

Recommendation designating 2018 as the third International Year of the Reef

Adopted on November 4th, 2016, at the 31st ICRI General Meeting (Paris, France)

Acknowledging that coral reefs are now one of the most threatened ecosystems on the planet, as a result of both climate change, which triggered the 2014/2016 coral bleaching event (the most severe ever recorded), and local anthropogenic pressures, but that awareness of this among the general public, as well as decision-makers and civil society, is still insufficient to bring about the required policy, regulatory and public behavioural changes;

Aware that the International Society for Reef Studies, in its Consensus Statement on Climate Change and Coral Bleaching prepared for the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris, December 2015, called for all nations to commit to reducing CO₂ emissions to the point to prevent the global collapse of coral reef ecosystems

Aware that the Call for Action that came out of the Leaders' Summit held at the 13th International Coral Reef Symposium in Hawaii, 2016, put out a challenge to Pacific nations and the global community to, among other things, collaborate and support each other's coral reef stewardship efforts and to leverage new initiatives

Recognizing the success of the 1997 and 2008 International Years of the Reef in raising awareness of the importance of coral reef and associated ecosystems, and the continued need for such activities to create an understanding of the opportunities to further conserve and restore these valuable ecosystems;

Noting that, following IYOR 2008, ICRI adopted a recommendation at the ICRI GM in 2009 on "Continuing Coral Reef Awareness Efforts" which called for ICRI Members and other active participants in IYOR2008 to continue the efforts started in 2008 in terms of strengthening awareness about the value of, and threats to, coral reefs and associated ecosystems; encouraging public involvement in coral reef education and conservation activities; and implementing effective management strategies for conservation, increased resiliency and sustainable use of these ecosystems;

Noting Aichi target 1, "By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably" as well as "Priority Actions to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for Coral Reefs and Closely Associated Ecosystems" adopted in CBD Decision XII/23 which, inter alia, encourages parties to enhance public awareness of the socio-cultural and environmental values of coral reefs and develop and implement targeted education and awareness campaigns for diverse stakeholders on how communities and stakeholders can increase coral reef resilience;



Noting resolution EA/2/12 “Sustainable coral reefs management” adopted at UNEA-2 in May 2016 which, inter alia, calls for the establishment of public-private partnerships to raise awareness of the importance of coral reefs and related ecosystems, and that a consultation meeting on implementation of resolution EA/2/12 held in Manado, Indonesia, in June 2016 recommended that “declaration of an International Year of the Reef 2018” should be pursued, initiated through ICRI;

Noting Motion 50 on the “Cooperation for the conservation and protection of coral reefs worldwide” adopted at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in September 2016, which asks States and regional and international organisations to strengthen regional cooperation on the conservation of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, including the development of awareness-raising actions.

Noting Target 8 of Sustainable Development Goal 12: By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature; and Target 3 of Sustainable Development Goal 13: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

The International Coral Reef Initiative declares 2018 as the third International Year of the Reef and encourages:

- ✓ strengthening awareness globally about the value of, and threats to, coral reefs and associated ecosystems;
- ✓ promoting partnerships between governments, the private sector, academia and civil society on management of coral reefs;
- ✓ identifying and implementing effective management strategies for conservation, increased resiliency and sustainable use of these ecosystems and promoting best practices; and
- ✓ sharing information on best practices in relation to sustainable coral reef management.

Encourages ICRI members to support and participate in planning for IYOR 2018; and to facilitate the development of national level IYOR activities;

Encourages ICRI members and others to support UN-observance of the coral reef through the UN General Assembly in 2018.