



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

UN Environment launched two new products at UNEA-2:

- Statistically downscaled climate model projections for coral bleaching conditions, prepared in collaboration with NOAA, were made available through a new coral reef theme on UNEP-Live (<http://uneplive.unep.org/theme/index/19>). A journal article has been accepted for publication in Scientific Reports (Nature group, open access) and a technical report with regional summaries is in final draft format and will be launched in 2016.
- A report entitled “Mesophotic reefs – a lifeboat for coral reefs?” was published in collaboration with GRID-Arendal and NOAA (<http://web.unep.org/ourplanet/may-2016/unep-publications/mesophotic-coral-ecosystems>).

A press release, “Coral reefs face bleak future but “lifeboats” may help them survive” was issued on 24 May 2016 (<http://www.unep.org/NewsCentre/default.aspx?DocumentID=27074&ArticleID=36190>):

A media roundtable on coral reefs was held Tuesday 24 May 2016 during UNEA-2, and a number of news stories on the bleaching event were shared through web and social media in the leadup to UNEA-2: <http://www.unep.org/stories/Ecosystems/Sustainable-Management-of-Coral-Reefs.asp>
<http://www.unep.org/stories/Ecosystems/Coral-Ecosystems.asp>
<http://www.unep.org/stories/Ecosystems/Bleaching-of-Great-Barrier-Reef-coral.asp>

A side event on bleaching was organised by Indonesia and UN Environment in association with the Consultation Meeting on Implementation of UNEA-2 Resolution on Coral Reefs in Manado, June 2016. The event, entitled “Coral Bleaching: Challenges and Roadmap to Address the Phenomenon” discussed the 3rd global coral bleaching event provided insight and analytical perspectives from policy makers and researchers on how to expand global and national bleaching alert and observation systems, such as the Indonesian Coral Bleaching Alert System and efforts on reef management in a changing climate.

b. INDCs - Intended Nationally Determined Contributions

Yes, in principle interested in joining an AHC on consideration of coral reefs in NDC development. The scope and objectives of the AHC would need careful thought. Coral reefs are not a net carbon sink so their consideration in NDCs would primarily be from the perspective of their vulnerability to CC, i.e. as an argument for ambitious mitigation. Mangroves and seagrass beds, on the other hand, are significant carbon sinks/reservoirs, and offer nature-based mitigation solutions that can and should be used also in the context of NDCs.

c. Nature-based Solutions to address Climate Change

UN Environment and CIFOR have prepared **Guiding principles for delivering coastal wetland carbon projects**. Launched in 2014, this distils best practice principles for coastal wetland carbon projects drawing on a long history of wetlands restoration, terrestrial carbon projects, carbon policy and community engagement. It provides overarching fundamental principles for framing coastal wetland carbon projects, identifies requirements for successful interventions, and provides information on avoiding missteps.

http://www.unep.org/pdf/Guiding_principles_for_delivering_coastal_wetland_projects.pdf

The UN Environment-GEF Blue Forests Project will provide the first global-scale assessment of the values associated with coastal carbon and ecosystem services, in order to achieve improved ecosystem management through recognition of these values. The project will also improve knowledge for informed decision-making, raise awareness, foster cooperation among all stakeholders, and provide experience and tools for greater global application. The project includes on-the-ground demonstrations where better coastal ecosystem management is achieved by harnessing the values associated with carbon and ecosystem services, addressing key knowledge gaps, and providing experience and tools for greater global application. This four-year project is managed by GRID-Arendal. <http://www.gefblueforests.com>

Benefit Cost Analysis for Ecosystem-based adaptation: Lami Town, Fiji

This initiative developed a planning framework for using ecosystem-based adaptation approaches in local urban planning and climate change adaptation strategies, based on benefit-cost analysis. In the first phase, this focused on adaptation options within the Lami town area. The second phase included further identification and quantification of costs and benefits associated with adaptation options in the Lami Town watershed. Given the uncertainty regarding the long term efficacy of many EBA options, it also included a more rigorous threshold analysis approach, and also provides a template for cost-benefit analyses to guide budgetary and planning processes and integrate climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning into existing processes as well as a monitoring and evaluation system to track effectiveness of ecosystem-based adaptation in the longer term. Phase 1 reports were published in 2015; phase 2 reports will be published late 2016 or early 2017.

<https://www.sprep.org/publications/a-comparative-analysis-of-ecosystem-based-adaptation-and-engineering-options-for-lami-town-fiji-synthesis-report>

<http://www.sprep.org/publications/lami-town-fiji-ebatechnical-report>

Process guidance on resilience assessment of coral reefs for management planning, covering indicators, methods, data analysis and interpretation, and decision-support is being prepared, for launch in late 2016 or early 2017. The guidance will encompass integration of results of ecological resilience assessments with downscaled climate model outputs (see above) and with other existing key data on historical (e.g. thermal stress event frequency and temperature variability) and projected future (e.g. ocean acidification) exposure to disturbances.

- 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...)*

A brief synthesis of this was provided in meeting document CR.1/2 “Coral reef status and outlook, and implications of recent global agreements” of the Consultation Meeting on Implementation of UNEA-2 Resolution on Coral Reefs in Manado, June 2016. In response to recommendations arising from that meeting, UN Environment will pursue development of “Guidance on the formulation of coral reef measures, action plans or strategies in the context of the 2030 development agenda and SDGs”, for launch in 2017.

UN Environment supports preparations for the UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14, including ongoing technical support to the Advisory Committee. UN Environment convenes Informal Preparatory Working Group (IPWG) 5 on Marine Protected Areas and effective management plans; co-convenes IPWG 1 on marine pollution including from land-based activities; and 2 on Sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems and strengthening resilience; and participates in cross cutting IPWGs on Climate change, ocean acidification; Sustainable management of fisheries; Blue growth and increasing economic benefits for SIDS and LDCs; and Means of Implementation.

- 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?*

Extensive work in relation to marine litter and microplastics, including micro beads, has been conducted through the UN Environment-led Global Partnership on Marine Litter, in response to UNEA resolutions 1/6 and EA/2/11. UN Environment will continue to strengthen awareness raising and other campaign activities in relation to marine litter and microplastics in 2017. (see also publications in 3. below)

<http://www.unep.org/gpa/gpml/gpml.asp>

In partnership with the North Sea Foundation and the Plastic Soup Foundation, UN Environment works to expand the smartphone app campaign initiative ‘Beat the Microbead’. The App allows consumers to scan personal care products to check for the presence of plastic microbeads. This will entail increasing the

geographic reach/scope of the initiative and upgrading the data base and the website, as well as to promote the App through different channels.

<http://www.unep.org/gpa/gpml/BeattheMicrobeadProject.asp>

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) – UNEP will attend, not necessarily ICRI FP
- December 4, 2016 to December 17, 2016 - Convention on Biological Diversity COP13 – UNEP will attend, not necessarily ICRI FP
- June 2017 - Oceans & Seas Global Conference, Fiji – UNEP will attend, most likely ICRI FP. NB the meeting will take place in New York, not Fiji
- Other(s): potentially Economist World Ocean Summit, February 2017.

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>).

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	Global Coral Reef Partnership
Location	Global
Dates	2014-2017
Main Organizer(s)	UN Environment
Main Stakeholder(s)	Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, Governments, governmental agencies, NGOs, private sector
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	<p>Responding to the Global Strategic Directions for the Regional Seas 2013-2016 and UNEP Governing Council Decision 27/6, UNEP convened a global partnership to support countries deliver internationally agreed commitments including the ICRI Continuing Call to Action.</p> <p>The partnership was developed based on consultation through Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAP) as well as ICRI GMs, and a Partnership Workshop organized during the 2nd Global Conference on Land-Ocean Interactions in October 2013.</p> <p>The ICRI Secretariat participates in the partnership steering committee, as agreed at ICRI GM28. On behalf of the partnership, UN Environment reports to ICRI General Meetings on activities, progress made and contribution of the partnership in implementing the ICRI Continuing Call to Action. This is reflected in the reports of ICRI General Meetings 27, 28, 29, and 30.</p> <p><i>A Steering Committee Meeting will be held on 31 October 2016, immediately before ICRI GM31, to discuss future direction and especially implementation of the UNEA-2 resolution on sustainable coral reefs management. An update on the partnership will be provided to GM31 based on this.</i></p> <p>Factsheets on the work of the partnership are available at goo.gl/Id0dBO</p> <p><i>Intervention Logic</i></p> <p>The Global Coral Reef Partnership builds on the regional governance mechanisms provided by tropical Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, and brings together countries, NGOs, academic institutions and private sector partners in collaboration towards ecosystem-based management of coral reefs.</p> <p>At the global level, the partnership focuses on developing methods, tools and</p>

	<p>policy frameworks, where possible building on existing efforts, and supporting exchange of best practice and lessons learned between regions.</p> <p>At the regional level, the partnership facilitates adoption of methods, tools and policy frameworks by Regional Seas through policy and other support, and where required adapting methods, tools and policy frameworks to the regional context.</p> <p>At the national level, the partnership demonstrates use of methods and tools and implementation of policy frameworks through pilot activities implemented with partners, to support broader national uptake and capacity building.</p> <p><i>Work Programme</i></p> <p>The partnership implements activities under four thematic work areas responding to priorities shared among all reef regions and SIDS with coral reefs:</p> <p>A) Building coral reef resilience in the face of climate change and ocean acidification: enabling reefs cope with inevitable climate change impacts without losing ecosystem service provision.</p> <p>B) Strengthening use of coral reef ecosystem service values in public and private decision-making: policy-oriented coral reef ecosystem service valuation, use of economic instruments to finance management, and collaboration with key reef industries to reduce impact on and enhance investment in coral reefs assets.</p> <p>C) Enhancing data and information provision for ecosystem-based coral reef planning and management: policy analysis on emerging issues, Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) status and outlook reporting through RSCAP, and development of indicators for tracking progress towards global targets.</p> <p>D) Securing impact through institutional support and outreach: strategic communication, facilitating partnership operations, and institutional and policy support to RSCAP, ICRI and GCRMN.</p> <p>The partnership mainstreams gender throughout its work programme as a prerequisite for effective ecosystem-based management.</p> <p><i>ICRI FFA relevance:</i> The partnership contributes directly to all four cornerstones of the CTA and FFA. Where relevant the partnership works with and through GCRMN as well as ICRI Ad Hoc Committees. The ICRI Secretariat participates in the partnership Steering Committee.</p> <p><i>UNEP's role:</i> UNEP hosts the partnership secretariat, coordinates and oversees activities and leads implementation of some activities. A UNEP project document has been developed for this purpose. Collaboration is pursued with other global partnerships hosted by UNEP, e.g. on wastewater, nutrients and marine litter as well as tourism and 10YFP.</p> <p><i>Budget:</i> The estimated cash budget for partnership activities 2014-17 is USD 2.8M, of which USD 1.9M has been secured.</p>
Outcome (Expected outcome)	<p>The partnership contributes to UNEP Ecosystem Management subprogramme, Expected Accomplishment (b): <i>Use of the ecosystem approach in countries to sustain ecosystem services from coastal and marine systems is increased.</i></p> <p>Activities are expected to lead to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in number of countries using the ecosystem approach to sustain ecosystem services from coastal and marine systems - Increase in percentage of regional seas where the ecosystem approach is under implementation by parties - Increase in percentage of area covered by an ecosystem based management plan over the total area covered by countries
Lessons learned	<p>The partnership builds on the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN), an ICRI Operational Network which concluded in 2011.</p>
Related websites	<p>http://coral.unep.ch (temporary site)</p>

UN Environment is further supporting ICRI's *Framework for Action* through development of practical planning tools, capacity building and policy advice to assist integrated, ecosystem-based marine and coastal management. Some recent outputs include:

“Blue Planning in Practice” training package

A new training course on coastal and marine planning has been developed by GIZ and UNEP through **the Blue Solutions project**. The course is designed to enable planners and decision makers to develop and engage in ecosystem-based marine and coastal planning and implementation in different contexts and settings, at a broad range of scales. The Blue Planning in Practice course aims to strengthen practical management informed by decades of practical experiences and learning in the field. It is intended for professionals responsible for the planning and management of coastal and marine areas and their natural resources, not only from the environment sector, also from sectors such as fisheries, tourism, transportation, energy, and sea mining, as well as cross-sectorial management bodies. Further details: <https://bluesolutions.info/capacity-development/blue-planning-practice>

“PANORAMA – Solutions for a Healthy Planet”

PANORAMA is new online platform to share practical marine and coastal management experiences. Developed through the Blue Solutions project of GIZ, IUCN, UN Environment and GRID-Arendal, the portal uses real stories to share inspirational, practical and replicable ways to improve the health of marine and coastal areas. To date, 140 solutions have been collated and presented on marine and coastal management; MPAs; ecosystem services & climate change. It allows practitioners to learn how others have tackled problems across the globe by encouraging reflection on and learning from proven approaches. PANORAMA is online at: www.panorama.solutions

The ‘10X20 Initiative’ on MPAs to achieve SDG 14.5

UN Environment is partner of a new partnership – the ‘10X20 Initiative’ - to achieve the SDG 14.5 target of 10% global MPA coverage by 2020. Spearheaded by a group of Member States (Italy, Palau, Kenya, Bahamas, Poland) in collaboration with the Ocean Sanctuary Alliance and UN Environment, it will assist countries develop and implement effective MPAs. A Science-Policy Conference held March 2016 identified key issues halting MPA development and formulated the ‘ROME Call for Action’ suggesting priority actions and capacity building to strengthen MPAs. Within the 10X20 Initiative, UN Environment is collaborating with Italy and other partners to implement this plan, including development of a MPA decision support system and pilot demonstrations. Initial focus is on Caribbean and Pacific SIDS.

ITMEMS5

The 5th International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS) was jointly organized with ICRI, held in February 2016 in Bohol, the Philippines and attended by 60 managers from around the world. UN Environment led or co-organized sessions on Marine Spatial Planning, coral reef resilience, Green Fins, and sustainable financing, and also supported the attendance of 35 participants through funding provided by Sweden and by the US Department of State. ITMEMS 5 enabled participants to learn about and test management tools and approaches that support EBM, share experiences and lessons learned, and identify gaps and priorities in further strengthening EBM in tropical marine ecosystems.

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.)
Mesophotic reefs – a lifeboat for coral reefs	goo.gl/nm1mEu	Technical report
UNEP-Live coral reef theme	goo.gl/wBT0a3	Data portal
Coral Bleaching Futures: Downscaled projections of bleaching conditions for the world’s coral reefs, implications of climate policy and management responses	In press	Technical report
Local-scale projections of coral reef futures and implications of the Paris Agreement	In press	Journal article
Guiding principles for delivering coastal wetland carbon projects	goo.gl/ZbzLDF	Guidelines
Marine plastic debris and microplastics: Global lessons and research to inspire action and guide policy change	goo.gl/8DaUyq	Technical report

Plastic in cosmetics. Are we polluting the environment through our personal care?	goo.gl/YWMxg9	Technical report
Marine litter: Vital graphics	goo.gl/2KTMUv	Technical report
Marine litter legislation: A toolkit for policymakers	goo.gl/t9Ypjk	Technical report
Blue Planning in Practice - <i>Enabling ecosystem-based marine and coastal planning and management</i>	goo.gl/86aCAM	Training package
Blue Solutions PANORAMA knowledge-platform	goo.gl/6UmP2J	Information portal

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):	
Focal Point 1:	
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Thank you very much for sharing your valuable experiences and information with ICRI.