

ICRI Input to LOS/SG Report/2015

Part I. Oceans and sustainable development

The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) is an informal partnership among Governments, international organizations, and NGOs which strives to protect coral reefs and associated ecosystems in a framework of sustainable use.

In Oct 2013, ICRI renewed its foundational documents as the ICRI *Continuing Call to Action and Framework for Action 2013*, in which a new vision statement was included: “Coral reefs and related ecosystems are used and managed in an ecologically sustainable manner to enhance their resilience and provide goods and services for generations to come.”

Moreover, in the *Framework for Action 2013*, ICRI calls upon those with influence over the management of coral reefs and related ecosystems to continue efforts to “build capacity in all facets of marine conservation and sustainable use, to disseminate and apply best practices and engage communities in the sustainable management of coral reefs and related ecosystems” (Capacity Building).

The annual ICRI general meetings have served as an avenue for sharing and promoting such best practices. At the 29th General Meeting in Oct 2014, a workshop entitled “Engaging other sectors: community-based coral reef management” was organized, and members presented case studies of implementing the aforementioned framework and creating alternative livelihoods (e.g., from fisheries to tourism) which resulted in both the conservation of resources and improved economic conditions. This year, the 30th General Meeting will address marine spatial planning (esp. reef zoning), with the sustainable development of the communities as an overarching goal.

Furthermore, recognizing economic valuation of ecosystem services as a powerful tool to aid and improve their wise use and management, ICRI established an Ad Hoc Committee on Economic Valuation of Coral Reef Ecosystems in 2008. Its primary objective is to raise awareness on the economic benefits produced by coral reefs and their positive economic return as a public investment. In Sep 2014, the committee organized a workshop “[From Ecosystem Services Valuation to Action – Informing Decision Making in the Caribbean](#)”, which brought together resource managers from 15 Caribbean countries, and provided tools and knowledge on when and how to use economic valuation.

In 2010, ICRI also established the Coral Reef Associated Fisheries Ad Hoc Committee, recognizing the social, economic and biological importance of effectively managed reef-associated fisheries and acknowledging concerns about their sustainability. The committee’s latest achievement includes the release of [Status Report World’s Fish Aggregations 2014](#), which reveals important information for science and management of fish aggregations and the fisheries they support.