of ICRAN to regions not presently covered, including South Asia (through SACEP), Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (through PERSGA) and the Gulf region (through ROPME), 2002-2005.

Informing the tourism industry/private sector in specific destinations about existing communication tools (January 2003 – June 2003). Providing specific training to the tourism sector on the most effective communication techniques to promote among their customers sustainable consumption messages particularly in relation to coral reef conservation (July 2003 – September 2004).

Addition of new partners to the ICRAN network, including further non-governmental organizations and representatives of the private sector, by June 2003. Major expansion of ICRAN in response to a challenge matching grant of \$5 million from the United Nations Foundation, 2002-2005.

Further details on these new initiatives will be available before or at WSSD.

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

ICRAN institutional arrangements include a high-level ICRAN Board for fundraising, a Steering Committee of all partners for coordination and implementation, and an ICRAN Coordinating Unit. Regional coordination is through the respective Regional Seas Programmes and their Coordinating Units, which build regional partnerships and oversee field activities at the local level. ICRAN is building a nested set of partnerships at the global, regional, national and local community levels, with mutual reinforcement between each of these levels.

Arrangements for funding

The ICRAN action phase was launched in June 2001 in a limited number of regions with a \$5 million grant from the United Nations Foundation and counterpart contributions from the partners. The UNF has offered a second \$5 million on a matching basis, and a fundraising campaign is being organized to support type 2 initiatives for the expansion of ICRAN. Support is being committed/expected from donor governments, international organizations, foundations, commercial sector and other donors.

In parallel plans are being made to set up a Global Coral Reef Fund which will provide ongoing support, perhaps as a revolving fund, for the world's coral reefs during the period 2005 -2010 and beyond. ICRAN's interim funding target is \$25m and in the longer term for the revolving fund, \$100m.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer

Training in coral reef management and protection is organized in each region through the regional partners. Public information support is provided by the International Coral Reef Information Network led by the Coral Alliance. Responsibility for data and information management is shared between ReefBase at ICLARM in Malaysia, and the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre. Institutional strengthening is provided through ICRAN to those partners that need it, and to the ICRAN demonstration and target sites in specific coral reef areas. UNEP-DTIE with the

regional partners provides the specific training to the tourism sector on the most effective communication techniques to promote among their customers sustainable consumption in relation to coral reef conservation.

Specific technology transfer in everything from diving to monitoring methods is provided to communities and managers at the field sites. Technology transfer for coral reef monitoring and remote sensing is being organized through the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, Reef Check and the Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS) Coral Reef Sub-theme, all collaborating in ICRAN.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level

ICRAN implements the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Framework for Action, and the action plans of the Regional Seas Programmes. It has close links with other on-going sustainable development activities of its many partners.

Monitoring Arrangements

The implementing partners prepare progress reports to the ICRAN Coordinating Unit, UNEP and donors every six months. Periodic independent evaluations are also undertaken. Information is regularly provided on the ICRAN web site (www.icran.org) and an ICRAN newsletter is being launched.

Other relevant information:

Additional partners for, and donors to, the type 2 initiatives for expanding ICRAN will be welcomed.

Web-sites

ICRAN: <http://www.icran.org>

UNEP <http://www.unep.ch/coral.html>

UNEP-DTIE: <http://www.uneptie.org/wsd/sectors/tourism/tourism.htm>

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

Name: Arthur Dahl

Position: Acting Director, ICRAN

Address: Coral Reef Unit, United Nations Environment Programme, 13 Chemin des Anemones, CH-1219 Chatelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917-8207

Fax: +41 22 797-3471

E-mail: dahla@unep.ch

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