



UNEP-WCMC report on activities to ICRI

Presented by One Ocean Programme, UNEP-WCMC

www.unep-wcmc.org/oneocean

Reporting period April – December 2009

1. General Information

Are you an ICRI Member?	Yes
Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Administrative Secretariat/UNEP-WCMC
Focal Point 1:	Terri Young
<i>Email:</i>	terri.young@unep-wcmc.org
Focal point 2:	Nicola Barnard
<i>Email:</i>	nicola.barnard@unep-wcmc.org
Last meeting attended:	Thailand, April 2009
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Email updates, meetings and reports

During this reporting period, the One Ocean Programme has been host to the [Secretariat of the International Coral Reef Initiative \(ICRI\)](#), the Coordinating Unit of the [International Coral Reef Action Network \(ICRAN\)](#), and the [UNEP Coral Reef Unit \(CRU\)](#).

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

Global Coral Disease Database

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and UNEP-WCMC have worked in partnership since 2000 to compile and organise published data on the occurrence of coral disease for the benefit of managers, scientists and other stakeholders. The Global Coral Disease Database (GCDD) is the only compilation on the worldwide occurrence of coral diseases, holding over 7000 referenced data entry points with records dating back to 1970. UNEP-WCMC is leading activities to advance the visibility and functionality of the GCDD to ensure its increased relevance and value for users, and to build an active user base.

A user needs survey provided feedback on the key attributes and functions of the GCDD, the results of which were interpreted in collaboration with an expert advisory group to inform the responsive redevelopment of the GCDD. A range of quality assurance mechanisms and the redevelopment of the GCDD in line with international standards and methodologies have helped to build confidence in the potential of this facility, and have established greater awareness among the research and management community, preparing the foundations for active and sustainable data collaboration into the future.

Furthermore, UNEP-WCMC will act in a co-chair capacity to the **International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Ad Hoc Committee on Coral Disease** during 2010. The Committee will seek to raise the profile of the global status and ecological and socio-economic implications of diseases in tropical marine ecosystems, and will guide and inform collaborative action among ICRI members, and further best practice in disease

monitoring. ICRI members are encouraged to participate in this initiative through the *ad hoc* Committee. For further information, please contact nicola.barnard@unep-wcmc.org.

Global Islands Database

Funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through UNEP DEWA, the Global Islands Database (GID) aims to enhance the participation and role of islands in international decision-making through identifying and bringing together existing sources of data and information relevant to island systems, and presenting new analyses to aid resource managers and decision-making at the island, national, regional, and global level. The GID also aims to develop linkages, partnerships and collaborations with the wide array of organisations involved in island conservation and decision-making to ensure that the database is up-to-date and relevant, and as such it provides a platform for communication and networking. Key partners currently include the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA), the Global Islands Network (GIN), IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG), and Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk (PIER). A Beta version of the Global Islands Database (GID) is currently under review and the final tool will be available online shortly. For further information please contact francine.kershaw@unep-wcmc.org

GRAME Database

UNEP-WCMC, in partnership with UNEP/GRID-Arendal, has completed a collaborative project funded by UNEP to produce a prototype Clearing House Mechanism in support of the UNGA Regular Process and to update the GRAME Database (www.unep-wcmc.org/gramed). The prototype has been designed to demonstrate the look, feel and functionality of a web-based tool which can start to address the knowledge management requirements for implementing a Regular Process. A detailed technical report accompanies the web-based tool and presents the background and context, the technical and content site specifications, a focus on key considerations for data management, and a summary of decisions and questions which will need consideration before the next stage of work. The GRAME Database has also been streamlined and updated, with details of more than 900 assessments now available, providing a comprehensive and sustainable directory of past and existing assessment activities in the marine environment.

Identification of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas of the Open Oceans and Deep Seas

UNEP-WCMC has been working with partners in the Pacific to develop an ocean-scale regional analysis on protecting marine biodiversity, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction. This is part of a growing UNEP-WCMC portfolio of work related to the Convention on Biological Diversity for the past several years. In close collaboration with partners including IUCN, the French MPA Agency, the Marine Conservation Biology Institute and Duke University, UNEP-WCMC is seeking to identify ecologically and biologically significant areas of the open oceans and deep seas. In the future, this effort will provide an important scientific basis for prioritizing decisions on protection across vast marine areas. In January 2010, UNEP-WCMC will host a high seas planning meeting, bringing together 15-20 experts from around the world to determine the next phase of strategies including analyses and preparations for COP meetings in 2010.

Reefs at Risk Revisited

As part of UNEP-WCMC's contribution to the Reefs at Risk Revisited partnership, work has continued in 2009 in collaboration with partners IMaRS/USF, IRD/UR, NASA, WRI, TNC and the WorldFish Center, to improve the extent and quality of the global coral reef dataset by incorporating further validated products from the Millennium coral reef mapping project (mapped from 30m landsat satellite imagery) and sourcing other data from national and regional partners where Millennium products were not available. This effort and the feedback from an external review has enabled the improvement of

information for many areas (e.g. Bahrain, Indonesia, Brazil, East Africa). The final global product is a significant improvement on the global coral reef layer produced for the 2001 World Atlas on Coral Reefs and provides a good representation of the global distribution of coral reefs. The global spatial dataset is scheduled to be released in January via the UNEP-WCMC website. Effort will continue to maintain and improve the coral dataset as new data and funds become available. For more information please contact Corinna.ravillious@unep-wcmc.org

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.

- What was The Problem or the Challenge? – including information on the location, the perceived problem and the effects on the coastal resources
- What was done? Both ecological and sociological interventions
- How successful was it? E.g. has fisheries improved; positive effects on coral reefs; better reef resources exportation?
- Lessons learned and recommendations; Key messages to convey to other people
- References
- Author/s Contact

N/A

b. The ICRI secretariat is planning on revisiting/updating the ICRI “call to action” (http://www.icriforum.org/library/call_action.pdf) and ICRI “framework to action” (http://www.icriforum.org/library/framework_action.pdf). Please provide any guidelines you think would be useful.

The FFA is remains applicable. Any review process should build upon the ICRI 10 yr review outcomes. This will assist in determining the areas that were successfully taken forward by countries. In addition, the consideration of these focal pillars in the context of climate change and the role of ecosystem based management in supporting socio-ecological resilience and adaptation to climate change is encouraged alongside alignment to the priorities areas of the various Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA's) representing coral reefs and climate change.

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.

Is progress being made in addressing key threats to coral reefs? If yes, how do we promote and encourage uptake of effective actions? If not, what are the known barriers and how might ICRI work collaboratively to mitigate these impacts?

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.

N/A

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?

UNEP-WCMC is now a partner of the ARIES consortium together with Conservation International, Gund Institute for Eco-informatics and Earth Economics. ARIES, Artificial Intelligence for Ecosystem Services, is a model for ecosystem services assessment, planning, and valuation. For more information please visit <http://ecoinformatics.uvm.edu/aries>

World Database on Protected Areas

UNEP-WCMC and IUCN have initiated a collaboration to integrate Protect Planet Ocean (PPO) with the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). A new product is in preparation 'Protect Planet Earth' which will function as an interface between the WDPA and the user community, and which combines and improves upon the best components of both PPO and the WDPA to facilitate access to the global data in the WDPA; to allow editing of protected areas data by the user community; and to provide additional content and information relevant to marine protected areas. Launch of this facility for marine data is anticipated in April 2010. For further information please contact louisa.wood@unep-wcmc.org

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

Climate Change and Marine Diseases: The Socio-Economic Impact

Available at (<http://www.unep-wcmc.org/oneocean/reports.aspx>), this electronic publication aims to raise awareness among policy makers of the issue of diseases in the marine environment, the impacts of climate change on the dynamics of these diseases, and the socio-economic implications for human health, food security and business sustainability. This document represents the initial stage of UNEP-WCMC's work on marine diseases and we are currently looking for partners and funding to take this forward as a comprehensive review.

Scientific Synthesis of the Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biodiversity

UNEP-WCMC has provided technical support to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to conduct a major study of more than 300 scientific literatures to synthesize the observed and predicted impacts of ocean acidification on marine biodiversity. The study describes an alarming picture of possible ecological scenarios and adverse impacts of ocean acidification for marine ecosystems, and highlights the direct link between climate change, ocean health and human well-being. The study was released by the CBD on the 14th December 2009 to mark Oceans Day and inform the climate change negotiations in Copenhagen. To download the report and full press release, please visit: www.unep-wcmc.org/oneocean/reports.aspx

Framing the flow: innovative approaches to understand, protect, and value ecosystem services across linked habitats

Led by UNEP-WCMC with contributions from IUCN, WB, CI, TNC, Stanford University, University of Vermont, NOAA, The Natural Capital Project, University of Vermont, University of East Anglia, King's College London, University of Minnesota, University of Davis, Forest Trends, University of Connecticut, UNEP-GPA, IMM, Shell, Chevron. The publication provides a synthesis of the current state of knowledge regarding the natural capital of water related ecosystems and will offer an overview of innovative approaches that can support the comparative analysis of the flow of services between interconnected ecosystems. To be launched at the end of January 2010.

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

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)

YES

- ❑ 10th Meeting of the conference of the Parties to the convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10), October 18-29, 2010, Nagoya, Japan

YES

- ❑ Other (please specify):