



## India's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by Dr. B.P. NILARATNA

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, New Delhi

Reporting period 2006-2007

### 1. General Information

Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	India/Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India
Focal Point 1:	Dr. B.P Nilaratna, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003 Phone: 91-11-24361712 Fax: 91-11-24362127 Email: nilratna007@hotmail.com
Focal Point 2:	-
Last Meeting Attended:	2006
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Through National Committee Meetings and by Letters/email/Fax
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	Rs. 6.99 crores for 2007-08 for coral reefs, mangroves, coastal and marine biodiversity
<b>National Action Plan/Initiative</b>	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?	YES. The concerned States and Union Territories (UTs) submit annual management action plan for conservation and protection of coral reefs.
Is this plan publicly available? If so, Please provide location:	YES. The annual action plans of concerned States/ UTs are sent to the Ministry of Environment and Forests (to focal point 1) for approval and obtainment of requisite financial assistance.
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative or Task Force?	YES. The Ministry of Environment and Forests have constituted a National Committee on Mangroves and Coral Reefs to oversee their conservation and protection.
Are you engaged in any regional programs/initiatives relevant to coral reefs:	YES.
If yes, please indicate which programs/initiatives:	India has been actively participating in South Asian Regional Coral Reef Task Force and is also implementing a UNDP sponsored project in Gulf of Mannar.
<b>Marine Protected Areas</b>	
How many MPA(s) with coral reefs?	1.One Biosphere Reserve 2.Four National Coral Reef Sites i. Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat

	ii. Gulf of Mannar, Tamil Nadu iii. Andaman and Nicobar Islands iv. Lakshwadeep 3. Eight Sanctuaries
What is the percentage of coral reefs MPA(s) to the (costal zone/ marine area)?	31%
Please provide the appropriate contact name for MPA data holdings	Dr. J.R. Bhatt, Director ( Coral Reef)
Details for contact (email/fax/telephone)	Ministry of Environment and Forests, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003 Telefax: 91-11-24363962 Email: jrbhatt@nic.in

### **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.);

**The same is being worked through different agencies and is not readily available.**

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

**Not available. If any standard method is suggested, the same will be considered.**

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

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

**Ecotourism in coral reef areas with due emphasis on conservation and protection of reefs and reef resources in an optimal manner so as to ensure the benefits for present as well as posterity.**

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

**Some of the key challenges are as follows:**

- i. Education and awareness for the eco-tourists.**
- ii. Alternate/ Supplementary livelihoods for local people during lean periods.**
- iii. Training the eco-tourists in snorkeling and scuba-diving for underwater observations.**
- iv. Carrying capacity studies for specific reef areas.**

### **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?

**Following activities are envisaged during 2008:**

- i. National Workshop at Lakshwadeep during January/February.**
- ii. R&D on Reef Transplantation Studies**
- iii. Promotion of targeted research on hard and soft corals and on coral reef associates.**
- iv. Identification of new National Coral Sites in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Orissa and Gujarat.**
- v. Supplementary livelihood support to local people in the villages surrounding ecologically fragile mangroves and coral reef areas.**
- vi. Stakeholders consultations for achieving synergy and linkages.**
- vii. Finalization of guidelines for National Coral Reef Sites.**
- viii. Education and awareness.**
- ix. Enabling activities, capacity building and training of Frontline forestry staff for conservation and management of coral reefs**

**C. Emerging Issues**

- Please identify any emerging issues relevant to coral reefs ecosystem that you believe ICRI should consider?

**Following two issues merit attention:**

- i. Impact of Climate Change on South Asian Coral Reefs. After 1998 reported coral bleaching, no detailed studies have been carried out.**
- ii. Post-tsunami coral reef regeneration and rejuvenation in South Asia.**
- iii. Capacity Development for protection of flora and fauna of Coral Reefs and Associated organisms.**

**D. ICRI and Other Meetings**

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

**Yes. The following Meetings are proposed to be attended:**

- CBD COP 9, Bonn, 19-30 May**
- ICRS 11, Fort Lauderdale, 7-11 July**
- IUCN World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, 5-16 October**
- Ramsar COP 9, South Korea, 29 October -4 November**

\*\*\*

