



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. **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? “Options for Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Coastal Environments” (http://wcmc.io/coastal_EBA-guide)*

b. *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? The UK government has pledged to ban the sale and manufacture of cosmetics and personal care products containing ‘microbeads’; consultations are being held in 2016 with plans to introduce changes to legislation in 2017¹.*

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

- o *November 2016 - Marrakech Climate Change Conference / The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22). Yes – UNEP-WCMC will send a delegation.*
- o *December 4, 2016 to December 17, 2016 - Convention on Biological Diversity COP13. Yes – UNEP-WCMC will send a delegation.*
- o *June 2017 - Oceans & Seas Global Conference, Fiji*
- o *Other(s): Derek Tittensor and Lauren Weatherdon will attend the Future Earth Oceans Knowledge-Action Network Workshop (4-5 December, Kiel, Germany).*

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.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/microbead-ban-announced-to-protect-sealife>

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 type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	Horizon 2020 Green Bubbles RISE project (H2020-MSCA-RISE-2014)
Location	Partners in Italy, the Netherlands, Malta, Turkey, South Africa and the United States with case study dive sites in Porto Fino, Italy and Ponta do Ouro, Mozambique.
Dates	January 2015 – December 2018
Main Organizer(s)	Università Politecnica delle Marche (UNIVPM) and Studio Associato GAIA in Italy
Main Stakeholder(s)	Marine researchers and biologists, dive operators, tourism sector, educations organisations, local authorities, NGOs.
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	The Horizon 2020 Green Bubbles RISE project (H2020-MSCA-RISE-2014) is an international initiative that is jointly led by the Università Politecnica delle Marche (UNIVPM) and Studio Associato GAIA in Italy. The central objective of Green Bubbles (GB) is to maximise the benefits associated with diving while minimising its negative impacts, thus achieving the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of the system. The initiative aims to be the first to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider diving as a system, analysing its components and the interaction between these components; • Bring together the various disciplines that so far have studied diving separately, building upon synergies between them; • Address key actors within, and components of, the diving system (such as dive operators, emissions, etc.); • Consider all three pillars of sustainability through an integrated offer of innovative products; • Link diving with ocean literacy, and bring both to schools with a structured programme; and • Thoroughly assess and support the European Union diving system by designing business and marketing plans for developed products. <p>UNEP-WCMC is one of five organisations on the External Advisory Board, attending kick off meeting (February 2015) and mid-term meeting and accompanying Open Workshop (September 2016).</p>
Outcome (Expected outcome)	The eight work packages endeavour to establish a quality labelling system for sustainable diving operations, improve ocean literacy in school and diving curricula, increase uptake of citizen science initiatives, enhance the business models of the diving industry, and develop novel IT tools that support each of the aforementioned initiatives.
Lessons learned	The project is still underway but progressing well towards its outputs and aims.
Related websites (English preferred)	http://www.greenbubbles.eu/?lang=en

Project 2

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	The Wetland Extent Trends (WET) Index
Location	UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK
Dates	February – September 2015
Main Organizer(s)	UNEP-WCMC
Main Stakeholder(s)	Scientists; decision- and policy-makers.
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	<p>UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre led, in collaboration with several other partners, the development of the Wetland Extent Trends (WET) index. This is a method for estimating broad trends in ecosystem area based on incomplete and heterogeneous data, developing a proof-of-concept for the first indicator of change in area of natural wetland, the Wetland Extent Trends (WET) index.</p> <p>The same method could be applied to other datasets to create indicators for other ecosystems with incomplete global data. Therefore, based upon the Ramsar definition of wetlands, the WET Index has scope for application to coral reefs.</p>
Outcome (including expected outcome)	The WET index fills an important gap in the ecosystem coverage of global biodiversity indicators and can track changes related to a

	number of current international policy objectives. It is a proof-of-concept indicator of global change in wetland area.
Lessons learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 1970 and 2008, natural wetlands declined globally on average by about 30%. • Natural wetland extent declined across all five Ramsar regions assessed. • Coastal wetlands declined globally on average more than inland wetlands. • Require expansion of the WET database for national as well as international purposes and application beyond wetlands.
Related websites (English preferred)	https://www.unep-wcmc.org/news/new-wetland-indicator-reveals-decline-in-global-extent-of-natural-wetland http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2015.10.023

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 type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	Group on Earth Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON), and Global Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON)
Location	Global
Dates	Ongoing
Main Organizer(s)	GEO BON Secretariat and various partner organisations globally. Global MBON: Frank Muller-Karger, Mark J. Costello, and regional networks of scientists, resource managers, and end-users.
Main Stakeholder(s)	Scientists; policy- and decision-makers.
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	UNEP-WCMC is represented in Working Group 5 of GEO BON and in MBON. These initiatives seek to improve the acquisition, coordination and delivery of biodiversity observations for use by scientists and decision-makers. In particular, MBON is aiming to collaborate with the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS; sponsored by the IOC, UNEP, WMO, and ICSU), whom are in the process of identifying candidate Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs) that can be used to establish sustained and systematic monitoring of the biological and biogeochemical ocean, based on the Framework for Ocean Observing (2012). 'Live coral cover' is one of the candidate EOVs that has been put forward by GOOS' Bio-Eco Panel, which would facilitate tracking of trends in coral health and enhanced management.
Outcome (Expected outcome)	These initiatives would strengthen our capacity to track the status of corals and other habitats over time and thereby enhance our ability to strengthen adaptive management and mitigate impacts in a timely manner.
Lessons learned	These initiatives are still underway.
Related websites (English preferred)	http://www.geobon.org http://www.marinebon.org/ http://www.ioc-goos.org/

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.)
Dixon, M.J.R., Loh, J., Davidson, N.C., Beltrame, C., Freeman, R. and Walpole, M. (2016). Tracking global change in ecosystem area: the Wetland Extent Trends index. <i>Biological Conservation</i> , 193, pp.27-35.	http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320715301476	Paper
UNEP (2016). Options for Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EBA) in Coastal Environments: A Guide for environmental managers and planners. UNEP, Nairobi.	http://wcmc.io/coastal EBA-guide	Guide

3. **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.