



Belize Member’s Report on Activities to ICRI

Presented by **James Azueta**

Reporting period: **December 27, 2007**

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 report will be made available on the ICRIForum prior to the meeting, and a question and answer session will be held at the meeting. The ICRI Secretariat is well aware of your busy schedule, therefore please complete the report to the best of your ability.

1. General Information

Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Belize Fisheries Department
Focal Point 1:	Beverly Wade
Focal Point 2:	James Azueta
Last meeting attended:	---
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Email and printed documents
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	\$100,000 yearly

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?	NO (Working on it)
Is this plan publicly available? If so, please provide location:	
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative or Task Force?	Yes
Are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relevant to coral reefs:	Yes
If yes, please indicate which programs/initiatives:	MRBS Synoptic Monitoring Program
Marine Protected Areas	
How many MPA(s) with coral reefs?	11
What is the percentage of coral reef MPA(s) to the (coastal zone / marine area)?	8 %
Please provide the appropriate contact name for MPA data holdings	REIS MBRS
Details for contact (email/fax/telephone)	www.mbrs.org.bz

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.);

We have started on a project for economic valuation of coral reefs with WWF and WRI.

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

We do not have an established method to assess values but will have one at the end of the WWF/WRI/Belize Fisheries Department exercise.

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?

Sustainable tourism means no or little damage to the environment.

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

Not enough fuel for patrols; need more mooring buoys to minimize anchor damage to coral reefs; need more dissemination of information to minimize physical damage to coral reefs.

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.
 - Continue to conduct the Synoptic Monitoring Program (includes coral and fish monitoring; mangrove and seagrass productivity);
 - Continue to issue research licenses to independent researchers that work directly with coral reefs and associated habitats;
 - Upload to the Belize Fisheries Department's Website reports on research and monitoring conducted in Belize;
 - Continue with the National Spawning Aggregation Monitoring Program;
 - Finalize the National Coral Reef Monitoring Plan and start its implementation.

C. Emerging Issues

- Please identify any emerging issues relevant to coral reef ecosystems that you believe ICRI should consider.
 - Climate change on coral reefs and fisheries;
 - Habitat destruction by development;
 - Transboundary pollution;
 - Search for resilient coral reef systems.

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 [Yes](#)
- IUCN World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, 5-16 October
- Ramsar COP 9, South Korea, 29 October - 4 November
- Other (please specify):
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