



ICRI Member's Report

SEYCHELLES

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](#)).

In reference to the protection of mangroves, Seychelles continues to implement strong policies in reference to their protection as part of our National Wetland Policy. In reference to restoring or reinforcing mangrove ecosystems several planting activities are organised and led by predominantly NGOs in partnership with private sector especially tourism establishments as well through financial support from external financing.

In reference to restoring the natural infrastructure of reefs, we have several ongoing initiatives predominantly by NGOs restoring coral reefs particularly after bleaching impacts. These are being implemented through various sources of financing nationally as well from external sources.

- b. **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.**

No, Seychelles has not yet considered the ban on plastics microbeads in cosmetic products

- Improve regulation and enforcement to reduce direct anthropogenic damage due to dredging and physical alteration of reef structures.**

The relevant laws and regulations governing development and EIAs remains the same.

- Deployment of mooring devices limiting the mechanical destruction of coral reefs and seagrasses.**

Most works in this domain has been done by the National Parks Authority, who has installed more and new mooring buoys in several marine protected areas.

- c. **Did your organisation/country celebrate International Year of the Reef?** Please give details below.

Yes, Seychelles has organised several activities for IYOR 2018, we had a main launching ceremony in partnership with the tourism industry, we have had lots of coverage in the local media also on the celebrations.

For Biodiversity Day celebrations we made the main focus to be on coral reefs also. The Ministry in partnership with the University of Seychelles and local NGOs involved in coral reef conservation as well as national experts organised a 'Coral Reef Scientific Symposium' at the University, this was an opportunity for all players in coral reef conservation to present scientific works being done directly and indirectly in reference to coral reef conservation.

This month we also have an Ocean Festival Festival being organised by the Tourism Board in Seychelles which is giving focus to coral reefs and the value of the marine environment.

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.*

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.** VMS is used in fisheries in reference to industrial and semi-industrial vessels. Drones is being used by certain local NGOs in biodiversity assessment and also we have an upcoming project with GRID-ARENDAL targeting sustainable fisheries using drones.
- c. **Please list any examples of innovative funding for management that your organisation/country is involved in.** Coral reef conservation efforts and marine biodiversity conservation efforts in general is benefiting from our Debt Swap for Adaptation proceeds and soon sustainable fisheries activities will benefit from the Blue Bonds proceeds.
- d. **Please list any examples of leading practices, techniques and strategies for building reef resilience that your organisation/country is involved in.**

Seychelles' coral reef conservation partners/players are actively involved in implementing/trying different approaches in coral reef restoration. These approaches are still being refined and perfected, this is happening at several sites.

- e. **Please list any examples of leading practice reef restoration mechanisms that your organisation/country is involved in.**

Theme 3 – Support communities reliant on coral reefs

- f. **Is sustainable tourism development a significant challenge for your organisation?**

Sustainable tourism remains a challenge as Seychelles develops its tourism industry and also explore further potentials under its Blue Economy Roadmap. The tourism and environment sector continues to dialogue regularly and actively in reference to policies and strategic plans. Several tourism carrying capacity studies has been carried out in reference to specific islands and region on the main island. The tourism sector has also actively participated in the Marine Spatial Plan formulation.

The tourism sector is also formulating its strategic action plan of which the environment sector has proper input into the process.

- g. **Is your organisation involved in activities to raise awareness and encourage action to support communities reliant on coral reefs?** Please include details below.

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?**

My Ministry along with national partners such as local NGOs and the Parks Authority continue to raise awareness in reference to coral reefs through all available mediums such as the mainstream media, organising of road shows and marches as well as actively through social media.

i. Has your organisation made any progress in dealing with destructive fishing and trade?

We do not have any issues in reference to destructive fisheries, our main fisheries challenge is illegal fishing by foreign vessels, this we continue to police and enforce through our naval forces and fisheries authority.

j. Has your organisation made any progress in dealing with marine debris?

My Ministry in collaboration with national partners carry out beach cleaning activities, we have active NGOs and youth groups engaged in this activity on a regular basis. Policy-wise Seychelles has also banned the import and trading in plastic single-use shopping bags, Styrofoam take away boxes, plastic utensils(plates, cups, forks, knives, spoons and bowls) since January 2017.

In 2019, we will ban the imports and trading in plastic straws.

We continue to also to invest financial resources through regular beach cleaning contracts on most of our beaches on the 3 main islands of the country.

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

Y / N

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

5. 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):	
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