



Member's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by UNEP-CAR/RCU

Reporting period: February – December 2009

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

Are you an ICRI Member?	Yes
Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	UNEP-Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (CAR/RCU)
Focal Point 1:	
<i>Name:</i>	<i>Alessandra Vanzella</i>
<i>Organization:</i>	<i>UNEP-CAR/RCU</i>
<i>Email:</i>	<i>avk@cep.unep.org</i>
Focal point 2:	
<i>Name:</i>	Nelson Andrade
<i>Organization:</i>	UNEP-CAR/RCU
<i>Email:</i>	nac@cep.unep.org
Last meeting attended:	
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Internet, emails, lists serve, meetings, training courses
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	US \$200,000 (MPA support) Jun 2009/2010
For countries only:	
National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?	N/A
Is this plan publicly available? If so please provide location:	
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative or Task Force?	N/A
Are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relating to coral reefs:	YES
If yes, please indicate which programmes/initiatives:	SPAW Programme, CaMPAM, Caribbean LME, Caribbean Challenge

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

- **Continued MPA strengthening through training and exchanges with MPA managers and fishers as part of the activities of the CaMPAM network, with support from UNEP, NOAA and the Spanish and French Governments and in partnership with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) and other national and regional NGOs and government agencies. The program includes the following: 1) exchange visits to promote responsible/sustainable fishing practices, economic alternatives for fishers, and more**

effective marine managed areas; 2) the improvement of the Training the Trainers Programme on MPA Management with new tools (webinars and mentorships) and concepts/abilities such as the incorporation of the ecosystem resilience approach in MPA design and management, assessment of ecosystem services as a tool for more government and private sector support, the creation of entrepreneurship among MPA managers and local community leaders to create local socio-economic incentives for MPAs and other management areas.

- *Site selection for pilot project on reef biodiversity conservation of the GEF UNDP/UNESCO Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project. The pilot project has a budget of US\$1.1 million for years. The demonstration project will strengthen the assessment, management, and governance frameworks required to promote the ecological integrity of the reef at selected sites. Sites were identified on the basis of their ability to provide comparative lessons on effective reef fisheries and reef biodiversity governance, as well as replication within the region and beyond since activities to disseminate the lessons learnt. Large marine management areas of Pedro Bank in Jamaica, Sea Flower Biosphere Reserve in Colombia, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and Grenadine Islands (St Vincent and the Grenadines) will be immediate beneficiaries. The sites are transboundary and/or associated with existing Marine Protected Areas, thus the adjoining secondary reef areas, where regulation is less stringent and fishing pressure is heavier, are of particular interest. The importance of involving the local stakeholders in the decision-making process will be crucial in creating an effective governance structure.*
- *Development and planning of activities under the Caribbean Challenge initiative has continued with TNC, Italian Government, GEF, the OECS and interested governments (see report of presented at last GM Phuket 2009 for information on the Caribbean Challenge)*

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.

NOTE: The Secretariat will compile Members' responses to the below questions into a general presentation to be given during the GM. The Secretariat will also request specific Members to highlight certain initiatives, should additional information be of interest to the full ICRI membership.

- a. **Fisheries session:** Please provide any lessons you have learned from your experiences in managing fisheries and any projects/programs you are involved in.
 - What was The Problem or the Challenge? – including information on the location, the perceived problem and the effects on the coastal resources

Caribbean: Overfishing and coastal degradation due to lack of political will, enforcement and resources. Conflicting interests with major economic activities such as tourism and industrial fishing (more site specific)

- What was done? Both ecological and sociological interventions

Caribbean: more regulations have been enacted, creation of MPAs and marine reserves has taken place, as well as capacity building and system plans through projects (GEF, ICRAN, CaMPAM etc). However scale and level of interventions has been relatively small and fragmented vis a vis the issues to be addressed. Additionally, some of the methods employed have not been effective, focusing too much on assessments and plans with insufficient focus on hands-on practical solutions and alternatives, such as sustainability and livelihoods. More

emphasis is also needed on integrated policy and meaningful participation of decision-makers and private sector.

- How successful was it? E.g. has fisheries improved; positive effects on coral reefs; better reef resources exportation ?

Caribbean: fisheries improved at few selected sites and “spill over” has occurred in well managed MPAs or management areas.

- Lessons learned and recommendations; Key messages to convey to other people
 - References
 - Author/s Contact
- b. The ICRI secretariat is planning on revisiting/updating the ICRI “call to action” (http://www.icriforum.org/library/call_action.pdf) and ICRI “framework to action” (http://www.icriforum.org/library/framework_action.pdf). Please provide any guidelines you think would be useful.

More meaningful engagement of policy and decision-makers is critical for ICRI to be more effective and this needs to be articulated creatively and emphasized on the updates.

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

See issues mentioned above under point 3

- d. During the meeting, we are planning on having a presentation on the “Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)”. Could you please list your coral reef sites listed under the MAB programme.
- e. What other new initiatives/programs/projects/progress, in particular since April 2009, has been made by your government/organization relative to Marine Protected Areas, Ramsar site designations containing coral reefs, policy changes, economic valuation of coral reef ecosystem services, etc., which you believe would be of general interest to other ICRI Members?
- **Activities of the GEF/UNEP/Cabi regional project on strengthening capacities in the insular Caribbean for alien invasive species management were initiated, including a small component on marine invasives, including the lion fish.**
 - **Under the OECS SUSTAINABLE FINANCING AND MANAGEMENT OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN MARINE ECOSYSTEMS PROJECT and in keeping with the Caribbean Challenge initiative, TNC, the OECS, UNDP and interested governments are planning the creation of the Caribbean Biological Fund (the \$40 million regional endowment) that links to the national level PA Trust Funds to be completed under national GEF projects.**
- f. Please list publications, reports you have been released since April 2009

Training Manuals in Spanish (CD format) on ICZM, siting of facilities and waste management for the coastal tourism industry (soon available online at www.cep.unep.org).

For any of the above questions, please provide links to further information. As appropriate, the Secretariat will compile such information to make it accessible to all Members on the ICRI Forum.

ICRI and Other Meetings - Are you considering attending any of the following meetings in 2009?

- ❑ 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
Doha, Qatar, from 13 to 25 March 2010

NO

- ❑ 5th Global Oceans Conference: Ensuring Survival, Preserving Life, and Improving Governance:
 - Policy, Science, and Technical Symposium (May 3-4, 2010)
 - Policy Conference (May 6-7, 2010)

NO

- ❑ 10th Meeting of the conference of the Parties to the convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10), October 18-29, 2010, Nagoya, Japan

NO

- ❑ Other (please specify):

- ***CBD SBSTTA, Nairobi, Kenya, 10-21 May 2010***
- ***UNEP-CAR/RCU will convene the XV Intergovernmental Meeting and VI SPAW COP Meetings in Cartagena, Colombia, 4-10 October 2010. ICRI and coral reef information will be disseminated as part of the UNEP-CEP workplans and reporting to governments. Colombia is planning to host a side event on better practices for marine resources management within the tourism industry***