



**Dominican Republic Focal Point Member’s report on activities to ICRI**

**Presented by Rubén E. Torres, Ph.D.**  
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**Reporting period May to December 2007**

**1. General Information**

Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Reef Check Dominican Republic
Focal Point 1:	Rubén E. Torres, Ph.D.
Focal point 2:	Jeannette Mateo
Last meeting attended:	Cozumel, Mexico 2007
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	E-mail
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	TBD

For countries only:

<i>National Action Plan / Initiative</i>	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?	<p>No official governmental coral reef program. The Sub ministry of Coastal Marine Resources is currently implementing several coral reef related programs: Mooring buoys in Puerto Viejo, Azua; Marine zoning and planning for Silver Banks; Assessment of the Bavaro reef track.</p> <p>Reef Check Dominican Republic is currently implementing several coral reef related programs: Educational protocol for dive industry; a nation-wide monitoring program; collaboration for government for La Caleta MPA; Mooring buoys for La Caleta MPA, Snorkeling camps for kids; Workshops on marine conservation.</p>
Is this plan publicly available? If so, please provide location:	Contact info for Sub ministry of Coastal Marine Resources Edificio Agricultura, Km 6.5 Autopista Duarte, Jardines del Norte Ph 809-732-3303, fax 809-547-3057, fax 566 6042

	<p>costeromarininos@medioambiente.gov.do</p> <p>Reef Check Dominican Republic  Prol. Fantino Falco #5, Piantini  Santo Domingo, R.D.  ph/fax 809-227-4409  info@reefcheckdr.org  www.reefcheckdr.org</p>
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative or Task Force?	<p>Action Plan National Initiative: A draft action plan for coral reefs was drafted in year 2001 by the Directorate of Fisheries Resources with the support of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism but has not been implemented mainly due to very limited logistic support.</p> <p>Also, a web forum was initiated to discuss coral reef related issues in the Dominican Republic at the following address:  <a href="http://forum.reefcheck.org/phpbb2/viewforum.php?f=18">http://forum.reefcheck.org/phpbb2/viewforum.php?f=18</a></p>
Are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relevant to coral reefs:	YES
If yes, please indicate which programs/initiatives:	<p>Sub ministry of Coastal Marine Resources: GCFI, ICRI, Red de Especialistas en Imágenes Remotas</p> <p>Reef Check Dominican Republic: Reef Check Eco Action, ICRI</p>
<b><i>Marine Protected Areas</i></b>	
How many MPA(s) with coral reefs?	<p>MPAs: La Caleta Underwater Park, Marine Mammal Sanctuary Silver Bank.</p> <p>Terrestrial National Parks with marine components: Parque Nacional Jaragua, Isla Catalina, Parque Nacional del Este, Parque Nacional Montecristi, Bahía de Sosua Thematic Park (lead by Ministry of Tourism)</p>
What is the percentage of coral reef MPA(s) to the (coastal zone / marine area)?	3.5% of DR coastline (mainland) is declared as an MPA 49% of DR coastline (mainland) is under some kind of protection by the protected area system
Please provide the appropriate contact name for MPA data holdings	<p>Subsecretaria Areas Protegidas y Biodiversidad  Lic. Danneris Santana  Subsecretario de Areas Protegidas y Biodiversidad</p>
Details for contact (email/fax/telephone)	<p>Ave. Reyes Católicos esq. Ave. Máximo Gómez,  Antigua Cementera, Santo Domingo, D.N.  809-472-4204, 809-472-4012  areas.protegidas@medioambiente.gov.do</p>

**2. Member contribution to the ICRI GM:** Your responses to the following questions will contribute to the background material provided for the next ICRI General Meeting in Washington, DC. Due to heavy schedules of ICRI members, we have tried to keep the questions to a minimum and value any response you can provide.

**A. Questions to inform the break-out discussion groups**

### **Session 1: Economic Valuation of coral reef ecosystems**

- a. Do you have examples of economic valuation of coral reefs being applied in practice? (e.g., in consideration of coastal land use, coastal/marine spatial planning, for determining compensation, etc.);

No economic valuation of coral reefs is being implemented in the Dominican Republic. The Sub ministry of Coastal Marine Resources is currently developing a Coastal Marine Management Plan for the Dominican Republic. Reef Check Dominican Republic is locally coordinating a workshop on Crime Scene Investigation workshop for Dave Dulko (University of Hawaii) as part of the DR-CAFTA.

- b. Do you have established methods for assessing these values? If so, please provide further information.

No, but a workshop on Crime Scene Investigation will be held during March 2008 and Reef Check Dominican Republic will coordinate related activities there after.

### **Session 2: Designing the ICRI Regional Workshop on Sustainable Tourism (to be held in July 2008 directly following ICRS-11)**

- a. With respect to coral reefs, what does sustainable tourism mean to you?

Tourism development and activities that maintain and/or increase the health of natural resources providing conditions for that industry.

- b. What are the key challenges you face to achieving sustainable tourism?

Limited implementation of current regulations for tourism development  
Limited human resources with coastal marine management expertise  
Limited funding for coastal marine conservation programs and activities  
Limited support of the protected area system by tourism development

#### **B. Summary of IYOR 2008 Activities**

- Briefly tell us about your activities for IYOR 2008. Information provided will contribute to the discussion during the IYOR 2008 Session on Friday, January 25, 2008.

The Sub ministry of Coastal Marine Resources will develop a set of governmental goals for a coral reef program for 2008.

Reef Check Dominican Republic will implement several activities:

Earth Day Field Trips, May 2008

Open air photo expo by professional underwater photographer and RCDD board of directors member Jose Alejandro Alvarez in June 2008 at Parque Independencia.

“Coralinas”, Sunset Dinner Gala Fundraiser, July 2008

Snorkeling summer camps

IYOR08 Fundraiser event in October 2008

Permanent signing of Declaration of Reef Rights at the National Aquarium

#### **C. Emerging Issues**

- Please identify any emerging issues relevant to coral reef ecosystems that you believe ICRI should consider.

Supporting initiatives and programs that aid in the development and implementation of a coastal marine management plan for the Dominican Republic.

#### **D. ICRI and Other Meetings**

Are your ICRI Focal Points considering attending any of the following meetings in 2008?

- 2008 Ocean Sciences Meeting, Florida, 2-7 March
- CBD COP 9, Bonn, 19-30 May
- UNICPOLOS 9, New York, June 2008
- ICRS 11, Fort Lauderdale, 7-11 July ✓
- IUCN World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, 5-16 October
- Ramsar COP 9, South Korea, 29 October - 4 November
- Other (please specify):
  - Congreso de Biodiversidad Caribeña, Santo Domingo, DR, January 29 - February 1st, 2008. ✓
  - GCFI, Guadalupe, November 2008. ✓