



Member Report

ICRI GM 28 – UNEP

INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE (ICRI)
28th General Meeting
14-17 October 2013 – Belize City, Belize

Member's report on activities related to ICRI

Reporting period July 2012 - October 2013

1. General Information

Are you an ICRI Member?	Yes
Member type (Country / Organization):	Organization
Focal Point 1:	
Name:	Jacqueline Alder
Organization:	UNEP
Email:	jacqueline.alder@unep.org
Focal point 2:	
Name:	Jerker Tamelander
Organization:	UNEP
Email:	tamelander@unep.org
Last meeting attended:	ICRI GM 27
Related website(s)	http://www.unep.org ; http://coral.unep.ch

2. Updates on your activities

Coral reef partnership

In the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2013-2016, adopted at the 14th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas in 2012, UNEP and Regional Seas committed to collaboration through a global coral reef partnership (strategic direction 6). Development of the partnership was presented to the 27th General Meeting of ICRI, and ICRI members were requested to take note of partnership development, offer advice or support as appropriate, and engage in consultation towards developing the Partnership.

Partnership Terms of Reference and an initial biennial work programme have been developed through consultation with Regional Seas programmes, the ICRI Secretariat and a range of organizations including several ICRI members. A Partnership Forum was held in association with the Second Conference on Land-Ocean Connections (GLOC-2), in Montego Bay, Jamaica, 2-4 October 2013 to provide guidance on the further development of the partnership and initiation of activities addressing priority activities. Further information is available in the meeting document submitted for ICRI GM28.

Caribbean Lionfish Strategy

The Regional Strategy for the Control of Invasive Lionfish in the Wider Caribbean, developed by the ICRI Ad Hoc Committee for Caribbean Regional Response to the Lionfish Invasion, has been finalized and will be distributed in three languages: English, French and Spanish. UNEP provided technical support towards development of the Strategy, including through inputs by the UNEP Coral Reef Unit as well as the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and its Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW RAC). Strategy development was also supported financially by UNEP through funds provided by the US Department of State. In the coming year UNEP will support some training and outreach related to the strategy, with a particular focus on the Mesoamerica region.

GCRMN Caribbean report

UNEP has supported development and finalization of the GCRMN Caribbean report, including participation in the data gathering process, review of report drafts, and financial contributions to IUCN towards GCRMN activities. The regional analysis will be used as basis for development recommended

monitoring indicators for the Caribbean Region, adoption and application of which will be supported by UNEP and CEP, through the global coral reef partnership.

Meeting sessions and side events

During the 6th Ecosystem Services Partnership Conference, UNEP and the ICRI Ad Hoc Committee on Economic Valuation co-organized a session on PES & financing focusing on coral reefs. The session was held as part of the marine stream of the conference.

UNEP is lead organizer of the Regional Day at IMPAC3. UNEP has also worked with the ICRI Secretariat on planning for coral events at IMPAC 3, including the Ocean + cocktail reception and the Knowledge Café on regional partnerships and cooperation hosted by the ICRI Secretariat.

A joint ICRI-UNEP session to be held at the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation is entitled “Achieving internationally agreed coral reef targets in the Pacific – Partnerships to strengthen coral reef assessment and ecosystem service approaches for planning, management and financing”. UNEP is also organizing a seminar on the UNEP Medium Term Strategy and Pacific Strategy.

Community-based adaptation (CBA) and ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA)

Work is underway by UNEP, IIED and partners to guide practical planning and implementation of integrated CBA-EBA solutions. An international workshop was convened November 2012 to explore opportunities and practical approaches to better link CBA and EBA principles and experiences in practical planning advice for more cost-effective delivery of adaptation measures across policies, programming and on-the-ground interventions. Practical guidance is currently in preparation for the UNEP-led EBA Decision Support Framework [Details at: <http://www.unep.org/climatechange/adaptation/>].

Governing marine protected areas

A special issue of *Marine Policy* (Vol 41, Sept 2013) has been published on the work of UNEP and partners to develop MPA governance guidance. It introduces an analytical framework for deconstructing the realities of governing marine protected areas; 15 MPA case studies (primarily coral reef related); and a global synthesis with guidance on how to combine top-down, bottom-up and market approaches to plan effective and equitable governance of MPAs. [Details at: <http://www.mpag.info> <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X12002667#gr1>].

UNEP EBM Capacity Building Support

UNEP-CPPS regional EBM training for South East Pacific is taking place 14-18 Oct 2013 in Lima, Peru (with government planners from Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, Chile) with specific focus on ecosystem-based marine and coastal spatial planning.

UNEP-EU Project on Coastal EBA in SIDS approved for start up October 2013. The project includes tool development for coastal EBA planning; pilot projects on tropical coastal vulnerability scenarios and EBA strategies in Seychelles and Grenada; regional training; and global policy advice on coastal EBA.

GIZ “Blue Solutions”: New 5-year global project launched August 2013 to assist countries implement tropical marine and coastal management solutions. This includes development and pilot testing of management tools, good-practice advice, and policy support in the areas of EBM, MSP, MPAs, EBA, ecosystem-service valuation and sustainable financing. Implementing partners include UNEP, IUCN, GRID-Arendal.

Marine Spatial Planning in Practice: The project will collect global examples/case studies on coastal and marine spatial planning, with particular focus on developing regions. It aims to synthesis lessons and good practices for practical implementation of local/national/regional MSP initiatives for sustainable marine and coastal development. Work is initiated by UNEP in collaboration with Regional Seas secretariats, GEF-STAP and other partners/experts. ICRI member are invited to collaborate and contribute to the process. For more details please contact UNEP Marine & Coastal Ecosystems Unit, Nairobi (email: ole.vestergaard@unep.org).

3. Contribution to the ICRI GM

a. Community-based monitoring

Planned activities under the UNEP-Regional Seas Coral Reef Partnership, to be taken forward jointly with GCRMN and other partners, include development of a rigorous approach for combining coral reef assessment data from disparate sources and with varying spatial and taxonomic resolution in status reporting. This is critical for enhancing analytical rigor of global and regional coral reef status assessments, and will enable greater application of data, including community-based monitoring data, in planning.

b. Co-management

The UNEP COBSEA project “Mapping and Enhancing Natural Resource Governance in Small Island Communities”, financed by the Mangroves for the Future initiative, is currently conducting national assessments of policy frameworks in target countries, including natural resource governance, decision processes and community involvement practices. Review reports will be published in the first quarter 2014. The project focuses on Maldives, Seychelles, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

4. Is there any other topic you would like to raise during the meeting?

YES NO

Update on preparations for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, 1-4 September 2014, Apia, Samoa.

Regional consultations have been held in the Caribbean, Pacific and AIMS regions, and an inter-regional preparatory meeting was held in Barbados in August 2013. The outcome document of the Inter-regional preparatory meeting will serve as a zero draft during forthcoming prepcom meetings. On 14-16 May 2013, in Cambridge, United Kingdom, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and UNEP co-hosted an expert group meeting on “Emerging Issues in SIDS”. UNEP also provided input to the Secretary General Report on the Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation on the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

5. Please list relevant publications, reports you have released since the last meeting.

Title (incl. author and date)	Type of publication (Paper, report etc.)
“Taking Step Towards Marine and Coastal EBM – An Introductory Guide”, in Spanish, expected launch in Nov 2013 http://www.unep.org/publications/contents/pub_details_search.asp?ID=6200	Report

6. Please indicate upcoming coral reef-related meetings you or your organisation will attend

- 2nd Global Conference on Land - Ocean Connections (GLOC-2) October 2- 4 2013, Montego Bay, Jamaica
- 17th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SBSTTA-17), 14-18 October 2013 Montreal, Canada
- 2nd Global Marine World Heritage Site Managers Conference, 17-20 October 2013, Corsica, France
- International Marine Protected Areas Congress, 21-27 October, Marseille, France
- 9th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, 2-6 December, Suva, Fiji