



## **Member's report on activities related to ICRI**

United Nations Environment Programme

**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 UNEP/GRID-Arendal GEF Blue Forests Project is supporting activities on assessing the carbon stocks and sequestration potential, as well as other ecosystem services, of coastal ecosystems in countries around the world, including in Kenya, Mozambique, Madagascar, Indonesia, Abu Dhabi, and Ecuador. Science-policy linkages have also been explored, such as including mangrove ecosystems in national REDD+ action plans and strategies or in local payments for ecosystem services schemes; incorporating coastal climate mitigation and adaptation values (for both mangroves and seagrass) into Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement, Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) and other international agreements and goals, such as RAMSAR and SDGs.*

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

- *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?

*UNEP has launched the #CleanSeas campaign with countries committing to targets on reducing and eliminating plastic microbeads pollution. So far 31 countries have signed on. UNEP has also developed a 'Beat the microbead' App so that users are aware of which products contain harmful plastic microbeads. These efforts are being further leveraged through marine litter efforts carried out through Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans.*

- *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.

*UNEP has contributed to efforts by ICRI and ISRS to produce a science to policy brief on the impacts of sunscreen on coral reefs.*

#### **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?

*UNEP, with the ICRI Secretariat, leads a working group to develop and initiate implementation of a roadmap for strengthening GCRMN, as called for in the GCRMN resolution adopted at ICRI GM 31. A draft vision / value proposition for GCRMN has been prepared. A GCRMN consultation meeting held in Townsville, Australia, 23 May 2017, inter alia, recommended that a full GCRMN Implementation and Governance Plan be developed based on the value proposition. To this end, UN Environment, in consultation with the ICRI Secretariat, recruited a consultant tasked with this.*

*UN Environment has provided support to regional reports on the status of coral reefs, including a report for the Western Indian Ocean (through the Nairobi Convention) and for the Pacific islands (in collaboration with CRILOBE and SPREP). UNEP will continue to support GCRMN in line with UNEA resolution 2/12, including regional reporting and also the development of global reports on the status of coral reefs.*

#### **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.

*UNEP is developing global coral reef outreach efforts in the context of IYOR. The aim is to make the general public aware of the value of reef and solutions needed, and inspire citizens to call on governments / private sectors to act to protect reefs; Shift the private sector entities towards seeing the business case for investing in coral reefs, including creating partnerships for this; and Work with governments to secure commitments that protect and invest in coral reefs, in terms of policy and in terms of financing. The campaign will also use/promote the Coral Reef Life Declaration, increasing the number of signatories.*

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

*Maynard, J.A., Marshall, P.A., Parker, B., Mcleod, E., Ahmadi, G., van Hooidek, R., Planes, S., Williams, G.J., Raymundo, L., Beeden, R., Tamelander, J. (2017). A Guide to Assessing Coral Reef Resilience for Decision Support. Nairobi, Kenya: UN Environment.*

*UNEP 2017. Coral Bleaching Futures - Downscaled projections of bleaching conditions for the world’s coral reefs, implications of climate policy and management responses. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya*

van Hoodonk R, Maynard J, Tamelander J, Gove J, Ahmadi G, Raymundo L, Williams G, Heron S, Planes S (2016) Local-scale projections of coral reef futures and implications of the Paris Agreement. *Scientific Reports*. doi:10.1038/srep39666

United Nations Environment Programme (in press) *Wastewater Pollution and Coral Reefs: Science-to-Policy Brief*. Johnson, J.E., Brodie, J. and Waterhouse, J. (Authors). United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya

A range of Green Fins materials including Operational Handbooks as well as audiovisual materials – see [greenfins.net](http://greenfins.net)

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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