



Member’s report on activities to ICRI

Presented by Maria Rivera, Senior Advisor Americas, Ramsar Convention Secretariat

Reporting period April 2009 – November 2010

Please note that the purpose of this report is to help you share information about your activities within the ICRI community to allow discussion at the next ICRI General Meeting. The reports will be made available on the ICRIForum prior to the meeting. The ICRI secretariat is well aware of your busy schedule, thus don't hesitate to submit an incomplete report.

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

Are you an ICRI Member?	Yes
Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Ramsar Convention
Focal Point 1:	
<i>Name:</i>	Maria Rivera
<i>Organization:</i>	Ramsar Convention
<i>Email:</i>	rivera@ramsar.org
Focal point 2:	
<i>Name:</i>	
<i>Organization:</i>	
<i>Email:</i>	
Last meeting attended:	2009
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Reports, informal reports
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	Not specific budget but funding of projects (SGA, SGF, WFF, Regional Initiatives)

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?	YES / NOx But Ramsar has some resolutions related with the conservation of Coral Reefs as unrepresented in the List of Wetlands of International Importance and other related guidelines. Also in the strategic plan 2009-2012 are included some actions related with coral reefs. (Goal 1, Wise Use , Goal 2. Wetlands of International Importance.
Is this plan publicly available? If so please provide location:	Yes the information is available on our web site. Below are the links. Resolutions VIII.14. Principles and guidelines for incorporating wetland issues into Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). Resolution VIII.11. Additional guidance for identifying and

	designating under represented wetlands types as wetlands of international importance, include specific information about coral reefs.. VIII.32. Conservation integrated management, and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems and their resources. http://ramsar.org/res/key_res_viii_index_e.htm . http://www.ramsar.org/res/key_res_x_01_e.doc and the strategic plan.
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative or Task Force?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES / NO As mentioned in the previous report under the Convention Regional Initiatives Program there are some initiatives like the Americas Mangrove that had expanded to include Coral Reefs, Waco Wet for Africa and the Caribbean regional initiative that address the conservation and wise use of these ecosystems.
Are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relating to coral reefs:	Yes.
If yes, please indicate which programmes/initiatives:	Besides taken part of the above initiatives, Ramsar has an MOU with the Cartagena Convention and Spaw Protocol. They also participate actively on the Caribbean regional initiative.

2. Updates on your activities (new initiatives/programs/projects of your government /organization which will be of interest to the ICRI Members)

One new initiative that involves marine wetlands including coral reefs and mangroves is the Caribbean regional initiative that involves all Ramsar contracting parties in the Caribbean plus Belize and Surinam as well as the overseas territories of the Netherlands and France. This initiative is also open to other countries that are not yet part of Ramsar in the Caribbean. This initiative is led by the Governments of Jamaica and Cuba.

In August 2010, the Ramsar Secretariat in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Government of New Caledonia organised and conducted a workshop to review implementation of and update the 1999 'Regional Wetlands Action Plan for the Pacific Islands' (RWAP). This workshop was made possible through the generous financial support of the Governments of France, Australia, United States and Norway.

The main output of the workshop was a new 3-year Regional Wetlands Action Plan for the Pacific Islands (2011-2013) with activities, responsibilities and targets, to further the wise use and conservation of wetlands in the PICTs. The new action plan contains a number of actions related to the wise use, conservation and addressing of current threats to coral reefs.

The workshop engaged the following 13 Pacific islands - Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna) to formulate the new action plan.

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. Due to the heavy schedules of ICRI members, we have tried to keep the questions to a minimum and value any response you can provide.

a. Session on accidental releases of pollutants

Please provide any lessons you have learned from your experiences in managing accidental pollutions and any projects/programs you are involved in. Do you have report or documents related to this topic?

b. During the meeting, a full day will focus on the Pacific region. If you have any question about the region, ongoing projects in the region... please let us know.

As mentioned in Section 2 above, the Pacific Islands have developed a 3-year Regional Wetlands Action Plan for the region. They, along with SPREP, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and other stakeholders, will be keen to see how they can use this new Action Plan under the ICRI 'umbrella', to promote the conservation and wise use of coral areas in the Pacific.

c. What other new initiatives/programs/projects/progress, in particular since January 2010, has been made by your government/organization relative to i) Marine Protected Areas, Ramsar, World Heritage sites, and Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) sites designation containing coral reefs; ii) Policy changes; iii) Economic valuation of coral reef ecosystem services, etc., which you believe would be of general interest to other ICRI Members?

Besides the wetland regional initiatives mentioned above the projects funded by Wetland for the Future in the cycle 2008: "A Brazilian training program for local guides on coral reef conservation and monitoring and training in Reef Check Protocol for a long term monitoring in Isla del Caño biological reserve (Costa Rica) are close to end with successful implementation. Through Wetland for the Future cycle 2009 the Ramsar Secretariat also sponsored the participation of two Brazilian delegates to ICRI General meeting in Monaco in 2010.

The current status of Wetlands of International Importance (Goal 2 of Ramsar Strategic Plan) with Coral Reefs is as follows:

There are 1899 Ramsar sites or wetlands of international importance at the global level with a total area of 186,549,792 hectares. Of the designated Ramsar sites, there are 77 with this type of wetland with a total area of 14,539.457 hectares. It is important to highlight that there has been an increase of 7 new sites (2,074.857 ha) in relation with the previous report in April 2009.

Regarding Ramsar regions, the Neotropics is the region with the greatest number (21) of Ramsar sites with coral reefs with an area of 4,483.415 hectares increasing in one new site designated by Brazil. Follows Africa that also had an increase on 4 sites for a total of 12 sites representing 2,681.603 hectares designated by Congo (1), Sudan (2) and Seychelles (1). The third place is for Oceania with 10 sites and a total area of 2,710.953 hectares, one new site containing coral reefs is in the process of being designated as a Ramsar site since last year and the fourth place is for Europe with seven sites, one more than in the previous report with a total area of 2,389.648 hectares. North America has 17 sites one more than the previous year with an area of 1,991.482 and Asia has 10 sites representing 282.356 ha with not new designations of sites with coral reefs since last year.

From all the Ramsar regions Mexico continue being the country with the greatest designations (17) of Ramsar sites with Coral Reefs.

The Ramsar Convention contributes to the conservation and wise use of coral reefs through the designation of Ramsar sites and formulation of its management plans, formulation of wetlands policies and implementation of technical guidelines (inventory, monitoring, integrated coastal management) as well as through Ramsar regional initiatives.

The Ramsar Secretariat invites the ICRI Secretariat and its ICRI members to take part in the above mentioned activities especially regional initiatives.

d. We would also like to know if some of the recommendations or resolutions adopted during the last ICRI meeting (<http://icriforum.org/icrigm24>) have been taken forward by your country or organization.

e. Is there any topic you would like to raise during the meeting?

f. Please list publications, reports you have been released since April 2009;

See attach file: Caribbean regional initiative and mangroves and coral reefs initiative report.

g. Please indicate upcoming coral reef-related meetings you will attend?

On March 2011 will take place in Guayaquil, Ecuador the second meeting of the regional initiative for Mangroves and Coral Reefs organized by Governments of Mexico and Ecuador and the Ramsar Secretariat.