



ICRI Member's Report

FRANCE

Reporting period December 2017 – November 2018

1. Reporting on the ICRI Plan of Action 2016-2018. *Your responses will help inform the Secretariat about members' contributions toward the previous Plan of Action.*

- a. Please list any relevant examples from your organisation/country of investment/projects to protect and restore the natural infrastructure of reefs and mangroves.** (See Goal (1) 2 [ICRI Recommendation for supporting investments in the natural infrastructure of reefs and mangroves to increase climate resilience](#)).

Several ongoing activities on restoring coral reefs and mangroves are taking place in the French overseas territories. If it is of interest of the Secretariat, more information could be provided.

The French Coral Reef Initiative (IFRECOR) has also produced 2 reports of interest:

- S.Pioch, M. Pinault, A. Brathwaite, N.Pascal, (2018). "Handbook I: Guide to environmental impact assessments of coral reef ecosystems" Ifrecor ed., Paris.
- S.Pioch, M. Pinault, A. Brathwaite, A. Méchin, N.Pascal, (2018). "Handbook II: Methodology for scaling mitigation and compensatory measures in tropical marine ecosystems" Ifrecor ed., Paris.

The chapters describe specifically hierarchical phases of ecological compensatory mitigation:

- Method to assess losses and gains,
- Sizing ecological offset,
- Choice of compensation site and environmental engineering techniques,
- Implementation and monitoring of ecological performances.

New Caledonia committed to protecting 200,000 to 400,000 square kilometers (77,220 to 154,440 square miles) of marine waters within the Coral Sea Natural Park, which the government established in 2014. A management committee has been working on a conservation plan for the 1.3 million-square-kilometer park, which covers New Caledonia's entire exclusive economic zone in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. The plan will define the park's regions, as well as each region's uses and level of protection. New Caledonia plans to designate the area within the park as highly protected by the end of 2019, which would safeguard these waters from fishing and other extractive activities. That step would ensure that the waters remain healthy and continue to deliver ecotourism and environmental benefits. Home to an incredible array of marine life, the

area committed for protection covers 30 percent of the park and includes critical ecological features, such as the subduction trench of New Hebrides, volcanic islands, an upraised coral island, and southern seamounts that serve as key underwater reference points for migratory species such as humpback whales and sea turtles.

Has your organisation/country made any progress in the following areas to target anthropogenic pressures? Please give detail below. Note: If no change since your last ICRI member report, please write 'no change'.

Encourage ban of plastic microbeads in cosmetic products.

(See Goal (3) 2 & [See ICRI Recommendation to reduce plastic microbeads pollution in marine environment](#)):

The French law on biodiversity bans the use of microbeads (Law on Biodiversity (8th August 2016): to restrict the marketing of microbeads in rinse-off cleaning and cosmetic products). This is mentioned in the ICRI recommendation.

Improve regulation and enforcement to reduce direct anthropogenic damage due to dredging and physical alteration of reef structures. (See Goal (3) 3 & [ICRI Recommendation to reduce damage due to dredging and dumping on coral reefs](#)):

This recommendation was adopted during the French Secretariat and developed following French ongoing actions (Law on Biodiversity).

Deployment of mooring devices limiting the mechanical destruction of coral reefs and seagrasses. (See Goal (3) 4).

b. Did your organisation/country celebrate International Year of the Reef? Please give details below. (See Goal (5) 1 & [ICRI Recommendation designating 2018 as the third International Year of the Reef](#)):

France celebrated the IYOR 2018 and undertook several actions. A French IYOR coordinator was hired and all the French overseas territories received 55k€ to implement IYOR activities at the local level. A report at the end of the Year will be produced and share with the Secretariat.

For more information, please contact bernardo.sanchez@uicn.fr

2. Contribution to the ICRI Plan of Action 2018-2020 and upcoming ICRI general meetings. *Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the draft ICRI Plan of Action 2018-2020.*

The IFRECOR plan of action (2016-2020) is focussing on the following theme:

- Contribute to decrease human threats

- Monitor and mitigate climate change impacts
- Reinforce knowledge for a better management
- Monitoring the evolution of ecosystems
- Diversify financing dedicated to protection
- Communicate and raise awareness

More information at: www.ifrecor.com

In addition, as stated in article 113 of the French Law for biodiversity, nature and landscapes, “for stopping the loss of overseas biodiversity and preserving its favorable role in the adaptation of the territories to climate change, the State has set the following goals, ... (1) To implement an action plan for the protection of 55 000 ha of mangroves by 2020, (2) To elaborate, within the framework of IFRECOR and based on a report on the health of coral reefs and their associated ecosystems carried out every five years, an action plan contributing to the protection of 75% of overseas’ coral reefs by 2021”.

Theme 1 – Promote effective and adaptable solutions to improve the protection of coral reefs

- a. Which of the below topics do you consider to be the three top challenges that your organisation faces in managing coral reefs?** Please select from the options below:

- Climate change impacts
- Inadequate planning, zoning and management
- Unsustainable resource extraction
- Tourism and recreation
- Shipping
- Coastal development
- Dredging
- Illegal and destructive fishing
- Fish and coral trade
- Marine debris
- Other. Please specify:

- b. Please list any examples of innovative management practices that your organisation/country is involved in, such as use of VMS, drones & ecological mooring devices.** Include their limits, conditions of implementation, financing and an assessment of their results and links for more information if possible.

Case studies of French exological mooring devices are available in Overview of eco-mooring facilities - Commented selected bibliography and case studies (<https://www.icriforum.org/sites/default/files/OVERVIEW%20of%20eco-mooring-light.pdf>)

- c. Please list any examples of innovative funding for management that your organisation/country is involved in.** Include their limits, conditions of implementation, financing and an assessment of their results and links for more information if possible.

IFRECOR is working on the development of **public-private partnership and payments for environmental services of integrated coastal management**. One project is taking place in Martinique, aiming to support the implementation of a financing mechanism (payment for environmental services, such as user fees, payment for landscape or coastal protection services...) and a shared governance (public-private co-management) for the creation of a coastal and marine managed area within the Sainte Luce community.

- d. Please list any examples of leading practices, techniques and strategies for building reef resilience that your organisation/country is involved in.** Include their limits, conditions of implementation, financing and an assessment of their results and links for more information if possible.

- e. Please list any examples of leading practice reef restoration mechanisms that your organisation/country is involved in.** Include their limits, conditions of implementation, financing and an assessment of their results and links for more information if possible.

IFRECOR is working on a report on “Ecological Engineering Guide: Repairing Coral Reefs and Associated Ecosystems”

Theme 3 – Support communities reliant on coral reefs

- f. Is sustainable tourism development a significant challenge for your organisation?** If so please include detail below of the kinds of challenges faced and your strategies to deal with them.
- g. Is your organisation involved in activities to raise awareness and encourage action to support communities reliant on coral reefs?** Please include details below.

Raising awareness and encouraging action to support communities reliant on coral reefs is part of the IFRECOR mandate. One of the activities is the IFRECOR award, rewarding French overseas representatives (local Mayors, MP's, town counsellors), for their exemplary actions to protect and/or to sustainably manage coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds, and to share this work.

One of the actions implemented is the educational managed marine areas: an « educational marine area » is a small coastal maritime zone, close to a school, managed in a participatory way by primary school students. It is about a pedagogical innovative project developed in the Marquises (French Polynesia) in 2012 and supported by IFRECOR. The procedure is labelled by the Polynesian government who, throughout COP21, authorized the French government to spread it nationally. The extension in overseas territories and in mainland France is being done progressively, with an experimental pilot phase during the 2016- 2017 school year. IFRECOR supports this deployment in the overseas, where 4 schools have been selected in the pilot phase: Martinique, Guadeloupe, Mayotte and Reunion Island.

Theme 4 – Help to reduce anthropogenic threats to coral reefs, particularly those that occur at a global or regional scale

- h. What activities is your organisation involved in to elevate awareness of the global nature of the threat of climate change to coral reefs?** Please include details below

This is implemented under the “Monitor and mitigate climate change impacts” component of the IFRECOR plan of action.

- Ensure the continued existence and the development of the observatory for climate change
- Provide elements to the decision makers for evaluating the vulnerability of overseas territories to climate change

- i. Has your organisation made any progress in dealing with destructive fishing and trade?** Please include details below.

- j. Has your organisation made any progress in dealing with marine debris?** Please include details below.

- 3. Would you like to report on your activities during the ICRI GM?** Please give details below.

Y – Report of activities of the French Secretariat

- 4. International events.** Please list any upcoming international events relevant to ICRI which someone from your organisation plans to attend in 2018-2019.

- ICRI GM, Monaco, 5-7 Dec 2018
- Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 3-14 Dec 2018
- Reef Futures 2018: A Coral Restoration and Intervention-Science Symposium, Florida, 10-14 Dec 2018

Global World Heritage Marine Managers meeting, Alaska, US, 26-31 May 2019

Other:

5. Publications. Please list relevant publications and reports you have released during this reporting period.

6. ICRI Member Feedback. What do you find most valuable about the ICRI member reports? If you have any ideas for improvement please list below:

- S.Pioch, M. Pinault, A. Brathwaite, N.Pascal, (2018). "Handbook I: Guide to environmental impact assessments of coral reef ecosystems" Ifreco ed., Paris.
<http://www.ifreco-doc.fr/items/show/1742>
- S.Pioch, M. Pinault, A. Brathwaite, A. Méchin, N.Pascal, (2018). "Handbook II: Methodology for scaling mitigation and compensatory measures in tropical marine ecosystems" Ifreco ed., Paris.
<http://www.ifreco-doc.fr/items/show/1742>
- Ecological Engineering Guide: Repairing Coral Reefs and Associated Ecosystems.
- Guide for the French Overseas Managers for environmental monitoring of coral bleaching episodes and evaluation of their impacts on the coral population

7. 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>.)

Member type (Country / Organisation):	
Focal Point 1:	Aurelie Thomassin
<i>Name:</i>	
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire Chargée de mission « Biodiversité marine, Pêche et Récifs Coralliens »
<i>Email:</i>	aurelie.thomassin@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
Focal Point 2:	
<i>Name:</i>	Nadia Deckert
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères Responsable protection internationale des océans
<i>Email:</i>	nadia.deckert@diplomatie.gouv.fr