



Member's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by COBSEA

Reporting period July 2008 – April 2009

Please note that the purpose of this report is to help you share information about your activities within the ICRI community to allow discussion at the next ICRI General Meeting. The reports will be made available on the ICRIForum prior to the meeting. The ICRI secretariat is well aware of your busy schedule, thus don't hesitate to submit an incomplete report.

1. General Information

Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
Focal Point 1:	Dr. Elik Adler, Coordinator, COBSEA Secretariat
Focal point 2:	Vellayutham Pachaimuthu, Programme Officer, COBSEA Secretariat
Last meeting attended:	International Coral Reef MPA Networking Meeting, 4 th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop, Tokyo, Japan
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Upon ICRI's specific request - through the National Focal Points of COBSEA
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	2008 – 40,000 USD (Green Fins Programme) 2009 - 35,000 USD (Green Fins)

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?	YES / NO
Is this plan publicly available? If so please provide location:	
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative or Task Force?	YES / NO
Are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relating to coral reefs:	
If yes, please indicate which programmes/initiatives:	

2. Member contribution to the ICRI GM: Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the Mexico-United States action plan. Due to the heavy schedules of ICRI members, we have tried to keep the questions to a minimum and value any response you can provide.

NOTE: The Secretariat will compile Members' responses to the below questions into a general presentation to be given during the April GM. The Secretariat will also request specific Members to highlight certain initiatives, should additional information be of interest to the full ICRI membership. Please keep this in mind when filling out this report and place special emphasis on calling attention to new initiatives/programs/projects of your government/organization which will be of interest to the ICRI Members.

- a. Please provide any lessons you have learned from your experiences of developing partnerships with the private sector that might be relevant to ICRI members?

The Green Fins programme was initiated few years ago in COBSEA region. Its mission is to protect and conserve coral reefs in South East Asian Seas by establishing and implementing environmentally friendly code of conduct and guidelines for dive operators, diving clubs divers and snorkelers. Green Fins members are also involved raising conservation awareness, in basic coral reef monitoring, underwater reef cleanups operations and adopt-a-reef programme. The involvement of Green Fins has also been introduced into the private sector by the participation of members of private companies and by the promotion of eco-tourism.

The programme is developing fast in Thailand through the hard work of a local NGO and it is COBSEA's intention to enlarge the geographic scope of the programme to neighbouring countries like Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines.

<http://www.greenfins-thailand.org>

- b. Are you aware of programmes or policies by your country/organization for implementing integrated ecosystem management from watershed to reef slope?

The Coral Reef Triangle Initiative.

- c. Are there any monitoring or research activities you are either involved in or aware of aimed at improving understanding of adaptive management of coral reefs and related ecosystems that may be of interest to ICRI members?

A regional level workshop on marine litter and cleanup campaign organized in September 2008 in Pattaya, Thailand was participated by nearly 1000 people. It also entailed a Green Fins meeting of network leaders of participating countries to strengthen and harmonize its implementation, a Green Fins Photo Contest, national clean beach awards, photo exhibition and marine litter art exhibition. Besides beach cleanup there was also underwater cleanup involving the active participation of Green fins members.

A Green Fins online database on coral reefs status of the data collected by its members has been established in Thailand. There has also been the establishment of a Green Fins web-page and online assessment system of members of the Green Fins network.

It is the intention of the Green Fins Programme (both in Thailand and in other countries of the region) to further develop the monitoring component of the programme.

Although the monitoring component of the Green Fins programme is not conducted by 'pure scientists', the fact that hundreds of thousands of sport and recreation divers can contribute to the knowledge and the assessment of the state of coral reefs is an asset upon which reasonably good qualitative and quantitative data can be generated.

Examples could include any efforts through workshops, environmental education programs, beach and underwater clean ups, etc. with coastal/local communities to promote understanding and recognition of the environmental services coral reefs provide.

Various outreach, education, training, development of the code of conduct for responsible diving, assessments of diving operators, cleanup campaigns, etc. were carried out by Geen Fins with UNEP/COBSEA's support.

Should you need detailed information – please let us know!

- d. Please indicate the effects of the Live Reef Food Fish Trade on your government/organization. Are you aware of any programs/policies in place to address these impacts?

- e. What other new initiatives/programs/projects/progress, in particular since January 2008, has been made by your government/organization relative to Marine Protected Areas, Ramsar site designations containing coral reefs, integrated coastal zone management measures, policy changes influenced by economic valuation of coral reef ecosystem services, etc., which you believe would be of general interest to other ICRI Members?

For any of the above questions, please provide links to further information. As appropriate, the Secretariat will compile such information to make it accessible to all Members on the ICRI Forum.

ICRI and Other Meetings

Are your ICRI Focal Points considering attending any of the following meetings in 2009?

- IMCC, Washington DC
- World Ocean Congress, Manado, Indonesia. **Yes.**

Other (please specify):