



## Thailand Member's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by [Niphon Phongsuwan]

### Reporting period

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 report will be made available on the ICRIForum prior to the meeting, and a question and answer session will be held at the meeting. The ICRI Secretariat is well aware of your busy schedule, therefore please complete the report to the best of your ability.

### 1. General Information

Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Thailand/Department of Marine and Coastal Resources
Focal Point 1:	Mr. Niphon Phongsuwan
Focal point 2:	Dr. Thamasak Yeemin
Last meeting attended:	22-24 April 2007, Tokyo
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Report to Department of Marine and Coastal Resources
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	340,000 USD (year 2008)

For countries only:

<b>National Action Plan / Initiative</b>	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?	YES
Is this plan publicly available? If so, please provide location:	The old one was published in 1992. Now it is under revision and would be completed around early 2008.
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative or Task Force?	YES
Are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relevant to coral reefs:	yes
If yes, please indicate which programs/initiatives:	-Coral reef rehabilitation -Coral reef biodiversity -Conservation and public awareness
<b>Marine Protected Areas</b>	
How many MPA(s) with coral reefs?	65
What is the percentage of coral reef MPA(s) to the (coastal zone / marine area)?	About 50% of total coral reef area
Please provide the appropriate contact name for MPA data holdings	
Details for contact (email/fax/telephone)	

**2. Member contribution to the ICRI GM:** Your responses to the following questions will contribute to the background material provided for the next ICRI General Meeting in

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

#### **A. Questions to inform the break-out discussion groups**

##### **Session 1: Economic Valuation of coral reef ecosystems**

- a. Do you have examples of economic valuation of coral reefs being applied in practice? (e.g., in consideration of coastal land use, coastal/marine spatial planning, for determining compensation, etc.);

Yes. There is a study on valuation of coral reefs on particular island in Thailand, especially recreational value.

- b. Do you have established methods for assessing these values? If so, please provide further information.

Yes, it is travel cost method. The results of the study was published as master thesis, *Christiernsson A. (2003). An economic valuation of the coral reefs at Phiphi Island: A travel cost approach. Master's thesis, Social Science and Business Administration and Social Sciences, Division of Economics, Lulea University of Technology. 55 pp.*

##### **Session 2: Designing the ICRI Regional Workshop on Sustainable Tourism (to be held in July 2008 directly following ICRS-11)**

- a. With respect to coral reefs, what does sustainable tourism mean to you?

Sustainable tourism with respect to coral reefs is the important issue in Thailand now. Thailand is one of the most popular countries in Southeast Asia for diving. As the tourism industry grows, threats to coral reefs are increased, with unsustainable tourism practices. The threats can be lessened with increased public awareness and appropriate management practices that benefit conservation and management of coral reefs.

- b. What are the key challenges you face to achieving sustainable tourism?

Engaging dive operators in sustainable tourism and monitoring coral reefs will assist in the conservation of coral reefs. These activities have been implemented under Green Fins project.

#### **B. Summary of IYOR 2008 Activities**

- Briefly tell us about your activities for IYOR 2008. Information provided will contribute to the discussion during the IYOR 2008 Session on Friday, January 25, 2008.

In Thailand, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources will hold the activities through out year 2008 (starting late 2007). The main activities are:

1. National conference on coral reef research and management (around May 2008)
2. Coral reef conservation awareness programme, such as coral reef clean-up, special exhibition in Phuket Aquarium
3. Coral reef status survey by Green Fins members

#### **C. Emerging Issues**

- Please identify any emerging issues relevant to coral reef ecosystems that you believe ICRI should consider.

#### **D. ICRI and Other Meetings**

Are your ICRI Focal Points considering attending any of the following meetings in 2008?

- 2008 Ocean Sciences Meeting, Florida, 2-7 March

- CBD COP 9, Bonn, 19-30 May
- UNICPOLOS 9, New York, June 2008
- ICRS 11, Fort Lauderdale, 7-11 July **YES**
- IUCN World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, 5-16 October
- Ramsar COP 9, South Korea, 29 October - 4 November
- Other (please specify):
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