



## Member’s report on activities to ICRI

Presented by The Nature Conservancy

Reporting period January 2008 – December 2009

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

### 1. General Information

Are you an ICRI Member?	Yes
Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	
<b>Focal Point 1:</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	Scott E. Smith
<i>Organization:</i>	The Nature Conservancy
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<i>Name:</i>	Sarah Davidson
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Last meeting attended:	Ft. Lauderdale, USA July 2008
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Via email and occasional reports
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	Approximately US\$4-5 million per year

For countries only:

<b>National Action Plan / Initiative</b>	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?	
Is this plan publicly available? If so please provide location:	
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative or Task Force?	
Are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relating to coral reefs:	
If yes, please indicate which programmes/initiatives:	

### 2. Updates on your activities (new initiatives/programs/projects of your government /organization which will be of interest to the ICRI Members)

#### Global Outreach

##### TNC-NOAA Coral Reef Partnership

In October 2009, TNC and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) began a four-year partnership to protect the health of coral reef ecosystems in the Caribbean, Florida, Hawai'i, and the Pacific Islands. TNC and NOAA will each dedicate US\$3.6 million to address the

top threats facing coral reef ecosystems: climate change, overfishing, and land-based sources of pollution. The partnership will support projects to develop place-based management strategies and plans; develop resilient marine protected area (MPA) networks; measure the effectiveness of reef management efforts; develop sustainable finance plans; and build capacity among reef managers at the global scale. Partnership activities in coming months will include (1) quarterly “webinars” and “hot topic” calls on important Reef Resilience topics, including invasive species and the development of bleaching response plans; (2) learning exchanges—the first will take place in June 2010 when a team from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority will meet with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary staff and other Florida and Caribbean region reef managers; and (3) launch of an online Reef Resilience course in March 2010. The course will take approximately 3 months, is free and open to all, and will be a pre-requisite for participants in future Reef Resilience workshops.

#### *Reef Resilience*

Since 2005, Reef Resilience training workshops carried out by TNC and its partners have reached over 150 coral reef managers in more than 45 countries in Southeast Asia, Florida, the Caribbean, Western Pacific, Western Indian Ocean and South Asia. We are now shifting to a training-the-trainers emphasis for these workshops; the next workshop will be held in the Florida Keys in June 2010. There will be an open application process beginning in January 2010 for 25 available spots. In May 2009, the Reef Resilience toolkit was re-released with new case studies and the most recent science. Also in 2009, the new [www.reefresilience.org](http://www.reefresilience.org) website was launched, which includes the online version of the toolkit and links to partners and the latest news on Reef Resilience.

#### *Ocean Acidification*

TNC convened a group of global ocean experts from the US and Australia in Hawai‘i in August 2008 to identify ways to respond to the challenge that ocean acidification poses to coral reef conservation and management and to chart a course of action to address ocean acidification. Workshop participants identified two major strategies that must be implemented urgently and concurrently to mitigate the impacts of climate change and to safeguard the value of coral reef systems: (1) limit fossil fuel emissions, and (2) build the resilience of tropical marine ecosystems and communities to maximize their ability to resist and recover from climate change impacts. The recommendations of the workshop are presented in the Honolulu Declaration on Ocean Acidification and Reef Management (see list of publications in 3.f). They were presented to the US Coral Reef Task Force, which issued its response at its meeting in November 2009.

#### *ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop*

TNC participated in the ICRI workshop on defining MPA networks in East Asia, held in Vietnam from December 8-11, 2009.

### **Caribbean**

#### *Caribbean Challenge*

The Caribbean Challenge was launched in 2008 and currently includes eight countries that have committed to protect 20% of their coasts and waters by 2020. When complete, the effort will nearly triple the area of marine and coastal habitat under protection to almost 21 million acres, transforming conservation throughout the Caribbean by creating a sustainably funded system of national parks and marine reserves to safeguard the region’s coral reefs, mangroves, beaches and fisheries. TNC has been a strong supporter of the Caribbean Challenge since its inception, and has pledged financial support to help countries of the region implement their commitments. In 2009, the Conservancy helped several Caribbean nations assess their existing protected area systems to identify the optimal locations for additional marine and coastal protected areas. TNC is also working with Caribbean Challenge countries to help establish and mobilize funding for national level Protected Area Trust Funds to generate permanent, dedicated, and sustainable funds for effective management, expansion and scientific monitoring.

#### *Meso-American Reef (MAR)*

TNC worked with a number of partners to develop an ecoregional plan for the MAR, which has been formally adopted and is now guiding priority programs and activities in the region. The Conservancy

has also supported the work of local partners at four MPA sites in the MAR (Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve in Mexico, Gladden Spit Marine Reserve in Belize, Punta de Manabique Wildlife Refuge in Guatemala, and Cayos Cochinos Natural Monument in Honduras), which serve as examples of effective conservation and management for other protected areas. There are now reef fish spawning aggregation sites (SPAGs) working groups active in México, Belize and Honduras, and they are progressing in the validation of all 76 SPAGs identified to date.

In Belize, TNC has collaborated with the Environmental Conservation Organization (ECO) and other NGOs and private sector to develop a Coral Watch Program, an early-warning system on the state of coral reefs. This program allows scientists to locate areas where reefs are experiencing bleaching and other changes, make an in-depth analysis, locate resistant areas, and document their recovery. The program was launched in October 2008 in response to a nation-wide bleaching event. Since then, many volunteers have been trained and reports have been submitted leading to coral bleaching monitoring across Belize's entire reef system. In addition, in 2008, TNC helped mobilize and co-financed a grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to complete a Financial Sustainability Plan for Belize's national protected area system. This grant is currently under the management of the National Protected Areas Commission. We are helping to provide baseline information on costs, define the contributions of government and NGOs, and identify potential gains in financial efficiency and sustainability.

In Mexico, TNC has worked with CONANP and a number of NGO partners on planning processes for five key protected areas: Alacranes Reefs National Park, Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve, Akumal –Tulum, Northeastern coast of Yucatán Peninsula, and Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve. As in Belize, TNC also supported the establishment of an Early Detection System for coral bleaching in Mexico, and is currently developing a Response Group.

In 2008, the Honduran Coral Reef Fund (HCRF) implemented a Conservation Action Plan (CAP) process to review and update the Management Plan for Cayos Cochinos Natural Marine Monument (CCMNM) 2009 - 2012, with TNC support. HCRF, together with leaders from several coastal communities, identified the importance and threats of the area located at the southern boundary of CCMNM. As a result of their actions, in May 2009, the protected area was expanded and a buffer zone increased between Cayos Cochinos and mainland; no industrial shrimp and lobster fishing is allowed within this zone, only artisanal fishers from local communities.

The Conservancy's work in the MAR has been supported in part by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

### *Eastern Caribbean*

For the first time in the Caribbean, decisions on the location and design of MPAs will be an integral component of a comprehensive national marine zoning scheme. In St. Kitts and Nevis, TNC is assisting with a multiple use marine zoning process that is integrating the needs of marine resources and marine environment users with marine conservation. Key stakeholders like divers, fishers, businesses, government agencies, and conservationists are participants in this two-year effort. The outcome will be a science-based marine zoning plan in which MPAs will be integrated with other uses such as tourism, recreation, ports, shipping, fishing, renewable energy, transportation, coastal protection, and aquaculture. The Conservancy's work in St. Kitts and Nevis is supported in part by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

### **Coral Triangle**

#### *Coral Triangle Initiative*

On May 15, 2009, in Manado, Indonesia, leaders of the six Coral Triangle countries — Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands — came together to officially launch the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI), an initiative designed to fundamentally transform resource use and protection throughout the Coral Triangle. The CTI Plan of Action lays out a regional vision for sustainable development with a clear path and time-bound goals for getting there. The Conservancy has worked very closely with the

government of Indonesia, other governments in the Coral Triangle region, WWF, Conservation International, and other partners to help develop the CTI. We are now helping develop a regional framework for monitoring and evaluation of the goals and objectives of the CTI Plan of Action. These activities are supported in part by the U.S. Department of State and Agency for International Development (USAID).

#### *Indonesia*

TNC has helped develop **new monitoring protocols** that will measure how well MPAs and their zoning and management plans are working. The methods are based on internationally accepted standards and have been developed to be simple, robust, and cost-effective. To date, three MPA sites in Indonesia have adopted the new protocols.

Partnering with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the **Wakatobi National Park** Authority, TNC helped redesign the park's management plan and zoning system to reduce destructive fishing. With the Conservancy's support, Wakatobi became the first Indonesian national park to adopt a zoning system that was jointly agreed upon by the central government, local government, and the local communities. The Conservancy's work in Wakatobi is supported in part by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Marine surveys, conducted by TNC and partners, found the highest coral and fish diversities ever recorded within the **Raja Ampat Island** region. With support from the Conservancy, the Raja Ampat district government and local communities designated seven new marine protected areas to preserve important reef habitats. Together, these areas cover almost 1.2 million hectares. TNC has helped prepare draft zoning plans for two of these MPAs—Kofiau and SE Misool—in consultation with local communities, government and other stakeholders. In August 2009, an eight-day MPA management training workshop was held for conservation practitioners in the **Bird's Head Seascape (BHS)**, conducted by TNC, Conservation International and WWF-Indonesia in collaboration with NOAA/National Marine Sanctuary Program. This is part of an intensive two-year training program for key local stakeholders, government officials, and traditional leaders as well as MPA management staff from the three international NGOs. TNC and Conservation International also support an outreach and education vessel, the *Kalabia*, that delivers a three-day intensive experiential course in marine conservation education to primary school children aimed at all 89 villages in Raja Ampat. So far, more than 3300 students have participated in the full three-day *Kalabia* course across 55 villages; another 1,200 have completed a condensed course. The success of the *Kalabia* program has led to discussions of replicating it elsewhere in the BHS and Indonesia.

In September 2009, the Conservancy and our partners in national, provincial and district governments, local communities, NGOs and universities, completed the design for a resilient network of MPAs in the **Lesser Sundas Ecoregion**. The MPA network took three years to design, and includes 100 protected areas — 86 coastal reserves and MPAs for coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass that are linked to 14 larger offshore MPAs which encompass deep sea habitats important for endangered species such as blue whales. The network design provides a conservation roadmap for this key marine ecoregion and is supportive of the Indonesian Government's goal to identify a national system of MPAs by 2011 and the Timor-Leste Government's goal to establish a nationwide network of MPAs. This effort contributed to the declaration of the 3.5 million hectare **Savu Sea Marine National Park** on May 13, 2009 at the World Oceans Congress in Manado, Indonesia. The Savu Sea is the centerpiece of the Lesser Sunda MPA network and is the largest MPA in the Coral Triangle region and one of the largest in the world.

#### *Papua New Guinea*

TNC led the development of the design of a network of MPAs in **Kimbe Bay** that, for the first time, explicitly incorporates the principles of resilience developed by TNC and others in the early 2000s and that are now reflected in several global environmental agreements and commitments. The process of designing the MPA network was featured in a recent article in a special edition of *Oryx* (Green et al., 2009) and has gained global recognition, especially as climate change and its impacts on coasts and oceans has become a more prominent concern in recent years. Experience from the project is a substantial foundation for Papua New Guinea's Plan of Action under the Coral Triangle Initiative.

The MPA network design provides a framework for long-term conservation in Kimbe Bay. To provide the legal foundation for creating and managing locally-managed marine areas (LMMAs)—the core strategy for implementing the MPA network design—TNC partnered with a local environmental law NGO and the three local level governments (LLGs) covering all of Kimbe Bay’s coastal areas to develop and put in place environmental management laws. Building on TNC’s conservation approach and our experience with community-based conservation elsewhere in PNG, we also developed, piloted, and revised over several years a six-step community-based planning process that now guides our work to implement the MPA network design with communities within the 14 Areas of Interest identified in the MPA design. Following this process, several communities have now established LMMAs and have legally binding management plans in place. The Conservancy’s work in Kimbe Bay is supported in part by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The report of the **Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA) of the northern Bismarck Sea** in Papua New Guinea was published in early 2009 (see list of publications in 3.f). Led by TNC, the team assessed the marine biodiversity near the Tigak Islands (New Ireland Province) and Manus Island (Manus Province). Fish populations were very healthy in most locations in Manus, with spectacular fish communities and lots of big fish observed at several sites. However, there was some evidence of overexploitation in the Tigak Islands.

#### *Solomon Islands*

In Choiseul, the Conservancy has partnered with the Lauru Land Conference, a well-established and influential traditional leadership organization, to support the establishment of a network of LMMAs throughout all 12 Lauru Land Conference areas. At the Lauru Land Conference of Tribal Communities annual meeting in October 2009, over 100 chiefs from Choiseul Province provided their unanimous support for establishing a “ridges to reefs” protected areas network for Lauru and for establishing at least one MPA and one terrestrial protected area within the next two years for each of the 12 wards in Lauru.

#### **Micronesia**

After nine years with TNC, in July 2009 the host institution for the Micronesians in Island Conservation (MIC) Network moved to the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT). MCT is a regional organization established to support biodiversity conservation and related sustainable development for the people of Micronesia. MCT is the only Micronesia-based organization set up to provide long-term, sustained funding to community-based organizations and other non-governmental organizations through a grants program. With MIC’s assistance, MCT will also be able to provide capacity building and organizational effectiveness support and training. The coordination of MIC will also include the coordination of the Pacific Islands Managed Protected Areas Community (PIMPAC) which is currently co-coordinated by a representative of NOAA and MCT.

In 2009, the Conservancy piloted a process combining our Conservation Action Planning (CAP) approach and management planning elements from the Locally Managed Marine Area network (LMMA) and PIMPAC, with funding support from NOAA. Experienced CAP coaches facilitated teams from Chuuk, Marshall Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and Yap at each of their sites to develop draft CAPs and initiate the process of developing management plans.

#### *Palau*

In 2009, the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) and TNC partnered with a number of local agencies, including the State Governments of Ngarchelong and Kayangel, Palau Conservation Society (PCS), and Belau National Museum, to carry out an REA of the Northern Reefs of Palau, including the atoll of Kayangel and the sunken atoll of Velasco. The purpose of the REA was to assess the biodiversity and health of the marine ecosystems systematically, using methodologies used in other jurisdictions in Micronesia. The results of the REA will assist the states identify sites for inclusion in the Palau Protected Areas Network.

#### *Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)*

In August 2008, TNC partnered with Chuuk State Government agencies, Chuuk Conservation Society

(CCS), and the MCT to conduct an REA for the state of Chuuk. The REA assessed the biodiversity and overall health of the marine ecosystems of the state, identified critical sites for inclusion in a protected areas network, and trained a next generation of “field identification experts” for the region. These results will be used to build awareness in the community, as well as to guide and inform policy on activities that threaten these sites. With the completion of the Chuuk REA, marine assessments have now been completed for all four states in the FSM. While there are still many outer islands that need to be surveyed, at present, TNC has been able to assist partners to fill many data gaps, and they are now using this information for the design and establishment of the FSM Protected Areas Network.

## **United States**

### *US Virgin Islands*

With support from NOAA, TNC is helping establish underwater nurseries to raise endangered elkhorn and staghorn corals resilient to climate change that will be replanted at select sites around the islands. Careful monitoring at each step of the project will provide valuable lessons learned for future coral restoration efforts throughout the Caribbean and beyond.

### *Florida*

The TNC-led Florida Reef Resilience Program brings scientists, reef managers, and resource user groups together to develop strategies to improve the health of Florida’s reefs and enhance the economic sustainability of reef-dependent commercial enterprises and recreational activities. TNC staff coordinates annual “Disturbance Response Monitoring” focused primarily on coral bleaching as an important indicator of reef condition and resilience and we facilitate a network of human dimensions scientists studying people’s diverse relationships with Florida’s reefs. Results of this monitoring and research may be used by reef managers to design new MPAs and increase management effectiveness in existing ones. In addition, we are working to accelerate the recovery of threatened staghorn and elkhorn coral using an extensive network of seafloor coral nurseries and associated restoration sites. This coral recovery project includes sites in Dry Tortugas National Park, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Biscayne National Park off Miami, and the reefs off Fort Lauderdale and it is linked to the very similar work in the U.S. Virgin Islands (see above).

### *Hawai‘i*

TNC is working in close collaboration with local community groups and State and federal partners to reduce degradation to coral reef ecosystems around Hawai‘i, Maui, and O‘ahu Islands. Major efforts include community-based conservation projects including marine reserve design and establishment, large-scale invasive marine algae removal and native habitat restoration, and support for *Fair Catch*, an innovative social marketing campaign focused on the promotion of responsible fishing practices which led to the passage of strong new regulations limiting the use of destructive lay gill nets. We have focused our site-based work with community groups and residents who have demonstrated a strong interest in managing adjacent coral reefs in areas of high biological importance as identified out of our recently completed marine ecoregional assessment. Faced with deepening budget cuts and limited management capacity, the State government has requested TNC’s assistance to work with building the capacity of community partners in helping the State manage priority coral reef sites. Our aim is to help build management capacity at the local level while also building public support for increased marine protection, improved coral reef management, and stronger enforcement statewide.

**3. Contribution to the ICRI GM:** *Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the current ICRI action plan and objectives of the general meeting. Due to the heavy schedules of ICRI members, we have tried to keep the questions to a minimum and value any response you can provide.*

- a. **Fisheries session:** *Please provide any lessons you have learned from your experiences in managing fisheries and any projects/programs you are involved in.*

The Nature Conservancy's sustainable fisheries activities seek to help bring about a shift to an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) management in policies and practices. This complements our long-standing work to address fisheries through the creation and effective management of MPAs and protection of reef fish spawning aggregations. Highlights of some of TNC's current fisheries activities are listed below:

**Jamaica's** last viable fishery on the Pedro Bank is increasingly threatened by overfishing. To inspire change and promote sustainable fisheries management, a Conservancy scientist followed a group of fishers from Pedro Bank and Belize during a fisher exchange as they visited each other's fishing grounds. The result was a moving documentary entitled *Massa God Fish Can Done*, as told through the experiences and voices of the fishers from Belize and Pedro Bank. The point of making a documentary about the fishers' experiences and insights was to share the experience of the learning exchange with as many people as possible and to call attention to the current crisis facing Jamaica's fisheries and other marine resources. Pedro Bank fishers know their fisheries are in trouble and have witnessed the benefits of MPAs and well-managed fisheries through their visit to Belize. These fishers now support the creation of a MPA on Pedro Bank, recognizing the value that conservation has on their livelihoods. The documentary, produced by Vagabond Media in partnership with TNC, premiered at a small arts festival in Kingston, Jamaica in June 2009.

#### *Reef Fish Spawning Aggregation Sites*

TNC's sustainable fisheries work in the **Meso-American Reef** is focused on the protection of reef fish spawning aggregations (SPAGs). In **Belize**, the Conservancy played a critical role in gathering necessary data to secure that SPAGs be placed under legal protection in 2003, and now supports local capacity to protect and monitor SPAG sites. TNC continues to provide technical and financial support to the Belize National SPAG Working Group. Focus is placed on the protection and monitoring of the Gladden Spit and Silk Cayes Marine Reserve, which supports over 30 different species of spawning fish and a large whale shark aggregation. The work at Gladden Spit is made possible through a long-term collaborative partnership with the Southern Environmental Association (SEA), formerly Friends of Nature, and has resulted in the most complete data set on SPAGs in the region. We are also collaborating with SEA on a comparative study across three MPAs in the Southern Belize Reef Complex that examines the effect of differing management schemes on Queen Conch and spiny lobster populations. The results of this study will guide the sustainable management of conch and lobster fisheries in Belize. In **Honduras**, between 2007 and 2008, TNC helped validate reef fish SPAGs in Cayos Cochinos, which resulted in the declaration of these sites as protected during the spawning season. In 2009, TNC also supported the evaluation of SPAGs in Roatan and Utila. TNC has supported the Honduran National Spawning Aggregation Working Group, which initiated a SPAGs communication campaign in October 2009 at Cayos Cochinos as a pilot site.

In 2004, TNC's office in **Kavieng, Papua New Guinea**, started a monitoring program for two SPAGs in New Ireland. The larger of these two sites (Site 1) was intensively fished on several occasions between 1995 and 2003 to supply Live Reef Food Fish Trade operations. During this period, aggregations at Site 1 were also routinely targeted by artisanal fishers. As a consequence, local fishers reported dramatic declines in the abundance of groupers in 2004. TNC worked to raise awareness of the importance of conserving reef fish spawning aggregations among the clan and community that own this aggregation site. These consultations resulted in this clan agreeing to place a customary *tambu* (ban) on their site in order to allow the aggregations to recover. The Conservancy began monitoring the site in September 2004. Four and a half years later, this *tambu* is still in place and aggregations have shown a remarkable improvement. Following protection, densities of one grouper species increased rapidly and the area over which the aggregation formed expanded into shallower water. The community that owns Site 1 is now working with Conservancy staff to manage and conserve a range of other marine resources and areas that fall within their customary control.

#### *Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)*

TNC and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) collaborated on a study to understand *The Ecosystem Approach to Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture in Pacific Island Countries* (see list of publications in 3.f). The report was published in February, 2009, and distributed at the 6<sup>th</sup> Pacific Heads of Fisheries Meeting. Conventional fisheries management aims to manage human activity in

order to maximise fisheries production, economic benefits, employment or national revenues. EAF focuses not only on these aspects, but also on maximizing a broader range of ecosystem services and functions, in order to provide a greater array of human benefits, maintain alternative development options, ensure that coastal ecosystems are sufficiently resilient to withstand other stresses, and guarantee long-term resource sustainability. Part 1 of the report provides the background to what EAF is and the current status of the ecosystem approach to coastal fisheries and aquaculture in the Pacific. Part 2 considers the strategies for the further implementation of EAF within the Pacific region and the related challenges and opportunities. TNC and SPC will continue to collaborate on supporting Pacific Island countries to adopt and apply the EAF principles. The report can be downloaded from: <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/pacific.island.countries.publications/CoastalMarine>

More recently, TNC has been working with FAO Fisheries and SPC to develop “An ecosystem approach to community-based fisheries management: guidelines for Pacific island countries”. A review workshop was hosted by TNC in November 2009 in Brisbane, Australia. We are aiming to launch the guidelines at the next Pacific Heads of Fisheries meeting in February 2010.

In 2009, the Conservancy also contracted with Dr. Simon Foale (Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, James Cook University) to conduct a review of the TNC Melanesia Program’s community engagement and local MPA approaches in terms of how effective they are in addressing fisheries issues and how we might modify them to ensure EAF principles and practices are effectively incorporated (see list of publications in 3.f). The report is available at <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/pacific.island.countries.publications/CoastalMarine>

#### *Live Reef Food Fish Trade*

With TNC support, a National Fisheries Authority (NFA) Stakeholder Workshop on the Management of the Live Reef Food Fish Trade in **Papua New Guinea** was held in July 2009. The purpose of the workshop was to review and update the National Live Reef Food Fish Fishery Management Plan (2003), bringing together 37 representatives of government (national, provincial and local), fishing industry, community and non-government organizations. A similar workshop was held by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources in the **Solomon Islands** in August 2009. Its purpose was to review and update the draft National Management and Development Plan for the Live Reef Food Fish Fishery (2003), bringing together 49 representatives of government (national, provincial and local), fishing industry, community and non-government organizations. Both reviews applied EAF principles and evaluated the plans against the International Standard for the Trade in Live Reef Food Fish. The participants identified key issues and management actions needed, provided specific recommendations to NFA and MFMR, respectively, on the sustainable development and management of the live reef food fish trade and revisions to the management plan, and identified key research and monitoring priorities. The workshop reports were due to be circulated in November 2009.

- b. *The ICRI secretariat is planning on revisiting/updating the ICRI “call to action” ([http://www.icriforum.org/library/call\\_action.pdf](http://www.icriforum.org/library/call_action.pdf)) and ICRI “framework to action” ([http://www.icriforum.org/library/framework\\_action.pdf](http://www.icriforum.org/library/framework_action.pdf)). Please provide any guidelines you think would be useful.*
- c. *During the meeting, a full day will focus on the Caribbean region. If you have any question about the region, ongoing projects in the region,... please let us know.*

See updates provided above section 2 for information about activities in the Caribbean. In terms of the agenda for the full day discussion on Caribbean issues, we have the following suggestions:

1. We think the day should include an update on the Caribbean Challenge. Depending on who is there (i.e., from Caribbean governments), this update could be provided by one or more of the government representatives or by TNC. We would be prepared to talk about the work that TNC has been involved with in Jamaica related to the Caribbean Challenge, including the Marine Gap Assessment, focusing on coral reefs, and the fish sanctuaries and our activities at Pedro Bank.

2. Either as part of the Caribbean Challenge or fisheries sessions, or separately, we propose including the screening of the video, *Massa God Fish Can Done*, followed by Q&A with the producer (Nathalie Zenny, TNC).

3. A major outcome of the day's discussions could be a mapping of various regional and national projects and activities related to coral reefs and marine conservation in the region...not just limited to updates on the major regional projects. Members should bring and be prepared to discuss a complete inventory of their projects, objectives, presence, capacity, etc. in the Caribbean. This would include the new CI CEPF (if possible) as well as the planned IUCN/WCPA-Marine Protect Planet Ocean Review (with funding from IDB) aimed at refining MPA data, gaps, and priorities in the region.

4. It would be good to schedule the 4 parallel groups on fisheries, MPAs, tourism, and invasive species so each group could report back and have a plenary discussion of key conclusions during the day. It would also be helpful to structure these discussions around a couple of key questions to be sure they are focused and productive.

d. *During the meeting, we are planning on having a presentation on the "Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)". Could you please list your coral reef sites listed under the MAB programme.*

e. *What other new initiatives/programs/projects/progress, in particular since April 2009, has been made by your government/organization relative to Marine Protected Areas, Ramsar site designations containing coral reefs, policy changes, economic valuation of coral reef ecosystem services, etc., which you believe would be of general interest to other ICRI Members?*

[See report of current activities in section 2 above.]

f. *Please list publications, reports you have been released since April 2009*

Björk M., Short F., Mcleod, E. and Beer, S. (2008). *Managing Seagrasses for Resilience to Climate Change*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. 56pp

Foale, S. 2009. A Review of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries within The Nature Conservancy's Community Engagement Processes in Melanesia. TNC Pacific Island Countries Report No. 2/09

Green, A., Lokani, P., Sheppard, S., Almany, J., Keu, S., Aitsi, J., Warku Karvon, J., Hamilton, R and G. Lipsett-Moore 2007. Scientific Design of a Resilient Network of Marine Protected Areas. Kimbe Bay, West New Britain, Papua New Guinea. TNC Pacific Island Countries Report No. 2/07.

Green, A.L. and Bellwood, D.R. (2009). *Monitoring functional groups of herbivorous reef fishes as indicators of coral reef resilience – A practical guide for coral reef managers in the Asia Pacific region*. IUCN working group on Climate Change and Coral Reefs. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. 70 pages.

Green A.L., Cros, A., Peterson, N., Hamilton, R., Whitford, L., Cantin, E., Lokani, P., Lipsett-Moore, G., Masike, B., Sapul, A., Ulae, G., Sheppard, S., Castro Schmitz, Durnin, M. 2009. Measuring Success of the Coral Triangle Program: a Case Study from Kimbe Bay, Papua New Guinea. TNC Coral Triangle Program Report 1/09. 74 pp.

Green, A., S. E. Smith, G. Lipsett-Moore, C. Groves, N. Peterson, S. Sheppard, P. Lokani, R. Hamilton, J. Almany, J. Aitsi, and L. Bualia. 2009. Designing a resilient network of marine protected areas for Kimbe Bay, Papua New Guinea. *Oryx* 43:488-498.

Hamilton, R., A. Green and J. Almany (eds.) 2009. Rapid Ecological Assessment: Northern Bismarck Sea, Papua New Guinea: Technical report of survey conducted August 13 to September 7, 2006. TNC Pacific Island Countries Report 1/09.

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA) (2008). *Establishing Marine Protected Area Networks—Making it Happen*. Washington, DC: IUCN-WCPA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and The Nature Conservancy, 118p.

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

- 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
- 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)
- 10th Meeting of the conference of the Parties to the convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10), October 18-29, 2010, Nagoya, Japan
- Other (please specify):
  - Ramsar Convention Scientific and Technical Review Panel, February 19-26, 2010, Gland, Switzerland
  - CBD SBSTTA-14 meeting, May 10-21, 2010, Nairobi, Kenya