



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?

No, there has been no appreciable bleaching on the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands in 2015 or 2016. Consequently, there has not been any bleaching monitoring, other than as part of standard coral cover monitoring.

- b. INDCs - Nationally Determined Contributions** – *Did your national contribution mention 'marine ecosystems or coral reefs'? Would you be interested in joining an Ad Hoc committee to develop guidelines to integrate coral reefs in the INDC?*

No.

- c. Nature-based Solutions to address Climate Change** - *Do you have some example(s) of Nature-based (coral reef and related ecosystems) Solutions to address climate change? If yes, could you please provide use some details?*

Not in the Caribbean Netherlands

- d. 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...)*

No.

- e.** *Do you have notional measure(s) – existing or in development - to ban the sale and manufacture of cosmetics and personal care products containing plastic microbeads? And plastic bags?*

No.

- f. Upcoming events** - *Do you plan to attend:*

- November 2016 - Marrakech Climate Change Conference / The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22)
- December 4, 2016 to December 17, 2016 - Convention on Biological Diversity COP13
- June 2017 - Oceans & Seas Global Conference, Fiji
- Other(s):

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.

Project 1

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	Saba Bank Management
Location	Saba Bank
Dates	2013-present
Main Organizer(s)	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Saba Conservation Foundation
Main Stakeholder(s)	Saba Bank Fishermen

Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	<p>Management of the National Park Saba Bank (2600 km², coral reefs, gorgonian fields hard bottom, and sandy/rubble bottom with high diversity of macroalgae), a SPAW listed MPA, a PSSA under IMO and recognized as an EBSA by the CBD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated management of fisheries, coral reefs, marine mammals and sharks, and international shipping, in consultation with the fishermen, and the Coast Guard; based on • Science and monitoring of the reefs, marine mammals, fish stocks and sharks, spawning aggregation area to guide adaptive management, fishery regulations and their effectiveness; with • Capacity building through training provided to Coast Guard for enforcement of regulations, regular discussions with fishermen, and providing opportunities for fishermen to participate in fisherfolk meetings such as at GCFI, and • Review of management plan in 2017
Outcome (Expected outcome)	Sustainable lobster and red snapper trap fisheries and cautious development of tourism on the Saba Bank (shark watching; moorings for diving)
Lessons learned	[Insert text here]
Related websites (English preferred)	http://www.dcnanature.org/saba-bank/ https://www.facebook.com/sababank/ http://www.sabapark.org/marine_park/saba_bank/

Project 2

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	<p>Check all that apply:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	GCRMN-Caribbean monitoring of the reefs of St. Eustatius and Saba
Location	St. Eustatius, Saba
Dates	2015-present
Main Organizer(s)	Ministry of Economic Affairs, St. Eustatius National Park Foundation, Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute and Saba Conservatuion Foundation
Main Stakeholder(s)	Communities of Saba and St. Eustatius
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	<p>The Netherlands took active part in the establishment of the GCRMN-Caribbean initiative to revitalize the coral reef monitoring network in the Caribbean. The Netherlands takes part in the Steering Committee of GCRMN-Caribbean, and started using the GCRMN-Caribbean guidelines for monitoring in St. Eustatius and Saba last year, to continue this effort yearly.</p> <p>This monitoring effort makes use of volunteers and interns trained by a lead scientist. The outcomes of the yearly monitoring are published in reports and presented on a biodiversity monitoring website for the Dutch Caribbean</p> <p>Capacity building: The monitoring coordinators of Saba and St. Eustatius were able to participate in the first GCRMN-Caribbean workshop to train the participants in the methods of the guidelines. The monitoring coordinator of St. Eustatius was able to provide the</p>

	workshop with his experiences in implementing the method in the field. He was also able to subsequently train a new monitoring coordinator on Saba
Outcome (including expected outcome)	The results of the monitoring on St. Eustatius and Saba were published as reports. The St. Eustatius report was used to inform a report on the fisheries on the island.
Lessons learned	Valuable lessons were learned in the practical deployment of the GCRMN-Caribbean guidelines and led to local adaptation of the methods
Related websites (English preferred)	http://www.dcbd.nl/monitoring/reef

Project 3

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	Saba Bank research program 2011-2016
Location	Saba Bank
Dates	2011-2016
Main Organizer(s)	Institute for Marine Resources & Ecosystem Studies (IMARES)
Main Stakeholder(s)	Ministry of EZ; Fishermen and general community of Saba; global coral reef research community
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	<p>The aim of this project is to better understand the strengths of the Saba Bank and the main ecological processes, to facilitate the sustainable management of the Saba Bank. The program includes collection of data on coral reefs, fish, nutrients, flow data, observations of seabirds and marine mammals.</p> <p>Part of the project includes an inventory of the status of the coral reefs on the Saba Bank, through three expeditions in 2011, 2013 and 2015, looking at fish, coral cover, water quality, connectivity and productivity. This multi-year project is intended to map the habitats and assess the status and health of the reefs on the Saba Bank, which are far removed from coastal development and pollution sources.</p>
Outcome (Expected outcome)	Reports on the status of the Saba Bank's coral reefs, marine mammals, fisheries and habitat mapping
Lessons learned	The capacity to accommodate fieldwork of various researchers turned out to be a limiting factor, in particular combined with rough weather limiting the number of workdays in the field and the very large size of the Saba Bank.
Related websites (English preferred)	http://www.wur.nl/en/project/Saba-Bank-research-programme-20112016.htm

Project 4

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	Long term coral reef monitoring photo quadrats Bonaire & Curaçao

Location	Bonaire and Curaçao
Dates	1973-present
Main Organizer(s)	Institute for Marine Resources & Ecosystem Studies (IMARES)
Main Stakeholder(s)	Ministry of EZ; global coral reef research community;
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	<p>To follow the health of the coral reefs of Bonaire and Curacao a number of locations on each island are photographed each year. At each location a 3 m square at up to 4 different depths is photographed and analyzed down to species level. The work was started in 1973 by Dr. R. Bak, and since 2011 it is being continued by IMARES.</p> <p>The collected coral data are now the longest time-series of a living reef in the world.</p>
Outcome (Expected outcome)	<p>Indicator of long term trends of the coral reefs of Bonaire and Curaçao.</p> <p>A report over the most recent five year period is expected by the end of this year.</p>
Lessons learned	The trends show that since 1973 living coral cover has gradually decreased. Most likely causes are coastal development and over-fishing, aggravated by bleaching events during episodes of high sea water temperature and disease outbreaks.
Related websites (English preferred)	http://www.dcbd.nl/monitoring/reef#tabs-3