



GCRMN 12 Month Report – to December 2009 to ICRI

Presented by Clive Wilkinson, GCRMN

Reporting period December 2008 – December 2009

GCRMN activities since December 2008 are summarised for the Monaco ICRI General Meeting; this updates the 6 month report to the Phuket meeting, April, 2009. This report is also submitted to UNEP from the Reef & Rainforest Research Centre acknowledging finance from the USA as counterpart contributions supporting the GCRMN and Reef Check Asia-Pacific.

GCRMN Reports: ‘Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2008’ and ‘Socioeconomic Conditions along the World’s Tropical Coasts’

- The 304 page Status report was released simultaneously on 09 December 2008:
 - National Aquarium in Washington DC; IPCC COP meeting in Poznan Poland; Museum für Naturkunde (Museum of Natural History) in Berlin; and at the Colombian National Coral Reef Day;
 - The Washington launch was by Christine Dawson (Department of State), Jack Dunnigan (NOS Assistant Administrator, NOAA), Christy Loper (NOAA) and Clive Wilkinson.
 - Christy Loper simultaneously released ‘Socioeconomic Conditions along the World’s Tropical Coasts’ from the SocMon network which summarised the first extensive data on people associated with coral reefs around the world;
 - A press conference was held at the Australian Embassy on 10 December with Congressman Brian Baird, David Stuart from the Embassy, Christine Dawson, Kacky Andrews and Christy Loper (NOAA) and Clive Wilkinson;
 - The launch organised by IUCN at the IPCC meeting and chaired by Julia Marton-Lefevre (IUCN Director General) gathered considerable news attention with Olof Linden (WMU, Sweden) doing 40 media interviews which generated global media reports.
- The report was produced on budget with major contributions from the US Department of State and NOAA, along with financial assistance from UNEP, IOC-UNESCO, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the French IFRECOR group, IUCN, Project AWARE and Japan;
- The print run of 4,000 books, 7,000 CDs plus 4,000 brochures is largely exhausted. Copies of books and CDs were shipped to all 17 Nodes and to major contributors, and to major international meetings; some copies are for distribution in Monaco;
- Many GCRMN Nodes and participating countries either held Status 2008 report launches to detail their reef status or used the reports to highlight their activities within IYOR;
- A pre-launch with a 4 page brochure was made at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona in October 2008 in association with the US Department of State, CORDIO, SPREP, IYOR and NOAA;

‘Climate Change and Coral Reefs’ by the GCRMN

- A 6 page illustrated brochure on global climate change and coral reefs summarising the current and potential future impacts of accelerating climate change and coral reefs was produced for ICRI and released at the Copenhagen FCCC meeting in December;
- 10,000 copies were printed with 3000 going to Copenhagen for the ICRI Coral Reef day and the Oceans Day. The remaining copies were sent to ICRI partners with some copies for distribution in Monaco.
- The brochure was compiled with input from 24 experts (including those involved in ICRI) and is supported by documents lodged on www.ICRIforum.org/climatepapers

Other Publications

- The planned short book on effective catchment management and coral reefs that reflects the UNEP GPA programmes is being drafted, but delayed on the advice of the GPA office as they are reorganising the GPA network. Substantial support for case studies has been offered by

NOAA and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; support is also coming from CRISP and a new programme on catchment management in the Pacific called COWRIE;

- The GCRMN will cooperate with the World Resources Institute in producing 'Reefs at Risk Revisited' in 2010 by providing summaries of the status of the regions extracted from the Status 2008 report;
- These organisations along with Reef Check and CRISP will produce a Reefs at Risk report in 2010 for the wider Pacific to increase the local focus on reefs and the need for more conservation efforts;
- Production schedules and budgets for these reports will be discussed at the GCRMN Management Group meeting to report to the ICRI General Meeting.

Activities

- The French group ARVAM in Reunion completed development of the COREMO database after many programming problems. It was launched in the Pacific in September at a SPREP hosted training workshop in Apia, Samoa; this workshop was largely funded by contributions from NOAA, USA. Discussions are ongoing with the French Agency for MPAs about continued development of COREMO;
- Luis Valdes, jl.valdes@unesco.org is the new IOC-UNESCO representative on the GCRMN Management Group as well as Wenxi Zhu who coordinates coral reef activities from Bangkok. IOC will be represented by Jing Zhang (WESTPAC Project Leader on Coral Reef) in Monaco.

Regional Nodes

Nodes report ongoing monitoring activities at combined GCRMN and Reef Check sites with some evidence of minor coral bleaching in some countries e.g. in the South West Indian Ocean and crown-of-thorns starfish in the Red Sea and around Palau. All Nodes produced reports for Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2008 and many used the report to publicise their coral reef monitoring and conservation activities. Specific events were undertaken in the:

- Maldives, during World Water Day and World Meteorology Day (22 and 23rd March) to highlight reef status and related works by Maldives government agencies;
- Colombia during the 'National Day of Coral Reefs' in Cartagena, in December with the release of 1000 copies of the Spanish version of the Coral Reefs Poster, 1000 workbooks and summaries of 'Status 2008' in English and Spanish;
- Red Sea and Gulf of Aden where Status 2008 reports were distributed at a meeting of national MPA managers meeting in Jeddah (early 2009) and at the PERSGA council meeting in Djibouti (March 2009). Copies were sent to the national PERSGA contact points;
- France and overseas territories produced a press release to Agence France Presse (AFP) to highlight conclusions and recommendations, and Bernard Salvat gave numerous interviews on radio, TV and print media on global coral reef status and especially on French coral reef territories. Interviews and press articles appeared in French Polynesia during the Pacific Science Intercongress in March, and later in New Caledonia;
- Netherlands Antilles launched with the Governor and Minister of Environment participating;
- Singapore launched Status 2008 on 04 February 2009 in conjunction with a public lecture on Sustainable Development of Coasts and Oceans by Dr Chua Thia-Eng, chair of PEMSEA;
- Micronesia was unable to launch at the PICRC anniversary because of delayed delivery but distributed in the Marshall Islands at a climate change workshop in April.

Clive Wilkinson
Global Coordinator GCRMN
January 2010

1. General Information

Are you an ICRI Member?	Yes
Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	GCRMN
Focal Point 1:	

<i>Name:</i>	<i>Clive Wilkinson</i>
<i>Organization:</i>	GCRMN; www.gcrmn.org
<i>Email:</i>	clive.wilkinson@rrrc.org.au;
Focal point 2:	
<i>Name:</i>	Gregor Hodgson
<i>Organization:</i>	Reef Check
<i>Email:</i>	gregorh@reefcheck.org
Last meeting attended:	Phuket 2009
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Regular email communication with network and via Status reports etc.
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	US\$ 180,000 (approx) for calendar year 2009

2. Updates on your activities: see above

3. Contribution to the ICRI GM: see above

ICRI and Other Meetings - Are you considering attending any of the following meetings in 2009?

- NO** - 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Doha, Qatar, from 13 to 25 March 2010
- NO** - 5th Global Oceans Conference: Ensuring Survival, Preserving Life, and Improving Governance:
 - Policy, Science, and Technical Symposium (May 3-4, 2010)
 - Policy Conference (May 6-7, 2010)
- NO** - 10th Meeting of the conference of the Parties to the convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10), October 18-29, 2010, Nagoya, Japan
- YES** - Global Oceans Conference, Paris, 3 to 7 May 2010
- Maybe** - 2nd Asia Pacific Coral Reef Symposium, Phuket, 20-24 June 2010