



## ICRI Member's Report

UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

**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.*
  - **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](#)).

### **Modelled the future response of global coastal wetlands to sea-level rise**

(<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-018-0476-5>): The response of coastal wetlands, including shallow-water corals and associated ecosystems, to sea-level rise during the twenty-first century remains uncertain. Using an integrated modelling approach that considers the ability of coastal wetlands to build up vertically by sediment accretion, and their ability to migrate inland (accommodation space), we demonstrated that gains of up to 60 per cent of the current area are possible if wetlands have sufficient accommodation space.

### **Restoration of degraded cold-water corals and seagrasses in European seas**

UNEP-WCMC is also contributing to the Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Changing European Seas (MERCES) project, which is restoring degraded seagrass and cold water coral systems within European waters. Components of this include: a) improving existing, and developing new, restoration actions of degraded marine habitats; b) increasing the adaptation capacity of degraded marine habitats to global change; c) enhancing marine ecosystem resilience and services; d) conducting cost-benefit analyses for marine restoration measures; e) creating new industrial targets and opportunities.

- 2. 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](#)):  
*Not applicable.*

**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](#)):  
*Not applicable.*

**Deployment of mooring devices limiting the mechanical destruction of coral reefs and seagrasses.** (See Goal (3) 4).  
*Not applicable.*

3. **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](#)):

Activities contributing to the International Year of the Reef have included:

- **An analysis of international funding for the sustainable management of coral reefs and associated coastal ecosystems** ([wcmc.io/coralfunders](http://wcmc.io/coralfunders)), which explores the intended purpose and spatial and temporal distribution of funding allocations. The document aims to help identify opportunities for international collaboration and innovative approaches that leverage further and more diverse investments in coral reefs, and to thereby strengthen progress toward global policy ambitions. The analysis and brochure were launched at a high-level International Year of the Reef 2018 event hosted by The Prince of Wales's International Sustainability Unit on the 14<sup>th</sup> February in London. The brochure can be accessed at: [wcmc.io/coralbrochure](http://wcmc.io/coralbrochure).
- **Production of a series of brochures illustrating how coral reef focused management and policy measures can support the delivery of the multiple Sustainable Development Goals** (*in press*).
- **Application of social science to reef conservation through the production of a guide to interventions that effectively harness citizen behaviour to support the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs:** This document provides recommendations for the development and implementation of global coral reef communication campaigns, based on the principles of social marketing, including those developed by UN Environment (*in press*).
- **"Investments in Corals Reefs Can Help Achieve Multiple Biodiversity and Sustainable Development Goals":** In November 2018, at the UN Biodiversity Conference held in Egypt, UNEP-WCMC, UN Environment, the ICRI Secretariat, GRID-Arendal and Vulcan Inc. co-hosted a side event in which Parties were urged to enhance efforts to prevent continued worldwide decrease of live coral cover (CBD/SBSTTA/REC/22/4, para. 7). In celebration of IYOR, this event will tell stories of how investment in coral reefs has contributed towards global goals and targets, including Aichi Target 10, while celebrating stories of success from local coral reef communities and providing a vision for the future.
- **The Ocean+ initiative** ([www.oceanplus.org](http://www.oceanplus.org)) **and the launch of Ocean+ Habitats** ([habitats.oceanplus.org](http://habitats.oceanplus.org)): Through our *Ocean+* initiative, we are collaborating with partners around the world to collate spatial data, enabling us to produce and share worldwide distribution layers of key marine and coastal habitats. These datasets include updates to the *Global Distribution of Coral Reefs* and to datasets on associated ecosystems, such as seagrasses and mangroves ([wcmc.io/ODV](http://wcmc.io/ODV)), in order to inform high-level screening for areas of biodiversity importance and spatial planning. *Ocean+ Habitats* is being launched at the UN Biodiversity Conference in November 2018, with the aim of contributing towards tracking important information about ocean habitats through partnerships.



4. **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**

- **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: Limited availability of data and information to support decision-making

- **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.  
*Not applicable.*
- **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.  
*Not applicable.*
- **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.  
*Not applicable.*
- **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.  
*Not applicable.*

**Theme 3 – Support communities reliant on coral reefs**

- **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.  
*Not applicable.*
- **Is your organisation involved in activities to raise awareness and encourage action to support communities reliant on coral reefs?** Please include details below.

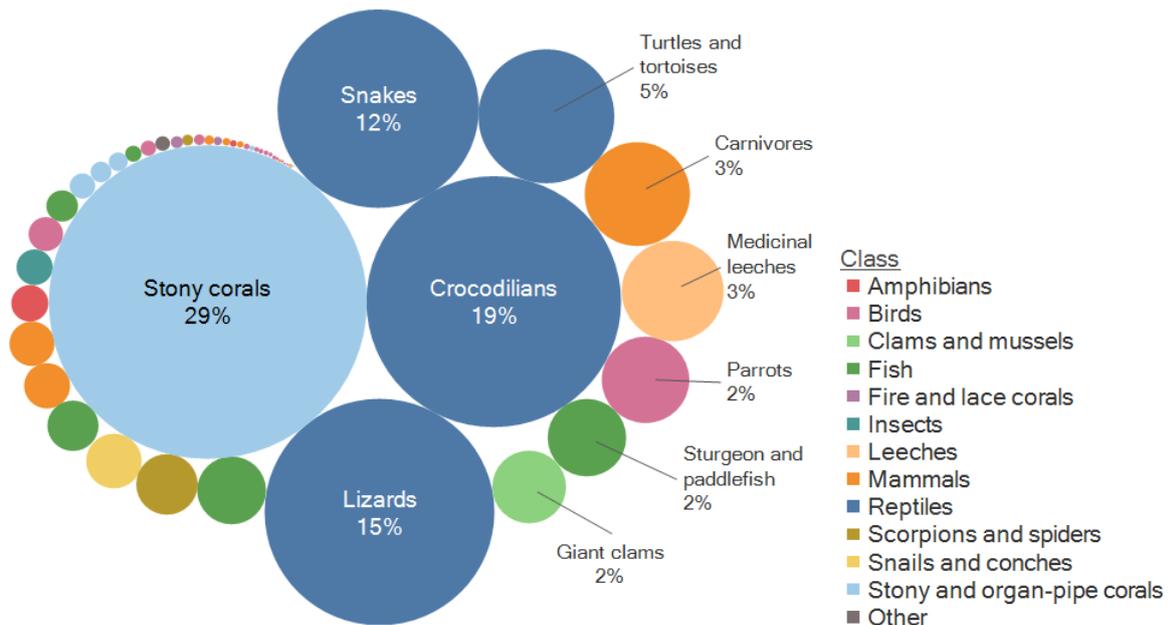
***Mitigating the impact of divers on coral reef ecosystems***

In partnership with UN Environment, Pierre-Yves Cousteau and The Reef World Foundation, UNEP-WCMC convened a workshop between international coral reef experts and practitioners, psychologists, behavioural scientists, marketing experts and dive tourism representatives. SCUBA diver behaviour-impact pathways were explored to identify intervention points for effective behaviour change. These findings inform a campaign briefing note for the UN Environment global campaign of citizen behaviour change and on the national scale through the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). A *seven-step process* has been developed, designed to support the user in identifying the target audience for their campaign, segmenting this audience into smaller groups and identifying resonant campaign messages that are designed to influence decision-making (*in press*).

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

5. **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  
*Not applicable.*
6. **Has your organisation made any progress in dealing with destructive fishing and trade?** Please include details below.

UNEP-WCMC measures trends in wildlife trade in support of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and has found that approximately 83.5 million individual animals were traded between 2005 and 2014. Of these, stony corals comprised 29% of recorded trade (including both dead and alive corals).



**Figure 1.** Proportion of animals documented in recorded trade between 2005 and 2014 by class (UNEP-WCMC (2016). CITES trade statistics derived from the CITES Trade Database, UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, UK).

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

UNEP-WCMC contributed to UN Environment’s *Global Manual on Ocean Statistics: Towards a definition of indicator methodologies (in press)*, which proposes to use beach litter surveys following the UN Environment/IOC-UNESCO operational guidelines (Cheshire et al. 2009) as a methodology to implement SDG 14.1.1 proxy indicator ‘Beach litter’. Beach litter is one of the Regional Seas Core Indicators and has been agreed as a proxy for SDG 14.1.1 indicator ‘floating plastic debris density’, the methodology for which is currently being developed. The current draft manual is available at: <https://environmentlive.unep.org/egm/colombianational>. This work contributes to Items 7, 8 and 9 of the Voluntary Practical Guidance associated with CBD Decision XIII/10.

Collaborating with the deep-sea research group of the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC), UNEP-WCMC also reported the propagation of single-use plastic from the 1980s even in the world deepest sea floor (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2018.03.022>).

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

Hazel Thornton, Programme Officer at UNEP-WCMC, will be attending the ICRI GM, where she will be speaking about “The global and local importance, financing needs, and current financing of coral reefs and related ecosystems” at the workshop on innovative funding. She would be happy to report on UNEP-WCMC’s related activities.

**9. 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:

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

UN Environment, International Coral Reef Initiative, UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre. (2018). Analysis of international funding for the sustainable management of coral reefs and associated coastal ecosystems. Available at: [wcmc.io/coralbrochure](http://wcmc.io/coralbrochure).

UN Environment, UNEP-WCMC and International Coral Reef Initiative (2018). Harnessing citizen behaviour change to protect coral reef ecosystems: Behaviour Change Campaign Briefing Note. 24 pp. Available at: [wcmc.io/coralreef\\_citizenbehaviour](http://wcmc.io/coralreef_citizenbehaviour).

Schuerch, M., Spencer, T., Temmerman, S., Kirwan, M.L., Wolff, C., Lincke, D., McOwen, C.J., Pickering, M.D., Reef, R., Vafeidis, A.T., Hinkel, J., Nicholls, R.J. & Brown, S. (2018). Future response of global coastal wetlands to sea-level rise. *Nature* 561, 231–234. Doi: [10.1038/s41586-018-0476-5](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-018-0476-5).

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

The member reports help us to keep up-to-date regarding the activities of other ICRI members. It would be useful to be able to filter activities via a database (including keywords), to help identify potential areas for collaboration.

**12. 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):	
<b>Focal Point 1:</b>	
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*Thank you very much for sharing your valuable experiences and information with ICRI.*