

Solutions for Survival

The **International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN)**, established in 2000, is a global partnership that is working to *halt and reverse the decline of the health of the world's coral reefs*. Made up of some of the world's leading coral reef scientists and conservation groups, ICRAN partners have created a globally integrated action plan to manage and protect coral reefs, based on recommendations from the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). Formed in 1994, ICRI is an informal partnership among governments and nonprofit organizations. ICRI designed a *Call to Action* as a blueprint to protect coral reefs worldwide. The *Call to Action* framework has been endorsed by 80 countries and requires support from local communities, national and international groups. The International Coral Reef Action Network is a coordinated response to ICRI's urgent call to protect coral reefs.

The Partnership

ICRAN is the first partnership of its kind. It is a collective coral reef conservation and research program that combines scientific, cultural, social, and economic perspectives. Building on existing coral reef research, conservation and management programs, it is designed to act on local, regional and international levels. ICRAN provides a strategic network to support coral reef conservation by enabling the partners to focus their efforts through communication and shared resources. The variety of threats that coral reefs are facing requires a multi-faceted and complementary approach—found in ICRAN.

There are three main interlinked components of ICRAN:

- Reef management
- Global coral reef monitoring and assessment
- Communications and knowledge dissemination



Reef Management

ICRAN's assists local communities to continue building on their successful management techniques. ICRAN also provides a forum to extend this experience and knowledge to other interested coral reef managers and policy makers worldwide.

Four regions (the Caribbean, Eastern Africa, East Asia and the South Pacific) have initially been selected for implementing site-specific management strategies:

Local Outreach and Management ICRAN works closely with local coastal communities and coral reef managers, providing support and resources to enhance their management capacity.

Demonstration Sites Specific sites have been selected to serve as demonstration sites based on their proven ability to effectively manage their coral reefs. These sites share local knowledge and successful management practices with other coral reef managers and communities.

Shared Resources To share this information, ICRAN will hold local and regional workshops and develop management materials.



Global Coral Reef Monitoring and Assessment

Building on new and existing scientific data, and learning from traditional knowledge, ICRAN partners are:

- continuing to develop ReefBase—a global database that supports management of coral reefs
- producing coral reef maps
- gathering field data for updated reports on the condition of coral reefs worldwide
- developing risk assessments of coral reef resources
- conducting socio-economic valuations of coral reefs, including a fisheries and mariculture analysis
- expanding the global *Reefs at Risk* report by focusing on specific threats and regions.

The data and reports from these monitoring and assessment projects are used to communicate coral reef information to ICRAN partners, and other key stakeholders, scientists and policy makers.



Communications and Knowledge Dissemination

To reach a broad audience on international, regional and local levels, the International Coral Reef Information Network (ICRIN) works closely with ICRAN partners to collect and disseminate coral reef information and resources. ICRIN serves as the central source from which ICRAN information can be accessed. ICRIN is the communications and public awareness hub of ICRAN that:

- provides the public with general coral reef information using a broad range of media, such as the Internet, videos, press releases and community level initiatives
- acts as a public awareness resource and network to support local and regional coral reef organizations and groups
- utilizes reports, maps and data from the ICRAN partnership to support strong arguments for coral reef conservation targeted towards policy makers and businesses



Coral Reefs are Threatened

Coral reefs have evolved to cope with many natural obstacles such as hurricanes, floods, diseases and changes in currents. Although they are delicate and need specific conditions to survive, they have existed for millions of years. But now, there are additional threats from human activities—and the health of coral reefs is rapidly deteriorating. Scientists inform us that sixty percent of reefs are either severely damaged or threatened with immediate damage unless we act soon.

Threats from human activities include:

Sewage, fertilizer and chemical pollution

Sedimentation

Coastal construction and development

Seagrass and mangrove habitat loss

Ocean warming and rising carbon dioxide

Overfishing

Destructive fishing practices including the use of cyanide and dynamite

Coral mining for building materials and the souvenir trade

Careless recreation

Protecting coral reefs is a challenge. But we believe it is possible.

Partners



The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL)



Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network



International Coral Reef Initiative



South Pacific Regional Environment Programme



Caribbean Environment Programme
East Asian Seas Regional Seas Programme
Eastern African Regional Seas Programme



United Nations Foundation



The World Fish Center (ICLARM)



UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Center



World Resources Institute

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ICRAN

International
Coral Reef
Action Network

Healthy Coral Reefs Make a Healthy World

Coral reefs are one of the most spectacular and fragile of underwater environments. Covering less than one percent of the ocean floor—but they support an estimated twenty-five percent of all marine life. Even though they are located in the tropics, coral reefs can benefit people and the natural world far beyond their boundaries.

Fish Breeding Grounds Reefs are fish nurseries, providing essential shelter for juvenile fish, including many important commercial species.

Natural Breakwaters Reefs protect vulnerable beaches and shorelines from wave action, storms and floods.

Sources of Food and Income Coral reefs are a significant source of food for hundreds of millions of people. Reefs also provide income and employment through tourism, marine recreation and fishing.

Medical Breakthroughs Corals not only provide life, they can save lives too. Already scientists have found chemicals used for HIV and cancer treatments in coral reef organisms—and there are many untapped compounds that could prove valuable to medical research.

Cultural Value Coral reefs are directly linked with the traditional, spiritual and cultural values of many people who live in reef areas.