

*7th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop
9-13 October 2011
Allson Angkor Paradise Hotel, Siem Reap, Cambodia*

MEETING RECORD

(Last update: 2011/12/08)

Prepared by: The Ministry of the Environment, Japan, with the support of Japan Wildlife Research Center.

Note-taker: Richard Winterton and Karenne Tun

The 7th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop was held from 9th to 13th October 2011, at the Allson Angkor Paradise Hotel in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- i. Share the status, challenges and experiences of the ongoing efforts of the East Asian countries towards achieving the 2012 Marine Protected Area (MPA) network target in the context of coral reefs and related ecosystems for mutual learning and to seek possible collaboration; and
- ii. Review the progress of implementation of the Regional Strategy and identify the priority actions and the way forward, in particular, the regional mechanism for ICRI in East Asia and ongoing MPA actions.

The Workshop was co-hosted by the Fisheries Administration (FiA), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Royal Government of Cambodia and the Ministry of the Environment (MoE), Japan in collaboration with the ICRI Secretariat. It was co-chaired by Mr. Yoshihiro Natori of the Nagao Natural Environment Foundation and Dr. Vo Si Tuan of the Institute of Oceanography, Vietnam. Technical support was provided by the Japan Wildlife Research Center.

A total of 51 participants attended the Workshop, of which 37 were international participants and 14 were local participants ([ANNEX 1](#)).

The agenda for the Workshop is attached at [ANNEX 2](#).

All Workshop material (copies of presentations, etc) was made available to participants on a memory stick provided at the close of the Workshop. The PDF of the presentations were also posted on ICRIForum at: <http://earw.icriforum.org/EastAsiaRW2011-agenda.html>

Day 1 (Sunday 9 October 2011)

1. Opening Ceremony

1.1 Opening Remarks

The Workshop was officially opened by the Co-chair, Dr. Vo Si Tuan. He outlined the background and objectives of the workshop and expressed gratitude to the governments of Cambodia and Japan for hosting the workshop.

1.2 Welcome Address

Welcome addresses were delivered by the co-organisers of the Workshop:

- Mr. Naoki Amako, Assistant Director, Biodiversity Policy Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan, expressed his thanks to the Royal Government of Cambodia for hosting the 7th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop. He emphasised the importance of following-up on the actions set out in the ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy on MPA Networks, published in June 2010.
- Mr. Dominique Mas (on behalf of the ICRI Secretariat), First Councillor, French Embassy in Cambodia, also thanked the governments of Japan and Cambodia for their support. He highlighted the critical state of 90% of the world's coral reefs. He pointed out that over 10% fell within French responsibility. He wished ICRI well in the coming year, outlining its busy schedule.
- His Excellency Dr. Nao Thuok, Director General, Fisheries Administration, Royal Government of Cambodia, welcomed participants to Cambodia. He outlined the importance of coral reefs and seagrass areas to the tourist and fisheries sectors of Cambodia and expressed his intent for Cambodia to become a member of ICRI. He presented gifts to both of his partner co-organisers.

2. Introduction

2.1 Introduction of ICRI and East Asia

2.1.1 ICRI and its roles

Mr. Francis Straub gave a presentation which summarised the world-wide roles of ICRI. He explained how the mechanism of rotating secretariat functions. He also summarised the rules applied by ICRI to grant membership. ICRI's programme of events, including International meetings, was described. He also introduced the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) which would be addressed in more detail later in the Workshop.

2.1.2 Background of ICRI in East Asia

Mr. Kohei Hibino presented a brief introduction to the roles, membership and programme of ICRI in the East Asia Region. He emphasised the importance of the ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy, explaining its origins and how it is shaping ICRI's ongoing regional activities.

Co-chair (Vo Si Tuan) explained that the number of participants precluded individual introductions. A complete list would, however, be provided to all participants at the end of the Workshop ([ANNEX 1](#)).

2.2 Workshop objectives, expected outcomes and procedure

Kohei Hibino ran through the background, objectives and topics included in the proposed agenda for the Workshop, explaining the reasoning behind their inclusion.

3. Workshop Agenda

There were no questions or suggested amendments; Participants agreed to adopt the proposed agenda ([ANNEX 2](#)).

4. Coral Reefs and MPAs in Cambodia

This agenda item was co-chaired by Mr. Ing Try, Deputy Director General of the FiA Cambodia and Vo Si Tuan

4.1 Case Studies of Current Work in Cambodia

4.1.1 Processes and planning for Cambodia's first MPA

Mr. Ouk Vibol, Director of the Department of Conservation, FiA, Cambodia, presented the background of Cambodia's fisheries sector. He outlined the challenges and threats faced in conserving coral reefs and related ecosystems, as well as the actions being taken to meet them.

4.1.2 Cambodian Reef Conservation Programme

Mr. Robert Major, Project Scientist from Coral Cay Conservation (CCC) presented the work being undertaken to conserve Cambodian coral reefs, including the results of a wide range of surveys conducted in the in-shore Cambodian waters, together with recommendations made. It was emphasized that these efforts provided a good example of cooperation between charitable NGOs and Government departments.

4.1.3 Private Sector Involvement in Coral Reef conservation in Cambodia

Mr. Barnaby Olson and Mr Prak Saran gave a presentation on the Song Saa Private Island Resort, a high-end private sector tourist industry investment on the Song Saa ("Sweetheart") Islands, which lie within the proposed Cambodian MPA. This investment included the implementation of a range of conservation measures and provided a good example of private-public sector partnerships, both at local and national levels.

A film "*Treasures of the Cambodian Sea*" provided graphic and dynamic introduction to the in-shore waters off the coast of the Song Saa archipelago, re-capping much of the material covered in the presentations.

4.2 Discussion

In discussion, the following points were made:

MPA establishment and management in Cambodia:

- The focus of presentations were on setting up Cambodia's first legislated national MPA but there are over 10 smaller operational MPAs at the provincial and community level which play an important role in Cambodia's coastal resource management
- It was suggested that Cambodia consider:
 - Applying the best available scientific information (biological and socio-economic) in planning MPA location, size and zoning
 - Planning monitoring activity within the MPA which include a comprehensive range of indicators, such as fish catch, with baselines established beforehand
- No date has been set for the signing of the sub-decree establishing the MPA as full consultation is required, which is underway.

Cooperation with neighbouring countries:

- The coastal area of Cambodia is not heavily developed (yet) and still support reefs in good condition
- The importance of cross-border influences is recognised, and there are numerous efforts to promote and maintain collaboration at various implementation levels
 - Provincial level:
 - Collaboration exists between Koh Kong (Cambodia), Trang (Thailand), Kompot (Cambodia) and Phu Quoc (Vietnam) to manage fisheries issues

- National level:
 - A sub-regional Gulf of Thailand network exists to tackle pollution related issues with neighbours and conservation initiatives
 - Meeting between tourism ministers of Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam to discuss tourism linkages that may have indirect benefits.
- Regional level:
 - There is an initiative through SEAFDEC to prepare an action plan for habitat conservation and fisheries management.
 - Under PEMSEA, there is an agreement between Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam to support activities to prevent oil spill

Song Saa Resort and involvement of private sector:

- The area surrounding the Song Saa Islands will be protected by law as it lies within the proposed FiA demarcated MPA.
- Reef Ball (artificial reefs) are introduced to provide suitable settlement sites for corals and attract fish.
- Sedimentation is caused mainly by natural run-off, chiefly during the wet season.
- Development of the Song Saa Resort has been founded by the private sector. Investors agreed to contribute to conservation work on a long-term basis.
- Private sector involvement plays an important role in biological monitoring efforts and community-based activities. Certification training for ReefCheck is provided by CCC.
- Fishing licenses are required for boats of more than 33hp. In the coastal area over 2,000 licenses have been issued.
- The expansion of Song Saa's protected area was driven by socio-economic reasons
- Song Saa conservation has hitherto been done by project. In the longer term it will continue as an ongoing programme, but no details have been finalised. These programmes will involve participation by guests.
- Importance of incorporating conservation efforts from the beginning and to develop a sustainable business model that extends beyond the life of individual projects was highlighted.

5. ICRI Member Country Reports

This session was chaired by Mr. Yoshihiro Natori of the Nagao Natural Environmental Foundation. He apologised for his delayed arrival, due to a previous commitment. He explained that the session sought to establish the status, challenges and experiences of member nations; and to identify areas of possible collaboration, and what learning could be passed on to other members.

Kohei Hibino briefly explained the format which presenters had been asked to follow.

5.1 Member's country reports

5.1.1 Indonesia

Ms. Cherryta Yuria from the Ministry of Forestry presented the characteristics, and uniqueness, of the MPAs in Indonesia. She described the strategic policies and vision, and the types of networks, in place to manage these areas. She highlighted the challenges faced:

- Management effectiveness
- Sustainable financing
- Law enforcement
- Community engagement
- Data and information inventory

She outlined some of the methods and scales used to gauge management effectiveness of MPAs, and the scale of estimated budget required for small/medium/large/huge MPAs.

In subsequent discussion, the following points were made:

- Several methods currently used for MPA management effectiveness would be considered in a forthcoming workshop to be held in December 2011 in collaboration with WWF, TNC & CI, and a unified method to be established.
- Costs per unit area for managing MPAs increased with total size. It was calculated using a suite of criteria, including size, potential of the area and its remoteness.
- The government will also be coordinating a meeting with all NGO's to discuss data coordination between various agencies groups.

5.1.2 Korea

Dr. Heung-Sik Park from the Korean Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI) presented the Korean approach towards MPAs which in the past focused only on coastal wetland protection. It has now been extended to include marine areas. He showed the recently designated MPAs in 2010 and noted that there are 10 additional MPAs being nominated for designation. The national target is to increase the number of MPAs from 14 as of now to 30 by 2020.

In subsequent discussion, the following points were made:

- Preserving corals around Jeju Island would be a good model to explain to the Korean government the importance of protection of species diversity especially in the light of climate change.
- However, climate change and its resulting influence on the benthic community composition (i.e., from macroalgae dominated areas to increased hard coral cover) may not be supported by all stakeholders. Fishermen believe abalone prefer algal beds and the replacement of algae beds with coral communities is not favoured as it is thought to affect their livelihood.

5.1.3 Japan

Mr. Naoki Amako explained that the definition of an MPA was officially defined in March 2011. He provided a description of marine protected area categories which are managed by several ministries/agencies. The defined MPAs which correspond to 8.3% of its EEZ almost cover the entire Japanese coastline. The plan is underway to evaluate how the existing MPAs form a network in terms of connectivity and representativity.

In subsequent discussion, the following points were made:

- Given the extensive coverage of MPAs, networking was still required to connect areas managed by different village fishers.
- Common fisheries right areas are also part of MPAs, and although comprising only 2% of the EEZ, it occupies over 90% of coastal area. However, existence of more than 1000 fisheries cooperatives means that there are more than 1000 management systems, which makes the overall coordination challenging.
- Each fishery cooperative formulates its own management plans stipulating the number of boats, period of operation, net size, etc. which require endorsement by the Provincial Governor. The cooperatives check each others plans, and sometimes seek external expert advice.
- Policing of MPAs is done internally by fisherman themselves, with no wardens or rangers deployed.
- Good monitoring records are kept by species level in the fishery managed areas but other biological and ecological monitoring are not undertaken.
- Local government can implement bans if agreed management plans are infringed.
- The use of vinegar to control the outbreak of crown of thorns starfish (COT) was deemed only effective for mild outbreak and not a favoured method during heavily outbreaks.

5.1.4 Philippines

Mr. Jacob Meimban from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) briefly described the profile of coastal and marine biodiversity in the Philippines. He emphasised the significant extent of biodiversity, and its status as a global biodiversity "hotspot". A particular feature of MPA management in the Philippines arose from the legal support provided nationally.

As another example of best practice, he identified the clear identification and categorisation of MPAs, which clarified priorities. Similarly, networking of MPAs had provided better information sharing and communications. He provided some examples of "success stories".

In subsequent discussion, the following points were made:

- Apo Island Marine Reserve was an important example of establishing core no-take zones within the MPA (15k ha) to prevent illegal fishing, and was decided by local communities with support of academics.
- The approach was shown to be effective as fishing catch outside of the reserve increased after a few years

5.1.5 Thailand

Mr. Nippon Phongsuwan from the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) summarised the range of MPAs in Thailand. In particular, fish refugia, which covered all coastal areas, were extensive. Also, he provided brief details of Andaman Bioregion which is currently under nomination as the World Heritage site. He provided details of research which demonstrated the impacts of climate changes were already being felt. Other challenges were outlined, and a range of measures being implemented to meet them. Finally, he summarised further research efforts required which had been identified.

In subsequent discussion, the following points were made:

- Evaluation methods to gauge management effectiveness of MPAs were outlined. Accurate threat assessments and integration of governance arrangements were prominent. The IUCN MPA management effectiveness guidelines were also used. A report of this work would soon be available.
- Numerous MPA management effectiveness tools exist, but some, like "How is your MPA doing" can be too complicated for managers without a scientific background. However, the South China Seas project provided a simpler guidelines and indicators to evaluate management effectiveness.
- The effects of Climate Change, i.e., the reef resilience needed closer attention. CORAL has been developing the Reef Resilience evaluation model measuring these impacts using the IUCN guidelines and would be publishing a report soon.

5.1.6 Vietnam

Ms. Nguyen Giang Thu from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) provided a summary of issues faced in implementing MPAs in Vietnam. Most MPAs have been established around island areas and all encouraged the involvement of local communities. Authority is devolved to the local level which is the provincial Peoples' Committee. 16 MPAs are planned for a network until 2020 among which 6 have been established. Existing network of MPAs is a social network and it includes local managers and policy makers. Interestingly, she identified that the challenges faced by Vietnam were very similar to those already mentioned by other member countries, notably:

- Staff capacity (expertise and facilities)
- Legal frameworks
- Finance
- Monitoring and Evaluation tools
- Increasing pressures on limited resources and livelihood
- Effective enforcement

She outlined activities being undertaken to meet these.

In summary, the Workshop noted the presentations and discussions.

5.2 Reports from Organisations

The Co-chair (Yoshihiro Natori) invited participating organizations to share their recent activities, achievements and opportunities that are related to the theme of the workshop. In response, following participants provided some inputs:

- Dr. Cleto Nanola from the University of the Philippines (Philippines' GCRMN national coordinator) presented the work being done to monitor the effectiveness of MPAs in the Philippines. *Coral Reef Monitoring for Management* is a useful guide, now in its 2nd edition. He summarised the method used to score the efforts evident at individual sites and outlined the National Awards now implemented in the Philippines.
- Ms. Rachel Austin of Flora & Fauna International (FFI) explained the history and work of FFI. Although in the past they have concentrated on terrestrial sites, their new strategic plan now includes marine resources. She also introduced an FFI colleague and MSc student (Ke Socheata) who is working on a marine turtle conservation project, implemented in partnership with the FiA in Cambodia.

Kohei Hibino recapped on the questions posed to country representatives to format their reports. The responses would be summarised and circulated to participants.

Dr. Clive Wilkinson congratulated members on their progress since his first involvement in ICRI. He emphasized that the opportunity for this meeting is to produce tangible outcomes resulting from discussions between scientists and managers. He identified awareness raising at national government level as the most pressing issue now, and the importance of setting targets to concentrate their thinking. National models for MPAs need to be developed, before trying to develop any international models. Networking such areas and enforcing their restrictions are next steps to address.

Day 2 (Monday 10 October 2011)

6. Follow-up of MPA actions in the Regional Strategy

6.1 Introduction

Co-chair (Yoshihiro Natori) re-capped on proceedings on Day 1 and went on to introduce the main theme of Day 2 - MPA implementation in accordance with the ICRI's East Asia Regional Strategy on MPA Network.

6.2 Status of implementation of the Regional Strategy

Kohei Hibino delivered a presentation which reviewed activity at the Regional level. In addition, to ascertain what activity had been achieved at the National level a questionnaire survey had been distributed to participating countries, and he summarised the results. He clarified that individual countries from the questionnaire survey would not be mentioned in the session, and the afternoon breakout session would consider some of the findings in more details.

In subsequent discussion, following points were discussed:

- With regards to the question which asked if the regional strategy reflected the needs of the country, one country commented that, for them, some needs were reflected but there is room for further improvement.

6.3 MPA databases, gap analysis and habitat mapping

6.3.1 Regional MPA database and gap analysis

Kohei Hibino presented a briefing relating to Action 2.1 (MPA database) and Action 2.3 (MPA gap analysis) of the Regional Strategy. He summarised the project which sought to establish the database of MPAs in the East Asia and Micronesia region on the ReefBase. He outlined the structure and content of the database, and highlighted that it was developed to enhance incentives to use the database by providing the country pages and online/offline updating system. He also explained the work done to date, and the challenges faced, including the limited data accuracy. He proposed activities to take this work forward through the regional gap analysis.

In subsequent discussion, the following points were made:

- The name of the database needs further consideration to fully describe its content - not just coral reefs but also including other "related ecosystems".
- The size of the MPAs needs to be described in addition to the number of MPAs, as some MPAs are large but few and some are small but numerous. It was clarified that number of MPAs was more reliable than size.
- The aim of the gap analysis would influence the structure of the database, and should be considered at the outset of the work.
- The current database which is based on biophysical layers will benefit from overlaying other layers such as threat layers. This will allow managers to better assess the status of MPAs and their effectiveness. It was clarified that few threat layers such as coral bleaching and diseases are already available on ReefBase.
- At least having the database available now will provide a good starting point and it would be prudent to focus the gap analysis on the available data and how it can be used.
- It was suggested that the focus of the gap analysis will need to reflect what the countries need in terms of enhancing MPAs, and that it should not just be academic but have some practical application to countries.

6.3.2 Habitat mapping

Naoki Amako presented a briefing on the work done regarding coral reef habitat mapping (Action 2.2 of the Regional Strategy) based on the digital map published earlier this year. He demonstrated its use, using examples of locations mentioned during the Workshop e.g., the Song Saa Islands. He demonstrated the range of imagery which could be used, including overlaying

satellite images. He pointed out that it should be a useful tool to assist gap analysis at the regional and national level.

In subsequent discussion, the following points were made:

- All the maps are developed based on satellite imagery. The data of some countries like Japan and Palau have been ground-truthed but verification of maps of many other countries are still limited.
- The ground-truth data is available in many countries and the GCRMN/ICRI network can be called upon to provide some of the ground-truth verification. Such consultations with other agencies have not taken place yet, but there might be many interests once the data is made available freely on ReefBase.
- Pixel resolution varied according to the satellite images used. For most, it was approximately 10m (e.g., ALOS satellite).
- A common challenge with database is to make people aware of the existence of the database and make effective use of it. It was noted that there are no structured plans for such an outreach yet but something to be discussed in this workshop.
- There are no plans for periodic update of the habitat map since the project is an expensive one and future update is subject to availability of funds.
- The habitat map could be recognized as a baseline data as part of CBD COP10 with potential future update in 2015 and 2020.
- The habitat categories reflect the limitation of accuracy that can be identified by the satellite imageries used and may not be useful for a small scale management but has an advantage to grasp the overall status and analyze wide areas.
- The detailed information on the classification categories of habitat types and percentage cover of corals are available on the website (http://coralmap.coremoc.go.jp/sangomap_eng/).
- The map showed no coral reef in the MPA around Hong Kong, raising doubts of the map's accuracy. Verification of this data would help improve the accuracy.

6.4 MPA management effectiveness

Kohei Hibino briefed the Workshop on the work carried out by the Working Group looking at the issue of the MPA management effectiveness (ME) in East Asia (Action 2.4 of the Regional Strategy). He reminded participants that the Provisional Plan 2009-2010 which was developed in the 2008 Workshop had proposed action to identify an appropriate MPA ME standard for adoption by member countries. He summarised some of the existing tools, the status of development in East Asia, and outlined the challenges faced.

A draft report which was compiled by the Working Group had been circulated to participants, and Kohei ran through its structure, salient contents and recommendations. In particular, the benefits of using the EXCEL model which had been developed were emphasised, and demonstrated on the screen.

Francis Straub briefly described the World Bank MPA Scorecard which he was involved in the development.

In discussion, the following points were made:

- The World Bank Scorecard was easy to use, but a little subjective. The issue of objectivity and subjectivity is a difficult issue to tackle due to different level of data availability.
- The categories of rank rating applied for the EXCEL spreadsheet needs a bit more explanation. It was suggested that Wells and Mangubhai (2005)¹ could be a useful reference as it applies similar rank rating providing definitions on each categories.
- Tackling management effectiveness is a positive move whatever tools are used. However, it has to be noted that management effectiveness covers a whole range of elements that

¹ Sue Wells and Sangeeta Mangubhai. 2005. Assessing Management Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas: A Workbook for the Western Indian Ocean. IUCN Eastern Africa Regional Programme, Nairobi, Kenya, i-viii and 60 pp.

needs equal treatment. It was further pointed out that the assessment with a management tools was only a small part of the whole process.

- External evaluation is as important as learning provided by self-evaluation and should be considered in the process. It was noted that inclusion of scientists in the evaluation team can provide objectiveness and enhance the evaluation process even if a self-evaluation is applied.
- Experience from developing a management effectiveness evaluation tool in Palau suggested the potential problem of weight of the scoring system. Since the values of each assessment elements are not equal, simply summing scores may not reflect the importance or weight of each element. In addition, there is a need to translate the site level evaluation into an area level assessment, e.g., networking and coordination at national and regional level.

6.5 Priority recommendations and MPA guidelines

Kohei Hibino briefly explained the background of action items under the Objective 3 of the Regional Strategy and noted that there has been no progress made. He further explained that this session will first hear some relevant case studies and activities, and then subsequently discuss on how to move forward the action items under the Objective 3.

6.5.1 Asia-Pacific style MPAs

Dr. Shinichiro Kakuma from the Okinawa Prefecture had studied the characteristics of Asia and Pacific MPAs and presented some of the achievements from his work. He contrasted the Great Barrier Reef and typical Asia-Pacific MPAs and emphasized that MPAs in this region are diverse and many are aiming at sustainable use of resources rather than conservation of biodiversity. Several case studies were described and would be included in a soon-to-be published report.

In discussion, the following points were made:

- In Japan, the temporary (seasonal) closure of fishing sites usually falls at spawning times and it derives in dialogue with local fishers who identify breeding seasons, so they are aware about the timing of closure.
- Fish refugia in Phuoc, Quk, Vietnam has similar system where much of the information is derived from the local communities, while it was also pointed out that similar fisheries closures are also implemented in Phangnga, Thailand.
- The *sasi* system in Indonesia is also similar where fishing is only allowed at certain periods and closed most times.
- Sometimes it is difficult to achieve two objectives of fisheries enhancement and biodiversity conservation. But in Asia, fisheries are often a resource that many communities depend on and cannot be removed from the overall management of marine areas.

6.5.2 Side event and the Asia Regional Conservation Forum

Ms. Cristi Nozawa from the BirdLife International reported on the side event organized in the IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum which took place in Incheon, Korea in September 2011. She summarized the side event by briefly outlining all the case studies presented from around the Asia region. The side event identified that, in Asia, there are not much differences between marine protected areas and sustainable resource use and both aspects shall be dealt complimentary.

In discussion, the following points were made:

- The marine curio trade was mentioned in her presentation, but the availability of data is limited although there is a significant marine curio trade. Such data still needs to be verified by local communities.

6.5.3 Good practice guide in the Pacific

Francis Straub gave a presentation concerning the recent publication "Guide Coastal Management Practices in the Pacific" which was developed based on the recommendation from

the Pacific Day organized during the ICRI General Meeting in Samoa in 2010. It captured the lessons learned and good practices identified in managing MPAs in the Pacific region.

6.5.4 IMCC Indigenous Workshop

Clive Wilkinson presented the key features identified from the workshop held in the International Marine Conservation Congress held in Victoria, Canada in 2009. He first outlined the basic principles that he thinks are needed for MPAs, then he highlighted the different characteristics of fisheries in the Pacific's sub-regions, food security, and the particular challenges faced in the Pacific region.

In discussion, the following points were made:

- The challenges faced in the Pacific have been ongoing for some time. Although discussed at senior government levels, they rarely are discussed at lower, local levels. This is not helped by shortage of capacity (short staffing).

6.6 Other potential activities in 2012

Co-chair (Yoshihiro Natori) asked if there are any potential activities that ICRI East Asia may want to address toward 2012 on MPAs other than things discussed under this session. He pointed out that Annex 4a of the Regional Strategy describes the recommendations on ecological connectivity and critical habitat for future development, for example. He further explained that this could be discussed based on the list of recommendations in the Annex 5 of the Regional Strategy.

In discussion, following points were made:

- Several of the recommendations in Annex 5 would prove costly to implement.
- Connectivity of coral reef systems within the region is important and needs to be considered. In addition, climate change concerns are real and happening, and the role of MPAs in assessing climate change impacts needs to be highlighted.
- Assessing connectivity in line with climate change impacts is crucial, and together with existing information on MPAs, the role of MPAs in managing events like bleaching can be assessed. If there is a correlation between effective MPA management and bleaching, we can link it to climate change and develop management plans that take these into account. Successes should be communicated to policy makers to encourage their further attention.
- Source-sink assessment within the Gulf of Thailand is important to understand how to select and manage MPAs.
- Socio-economic information with photos and videos are effective communication tools for highlighting the concerns to policy makers.

6.7 Breakout session

6.7.1 Introduction of the breakout session

Kohei Hibino briefed participants on the aim of the breakout session. He asked participants to take an hour to:

- Review the status of implantation of each action recommended
- Consider the feasibility of actions which haven't been achieved or planned
- Consider the priorities for implementation
- Identify the way forward to implement feasible and prioritised actions

He emphasised that the idea was not to propose yet more activities, but to consider those already identified, and further prioritize the actions.

Participants were free to join one of five groups or to move from one to another. Each group would consider one theme:

1. MPA databases
2. Coral reef habitat mapping
3. Regional MPA gap analysis

4. MPA management effectiveness
5. Priority recommendations to regional and national policies

Facilitators were appointed for each group. The relevant results from the questionnaires completed by member countries were also provided for each group as the discussion material.

6.7.2 Feedback in plenary session

Each group presented the salient points from their discussions. The results of prioritization of actions and identified recommendations based on the breakout session have been subsequently reviewed and summarized as below:

Regional MPA database

Status and prioritization of actions

Actions			Status of implementation				Feasibility	Priority
			Complete	Ongoing	Planning	No plans		
Short term	b	Increase the usability of the database in particular by enhancing the visibility of data, eg, MPA network, community based MPAs, MPA boundary, case studies & photos				√	√	√
	c	Explore, and if possible, provide a system to allow showing and updating the country page on ReefBase in respective languages				√	√	√
	d	Share the updated MPA data with WDPA		√			√	√
	e	Contribute to and make available the updated data to overlapping MPA database on ReefBase, ie, CTI Atlas, ReefBase Pacific and LMMA Network database and other database such as ACB		√			√	√
Mid-long term		Countries and relevant organizations shall Identify the status and gaps in MPA data and consider how to avoid duplication, make best use of each database, share data and roles, and use in the projects				√	√	√

Suggested actions

- Existence of the database should be continuously publicized at key meetings, conferences, etc, Include it as part of ICRI member activity to disseminate information and publicise to universities to target students
- To include source of data in the database summaries, including links to other databases and request that they also add a link to the MPA database on their website (*)
- To have the database updated at regular scheduled intervals
- Need to make the database more dynamic – there is usually no urgency for people to contribute or update data, so will need a mechanism to incorporate soft approaches like personal networking

* This action can be undertaken without additional resources; while others require additional resources to implement.

Coral reef habitat mapping

Status and prioritization of actions

Actions			Status of implementation				Feasibility	Priority
			Complete	Ongoing	Planning	No plans		
Short term	a	Provide the developed habitat map to ReefBase and make available freely the public		√				
		Provide the habitat map to and make it available on CTI Atlas and ReefBase Pacific			√			
	b	Improve the accuracy of the habitat map by gaining feedbacks from partners				√	√	√
	b	Improve data presentation on the database				√		
	b	Develop a user guide and technical report			√		√	√
Mid-long term		The lessons learned from development and application of this project shall be reflected in future similar projects in the region				√		
		The data from this project shall also serve as the baseline for future comparison and analysis			√			

Suggested actions

- Expand the area of coverage to include high-latitude areas
- Should refine/improve the accuracy before providing the data to CTI Atlas and ReefBase
- The feedbacks/suggestion for changes shall be reviewed by the GCRMN National Coordinators
- Add capability to indicate selected legends on the current web-GIS
- Definition of the legend should be explained further
- Ideally the data should be updated in every 5 years

In subsequent discussion, following points were made:

- If the project does not have a long-term view or mechanism to take it forward, it will be difficult to continue the project.
- Large NGOs might have good sources of data and resources (eg, remote sensing specialists).

Regional MPA gap analysis

Status and prioritization of actions

Actions			Status of implementation				Feasibility	Priority
			Complete	Ongoing	Planning	No plans		
Short term	a	Use the latest updated data from the MPA database, habitat mapping, and information gained through workshops and activities during 2008-2010, and analyze the target, status and gaps in MPAs and MPA networks in the region				√		√
	a	The results shall be verified and reviewed by East Asian countries and relevant organizations, and compiled in a report to be shared in the region.				√		
	c	Collaborate with ACB on assisting the completion of ASEAN regional MPA gap analysis, national MPA gap analysis and activities related to the launch at CBD COP-10.		√			√	√

Suggested actions

- Review the progress and contents of the ASEAN regional/national MPA gap analysis currently being undertaken by ACB and consider whether it fulfils the needs of the Regional Strategy.
- Noting that the recommended action in the Regional Strategy is not clear; Revise the recommended actions, if necessary, in light of above consultation.
- Request Secretariat to contact the countries who indicated that they are planning to conduct the gap analysis to understand the status and needs.

In subsequent discussion, following points were made:

- Although the MPA database is available, there is no information on how they are being used or if they are being used effectively.
- Regional ASEAN gap analysis is dependent on national gap analysis and some countries have not completed their gap analysis thus limiting regional analysis

MPA management effectiveness

Status and prioritization of actions

Actions			Status of implementation				Feasibility	Priority
			Complete	Ongoing	Planning	No plans		
Short term	a	The prototype shall be reviewed and tested by MPA agencies, relevant organizations, and MPA managers, and further developed based on their feedbacks.	√				√	4

	a	The final product shall be made freely available on relevant organizations' website, eg, ICRIForum, attached with a simple user guide.			√		√	6
Mid-long term	a	Identify a set of minimum core bio-physical, socio-economic and governance indicators that are commonly important in all countries, at any level or type of MPA to be shared at national or regional level, or even at global level.				√	√	1
	a	Such data could be shared systematically through the database and used to identify which MPAs need assistance or resources to improve overall management effectiveness.				√	√	5
	b	Consider and identify indicators to evaluate MPA management effectiveness at country level or MPA network level.				√	√	3
	c	Identify a set of management effectiveness indicators for specific types of MPAs, eg, fisheries management MPAs.				√	√	2

Key points developed from the breakout session on Management Effectiveness Assessment Tools (MEATS):

- Systems should be useable by all sectors of society.
- Include MEATS into the MPA establishment processes.
- Include all aspects of society into the MEAT's establishment process.
- Be aware of the resources that you have available.
- Have independent verification of MEAT.
- Make decision makers aware that it is an ongoing and never ending process so will need continued support.

Priority recommendations for regional and national policies

Status and prioritization of actions

Actions		Status of implementation				Feasibility	Priority
		Complete	Ongoing	Planning	No plans		
Short term	a	Further develop Annex 5 to complete the draft MPA network guidelines in East Asia.			√		√
	b	Disseminate the deliverables to all the East Asian countries, relevant regional initiatives and programs, and NGOs by posting the material on relevant websites including ICRIForum and presenting it at regional meetings			√		

Mid-long term	Consider adopting these regional MPA network guidelines and encourage using them as reference materials in future regional and national meetings on MPA networks.			√				
---------------	---	--	--	---	--	--	--	--

Observations

- Objective 3 and Annex 5 appear to be very broad and basically contains a huge amount of ideas that needs to be prioritized if they are to be practical and useful for members of ICRI. There is a need to narrow this and one theme from the Annex can be used to move this forward on this initial stage. This will perhaps lead to clarifying this part of the strategy and making it more practical and less vague.
- Decision makers have to weigh conservation decisions alongside other economic, social and political factors. For decision makers to act on recommendations in favour of conservation they need to see the value of marine protected areas. It is essential that any recommendations have some if not all of these values and that these are reflected and communicated to decision makers.

Suggested actions

To further develop Annex 5, first of all, a gap analysis of country response to question 19 needs to be taken. JWRC is requested to try to obtain more detailed information on Question 19 – identifying the countries who have responded and what exactly they picked up from the strategy and applied at national policy level.

Then, the following activities need to be undertaken:

- Set up a working group with the task to develop the guidelines for MPA network in East Asia. This WG will be set up by ICRI member country and will consist of 5 to 10 people including professional and scientist. ICRI regional secretariat will coordinate the operation of this WG. The working group will have to trim down and rationalize Annex 5 and then pilot the development of best practice guideline. A meeting of the working group will be needed to discuss the work that needs to be done.
- Identify case study writers on marine protected areas and fisheries/ecotourism experiences in the region. The case studies will be collected to provide background information for WG on value (economic or sustenance or other values) of MPA as it relates to fisheries and ecotourism. This can be promoted to be published in an issue of Parks Magazine of IUCN WCPA.
- From the case studies and lessons learned from other initiatives, a guideline/best practice on MPA and fisheries/ecotourism will be developed/drafted by the working group.
- The first draft of the guideline will be available for comment by country at next ICRI regional workshop
- The publication and dissemination of the guideline (after revision) will be done through regional bodies such as SEAFDEC, PEMSEA, COBSEA, ACB and Park Magazine.

Co-chair (Yoshihiro Natori) recapped on the topics covered during the day and briefly ran through the programme for Day 3.

Poster presentation

An informal poster session was organized with facilitation by Tadashi Kimura. There were nine posters exhibited in the plenary room throughout the workshop out of which six posters were presented in this session. Each presenter was given three minutes to summarize the contents and highlight their poster. The presenters and titles of their posters were as follows:

Adelle Lukes Isechal	Enhancing Palau's MPA Network: Building capacity for coral reef monitoring
Allen Chen	Establishment of a No-take Area (NTA) could not guarantee the Preservation of Coral Communities in Chinwan Inner Bay, Penghu, Taiwan
Cleto Nanola Jr.	Status of the coral reef monitoring efforts in the Philippines
Karenne Tun	The 2010 coral bleaching event in Southeast Asia"
Ke Socheata	Marine turtle status in Cambodia
Thamasak Yeemin	Raising awareness and education through a coral reef management and restoration project in tourism hot spots of the eastern Gulf of Thailand

To select the best poster presenter, the "selection committee" was formed by other participants and was led by Affendi Yang Amri. As a result of careful consideration by the committee, the 3rd best poster presenter was awarded to Ke Socheata; the 2nd best poster presenter was awarded to Allen Chen; and the 1st best poster presenter was awarded to Karenne Tun.

Day 3 (Tuesday 11 October 2011)

Co-chaired by Karenne Tun, GCRMN Node Coordinator for South East Asia (DHI Water and Environment), and Tadashi Kimura, GCRMN Node Coordinator for North & East Asia, (Japan Wildlife Research Center).

7. GCRMN East Asia Network

7.1 Introduction

Tadashi Kimura briefly re-capped proceedings of Day 2, and ran through the agenda items for the Day 3 sessions. He went on to inform participants that the aim of this session was to:

- Share the status and activities of the GCRMN East Asia network with participants
- Discuss how to integrate GCRMN activities into the ICRI regional mechanism, and
- Discuss how to enhance coordination of monitoring and conservation activities in the region

He reminded participants that this work is related to part of Objective 1 of the Regional Strategy, "Strengthening the GCRMN regional coordination mechanism", (with further details provided in Annex 2 to the Regional Strategy).

Karenne Tun expressed her thanks to the GCRMN country coordinators who often gave their time on a voluntary basis in contributing to the development of the GCRMN Status Reports.

7.2 Reaffirmation of GCRMN's regional network as part of ICRI's regional mechanism

7.2.1 Introduction on GCRMN and ICRI

Clive Wilkinson provided a brief summary of the history of the GCRMN global and regional networks, dating back to 1994, and its current structure and sponsors. He ran through the need for, and purpose of, monitoring the health of coral reefs. In particular, monitoring provided a gauge of coral reef management effectiveness. He listed the number of publications and other products produced in recent years, and summarised the lessons learned over the years. He explained that GCRMN's objectives are two fold, and posed a question that, even dealing with the first objective (collect the data) has not been easy, can we still work on the second objective (raise awareness)?

In the subsequent discussion, the following points were made:

- Even if there is a monitoring system in place, doing both monitoring and raising awareness is not easy.
- There is a challenge in coordinating monitoring activities among different agencies, institutions and NGOs. Collaboration is seen as a necessary way of securing progress.
- The GCRMN coordinators agreed to accept the two objectives, but still need help from government, NGOs and probably from ICRI.
- Current coordinators are voluntary basis and has limitations to cover both objectives. There needs to be enhanced recognition of their activities and support among relevant agencies. It is also important to recognize GCRMN at country level.
- GCRMN does not have any requirements or limitation to get involved. The people who were involved will automatically be recognized as GCRMN members. It was noted that over 260 people were involved in the development of the latest Global Report.
- Some countries (e.g., Myanmar, Timor Este) still do not have appointed coordinators of the GCRMN network. Closer links with ICRI and its member countries would help.

7.2.2 GCRMN East Asia network

Prof. Chou Loke Ming, National University of Singapore (ex Node Coordinator for Southeast Asia region), gave a presentation on the background and work of the GCRMN East Asia network, as well as a summary of current member countries. He also provided similar details of the North East Asia network. He stressed the voluntary basis of much of the work of those involved, either

as scientists or coordinators. He identified current trends in the work of the GCRMN, and future developments, including the need to support hard-pressed country coordinators.

7.3 East Asia's response to GCRMN's global transition

Mr. Jerker Tamelander, UNEP Coral Reef Unit, provided a briefing on background and progress of the GCRMN global transition programme. He re-capped the management group decisions which prompted the transition process, made at the Monaco General Meeting in January 2010, as well as decisions from meetings in Apia, Samoa in November 2010 and Victoria, Canada, in May 2011. He outlined 5 (draft) objectives of the transition programme, from a concept note shortly to be circulated for consultation. He outlined the concept of the new GCRMN's structure, upcoming reports (i.e., 2011 Pacific Report and 2012 Global Report), the new strategy of the reporting, and coordination arrangement.

Based on the above presentation on GCRMN's global transition, how East Asia region might respond to this was discussed.

In discussion, the following points were made:

- It was clarified that global coordination of GCRMN is currently hosted by IUCN. A core team with a coordinator, a lead scientist and spokesperson and administrative assistance has been established. The structure of the Management Group was described in Clive's presentation.
- The informal and voluntary basis of the GCRMN is making it difficult to coordinate the activities. UNEP Coral Reef Unit was encouraged to take an active role in GCRMN coordination in view of it being part of the UN system. It was clarified that the staff of the Unit is limited, but that it would continue to engage in supporting GCRMN coordination, which is led by the coordination team at IUCN.
- The draft Concept Note is described from the global coordination perspective and does not include detail on activities in the region and by local coordinators, who carry out monitoring and awareness-raising and deal with issues on the ground. As such it would need to be circulated for broad consultation of node and national coordinators, based on which some information could be added. It was clarified that the document will also be sent out to ICRI and regional GCRMN partners.
- GCRMN is still not strong enough in compiling national monitoring data, partly due to lack of government involvement. Thus, there should be more government involvement, alongside current consultation with NGOs and academic institutions.
- The link between GCRMN and ICRI need to be clarified in the Concept Note. It was noted that GCRMN is a network under ICRI which reports to the ICRI General Meeting through the Management Group Chair and the Global Coordinator.
- The impact of the proposed changes of GCRMN to the East Asia regional network is not yet clear. In Asia, there is limited focus on coral reef management by IUCN, which is currently tasked with global coordination of GCRMN. This needs to be addressed in further developing GCRMN coordination in Asia.
- Closer consultation between GCRMN coordinators and the Management Group is desirable, including meetings as appropriate.

7.4 Regional activities

7.4.1 Structure of GCRMN East Asia region

Karenne Tun briefed the Workshop on the work of the GCRMN's Southeast Asia node, including a list of current national coordinators. She asked if the coordinators were happy to continue in their role, and what additional assistance they needed, or suggestions they might offer.

Discussions raised the following points:

- The number of national coordinators does not necessarily have to be one but could be two or more depending on the size of the country, etc. This will provide greater capacity in each country and backup on communication.

- Some countries in the East Asia region were not represented in the network, eg Timor Leste and Myanmar.
- Both countries are not ICRI members but need to be informed of the work of ICRI and GCRMN, and be invited to join the network, perhaps initially outside of official channels as GCRMN is an informal and voluntary network.
- GCRMN was deliberately set up as an unofficial group, to avoid the "bureaucracy" attached to more formal arrangements. However, some sort of official endorsement (certificate or letter of recognition) of their involvement would help (eg, seeking leave to attend meetings, etc). Country coordinators agreed that this would be useful.

Tadashi Kimura continued to explain the country coordinators of the North East Asia node. He reiterated the informal nature of GCRMN.

Discussions raised the following points:

- China including Hong Kong and Taiwan are a GCRMN member, but not yet a ICRI member
- A letter from the Regional Coordinator of the GCRMN would help country representatives to liaise with government departments and agencies within their countries. There was a discussion on the following:
 - The release of official data
 - Permission to travel and attend meetings
 - Generating a letter was not considered too burdensome
 - There need to be an effective channels for sending the letter (some country suggested to help sending the letter)
 - The letter should be sent earlier to provide time to respond, eg, one month before
- Some countries raised concern that the data (e.g., obtained by NGOs) shall not be shared without permission by the government as some data are sensitive; Without official endorsement by the government, the published reports will not be recognized by the country.
- It was clarified that GCRMN has a policy not to hold the data and only deals with summary and meta data. Thus GCRMN does not favour making any rules on data.

7.4.2 East Asia Regional Report 2014

Karenne Tun informed the Workshop that the original due-date of the next East Asia Regional Report is likely to be brought forward from 2015 to 2014, in order to coincide with the 3rd APCRS to be held in Taiwan (see paragraph 7.4.3 below). She asked if this was likely to cause difficulty for country coordinators. There were no objections, however, and there was general acceptance of the revised schedule.

Karenne ran through proposed schedule she had drafted for East Asia coral reef status reporting covering the period to June 2014, which would ensure that the Report would be ready for the 3rd APCRS (para 7.4.3). She asked participants for their comments and suggestions.

There was general agreement to adopt the schedule. The schedule would be shared with all participants for their reference.

Karenne also showed a proposed outline for the contents and structure of the 2014 Status Report which was developed based on the 2004 Global Status Report, explaining what she intended to include under each of the draft headings. She noted that the proposed list of items does not necessarily have to be followed depending on the availability of the data and capacity of the country. The proposed contents and structure would similarly be circulated to participants for their comments and suggestions.

In discussion, the following points were made:

- The review process for the Regional report will be clarified with UNEP CRU and IUCN.
- Coral Cay Conservation offered to contribute by providing the bleaching data

- It was suggested that data and information collected for the report might be shared more widely with other organisations (e.g., SEAFDEC) before the meeting in 2014. All issues could then be aired, and their input collected, before the report would be published. It was also noted that ASEAN + 3 framework also declared to support conservation activities in ASEAN, and it was suggested that seeking collaboration with these organizations and processes would be useful.

7.4.3 Asia Pacific Coral Reef Symposium 2014

Dr. Allen Chen from the Biodiversity Research Center, Academia Sinica in Taiwan gave a presentation outlining the 3rd Asia Pacific Coral Reef Symposium scheduled in 2014 to be held in Kenting, at the southern tip of Taiwan. He provided information on the venue, organising committee, local attractions, nearby hotel accommodation, travel options, as well as a tentative timetable for the planning of the event.

In discussions, the following points were made:

- It was reiterated that APCRS was developed to bring together a range of people particularly to provide a venue for young researchers who have difficulties participating to ICRS.
- The deadline of abstract submission needs to be presented earlier than 15 April 2014, in order to give adequate time for review
- Philippines expressed its interest to host the 4th Symposium in 2018. This will be consulted with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). It was noted that Philippines hosted the ICRS in 1981 but there has been a long absence of hosting these events.

7.5 MPAs in Brunei

Dr David Lane gave a presentation of his work in MPAs in the Sultanate of Brunei. He pointed out that Brunei had a generous GDP, with little need to exploit its marine resources. It is rich in terms of biodiversity, although had recently suffered from Crown of Thorns starfish outbreak and coral bleaching, and extension of MPA to oil extraction areas was planned for the future.

7.6 Enhancement of coral reef monitoring and information sharing in the region

Tadashi Kimura introduced the topic, which sought to address the challenges already mentioned in presentations. He posed the question: What roles should ICRI and GCRMN play in helping to address these?

- ICRI could invite current non-member countries to join ICRI and then GCRMN could use that channel to enhance GCRMN network in those countries.
- ICRI and GCRMN need to help in coordination, and facilitate the sharing of information between member countries
- Indonesia would be holding a meeting in December to address issues on data coordination nationally. It would help if ICRI could endorse the guidance on the importance of monitoring and what kind of data is required for GCRMN's reporting before the meeting
- GCRMN could write a letter to countries to raise awareness of issues, and give guidance on activities
- In Japan, a national monitoring scheme ("Monitoring Site 1000") is helping to integrate monitoring activities at different levels and the results are reflected to GCRMN status reports.
- ICRI should work closely with intergovernmental organizations and have a global or regional program on coral reefs. Gaining more attention from international level and donors is important
- It was noted that this was only the second time a joint workshop of ICRI and GCRMN had been held, indicating positive progress but with further to go
- It is suggested that ICRI to help organize a coral reef monitoring training course to countries where they lack capacity (e.g., Myanmar, Timor Leste) using institutions where they have such capacity (e.g., PMBC, Thailand)

- Any approach by ICRI to Timor Leste and Myanmar, perhaps in terms of a letter, might be helpful. Representative from Cambodia and the Philippines offered to assist this process

7.7 Wrap-up of the session

Tadashi Kimura informed the workshop that the draft summary for GCRMN East Asia will be prepared based on the discussions and points raised, and will be reported in Day 4. The subsequently agreed summary is attached at [Annex 4](#).

Special session: The history of "Mr GCRMN"

Tadashi Kimura introduced Clive Wilkinson, shortly to "retire". Tadashi explained that it was not accidental that Clive had earned the title "Mr GCRMN". His involvement and efforts would certainly be missed.

Chou Loke Ming paid a tribute to an old friend by showing some early slides of Clive and memorable times with him.

Clive Wilkinson gave a talk on his background, how he got into science, studied coral reefs, and how GCRMN was developed and evolved. He outlined what he think is important in coral reef conservation and monitoring from his long experiences and concluded with thanks to various partners in East Asia.

Day 4 (Wednesday 12 October 2011)

8 ICRI's Regional Mechanism for East Asia

8.1 Introduction

Co-chair (Yoshihiro Natori) briefly re-capped proceedings of the first three days of the Workshop, and explained that Day 4 would concentrate on addressing issues relating to ICRI's East Asia regional mechanism. In particular, the Workshop would follow up Objective 1 of the Regional Strategy. He briefly ran through the agenda items for Day 4.

Kohei Hibino reminded participants of the salient points raised in discussions on Days 1-3. In particular, he ran through the summaries provided by the facilitators of the 5 groups in the breakout session on Day 2. These were displayed on the notice board and participants were asked to re-visit them and comment on its accuracy and completeness during the break.

Tadashi Kimura reminded participants of the results of discussions on Day 3, which had recommended improvements to the GCRMN regional mechanism. Similarly, a summary of discussion points was placed on the notice board for comments by participants during the break.

8.2 ICRI's role and direction in East Asia

Kohei Hibino gave a short brief to remind participants of the role and objectives of ICRI, originally published in the "Call to Action" (1995), and "Renewed Call to Action" (1998).

He then posed 3 questions to prompt discussions:

- What should be the objectives and focus of ICRI at the regional level in East Asia?
- How should ICRI East Asia relate to the broader global ICRI processes?
- What is ICRI's role in regions relating to coordination processes, collaboration and stakeholder engagement?

In subsequent discussions, the following points were made:

- The objectives and focus of the regional strategy or the framework does not necessarily have to be the same with that of the global level, but should take account of differing regional conditions and the capacity to address these locally.
- Although GCRMN has a regional nodes and network, there is currently no official regional mechanism for ICRI. The questions were difficult to answer at the regional level, and should be addressed to ICRI Secretariat.
- The original intent of ICRI was to avoid centralisation and devolve as much as possible to regions. East Asia's regional activities have been a good example of this, evidenced by this workshop, and it's really up to the region on how to structure the framework.
- ICRI has no formal administrative regional structure, to avoid the political restrictions often suffered by the UN. Although this freedom was valued, it was also pointed out that tackling regional issues without any formal support is difficult.
- ICRI was deliberately informal, and encouraging each country to set up their own national ICRI node and strategy, and work with others in the region through regional meetings. So ICRI welcomes regional meetings but does not dictate how it should be coordinated.
- This meeting may not be the right place to make the decision but can serve as a platform for brainstorming future directions.
- One possible way forward could be to emulate the GCRMN mechanism with each country putting in effort to support and strengthen the existing mechanism. However, funding support (sponsorship) from country donors would be required to put a more structured coordinating mechanism in place for ICRI.
- We should look at the positive values that ICRI has brought to the region in the past years and keep these positive values.
- Regional guidelines should be taken by regions and applied to address the priorities decided at regional level. These priorities should form the base of the Regional Strategies.
- There are several useful mechanisms for the region to carry messages to others and link with wider global picture, e.g., UNEP Coral Reef Unit and Micronesia Challenge.

8.3 ICRI's regional mechanism for East Asia

Kohei Hibino presented a brief which explained the background and potential of ICRI's regional mechanism in East Asia, highlighting the suggested three mechanisms from 2010 workshop (i.e., Regional workshop, GCRMN network, and Information sharing network). He emphasized that ICRI has international mechanism but is lacking at the regional and maybe at national levels in some countries. He posed 5 questions to prompt discussion:

- Is a regional mechanism really needed?
- What are the gaps between international and national networks that the regional mechanism may fill?
- What mechanism is needed to facilitate the 4 elements of the ICRI *Call for Action*
- How can the regional mechanism be maintained? (i.e., sustainability)
- Why is the GCRMN network so active despite their voluntary status?

In subsequent discussions, the following points were made:

Benefits and fundamental aspects of the regional mechanism:

- Regional workshops serve as an important platform for members to share their views that can be brought to ICRI at their yearly General Meetings as not all ICRI members can attend these meetings and link to the global network.
- The regional mechanism is a fundamental issue and cannot be solved easily, thus shall be continuously discussed in the future meetings.

Sustainable financing to continue the regional mechanism:

- Japan reconfirmed its support until 2012 workshop but mentioned that it cannot guarantee the support thereafter, and hoped that each country can contribute in participation and support for the network. Japan also acknowledged that the region is concerned on its continued funding for the regional workshops, and confirmed to convey the request to the government for continued funding.
- In the event that Japan may not be able to support the regional workshops in future, the region should still leverage on the regional mechanism and continue regular meetings, e.g., by using existing events such as ICRS, APCRS, COBSEA meetings.
- Other regional members might offer some support - perhaps in-kind contributions by supporting the update of the regional database or with communications.
- The Workshop was reminded that, in the Phuket workshop, it was suggested that countries take on the responsibility to fund their own staff costs to attend the workshop in future to reduce the burden of Japan. Other country supported this comment but noted that lead time is needed to plan and secure budget, suggesting that plans for subsequent meetings shall be in place 1-2 years earlier.
- Project-based funding is going to be the norm, and we should focus on maximizing existing funds and making best use of other initiatives and meetings to maintain the network.
- Funding often had to be sought a year in advance, and needed a detailed proposal. Plans looking at least a year in advance should be drawn up.
- Funding mechanism that can support long-term coral reef projects is needed from international donors.
- The Workshop should support the search for international donors to support coral reef conservation, as none currently existed.
 - It was pointed out that GEF funding is available, but no members had applied
 - Some funding was made through a mix of grant and loan. Developing countries found it difficult to cope with loans
 - Ongoing funding was needed to ensure sustainable actions, rather than time-limited projects

Functionality of the regional mechanism:

- A coordination mechanism is vital if the network and the meetings were to continue. The effort required for this is considerable.

- GCRMN has already developed coordination mechanisms and it was suggested that GCRMN network serve as the framework for the region. It was also noted that GCRMN often piggy-backed other international/regional meeting opportunities to organize side meetings.
- However, it was noted that GCRMN is primarily a monitoring network and putting more requirements on them should be made cautiously to avoid overload. However, there are definitely things to learn from them on how to manage and maintain the network well voluntarily.
- Regional coordination cannot rely solely on meetings. Strong communication and networking outside of meetings was considered vital.
- The rotating system of the Secretariat by pair of countries or international organization at international level could also be applied at the regional level. This will reduce the burden to individual members and encourage countries to better understand and take responsibilities for the network. It is not practical to rely to one entity only to take on the responsibility.
- The Asia Pacific Coral Reef Symposium (APCRS) could serve as a good reference to maintain the network. It is organized every four years, hosted by different institutions in different countries and maintained mainly by registration fees. Participants are responsible for their own travel, accommodation, etc. but people do gather because they consider attendance as beneficial for their own work. Identifying incentives for participation (worth paying their own expenses) is thus needed. It was pointed out that the target audience and agenda of GCRMN are quite defined while that of ICRI is more amorphous and makes it difficult to define the strategy.

8.4 ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop

Naoki Amako confirmed that ICRI's Regional Workshop 2012 would be mainly funded by Japan. A host country was required and suggestions and/or offering of hosting were invited from the Workshop.

In subsequent discussions, the following points were made:

- It was noted that the ICRS would be held in Cairns, Australia, in July 2012. The ICRI Regional Workshop could be held before - to take issues forward, or after to share the findings/results. But it was also noted that the location is expensive.
- There is also a possibility of organizing the workshop in conjunction with and before the IUCN's World Conservation Congress (WCC) scheduled for September 2012 in Jeju, Korea. It was further pointed out that the venue may have to be at a remote area due to the peak holiday season in Korea in September, which suggested that first week of September is the most realistic option.
- Participants were asked if any of them already have plans to attend the WCC so that the cost of travel support could be reduced. As a result, only one country confirmed to attend. It was further pointed out that IUCN should be invited to attend the workshop.
- It was requested that the venue, time and the general program shall be made available as soon as possible to allow countries to get prepared for participation including possibility of securing budget.
- There was an advice not to make the meeting too big.

(Other matters)

Micronesia monitoring experience presentation

Tadashi Kimura briefed the importance of coral reef monitoring in the management of MPAs and introduced Ms Adelle Lukes Isechal from the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) to share the case study from Palau. The presentation was originally arranged in the Day 3 session but could not be delivered due to time limitation.

Adelle gave a presentation of the work of PICRC on coral reef monitoring which is supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The use of standard indicators, in combination with local collaboration with those collecting the data, was emphasised. She also pointed out that Palau also used "piggy backing" opportunities to share the results with others.

In discussion, the following points were made:

- It was commented that fisheries indicators, even simple one, should be included in the indicators to highlight the importance of fisheries to the communities since not all MPAs can get revenue from tourism and it may be the only way to highlight the importance of MPAs to local communities.
- The Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE) was assessed previously in Palau but the data was usually derived from the fish markets and were not well captured since much of the fishes are brought to the fish market. However, fish landing data templates have been developed and currently dialogue is underway with relevant fisheries management agencies.
- Guam and other US territories such as the Northern Mariana Islands are fully supported by US and it might be worth collaborating on coral reef monitoring. However, it was noted that they have rigid institutional structure and considered somewhat inflexible to synchronize with the way other Micronesian countries are applying.

8.5 Linkage with ICRI global process and future opportunities

Co-chair (Vo Si Tuan) introduced the final session of the Workshop. He briefly ran through the remaining presentations for the afternoon.

8.5.1 France and Samoa ICRI Secretariat

Frances Straub gave a presentation on the growth and development of the ICRI Secretariat. The function is shared among member countries, and currently (2009-11) jointly hosted by governments of France and Samoa, in relation with Monaco. He outlined the actions set out in the ICRI Plan of Action for 2009-11, referring to ICRI's *Call to Action* published in 1995, summarising the progress made, and forthcoming events. The Secretariat function (and Coco de Mer) will be handed over to Australia in December 2011.

John Baldwin (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority) introduced himself and confirmed that Australia is looking forward to taking up the Secretariat responsibilities.

8.5.2 ITMEMS4

Francis Straub briefly explained about the 4th International Tropical Marine Ecosystem Symposium (ITMEMS4) and noted that detailed information is available on the website which is linked from the ICRIForum.

- Funding to support two delegates from East Asia region to attend ITMEMS4 was being provided by Japan.
- Further information regarding financial support is available from Nicola Barnard, who should be contacted directly (nicolajbarnard@gmail.com).

8.5.3 ICRS 2012

Clive Wilkinson gave brief details of the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS) to be held in Cairns from 9-13 July 2012. Over 2,200 abstracts have already been received. Their website has all the information needed for those interested in the event.

9. Summary of the Workshop

Yoshihiro Natori ran through the topics covered during the workshop.

Kohei Hibino presented a summary of the recommendations regarding, and prioritisation of, actions identified based on the Regional Strategy and during the Workshop. These were shown for each Objectives of the Regional Strategy. Suggested actions would be considered for taking forward in future plans for the ICRI East Asia region.

It was noted that comments for further reflection can be accepted within two weeks. With this proviso, the recommendations were accepted ([Annex 3](#)).

Tadashi Kimura presented a paper summarising the outcomes of the discussions on Day 3 concerning the GCRMN for the East Asia region. Again, the document was accepted based on the condition that it would be open for review and comments (within 2 weeks) for reflection after the Workshop ([Annex 4](#)).

Kohei summarised the discussions of the Day 4 morning session which considered the role and work of the ICRI East Asia network. This was based on a note provided by Karenne Tun. Again, this would be circulated to participants for their considered comments (within 2 weeks) after the Workshop.

10. Closing

Karenne Tun thanked the Japanese government for their kind support for the workshop. In recognition Vo Si Tuan presented Naoki Amako with a gift of a sea urchin.

Yoshihiro Natori thanked Clive Wilkinson for his long-time support, the FiA of Cambodia for their hosting, and the Workshop Secretariat for their organising efforts.

Vo Si Tuan reiterated thanks for the Japanese government for their continuing support, and to Korea for considering hosting the next workshop.

Francis Straub congratulated all the participants for the achievements made by the East Asia region, holding them as an example to other regions.

Ing Try thanked the organisers of the workshop for allowing Cambodia to host this workshop. It will link Cambodia to the wider networks within the region and internationally. The outcomes of the workshop will assist conservation in the future.

Yoshihiro Natori and Vo Si Tuan, as Co-chairs, issued certificates of attendance to all participants.

The USB memory stick which copied all the meeting materials, presentations, and relevant references were distributed to participants.

The meeting adjourned.

Annex 1. Final participants list

Participants are listed alphabetically by Representation.

Representation (G: Government, O: Organization)		Name	Surname	Main e-Mail
O	Biodiversity Research Center, Adademia Sinica	Allen Chaolum	Chen	cac@gate.sinica.edu.tw
O	BirdLife International	Cristi	Nozawa	cristi.nozawa@birdlife.org
G	Cambodia (Director General of Fisheries Administrataion)	Thuok	Nao	-
G	Cambodia (Deputy Director General of Fishery Administration)	Try	Ing	tmmp.cam@online.com.kh
G	Cambodia (Deputy Director of Fisheries Conservation Department)	Chanpraseth	You	chanpraseth7@gmail.com
G	Cambodia (Director of Fisheries Conservation Department)	Vibol	Ouk	ouk.vibol@online.com.kh
G	Cambodia (Director of marine Fisheries Administration Inspectorate)	Sotha	Poum	
G	Cambodia (Vice Director of Kampong Som FiA Cantonment)	Satharath	Sin	satharath_sin@yahoo.com
G	Cambodia (Marine Biologist, Department of Fisheries Conservation)	Longdy	Va	longdy@yahoo.com
G	Cambodia (Director of Marine Fisheries Research and Development Institute/FiA)	Serywath	Suy	serywath@gmail.com
G	Cambodia (Fisheries Administration)	Richard	Winterton	winterton007@googlemail.com
O	Chinese Academy of Science	Hui	Huang	huanghui@scsio.ac.cn
O	Chinese Academy of Science	Jiansheng	Lian	lianjs@scsio.ac.cn
O	Chinese University of Hong Kong	Chung Wing	Yeung	cwyeung2001@yahoo.com.hk
O	Coral Cay Conservation, Cambodia	Robert	Major	cambodia@coralcay.org
O	CORAL	Naneng	Setiasih	nsetiasih@coral.org
O	DHI Water & Environment (S) Pte Ltd.	Karenne	Tun	ktd@dhi.com.sg karennetun@gmail.com
O	Fauna & Flora International	Rachel	Austin	Rachel.Austin@fauna-flora.org
O	Fauna & Flora International	Ke	Socheata	socheata.ke@gmail.com
G	France (French Embassy, Cambodia)	Dominique	Mas	
O	Frontier	Aaron	Sexton	frontiercambodia@yahoo.com
O	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network	Clive	Wilkinson	clive.wilkinson@rrrc.org.au
O	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	John	Baldwin	john.baldwin@gbrmpa.gov.au
O	ICRI	Francis	Staub	fstaub@icriforum.org
G	Indonesia (Ministry of Forestry)	Cherryta	Yunia	cherrytays@yahoo.com

O	Institute of Oceanography	Si Tuan	Vo	vosituan@gmail.com
O	Institute of Oceanography	Van Long	Nguyen	longhdh@gmail.com
G	Japan (Ministry of the Environment)	Naoki	Amako	naoki_amako@env.go.jp
O	Japan International Cooperation Agency	Seiji	Nakaya	nakayaseiji@hotmail.com
O	Japan Wildlife Research Center	Tadashi	Kimura	tkimura@jwrc.or.jp
O	Japan Wildlife Research Center	Kohei	Hibino	khibino@jwrc.or.jp
O	Japan Wildlife Research Center	Kumiko	Suzuki	ksuzuki@jwrc.or.jp
G	Korea (Korea Ocean Resesarch Developemt Institute)	Heung Sik	Park	hspark@kordi.re.kr
O	Nagao Natural Environment Foundation	Yoshihiro	Natori	ynatori@nagaofoundation.or.jp
O	National University of Singapore	Loke Ming	Chou	dbscilm@nus.edu.sg
O	Okinawa Prefecture	Shinichiro	Kakuma	kakumsh@pref.okinawa.lg.jp
O	Palau International Coral Reef Center	Adelle Lukes	Isechal	lisechal@picrc.org
G	Philippines (Department of Environment and Natural Resources)	Jacob Jr.	Meimban	jakemeimban@yahoo.com
O	Ramkhamhaeng University	Thamasak	Yeemin	thamasakyeemin@yahoo.com
O	Song Saa Private Island Resort	Barnaby	Olson	barnaby@songsaa.com
O	Song Saa Private Island Resort	Saran	Prak	saran@songsaa.com
G	Thailand (Phuket Marine Biological Center)	Niphon	Phongsuwan	nph1959@gmail.com
O	UNEP	Jerker	Tamelander	tamelander@un.org
O	Universiti Malaya	Affendi	Yang Amri	affendi@um.edu.my
O	Universiti Brunei Darussalam	David	Lane	david_jwlane@hotmail.com
O	University of the Philippines Mindanao	Cleto Jr.	Nanola.	tingnanola@yahoo.com
G	Vietnam (Ministry of Agruculture and Rural Development)	Giang Thu	Nguyen	giangthu@gmail.com thung.khcn@mard.gov.vn
G	Vietnam (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development)	Quoc Nghi	Nguyen	nghinq.khcn@mard.gov.vn

Annex 2. Final Agenda

Day 1, Sunday 9th October 2011

1. Opening Ceremony

1-1. Opening remarks

1-2. Welcome address

- Japan (Mr Naoki Amako, Assistant Director, Biodiversity Policy Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment)
- France on behalf of the ICRI Secretariat (Mr Dominique Mas, First Counsellor, French Embassy in Cambodia)
- Royal Government of Cambodia (His Excellency Nao Thuok, Director General, Fisheries Administration)

2. Introduction

2-1. Introduction of ICRI and East Asia

- 2-1-1. ICRI and its roles (Francis Staub)
- 2-1-2. Background of ICRI in East Asia (Kohei Hibino)

2-2. Workshop objectives, expected outcomes and procedure (Kohei Hibino)

3. Adoption of agenda

4. Coral Reefs and MPAs in Cambodia

4-1. Case studies of current work in Cambodia

- 4-1-1. Processes and planning Cambodia's First MPA (Ouk Vibol)
- 4-1-2. Cambodian Reef Conservation Programme (Robert Major)
- 4-1-3. Private Sector Involvement in Coral Reef Conservation in Cambodia (Barnaby Olsen and Prak Saran)

4-2. Discussion

5. ICRI Member Country Reports

5-1. Member country reports

- 5-1-1. Indonesia (Cherryta Yunia)
- 5-1-2. Korea (Heung-Sik Park)
- 5-1-3. Japan (Naoki Amako)
- 5-1-4. Philippines (Jacob Meimban)
- 5-1-5. Thailand (Nippon Phongsuwan)
- 5-1-6. Vietnam (Nguyen Giang Thu)

5-2. Reports from organizations

[Welcome dinner hosted by FiA Cambodia]

Day 2, Monday 10th October 2011

6. Follow-up of MPA Actions in the Regional Strategy

6-1. Introduction

6-2. Status of implementation of the Regional Strategy (Kohei Hibino)

6-3. MPA database, MPA gap analysis and habitat mapping

- 6-3-1. Regional MPA database and gap analysis (Kohei Hibino)
- 6-3-2. Habitat mapping (Naoki Amako)

6-4. MPA management effectiveness (Kohei Hibino)

6-5. Priority recommendations and MPA guidelines

- 6-5-1. Asia-Pacific Style MPAs (Shinichiro Kakuma)
- 6-5-2. Side event at the Asia Regional Conservation Forum
- 6-5-3. Good practice guide in the Pacific (Francis Staub)
- 6-5-4. IMCC indigenous workshop (Clive Wilkinson)

6-6. Other potential activities toward 2012

6-7. Breakout session

- 6-7-1. Introduction of the breakout session
- 6-7-2. Feedback in the plenary session

[Poster session]

Day 3, Tuesday 11th October 2011

7. GCRMN East Asia Network

7-1. Introduction

7-2. Reaffirmation of GCRMN's regional network as part of ICRI's regional mechanism

- 7-2-1. Introduction on GCRMN and ICRI (Clive Wilkinson)
- 7-2-2. GCRMN East Asia network (Loke Ming Chou)

7-3. East Asia's response to GCRMN's global transition (Jerker Tamelander)

7-4. Regional activities

- 7-4-1. Structure of GCRMN East Asia region
- 7-4-2. East Asia Regional Report 2014
- 7-4-3. Asia Pacific Coral Reef Symposium in 2014 (Allen Chen)

7-5. MPAs in Brunei Darussalam (David Lane)

7-6. Enhancement of coral reef monitoring and information sharing in the region

7-7. Wrap-up of the session

Special Session: The history of "Mr. GCRMN" (Clive Wilkinson)

Day 4, Wednesday 12th October 2011

8. ICRI's Regional Mechanism for East Asia

8-1. Introduction

8-2. ICRI's role and direction in East Asia (Kohei Hibino)

8-3. ICRI's regional mechanism for East Asia (Kohei Hibino)

8-4. ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop

Other matters

- Micronesian monitoring network supported by PICRC/JICA (Adelle Lukes Isechal)

8-5. Linkage with ICRI global process and future opportunities

- 8-5-1. France and Samoa ICRI Secretariat
- 8-5-2. ITMEMS4
- 8-5-3. ICRS 2012

8-6. Wrap-up of the session

9. Summary of the workshop

10. Closing

[Cocktail and farewell dinner hosted by MoE, Japan]

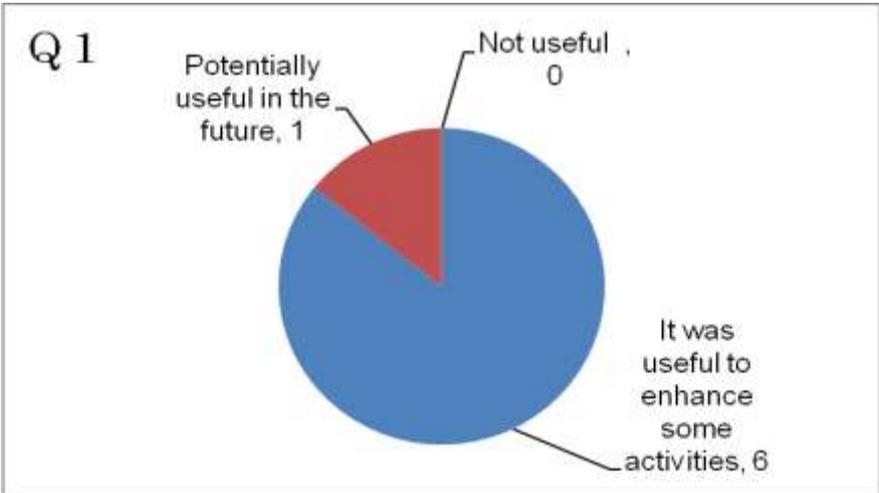
Day 5, Thursday 13th October 2011

[Informal fieldtrip to Angkor Temples]

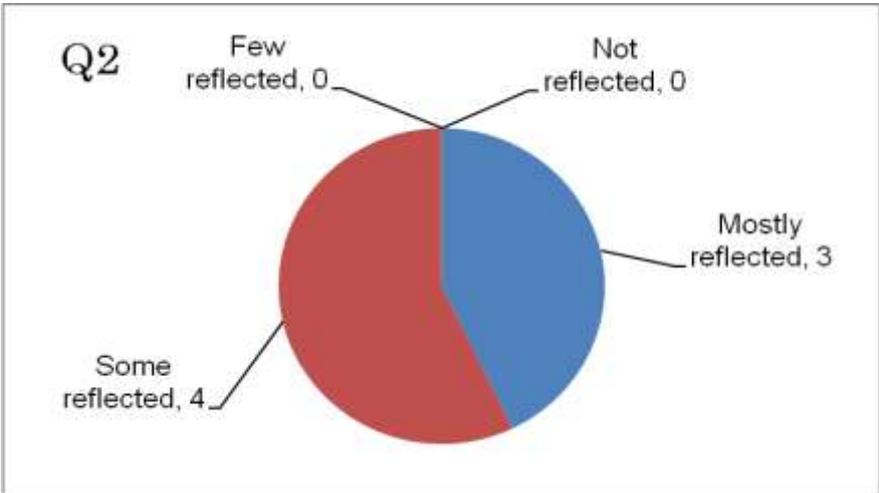
1. Leave hotel (around 08:00)
2. Angkor Wat
3. Angkor Tom (Bayon)
4. Lunch (at restaurant near the temples)
5. Ta Phroh
6. Come back to hotel (around 15:00)

Annex 3. Result of questionnaire survey on the progress of national level actions in the Regional Strategy

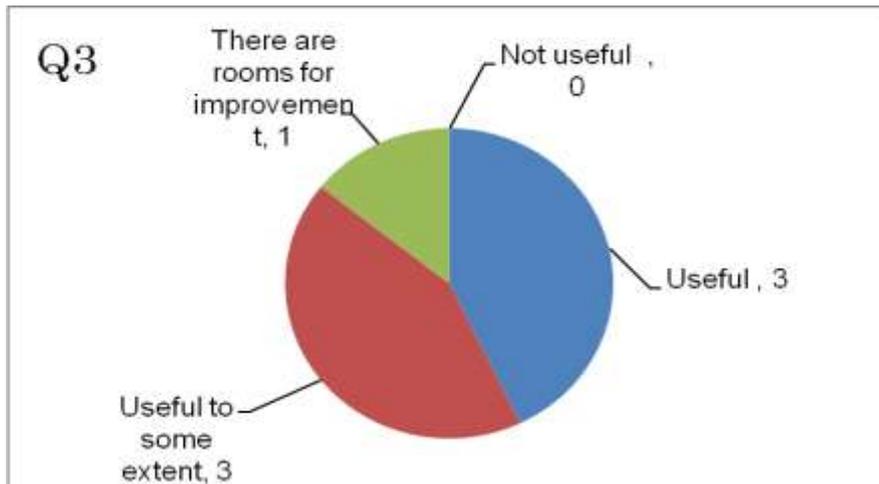
Prior to the workshop, the Workshop organizer conducted a questionnaire survey to assess the status of implementation of the national level actions in the Regional Strategy. Below figures summarizes the results of the feedback from the countries.



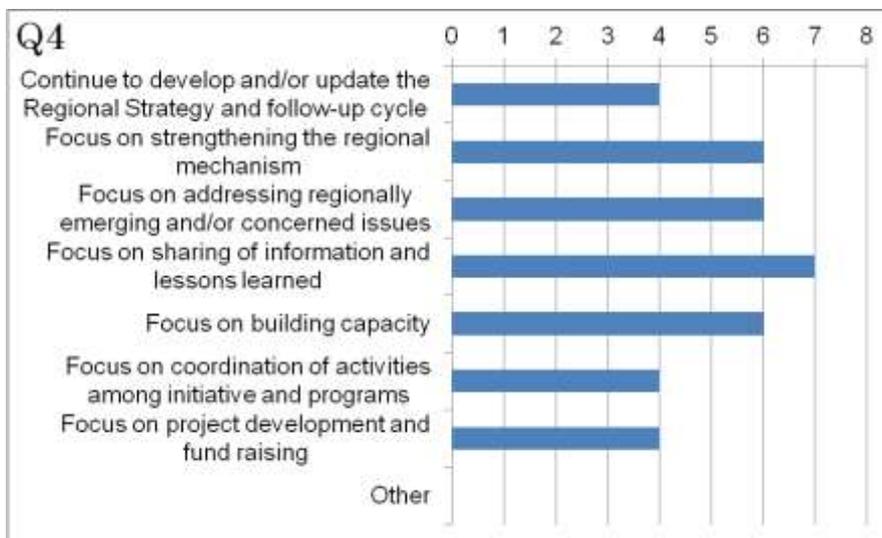
Q1. Was the Regional Strategy useful in enhancing any of the relevant policy in your country?



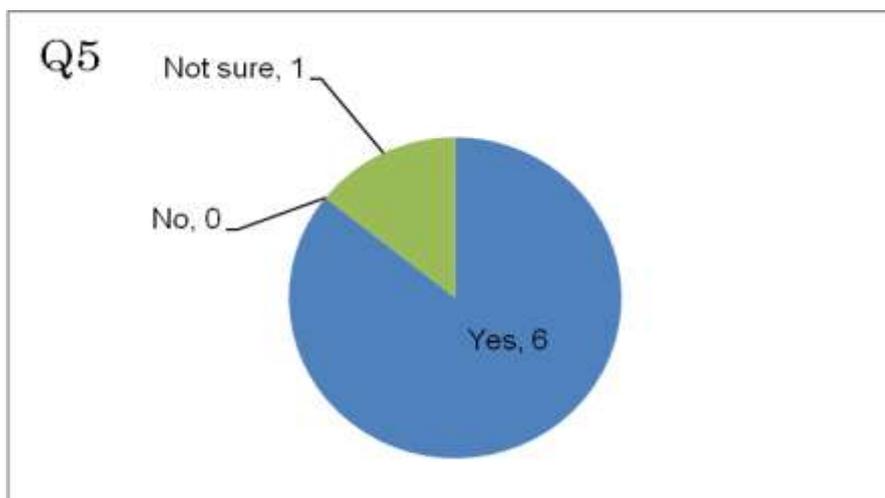
Q2. Were the needs of your country reflected in the Regional Strategy?



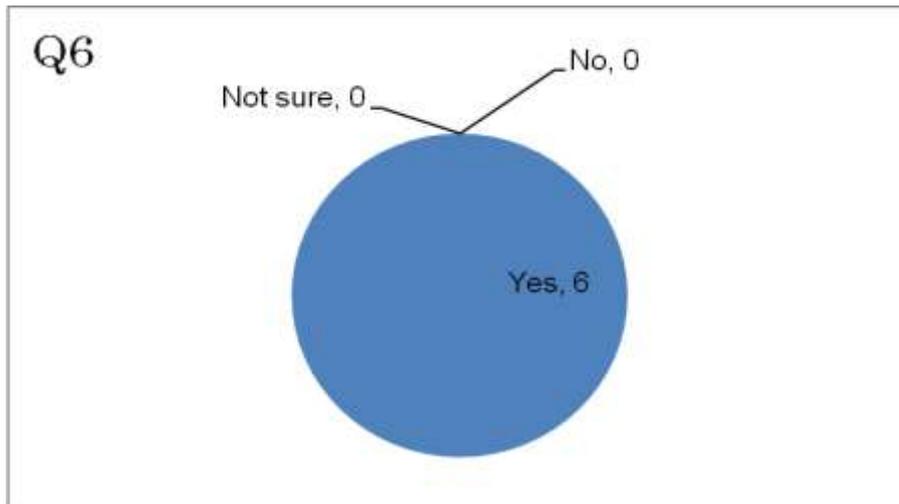
Q3. How did you (or your country) find the development process of the Regional Strategy (2008-2010)?



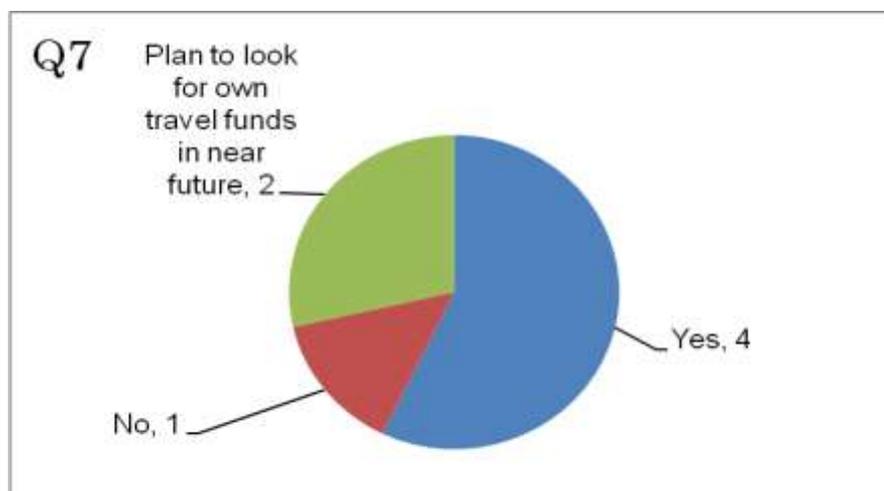
Q4. What are the proposed way forward for the future ICRI East Asia Regional Workshops? Mark all that apply.



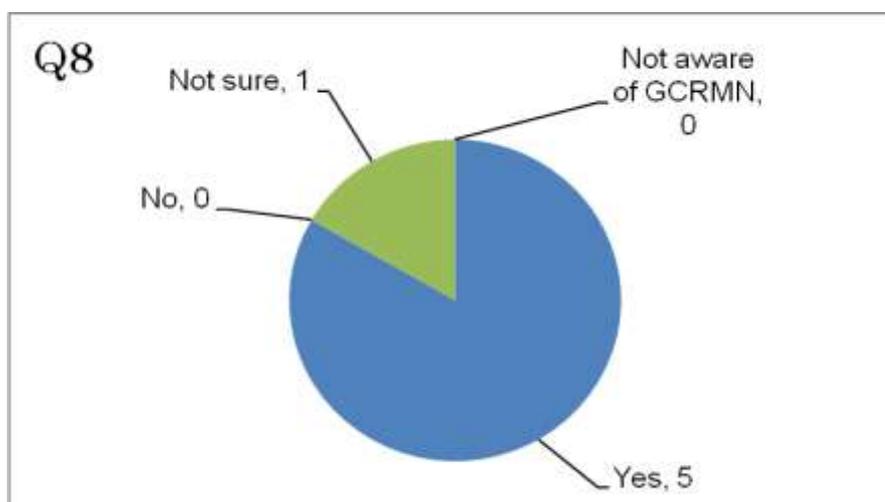
Q5. Does your county recognize ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop as an useful informal regional forum for cooperation and coordination?



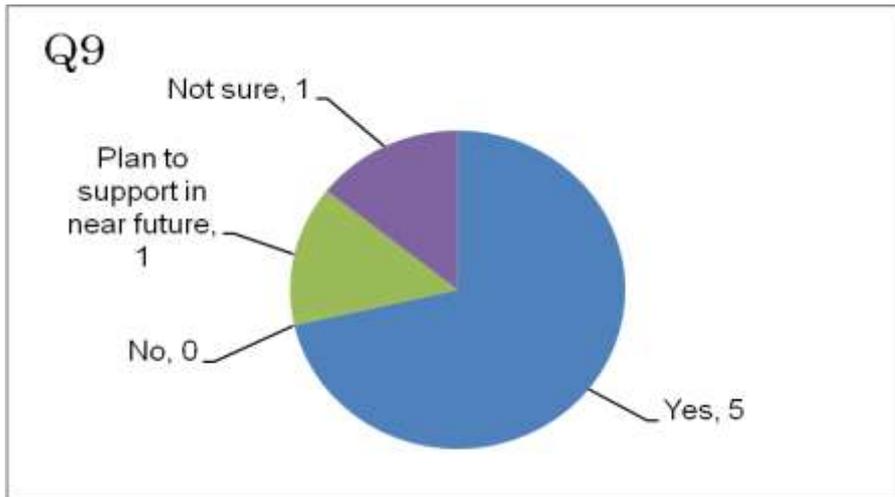
Q6. Have your country considered future hosting of ICRI East Asia Regional Workshops?



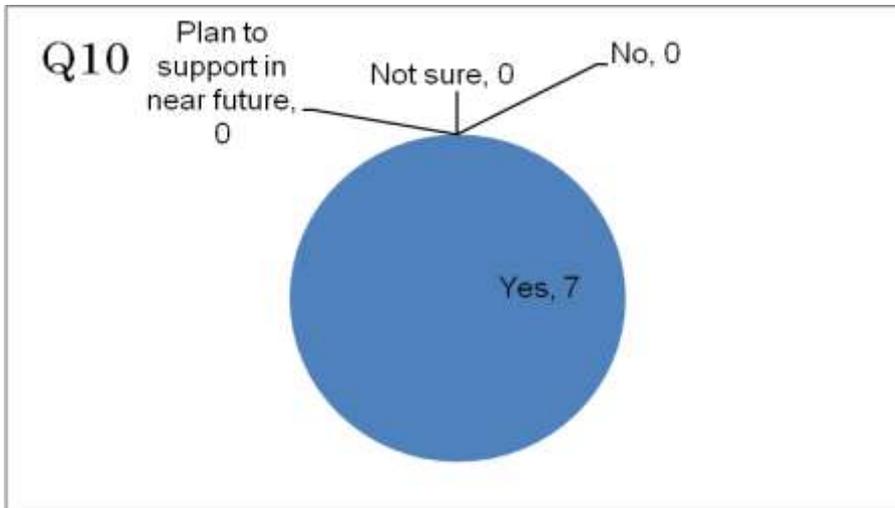
Q7. Was your country able to secure funding to send appropriate delegates to the 7th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop?



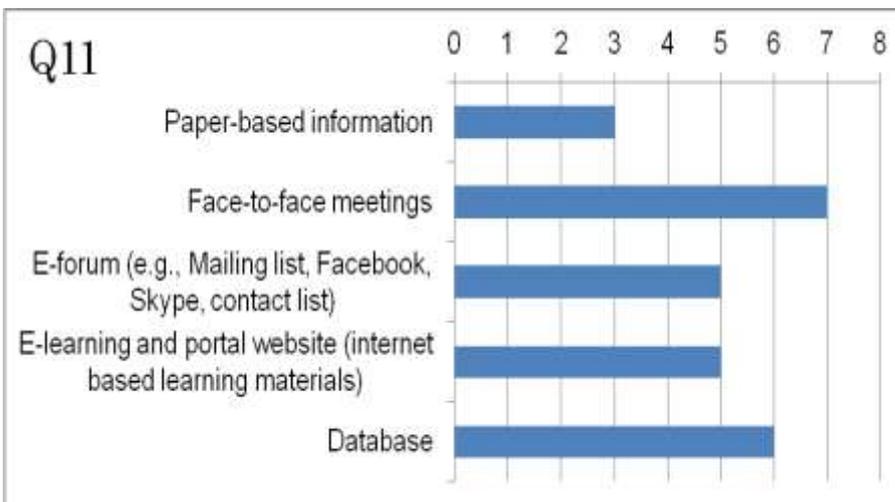
Q8. Do you know who is the national GCRMN coordinator in your country?



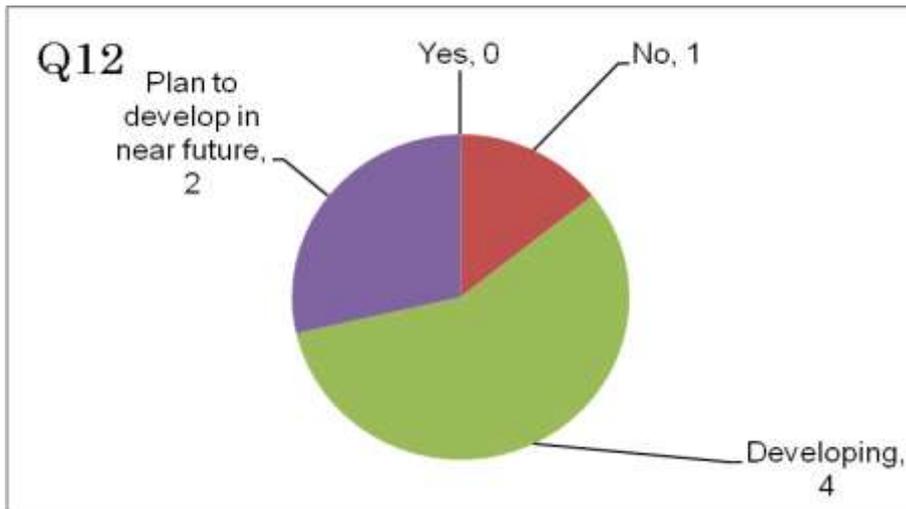
Q9. Is your country supporting the national GCRMN coordinator in any ways?



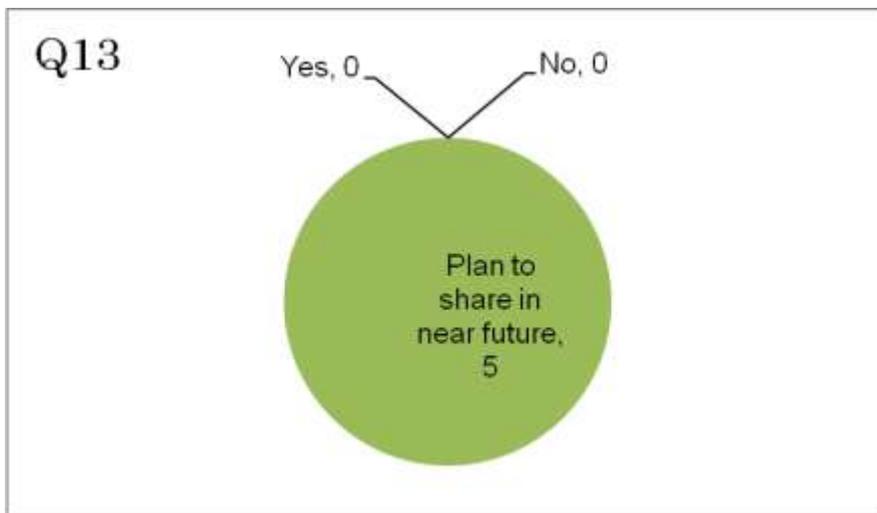
Q10. Is your country supporting nationwide coral reef monitoring activities?



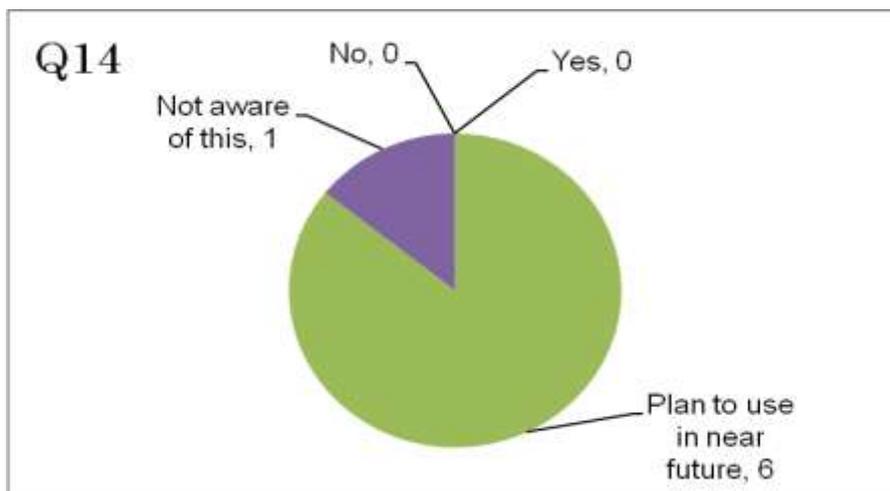
Q11. What type of information media do you think are required to fulfil the critical information needs in the region? Mark all that apply.



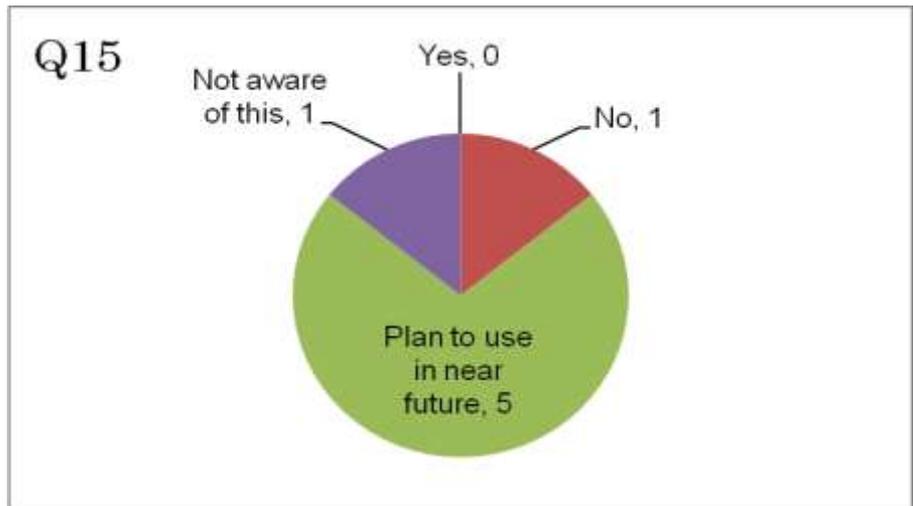
Q12. Does your country have your own national MPA database?



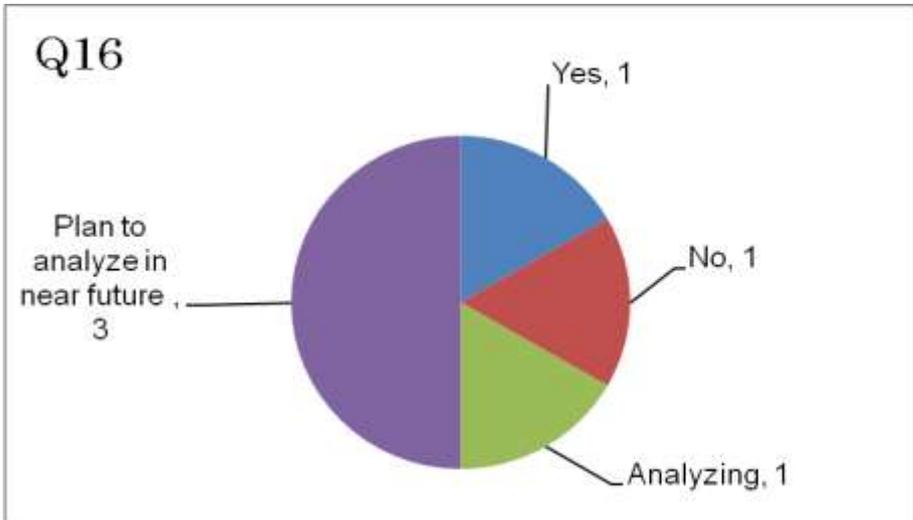
Q13. If Yes, is it sharing the data with ReefBase periodically?



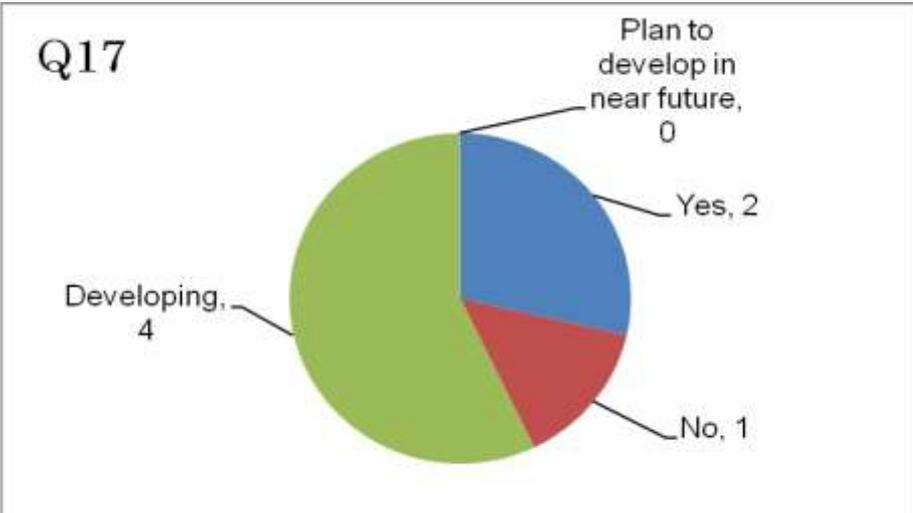
Q14. Is your country using your country page and data updating system on ReefBase?



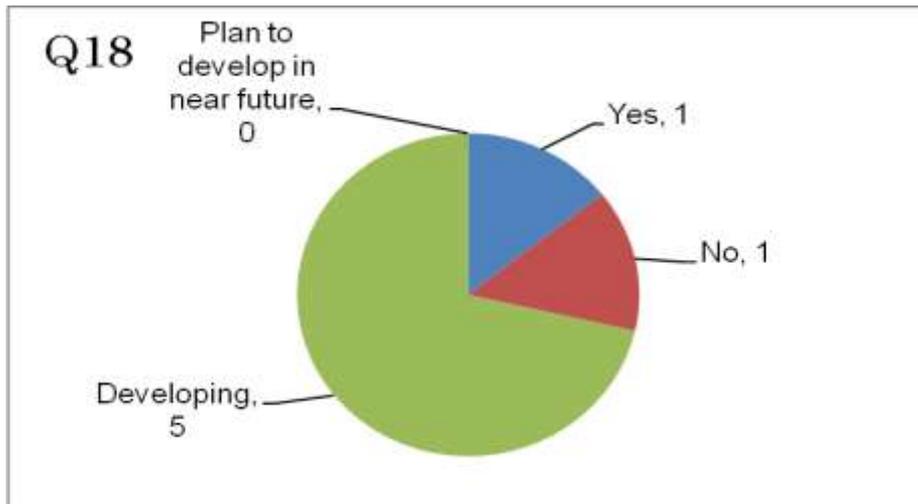
Q15. Have your country started to use the habitat map which was developed in 2010?



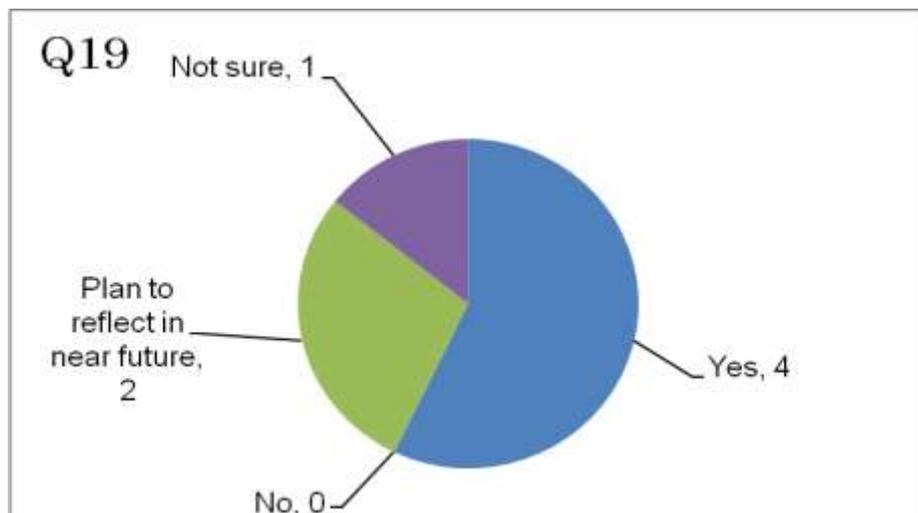
Q16. Have your country completed the MPA gap analysis?



Q17. Does your country have a national standard of MPA management effectiveness indicators?



Q18. Does your country have a national MPA management effectiveness system (i.e., data management tool, monitoring framework, feedback system, and a database)?



Q19. Have any of the suggested recommendations available in Annex 5 of the Regional Strategy been reflected to national policies?

Annex 4. Summary of discussion on GCRMN East Asia Network

BACKGROUND

The GCRMN is the main operational network of ICRI with the role of enhancing coral monitoring, raising awareness of the need for coral reef conservation and initiating direct activities on local reefs. The existing Southeast Asia Node and the North and East Asia Node have been historically cooperating and working quite actively together as one East Asia region.

ICRI is currently in the process of restructuring the GCRMN's global coordinating mechanism by strengthening the regional functions. These two Nodes are expected to be jointly coordinated under the new GCRMN global structure.

However, few of the governments in the region have recognized their role and activities, and also the coordinators have not recognized sufficiently the linkages of their network as well as activities to ICRI. This GCRMN regional network was proposed to be as one of ICRI's core regional mechanism for East Asia in the Regional Strategy.

Thus government representatives and GCRMN coordinators met and discussed the actual operation and effective use of the GCRMN regional network in the context of ICRI at the 7th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop in Siem Reap, Cambodia, October 2011. All national and node coordinators of GCRMN East Asian Region agreed to provide this Results and Discussion as a workshop document for further discussion between GCRMN management group and node and national coordinators of GCRMN East Asia region.

The GCRMN coordinators and ICRI country members recognised gaps and challenges on the mechanism of regional network in East Asia.

GAPS

- Difficulty for coordination to collect data from different organizations (governments, University, NGOs and consultancy companies) at national level
- Lack of communication between ICRI and GCRMN;
- Weakness on involvement of government agencies and institutions for sharing data
- Lack of communication/Gaps between management group and regional/node/national coordinators;
- Lack of long-term strategy to maintain data collection instead of current efforts on voluntary basis;
- Absence of Myanmar and Timor Leste.
- Lack of mechanism to help in obtaining funds to help collect information and capacity building for each country

CHALLENGES:

- Recruit alternative contacts and supporters for national coordinators to assist their data collection and coordination.
- Reflecting confirmed structure of node and national coordinators of GCRMN East Asia to the global transition concept
- Consideration of a better mechanism and structure of GCRMN East Asia in the context of new global GCRMN strategy
- Raising funds for regular publication of regional report

All the GCRMN node and national coordinators in East Asia region agreed to recommend these items below on ICRI regional mechanism of East Asia and GCRMN global transition.

RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSIDERATIO IN ICRI

ICRI Regional Mechanism:

- Provide improved opportunity of communication between ICRI and GCRMN
- Support national coordinators to link with different stakeholders (governments/NGOs)

- Enhance government participation in ICRI family
- To support participation country representatives in APCRS

GCRMN Global Transition:

- Invite regional/node coordinators to the discussion of management group
- Emphasize face to face communication to strengthening the regional and global networking
- Consider improving the support from Inter governmental organizations and linkage with international donors for sustainable management
- Maintain and improve flexibility on mechanism/structure of networking among the regions
- Consider current mechanism of APCRS to gather scientists and NGOs for information sharing

GCRMN East Asia members also recognised to implement actions below.

OTHER RECOGNITIONS

- Establishment of International Organizing Committee for supporting the 3rd APCRS in Taiwan 2014;
- Offer from GCRMN Philippines to host the 4th APCRS in 2018;
- Confirmation of timeline for preparation of global status report 2012 and regional status report 2014
- Offer from Coral Cay in collaboration with Cambodian Fisheries Administration to provide bleaching data of Cambodia for the global/regional report
- Consideration of involvement of Myanmar and Timor Leste in GCRMN East Asia region
- Informal network (non government representative system) allows countries to participate easily without bureaucracy
- Collaboration between ICRI members and GCRMN national coordinators to gather different agencies, institutions (including COREMAP) and NGOs to conduct monitoring in Indonesia.
- Recognitions/endorsement of country coordinators, perhaps by letter or certificate should be forwarded if requested by individuals. This would help their participations in node activities.