



## Member's report on activities related to ICRI

### Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

#### Reporting period November 2016 – November 2017

1. **Contribution to the ICRI Plan of Action 2016-2018.** *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>)*

#### Theme 1 – “Help raise awareness of how coral reefs and related ecosystems help to fight climate change”

- *Goal 1-1: highlight the contribution of coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses to mitigate and adapt to climate change and its impacts*

**Question:** Do you have examples of solutions provided by coral reefs and coastal systems to mitigate and adapt to climate change?

*The Pacific Partnership for Ocean Acidification (PPOA) project (USD 1.3mill 2016-2019) in four Pacific island countries (Vanuatu, Fiji, Kiribati and Tokelau) will assist local and national programmes on i) monitoring OA, ii) actions to reduce land runoff impacts on reefs and iii) encouraging restoration and adaption action on-ground.*

**Question:** Are you planning to add in your NDC the importance of coral reefs / mangroves?

1. *SPREP and GIZ proposal to IKI is designed to assist PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji to conduct national mapping, carbon audits, and conservation of blue carbon habitats as contributions toward climate adaptation and NDCs.*
2. *SPREP is a founding member of the International Partnership for Blue Carbon (IPBC) and assisting Pacific island countries to include blue carbon habitat conservation for climate adaptation into their NAPAs, JNAPs and NDCs.*

#### Theme 3: “Help to reduce human threats to coral reefs and associated mangroves and seagrasses, by making greater use of regulatory tools”

- *Goal 3-1: promote legal frameworks for the protection of coral reefs and associated mangroves and seagrasses, with quantified targets and effective enforcement to protect these ecosystems*

**Question:** What are the legal frameworks for the protection of coral reefs and associated mangroves and seagrasses in place in your countries? If you already replied to the previous request, you don't need reply

1. *National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans in all Pacific island countries attempt to be multi-sectoral where possible for reducing upstream and direct pressures and impacts on reefs, but serious capacity constraints limit the extent of implementation.*
2. *The MACBIO project on marine and coastal biodiversity conservation is assisting Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Kiribati to develop national governance structures, Ocean Policies and marine spatial planning programmes to conserve critical coastal ecosystems.*

3. *We encourage and assist other Pacific island countries (RMI, Samoa, Cook Islands, New Caledonia, , Nauru, ...) to do the same.*
4. *SPREP assists member countries to develop capacity in coral reef management and monitoring, mostly through partnerships with the following programmes and facilitating the participation of Pacific island countries:*
  - a. *Assisting Pacific island countries to participate in the Australian Coral Reef Management and Leadership Training Fellowships in 2015, 2016, 2017. This programme is implemented by Reef Ecologic and University of Queensland on the Great Barrier Reef. Between 5 and 8 Pacific island participants join the course each year.*
  - b. *University of the South Pacific - School of Marine Studies, Suva, Fiji, has undergraduate and post-graduate programmes in marine science and marine management.*
- 5.

**Question:** Did you set quantified targets to protect coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses? And are you able to provide a % of what is currently protected in your country? Please define what you mean by protection?

Fiji has declared to ensure 30% of its EEZ will be included under protected and managed areas.

- *Goal 3-2: encourage a ban on plastic microbeads in cosmetic products*

**Question:** How did you implement the recommendation to reduce plastic microbeads pollution in marine environment?

France led a proposal with SPREP Members to increase action on reducing plastics and microbeads – this will be a key part of the IYOR Pacific campaign. This narrative has more recently moved from reducing plastics to banning plastics.

- *Goal 3-3: improve regulation and enforcement to reduce direct anthropogenic damage due to dredging and physical alteration of reef structures*

**Question:** are you working on this topic? If yes, could you please share with us your work. Please note that the information provided will help us to develop a recommendation for the next ICRI General Meeting. Please send us information as soon as possible,

*SPREP and IUCN Oceania Office have developed a Pacific Region Framework for Coastal Ecosystem Resilience, to assist countries in undertaking scenario planning and management for building resilience of Pacific island socio-ecological systems.*

- *Goal 3-4: promote the deployment of mooring devices limiting the mechanical destruction of coral reefs and seagrasses*

**Question:** are you working on this topic? If yes, could you please share with us your work. Please note that the information provided will help us to develop a recommendation for the next ICRI General Meeting. Please send us information as soon as possible,

*Fiji and New Caledonia use mooring buoys for protection of coral reef areas.*

- *Goal 3-5: review issues related to the impact of sunscreens and other endocrine disruptors on coral reefs, and encourage the production of sunscreens that are proven not to damage coral reefs*

**Question:** are you working on this topic? If yes, could you please share with us your work. Please note that the information provided will help us to develop a recommendation for the next ICRI General Meeting. Please send us information as soon as possible.

*No.*

#### **Theme 4: “Monitor the state of reefs in order to better manage them”**

- *Goal 4-2: better monitor the phenomena of coral bleaching*

**Question:** How did you implement the recommendation on addressing the decline in coral reef health due to global bleaching events?

1. *Fiji, Vanuatu, Palau, Samoa, French Polynesia, Kiribati have reported coral bleaching events, but on-ground responses are very limited.*
2. *Re-invigorating the Pacific GCRMN (Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network), to better mobilise coral reef data and expert knowledge into conservation action.*
3. *Hosting a regional database on coral reef health at CRIOBE and SPREP.*
4. *The EU-funded INFORM project at SPREP under the ACP-MEAs phase 2 is assisting some of the above.*

## Theme 5: “Progress via education”

- *Goal 5-1: prepare for the 2018 International Year of the Reef (IYOR)*

**Question:** How did you implement the Recommendation designating 2018 as the third International Year of the Reef? Please let us also know what are you planning to celebrate IYOR2018.

1. SPREP has commenced development of a programme of work for the 2018 International Year of the Reef for the Pacific. SPREP has also designated 2018/2019 as the SPREP Year of Coral Reefs, again aligning with the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Year of the Reef. External finances for this are still being sought. Current concepts for IYOR activities include:

### Programme support:

Logos - Pacific islands region logo using the IYOR logo template.

Mobilising finances for activities before any commitment of new work, with partners and with national Focal Points.

Partner with CRIOBE and other regional organisations, eg, SPTO, SPC, IUCN

Re-invigorating the GCRMN Pacific node

### Key activities and events:

IYOR Launch in Fiji (linked to Australia launch)

Pacific Coral Reef Status and Update Report launch

Regional workshop for Coral Reef Management & Leadership Fellows (with Reef Ecologic and University of Queensland)

Link with SPREP events and projects on minimising marine debris

Announcements and links to other events, eg : IPCC report on oceans; UN Oceans Assessment ; UN

Regional Seas Programme Meeting

School/ University Science competitions around coral reefs.

Coral Reef events at key meetings (PIRT, PPOA, etc)

### Capacity building for coral reef conservation and monitoring

Grants announcements - news feeds to focal points and networks

Work with National Coral Reef Focal Points and national IYOR Teams

Engaging SPREP Staff and other partners in activities (eg, Climate Analytics)

### Education and Awareness:

Social media campaign with feeds to national facebook pages.

Weekly Tweets (eg 4 /wk)

Coral Reef messages and news on Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal (PIPAP).

Global IYOR products and events disseminated and promoted

Pacific products and events promoted

Materials and activities for schools, eg, A schools Coral Reef Challenge in national schools systems; distributing materials for schools competitions, video productions.

SPREP Day – circa 16<sup>th</sup> June

Partner with national organisations, eg, Samoa Tourism Authority, SSAB – on reef ecotourism

Make coral reefs a part of everyone's work in 2018.

Monthly suggestions of what individuals can do in their work.

Build on ideas and materials from IYOR 2009 plus previous and existing coral reef programmes

Coral Reef PPTs for other teams to use

Online Videos – send to focal points.

Pacific TED-style Talks, Suva – with partners.

**2. Publications.** Please list relevant publications/reports (related to the ICRI plan of action) you have released during this reporting period.

Resources on coral reef management, research and monitoring relevant to the Pacific islands can be found at:

- SPREPs library of SPREP publications at: <https://www.sprep.org/library-information-resource-center/publications>
- SPREP’s online Pacific Environment Information Network (PEIN). This library and catalogue is not comprehensive or up to date: <http://www.sprep.org/library-information-resource-center/collection>
- SPREP Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal (PIPAP) Listserve and website: <http://pipap.sprep.org/>

**3. 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.>)

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