

Report from the
**Third International Tropical
Marine Ecosystems
Management Symposium
(ITMEMS)**

Cozumel, Mexico
October 16-20, 2006

What is ITMEMS?

- Held every 4 years by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
- Designed for coral reef managers to share information and experience to improve management efforts
- Designed to review progress to implement the ICRI Framework of Action

Report from ITMEMS

- Over 300 participants from 45 nations.
- Managers, scientists, govt (local to national), non-govt, funder, & private sector representatives.
- Regional caucuses identified key issues and opportunities in each region.
- Special focus on role of local governments in management of coral reefs and associated habitats (watersheds, mangroves etc).

- **Workshops on 13 priority issues in coral reef management:**
 - **Building resilience into coral reef management**
 - **Disaster management and restoration**
 - **Enforcement and investigation**
 - **Fisheries and aquaculture**
 - **Human impacts**
 - **Information and knowledge management**
 - **Modelling and decision support tools**
 - **Communication, education, awareness**
 - **Integrated and participatory strategies**
 - **Sustainable Tourism**
 - **Economic valuation and incentives**
 - **Partnerships and strategic alliances**
 - **Sustainable financing**

ITMEMS Results

- Climate change is a major threat impacting coral reef ecosystems worldwide.
- This over-arching threat increases the need for urgent action to
 - **limit climate change**
 - **build resilience of reef ecosystems and communities to maximize their ability to resist and recover from climate driven impacts such as coral bleaching**
 - **reduce other stressors on reefs.**

Healthy reef



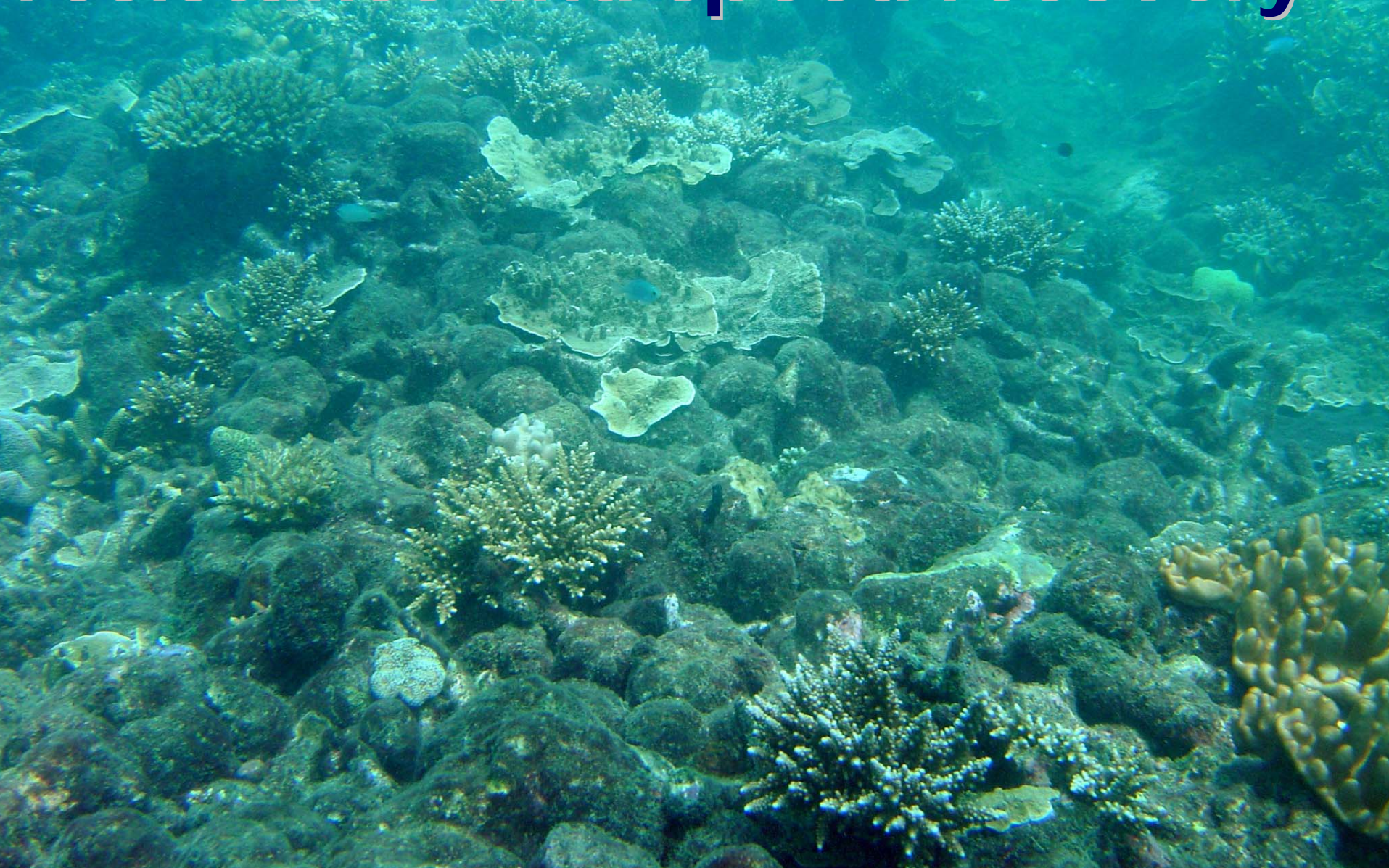
Mass coral bleaching



Damaged reefs



Action needed to promote resistance and speed recovery



ITMEMS Results

- Over 400 recommendations outlining priority actions for the next 5-10 years to address 13 major issues.
- Core action areas:
 - Integrated Coastal Management
 - Capacity Building for Management
 - Research and Monitoring
 - Performance Review and Evaluation
- Strong support for 2008 IYOR, ICRS

ITMEMS Results

- Caribbean Regional Caucus priority action areas:
 - Climate change
 - Coastal development and unsustainable tourism
 - User conflicts
 - Inadequate financing for science and monitoring
 - Lack of commitment of policy makers
 - Overfishing

ITMEMS Results

Full report available at:

www.itmems.org