



Member's report on activities related to ICRI

Reporting period December 2015 – November 2016

NOTE: TO CHECK A BOX, DOUBLE CLICK ON IT AND TICK 'CHECKED' UNDER 'DEFAULT VALUE' IN THE POP UP WINDOW

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?

- Yes, the Philippines has experienced coral bleaching this year.
 - The DENR conducted monitoring activities in the country like in the Snake Island, El Nido, and Taytay in the province of Palawan; Siargao Island Protected Landscapes and Seascapes in the province of Siargao; and, San Jose in the province of Dinagat.
 - In Snake Island, the methods used were establishment of two 20m transect (deep and shallow), coral tagging of randomly selected colony for photographs and comparison to the available coral health chart. Photo-transect was also conducted every 1m. Results during the first assessment (June 15-16, 2016) showed that 90% of the corals in the monitoring stations were bleached. Post bleaching assessment conducted in September 21-24, 2016 showed that the tagged corals were mostly covered with algae (DENR-BMB).
 - Assessments conducted in El Nido and Taytay, Palawan showed an approximately 0.5% bleached corals (DENR-Regional Office)
 - Siargao Island Protected Landscapes and Seascapes and the area of San Jose have an average of 1.65% bleached corals. The assessment method used was Point-Intercept Method in the established monitoring sites (DENR-Regional Office)
- b. INDCs - Intended 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?*
- Yes, the Philippines' INDC which was communicated to the UNFCCC on October 2015 mentioned the marine ecosystems and resources.
 - Yes, we are interested in joining an Ad Hoc committee to develop guidelines to integrate coral reefs in the INDC

- 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?

1. National Greening Program (NGP)

The National Greening Program of the DENR is a massive forest rehabilitation program, including mangrove areas, of the government established by virtue of Executive Order No. 26 issued on Feb. 24, 2011 by former President Benigno S. Aquino III. It seeks to grow 1.5 billion trees in 1.5 million hectares nationwide within a period of six years, from 2011 to 2016. It is seen as a climate change mitigation strategy as it seeks to enhance the country's forest stock to absorb carbon dioxide, which is largely blamed for global warming. It is also designed to reduce poverty, providing alternative livelihood activities for marginalized upland and lowland households relating to seedling production and care and maintenance of newly-planted trees.

As a convergence initiative among the Departments of Agriculture, Agrarian Reform and Environment and Natural Resources, half of the targeted trees to be planted under the program would constitute forest tree species intended for timber production and protection as well. The other 50% would comprise of agroforestry species.

Areas eligible for rehabilitation under the program include all lands of the public domain. Specifically, these include forestlands, mangrove and protected areas, ancestral domains, civil and military reservation, urban greening areas, inactive and abandoned mine sites and other suitable lands.

2. Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP)

The Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program of the DENR is a newly developed national program that aims to comprehensively address the drivers and threats of degradation of the coastal and marine ecosystems and manage the ecosystems using integrated and science-based approaches. Its general objective is to achieve the effective management of the country's coastal and marine ecosystems thereby increasing their ability to provide ecological goods and services to improve the quality of life of the coastal population particularly ensuring food security, climate change resiliency and disaster risk reduction.

- 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...)

Tubbataha Reef National Park (TRNP)

TRNP lies at the heart of the Coral Triangle, the geographic centre of world marine biodiversity. Although the Coral Triangle covers just 2% of our planet's oceans, it contains at least 40% of the world's fish and 75% of corals. Studies show that reefs in this region are comparatively resilient to climate change. Its location at the centre of the Coral Triangle means it has a key role to play in marine biodiversity conservation and, ultimately, in keeping our oceans alive. It is a strictly 'no-take' zone and is the largest marine protected area in the Philippines.

TRNP has an outstanding and important role as a habitat for fish, reptiles, invertebrates and sea birds. Tubbataha's two islets are a rookery for migratory birds and are among the last known safe breeding habitats of seabirds in Southeast Asia. The islets are the only known breeding grounds for the Philippines' endemic subspecies of Black Noddy (*Anous minutus worcestri*). They are also important breeding and feeding areas for

critically endangered Christmas Island Frigatebirds (*Fregata andrewsi*) and Hawksbill Turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*).

The Philippines is the second largest archipelago in the world and relies heavily on its marine resources for food and livelihood. Based on the distribution study on the dispersal of larvae in the Sulu Sea, the Tubbataha Reefs, Jessie Beazley and Cagayancillo are the key sources of coral and fish larvae, seeding the greater Sulu Sea. TRNP has a very role in sustaining the fisheries in surrounding areas, thus providing food and livelihoods for hundreds of thousands of Filipinos.

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?*

- As of to date, we do not have existing or in development legislation to ban the sale and manufacture of cosmetics and personal care products containing plastic microbeads. However, since this is one of the emerging issues faced by our marine ecosystems, there are some local initiatives in the Philippines to address the said issue.
- On the other hand, there is an existing Senate Bill, pending for approval, entitled *Prohibiting the Use of Plastic Bags in Groceries, Restaurants, and other Establishments, and providing Penalties for Violations thereof*. Moreover, Local Government Units (LGUs) here in the Philippines have been banning the use of plastic in their respective municipalities. Presently around 27 cities (in Metro Manila) have banned the use of plastic.

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) - a Philippine delegation from the Climate Change Commission will attend.*
- *December 4, 2016 to December 17, 2016 - Convention on Biological Diversity COP13 – a Philippine Delegation from the Biodiversity Management Bureau will attend*
- *June 2017 - Oceans & Seas Global Conference, Fiji – there is a possibility that a Philippine delegation will attend*
- *Other(s): - please inform us so we can act accordingly.*

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	There is a demonstrable reduction in the threats to coral reefs and related

	outcome	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	Green Fins Philippines
Location	Philippines: Cebu, Palawan and Oriental Mindoro
Dates	2016 to 2018
Main Organizer(s)	UNEP, DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), Reef World Foundation
Main Stakeholder(s)	DENR Field Offices, Private Sectors, Civil Society Organizations, People's Organizations, academe, other concerned national government agencies
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	The Green Fins Philippines aims to protect and conserve coral reefs by establishing and implementing environmentally-friendly guidelines to promote a sustainable diving and snorkelling tourism industry. It is a public-private partnership stewardship that works with the dive centers and snorkel operators to promote a set of standards for environmentally sustainable dive tourism (SCUBA diving and

	snorkeling). It is a comprehensive approach that encourages dive centers and snorkel operators, local communities, and government to work together to reduce these environmental impacts and maximize their conservation potential.
Outcome (Expected outcome)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guidelines to promote sustainable diving and snorkelling tourism industry developed, disseminated and implemented 2. Adoption of Green Fins Approach
Lessons learned	- Awareness, understanding and with sense of ownership by the local communities to a project will lead to their active participation and most likely successful implementation
Related websites (English preferred)	

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	Strengthening the Marine Protected Areas to Conserve Marine Key Biodiversity Areas Project (MKBA Project)
Location	Philippines: Batangas, Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan, Negros Oriental, Negros Occidental, Cebu, Compostela Valley, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Davao City, Surigao del Sur
Dates	2015-2019
Main Organizer(s)	Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) (formerly Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau)
Main Stakeholder(s)	Local Government Units, People’s Organizations, Coastal Communities
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	<p>The MKBA Project was developed by BMB, conservation NGOs, academe and research organizations to accelerate the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and Marine Protected Areas Network (MPAN). It will include more key marine biodiversity areas as well as improve MPA/MPAN management effectiveness to reduce the rapid degradation of marine and coastal habitats including coral reefs.</p> <p>The MKBA Project aims to address the following issues and gaps on the establishment of MPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate habitat representation and spatial coverage. MPA establishment and management in the country have been largely initiated by local communities, based on their needs and perception of threats, without emphasis on the development of ecological or social networks. These small MPAs have the capacity to contribute to local biodiversity conservation and fisheries targets but these might not contribute sustainably to wider objectives such as connectivity and resilience to climate change. • Insufficient and unpredictable funding levels for the long-term sustainability of MPA/MPAN.

	<p>Since the bulk of existing funding is provided through individual local government units (LGUs) rather than through a national system, resources are fragmented into small allocations and are also subject to political risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak management plans, policies and ordinances to maintain and support marine protected areas. Over the last few years, national and local policies developed were mainly focused in the conservation and protection of terrestrial ecosystems. Because of this, there is a lack of coherent overall framework in the establishment and management of marine protected areas.
<p>Outcome (including expected outcome)</p>	<p>To address these gaps, the Project has the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 1 - Increased management effectiveness of MPAs and MPANs. Conservation effectiveness of existing MPAs and new MPANs will be enhanced through improvements in spatial coverage and representativeness, strengthening of the national system for MPA identification, designation and management under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) legislative framework, and quantifiable improvements in management of at least 10% of identified marine key biodiversity nationwide, with concomitant increases in local stakeholder participation and support. • Outcome 2 - Improved financial sustainability of MPAs and MPANs. Financial resources for the management of MPAs and MPANs will be sufficient to meet all critical management needs and will grow in line with the expansion of the MPA system. Sources of revenue for MPA management will be progressively diversified, with the percentage of revenue to be derived from the government will decline to less than 50%. <p>Outcome 3 - Established enabling policy framework of marine biodiversity conservation. A comprehensive policy framework to be in place and effectively implemented for the conservation, protection and management of the country’s marine ecosystems and fishery resources, that will harmonize the mandates and activities amongst all key MPA stakeholders (national and local government units concerned)</p>
<p>Lessons learned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a need to identify local champions on the ground who will push for the establishment of marine protected areas following the appropriate protocol such as MPA design and the development of a Management Plan which includes a business plan to ensure sustainability of management costs as well as the mainstreaming of a disaster risk reduction plan at the local level. - Business plans must consider biodiversity friendly enterprises which are themselves threat reduction efforts. For example, involving local fishers in ecotourism industry reduces fishing pressure because fishers become tourist guides. Other business plans involves women in adding value to traditional fishing of their husbands. For example, women process fish caught by their husbands such as deboning them and

	marinating them. The bones collected from fish are dried and used as art materials to make mementos for tourists in the area. This almost creates a zero waste enterprise where the waste of one activity is input into another.
Related websites (English preferred)	[Insert text here]

Project 3

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	Sustainable Coral Reef Ecosystem Management Program (SCREMP)
Location	Nationwide
Dates	2014-2020
Main Organizer(s)	DENR
Main Stakeholder(s)	Coastal Communities, MPA Managers
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	SCREMP covers resource and habitat conservation, protection, and rehabilitation. It aims to contribute to the food security and improved human well-being of the coastal communities by building capacities to enhance their livelihood while managing the production of the natural resources. It promotes public awareness and instil social and environmental consciousness on the value of coral reefs and associated coastal and marine ecosystems, especially on mitigating the effects of climate change and enhancing the formation of positive values among the youth and other partners through shared responsibilities in sustainable management of coastal and marine resources and habitats. The program also develops sustainable financing mechanism through the establishment of system of payment for ecosystem services.
Outcome (Expected outcome)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Habitat and Vulnerability Assessments <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Resource assessment conducted in all coral reef areas to determine their conditions and their vulnerability to the effects of climate change b. Boundaries of the coral reef ecosystems mapped and delineated c. Delineated boundaries of coral reef ecosystems marked with appropriate buoys and markers d. Database on coral reef ecosystems established and managed e. Coral reef ecosystems management plans that address problems identified in letter (a) prepared by concerned field offices 2. Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Protection <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reefs with better chances for recovery and rehabilitation identified b. Protection measures on coral reef ecosystem established c. Appropriate rehabilitation measures, such as stock enhancement of marine species, deployment of appropriate artificial reef structure, and even strict protection schemes etc. are in place

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Implementation of activities on the management, protection and rehabilitation of the coral reef ecosystem regularly documented and reported e. UNEP-initiated project “Green Fins Code of Conduct” on Responsible Diving and other science-based information and technologies for coral reef protection and rehabilitation is widely implemented nationwide f. Conduct of maintenance and reporting, monitoring and evaluation of the protection and rehabilitation measures implemented. <p>3. Social Mobilization and Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Information, Education and Communication campaigns conducted b. Technical and organizational capability-building activities conducted <p>4. MPA Strengthening and Networking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establishment, strengthening and networking of MPAs on a regional scale b. Benefits from sources and sinks within a network of MPAs clear to all MPA managers and stakeholders <p>5. Sustainable Livelihood Interventions</p> <p>Community-centered, community-driven, practical, sustainable and environment-friendly livelihood projects identified and established</p>
Lessons learned	<p>For projects that will be implemented nationwide - At the onset of the project, standard formats for data collection and monitoring (with simple guidelines), should be properly disseminated to the project implementors to facilitate data analysis/ evaluation (including comparison of data) and eventually to recommend better management interventions or strategies for both local and national.</p>
Related websites (English preferred)	[Insert text here]

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.)

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>.)

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Thank you very much for sharing your valuable experiences and information with ICRI.