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Coral Reef Protected Areas in International Conventions and Programmes

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Two international conventions and one international programme allow states to launch protected areas with different kinds of obligations. The Man and Biosphere Programme of UNESCO (MAB) launched in 1971 with its network of Biosphere Reserves, the World Heritage Convention of UNESCO launched in 1972 and the Ramsar convention adopted in 1971 and come into force in 1975. Coral Reefs Protected areas were set up in these conventions and programme, respectively as soon as 1976 (Everglades, USA), 1981 (Great Barrier Reef, Australia) and 1974 (Cobourg Peninsula, Australia). Since that, MPA on coral reefs developed in the inter tropical zone of the three oceans. An overview illustration of this development is given through time. An up to date census of these coral reef protected areas is capitalized by region and world wide with concerned coral reefs surfaces. Comments will be in the context of what has been achieved and of what can be done in order to protect through governmental agreements the coral reef ecosystem the degradation of which is still acute due to human activities when climate change will occur.

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