



Member's report on activities related to ICRI

Reporting period October 2013 – September 2014

1. Updates on your activities.

Project 1

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment and Outlook Report
Location	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, Australia
Dates	2011-14
Main Organizer(s)	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)
Main Stakeholder(s)	All Great Barrier Reef stakeholders i.e. recreational and commercial fishers, tourism operators, indigenous communities, NGOs, local councils, farmers, etc.
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	<p>In the past three years, the GBRMPA undertook a strategic assessment to evaluate and improve its effectiveness in managing existing and emerging risks to the Great Barrier Reef. This was undertaken in conjunction with the Queensland government to analyse impacts from activities on the land (in the adjacent coastal zone) and on the water, and examine how natural and heritage values could be protected in the future. This assessment resulted in the development of a 25-year management program for GBRMPA which was released in August 2014. This comprehensive management program builds on foundational management arrangements assessed to be effective and introduces a number of new measures to strengthen management. New initiatives include development of an integrated monitoring and reporting program (see Project 2), cumulative impact assessment guidelines and regional standards, a net benefit policy to guide decision-making and regionally-based Reef recovery actions to support restoration. The strategic assessment feeds in to the Australian and Queensland governments' Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan, an overarching framework for improving the Reef's resilience.</p> <p>At the same time, the GBRMPA developed its 2nd five-yearly Outlook Report, which assessed reef health and management in an accountable and transparent way (the report is a statutory requirement under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975). The report, also released in August 2014, drew on the strategic assessment process and included an explicit assessment of the Great Barrier Reef's Outstanding Universal Value.</p> <p>These two interlinked processes are cutting-edge approaches to the fourth cornerstone of ICRI (periodic review) for a large-scale Marine Protected Area with coral reefs such as the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. They adopted an integrated ecosystem approach to the assessment of impacts across the coastal and marine zones (integrated management cornerstone) and were based on the best available information including scientific data, expert opinion, Traditional Owner and stakeholder knowledge (science and monitoring cornerstone). Clearly defined outcomes and targets will ensure management efforts are focused on priority actions required to maintain and, where necessary, restore the condition of the Reefs values.</p>
Outcome (Expected outcome)	The Strategic Assessment and Outlook Report represent a stepped change in how we are managing the Reef. It considers the whole-of-Reef, with a focus on regional and local solutions. The 25 year program report aims to build resilience and halt and reverse the decline in the Reef's values, recognising that this will take a number of decades to achieve.

Lessons learned	<p>Key lessons learned as part of these two processes include the need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For a clearly defined process outlining methods to be used and opportunities for stakeholder input. • To consider the effects of impacts across a range of scales, both spatially and temporally, and the cumulative effect of multiple impacts on values. • To utilise a range of tools to assess impacts ranging from value-impact matrices, qualitative and quantitative models to understand cause and effect relationships and spatial mapping approaches. (No one tool is perfect.) • To consider how a ‘shifting baseline’ in the condition of values affects assessments of current condition and trend of values. <p>To consider best available information, including scientific data, expert opinion, and Traditional Owner and stakeholder knowledge.</p>
Related websites (English preferred)	<p>Strategic Assessment: http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/managing-the-reef/strategic-assessment</p> <p>Outlook Report: http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/managing-the-reef/great-barrier-reef-outlook-report</p>

Project 2

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	<p>Check all that apply:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)</p>
Project Title	Reef-wide integrated monitoring and reporting program.
Location	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
Dates	Started in 2014, will be developed over the next decade
Main Organizer(s)	Australian government (GBRMPA)
Main Stakeholder(s)	Government, scientists, citizen science stakeholders, Traditional Owners.
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	<p>The integrated monitoring and reporting program is one of the new initiatives outline in the Great Barrier Reef’s Strategic Assessment Program Report (see Project 1). The program will improve the integration and coordination of existing monitoring programs through the development and implementation of standardised protocols for information collection, collation, analysis, reporting, and data availability. It will improve the scalability of data (from point source or local, to regional and Reef-wide scales) and synthesis of information from different sources. This will provide a more comprehensive and systematic understanding of the condition of values and scale of impacts.</p> <p>The monitoring scope will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long-term core monitoring programs — to assess the condition and trend of the region’s values and broad-scale impacts, such as water quality, over many years • short to medium-term, issue-specific monitoring — to examine the condition, extent of impact on and recovery rate of species (e.g. whales, turtles, dugongs etc.), habitats or community benefits • compliance monitoring — to target the impacts of a development action (for example, construction of a marina or dredging program) in accordance with conditions specified in a permit, license or approval. <p>The program will incorporate the knowledge and monitoring information of Traditional Owners, stakeholders and the broader community.</p>
Outcome (including expected outcome)	<p>Ensure management processes and outcomes are underpinned by rigorous and credible evidence, through enhanced access to timely and fit-for-purpose scientific advice.</p> <p>Improved transparency and accessibility to monitoring data across a range of scales and disciplines.</p>

Lessons learned	Strong collaborative arrangements with partner organisations with modelling expertise is essential, as is internal capacity in this field.
Related websites (English preferred)	http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/managing-the-reef/how-the-reefs-managed/science-and-research

Project 3

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	Australian Awards Fellowship – collaboration between the Mexican Commission on Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) and GBRMPA on Reef Stewardship, and Australia-Caribbean Coral Reef Collaboration. (ACCRC)
Location	Great Barrier Reef
Dates	2012-14 (ACCRC) and May 2014 (AAF)
Main Organizer(s)	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, CONANP (Mexico), CARICOM
Main Stakeholder(s)	As above + industry and community stakeholders of the Great Barrier Reef.
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	<p>Australian-Caribbean Coral Reef Collaboration(2012-14) The project brought together coral reef managers and policymakers from different regions to share expertise and knowledge, to explore new ideas and to initiate joint projects to improve the outlook for Caribbean coral reefs in the face of climate change. Outcomes included a Plan of Action for Caribbean Coral reefs, and the completion of five collaborative projects to address: biodiversity offsets, integrating the human dimension into reef conservation, outlook reporting for integrated planning, reef health assessment tools and reef stewardship.</p> <p>Australian Awards Fellowship (May 2014) The principal objective of the activity was to build capacity of some key individuals responsible for the management of the healthiest reef systems in the Mexican Caribbean (the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef), through interaction with key staff from the GBRMPA and stakeholders involved in stewardship and partnership programs with the GBRMPA.</p>
Outcome (Expected outcome)	<p>Australian-Caribbean Coral Reef Collaboration(2012-14) To develop and test practical measures that coral reef managers and policymakers can deploy for real-world outcomes.</p> <p>Australian Awards Fellowship (May 2014) Increased technical capacity of CONANP-Cozumel staff and strategic partners on reef stewardship programs. Ultimately, it is hoped that this program will help enhance the resilience of the Mesoamerican reef.</p>
Lessons learned	It's important to identify people with influence in their own community who can be the bearers of change and apply what they have learnt during capacity building programs to their own contexts. All countries have things to learn from endeavours in other countries.
Related websites (English preferred)	http://climateandreefs.org/

2. Contribution to the ICRI Plan of Action and GM.

a. Engaging other sectors



We have numerous examples for this topic. A good case study is the **crown-of-thorns starfish control program**, which is a partnership between the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. Together, the three organisations deliver three critical aspects of the program: extensive surveillance of reefs through manta tows and reef health and impact surveys, injections of starfish via a new technique which uses an injection of bile salts (the most efficient method of managing outbreaks particularly compared to sodium bisulphate), and a comprehensive reef health database to monitor the effectiveness of control efforts. The program targets popular tourism sites and other important areas, and includes capacity building training with the tourism industry to enable operators to manage crown-of-thorns starfish at their own site.

Divers from the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators use the one-shot injection. Photograph courtesy of Daniel Schultz

b. Reef zoning for multiple use

Location where a zoning plan has been implemented	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
Year when the zoning plan was implemented	Rezoning: 2004
Is the zoning plan accepted by the local community?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Did the zoning plan cause conflicts among stakeholders?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Did the zoning plan resolve conflicts among stakeholders?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Has there been effective enforcement for stakeholders to follow the zoning plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Overall, how would you rate the success of the zoning plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very successful <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat successful <input type="checkbox"/> Not so successful <input type="checkbox"/> Unsuccessful

There has been numerous publications summarising the lessons learned of the 2004 rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef (referred to as 'Representatives Areas Program'). One of the most relevant/recent papers on this topic is available at <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S096456910900060X>

To summarise, main lessons learned are that:

- The best available science is a fundamental underpinning of any zoning program (but not the only aspect to take into account).
- Having a clear and transparent set of operating principles assists everyone, particularly during negotiations.
- A high level of public participation is essential. The success of public consultation is dependent upon effective engagement being supported throughout the organisation; this requires appropriate resources, training, and effective management systems.
- Zoning is not the panacea for all marine conservation issues. Other complementary management approaches are also essential.

3. Publications.

Title (incl. author and date)	Website URL if available	Type of publication (Paper, report, etc.)
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2014, <i>Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment: Strategic assessment report</i> , GBRMPA, Townsville.	http://elibrary.gbrmpa.gov.au/jspui/handle/11017/2861	Report
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2014, <i>Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment: Program report</i> , GBRMPA, Townsville.	http://elibrary.gbrmpa.gov.au/jspui/handle/11017/2860	Report
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2014, <i>Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014</i> , GBRMPA, Townsville.	http://elibrary.gbrmpa.gov.au/jspui/handle/11017/2855	Report
Beeden, R., Maynard, J., Johnson, J., Dryden, J., Kininmonth, S. and Marshall, P. (in press), No-anchoring areas reduce coral damage in an effort to build resilience in Keppel Bay, southern Great Barrier Reef, <i>Australasian Journal of Environmental Management</i> . doi: 10.1080/14486563.2014.881307		Paper
Grech, A., Bos, M., Brodie, J., Coles, R., Dale, A., Gilbert, R., Hamann, M., Marsh, H., Neil, K., Pressey, R.L., Rasheed, M.A., Sheaves, M. and Smith, A. 2013, Guiding principles for the improved governance of port and shipping impacts in the Great Barrier Reef, <i>Marine Pollution Bulletin</i> 75: 8-20		Paper
Waterhouse, J., Maynard, J., Brodie, J., Zeh, D., Randall, L., Lewis, S., Petus, C., Devlin, M., da Silva, E., Furnas, M., Schaffelke, B., Fabricius, K., Brando, V., McKenzie, L., Collier, C., Warne, M.S.J., Smith, R., Henry, N., Yorkston, H. and Tracey, D. 2013, Assessment of the risk of pollutants to ecosystems of the Great Barrier Reef including differential risk between sediments, nutrients and pesticides, and among NRM Regions, in <i>Assessment of the relative risk of degraded water quality to ecosystems of the Great Barrier Reef: A report to the Department of the Environment and Heritage Protection. Report 13/28</i> , eds J. Brodie, J. Waterhouse, J. Maynard and et al., TropWater, Townsville, pp. 18-89		Paper

4. General Information.

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