



Member's report on activities related to ICRI

Reporting period December 2015 – November 2016

1. **Contribution to the ICRI Plan of Action and GM.** *Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the current ICRI Plan of Action (<http://www.icriforum.org/icri-secretariat/current>) and objectives of the general meeting.*

- a. **Bleaching event**

Were you affected by the Third Global Coral Reef event? Did you do some monitoring, if yes what are the results and could you explain what method did you use? Would you like to report during the ICRI Meeting?

Early whitening cases were recorded on some coral reefs. Specific monitoring was done in Mexican Caribbean by organization Healthy Reef for Healthy People. The report is attached.

- b. **UN Sustainable Development Goals** – *Do you have example(s) showing how coral reefs and related ecosystems address the SDG (SDG 14 but also other related ones such as SDG 1 – End poverty in all its form; SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition...)*

The government of Mexico is working to create what will be the country's largest protected natural area, the Biosphere Reserve Mexican Caribbean, with a total area of 5,767,935 hectares (5,745,798 + 22.137 marine terrestrial), covering 50% of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System.

2. **Updates on your activities.** The following table is a summary of ICRI’s *Framework for Action* (FFA) and its four cornerstones. (The full text of the FFA is available in English, French, and Spanish at <http://icriforum.org/icri-documents/icri-key-documents/continuing-call-action-2013>).

Integrated Management	Objective	Manage coral reefs and related ecosystems using an ecosystem approach, recognizing place based activity; connectivity within and among ecological, social, economic, and institutional systems; as well as with attention to scale; resilience of ecological and social systems; and long-term provision of ecosystem services.
	General Approach	Integrated management, using a strategic, risk-based, informed approach, provides a framework for effective coral reef and related ecosystem management which supports natural resilience, ecosystem service provision, and enhances the ability to withstand the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.
	Desired outcome	There is a demonstrable reduction in the threats to coral reefs and related ecosystems through management action.
Capacity Building	Objective	To build capacity in all facets of management of coral reefs and related ecosystems and support dissemination and application of best practices to achieve the widest possible engagement of all stakeholders in planning and management activities.
	General Approach	Continued collaboration, partnerships, outreach, information sharing and education to ensure the uptake of best practices and encourage behavioural change. This can only be successful if the diversity of cultures, traditions and governance among nations and regions are taken into account.
	Desired outcome	Persons who have influence in the management of coral reef and related ecosystems have the knowledge, tools and capital necessary to apply best practices, adapted to the cultural and socio-economic context.
Science & Monitoring	Objective	To support research and citizen science approaches to enable countries and communities assess and report on the status of and threats to their coral reefs and related ecosystems in a coordinated, comparable and accessible manner.
	General Approach	Research and monitoring programs are essential to ensure that management of coral reefs and related ecosystems is based on best available (scientific) information.
	Desired outcome	Knowledge of the status and trends in coral reefs and related ecosystems health is enhanced and used to inform planning and management, improving management outcomes.
Periodic Assessment (Review)	Objective	To engage in periodic review of the impact and effectiveness of all elements of management to enable evaluation and refinement of management measures in an adaptive framework.
	General Approach	Periodic assessments of management effectiveness and evaluation of projects and activities to ensure the efficacy of management tools and systems in tackling the range of pressures affecting coral reefs and related ecosystems and protecting the values associated with them.
	Desired outcome	Management processes and activities are regularly reviewed and improved using a structured approach, to enhance their ability to effectively reduce pressures and threats.

Using the table on the previous page, as well as the detailed descriptors of approaches and strategies available in the full text of the FFA as a reference, please give us an update on an activity/project/program(s) which has been particularly successful in your country/organization during this reporting period.

Project 1

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
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Project Title	Mexican Caribbean Biosphere Reserve
Location	Mexican Caribbean
Dates	February 2016 – until now
Main Organizer(s)	Mexican Federal Government
Main Stakeholder(s)	Municipalities, state government and private sector from Quintana Roo state
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	<p>At East of the Yucatan Peninsula, along the state of Quintana Roo, the Mexican Caribbean region is found. Site with exceptional environmental characteristics because of the variety of natural elements, like the presence of megafauna, especially the shark is located whale (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>). This area includes approximately 50% of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System, the only border barrier reef in the world. What is a natural resource of great importance for the economy, which gives not only regional and national importance, but also international; so priority should be protected as a strategy for conservation and sustainable use.</p> <p>For these reasons, the government of Mexico is working to create what will be the country's largest protected natural area, the Biosphere Reserve Mexican Caribbean, with a total area of 5,767,935 hectares (5,745,798 + 22.137 marine terrestrial).</p>
Outcome (Expected outcome)	<p>Manage Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System and related ecosystems using an ecosystem connectivity approach, between different levels of government and key stake holders.</p> <p>This project contributes to the fulfilment of the 11 Aichi target 11, and target 14 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.</p>
Lessons learned	Cooperation and responsibility of the different private and social sectors are essential to ensure the conservation of marine and coastal resources.
Related websites (English preferred)	http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5434221&fecha=22/04/2016

Project 2

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	Temporary restriction of visitation on a reef site within a National Park
Location	Nayarit, Mexico
Dates	May 2016
Main Organizer(s)	National Commission for Natural Protected Areas (CONANP)
Main Stakeholder(s)	Guadalajara University, tour operators and local government
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	Trough monitoring, was detected that the site known as "La Playa del Amor" in Marietas Islands National Park, reef corals received great amount of damage, because the great visitation received in a short period of time. In two weeks, more than 27,000 people visited

	<p>the site, causing rupture of corals, oil pollution and trash. As a measure of immediate action the site was closed for 131 days.</p> <p>To reactivate visitation, management actions for best practices were agreed, between federal and local governments as well as tourism operators, in order to minimize the impact caused by tourism activities.</p>
Outcome (Expected outcome)	Ecosystem-based strategic actions defined among stakeholders to reduces pressures and impacts on coral reef.
Lessons learned	Continued collaboration among tour operators, universities and Park managers is needed to avoid reef coral damaged, caused by tourist and ensure the uptake of best practices
Related websites (English preferred)	Not available.

Project 3

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	<p>Check all that apply:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)</p>
Project Title	Ecosystem Service Assessments and Valuations of coral reef sites on two national parks
Location	Cabo Pulmo and Cozumel Reef National Parks
Dates	August 2016
Main Organizer(s)	National Commission of Protected Areas (CONANP)
Main Stakeholder(s)	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	<p>This assessments seeks to generate relevant information and solid arguments available to decision makers who can influence the decision making of both protected areas, promoting conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.</p> <p>To do this, the value of recreation on reefs, which sustains the economy of both sites, was analysed. The information generated in the study also makes visible the economic rationality of the beneficiaries of some of these valued ecosystem services, both tourists and the private sector to invest in their conservation and management.</p>
Outcome (including expected outcome)	Demonstrate the economic importance of investing in effective management of coral reefs on federal protected areas of Mexico, ensuring that coastal development is consistent with the objectives of conservation and sustainable management of them.
Lessons learned	It concluded that coral reef systems on both National Parks, provide a very important economic value and the millions of visitors they receive each year, through the ecosystem services they provide. These values are maintained as long as the quality of coral reefs within protected areas is protected.
Related websites (English preferred)	http://www.ecovalor.mx/2016/

Project 4

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	Revillagigedo Islands and Cozumel Island, designated as World Natural Heritage and Biosphere Reserve, from UNESCO, respectively.
Location	Colima and Quintana Roo, Mexico.
Dates	March and July
Main Organizer(s)	CONANP, UNESCO,
Main Stakeholder(s)	SEMARNAT, CONAPESCA, SEMAR, SRE, INAH, SEP, SEGOB and local governments from Colima and Quintana Roo.
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	<p>The Revillagigedo Archipelago, declared a Natural Protected Area in the category of Biosphere Reserve since 1994, was inscribed in July on the List of World Natural Heritage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), containing exceptional values on its terrestrial and marine natural wealth.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Biosphere Reserve Isla Cozumel was included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves Program Man and the Biosphere (MaB), from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization (UNESCO), represents a great opportunity to promote the relationship between nature and human beings and publicize the natural values and archaeological that distinguish the island and its marine environment, promoting the coordination of the different levels of government and society .</p> <p>Both areas have an important presence of coral reefs, that thanks to international designations will be positioned internationally as a model of territorial planning where development with the protection of biodiversity is balanced.</p>
Outcome (Expected outcome)	The designations are a big step to harmonize territorial systems and public policies in all sectors, and thereby achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions: environmental, social and economic.
Lessons learned	Encourage international recognition, with the support of the community, helps to promote sustainable and effective management of coral reefs and their related ecosystems.
Related websites (English preferred)	Not available

Project 5

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	Care and tourism management strategies to promote reef ecosystems conservation.
Location	Mexican marine protected areas with coral reef ecosystems
Dates	August, September
Main Organizer(s)	CONANP

Main Stakeholder(s)	Mexican Fund for the Conservation, Community Foundation Cozumel, Natural History Society Niparajá, Autonomous University of Baja California Sur
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	<p>Tourism in coral reefs sites and related ecosystems is increasing every year, particularly in protected areas, where these ecosystems are in the best conditions.</p> <p>For this reason, CONANP performs three parallel strategies to address tourism at reef sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Updating of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Tourism and Recreation in protected areas. Seeking to serve the growing needs for nature tourism, mitigate its impacts and seize the opportunities that can bring tourism as a conservation tool, always on an ecosystem base. -Workshop "Strengthening visitor management in protected areas." Focused to make visible the need to define and enforce tourism carrying capacity on reef ecosystems, that allow diving and snorkeling, without compromising the health of ecosystems. -Workshop "Promoting tourism impact monitoring programs on reef ecosystems on Protected Areas of Mexico". Focused to sites which currently tourism activities are performed, and therefore, it is necessary that their managers clearly know methods for monitoring the impact that tourism activities are taking directly on the reef ecosystems.
Outcome (Expected outcome)	Proper management of tourism in reef ecosystems, without compromising their health.
Lessons learned	To address a threat is necessary to take into account the different fronts that may occur, and work in coordination with tour operators.
Related websites (English preferred)	Not available

Note: If you have more activities/projects/programs you would like to report on or share with other members, please duplicate the table above and fill it in for as many projects as you wish.

3. **Publications.** Please list relevant publications/reports you have released during this reporting period.

Title (incl. author and date)	Website URL if available	Type of publication (Paper, report, etc.)
Bleach watch report in cozumel. (Alba Gonzalez-Posada & Lorenzo Alvarez-Filip. November 2015)	Not available	Report
Draft decree of the biosphere reserve, Mexican Caribbean.	http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5434221&fecha=22/04/2016	Official publication

4. **General Information.** (Note that this information will be posted on the ICRI website on your member page: <http://www.icriforum.org/about-icri/members-networks>.)

Member type (Country / Organization):	
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Thank you very much for sharing your valuable experiences and information with ICRI.