



**Member Report**

**ICRI GM 28 – AUSTRALIA**

INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE (ICRI)  
28<sup>th</sup> General Meeting  
14-17 October 2013 – Belize City, Belize

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**Member’s report on activities related to ICRI**

**Reporting period July 2012 - October 2013**

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

Are you an ICRI Member?	Yes
Member type (Country / Organization):	Country
<b>Focal Point 1:</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	John Baldwin
<i>Organization:</i>	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
<i>Email:</i>	John.baldwin@gbrmpa.gov.au
<b>Focal point 2:</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	Anne Caillaud
<i>Organization:</i>	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
<i>Email:</i>	Anne.caillaud@gbrmpa.gov.au
Last meeting attended:	GM27: Cairns
Related website(s)	<a href="http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au">www.gbrmpa.gov.au</a>

**2. Updates on your activities** (new initiatives/programs/projects of your government /organization which will be of interest to the ICRI Members). Examples include MPA declarations, World Heritage sites status, economic valuation of reefs, policy changes in relation to coral reefs etc.

As part of the Australian Government’s response to the World Heritage Committee’s concerns regarding development impacts on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (raised at its meeting in June 2011), the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) is undertaking a strategic assessment to evaluate and improve its effectiveness in managing existing and emerging risks to the Great Barrier Reef, focusing on relevant matters of national environmental significance. It is part of a comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone, which analyses impacts from activities on the land and on the water. The Queensland government is leading development of the strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef coastal zone; whilst the GBRMPA is responsible for undertaking the marine component.

The GBRMPA is currently implementing the Australia Caribbean Coral Reef Collaboration on behalf of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). This two year collaboration brings together coral reef managers and policymakers from across the world to improve the outlook for Caribbean coral reefs in the face of climate change by sharing expertise and knowledge, developing new ideas, tools and approaches, and implementing in-region collaborative projects. The program of activities has been designed to contribute to CARICOM’s *Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change* and includes a Regional Plan of Action, five in-region collaborative projects and a climate change adaptation resource portal. For more information contact [Paul.Marshall@gbrmpa.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Marshall@gbrmpa.gov.au) For more, go to: [www.climateandreefs.org](http://www.climateandreefs.org)

In November 2012 the Australian Government declared a new national network of Commonwealth marine reserves which gives protection to more than 2.3 million square kilometres of Australia’s marine environment. The new Commonwealth marine reserves are

spread around Australia, expanding the national Commonwealth marine reserves estate from 27 to 59 individual reserves (excluding the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park).

**3. Contribution to the ICRI GM**

*Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the current ICRI action plan and objectives of the general meeting.*

**a. Community-based monitoring**

Are you engaged in, or support community-based monitoring in your marine areas? If so, think about what works and what doesn't with it to be prepared for workshop discussions on this topic. The discussions will revolve around:

- The benefit of community-based monitoring for management and reporting
- Way forward and how countries could support each other through a network of persons involved in monitoring and an online database.

Eye on the Reef is a powerful monitoring program that enables anyone who visits the Great Barrier Reef to contribute to its long-term protection. The information collected through the Eye on the Reef program is combined in a single data management and reporting system which enables participants to access their own data and reporting online. This data provides Marine Park managers and researchers with up-to-date information on reef health status and trends, the distribution of protected and iconic species, and early warnings of environmental impacts.

The Eye on the Reef program brings together five assessment and monitoring programs that collect valuable information about reef health, marine animals and incidents.

- Sightings network
- Rapid Monitoring
- Tourism Weekly Monitoring
- Reef Health and Impact Surveys
- Eyes and Ears Incident Reporting Network

These programs enable people from all walks of life — Marine Park rangers, marine tourism staff, scientist, fishers, tourists and other reef users — to report their Reef sightings and observations to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. For more, go to: <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/visit-the-reef/eye-on-the-reef>

**b. Co-management**

Do you have co-management arrangements in place for your marine reserves? If so, start thinking about what they are, and what works for you in preparation for workshop and field trip discussions on this topic. There will be some interactive exercises to help guide your thinking and possible way forward.

**4. Is there any other topic you would like to raise during the meeting?**

- YES  NO

If yes, please indicate which topic and the reason why you would like to raise it:

**5. Please list relevant publications, reports you have been released since the last meeting.**

Title (incl. author and date)	Type of publication (Paper, report etc.)
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Day, J.C., Wren, E. and Vohland, K. 2012, <i>Community engagement in safeguarding the world's largest reef: Great Barrier Reef, Australia</i> , in <i>World heritage: benefits beyond borders</i> , ed. A. Galla, UNESCO/Cambridge University Press, Paris/Cambridge, UK, pp. 18–29.	paper
Gibson, J., Day, J., Dobbs, K. and Molloy, F. 2013, <i>The Great Barrier Reef Region strategic assessment</i> , in <i>Proceedings 3rd International Conference on Progress in Marine Conservation in Europe 2012</i> , eds H. von Nordheim, K. Maschner and K. Wollny-Goerke, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Bonn, Germany, pp. 167–176	paper
Day, J.C. and Dobbs, K. 2013, <i>Effective governance of a large and complex cross-jurisdictional marine protected area: Australia's Great Barrier Reef</i> , <i>Marine Policy</i> 41: 14–24. doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2012.12.020.	paper
Gibson, J., Cameron, D., Day, J., Dobbs, K., McCook, L., Read, M., Owens, R. and Wachenfeld, D. 2013, <i>Role of no-take marine reserves in the protection of marine biodiversity</i> in <i>Proceedings 3rd International Conference on Progress in Marine Conservation in Europe 2012</i> , eds H. von Nordheim, K. Maschner and K. Wollny-Goerke, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Bonn, Germany, pp. 183–192	paper
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2013, <i>Great Barrier Reef Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2013</i> , GBRMPA, Townsville.	report
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2012, <i>Informing the outlook for Great Barrier Reef coastal ecosystems</i> , Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville.	report
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2012, <i>Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2017</i> , Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville	report

**6. Please indicate upcoming coral reef-related meetings you or your organisation will attend**

2nd Global Conference on Land - Ocean Connections (GLOC-2) October 2- 4 2013, Montego Bay, Jamaica

17th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SBSTTA-17), 14-18 October 2013 Montreal, Canada

2nd Global Marine World Heritage Site Managers Conference, 17-20 October 2013, Corsica, France

International Marine Protected Areas Congress, 21-27 October, Marseille, France

9th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, 2-6 December, Suva, Fiji

Other: nil