



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 type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	Review, improve and revitalize the regional GCRMN network for a more effective coral reef monitoring and data management in the Wider Caribbean (WCR) and Workshop
Location	Curacao
Dates	6-8th August 2014
Main Organizer(s)	UNEP SPAW-RAC and The Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs through the National Office for the Caribbean Netherlands
Main Stakeholder(s)	Coral reef experts of the Caribbean region, GCRMN science director, past node coordinators in the WC GCRMN, UNEP and SPAW-RAC representatives, Governments representatives (see list of 26 participants - Workshop report)
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	<p>The GCRMN, data arm of ICRI, with UNEP and IUCN support, recently published a groundbreaking report "<i>Status and Trends of Caribbean Coral Reefs: 1970-2012</i>". The report, edited by GCRMN science coordinator Jeremy Jackson with the contribution of several scientists and institutions from the WCR, made important recommendations drawn from a region-wide assessment of forty years of coral reef data.</p> <p>The report concluded coral reef monitoring in the wider Caribbean is "scattered, disorganized, and largely ineffective". The weaknesses and inefficiency of the current coral monitoring network, is in part due to the lack of information dissemination and inconsistency in application of monitoring methods and approaches throughout the region. The GCRMN in the Caribbean currently suffers from reduced functionality, at three levels of action: data collection, information archiving and dissemination, and internal network communication. Those weaknesses are often coupled with challenges of securing adequate funding as a means to support systematic and sustainable coral reef monitoring. This has potentially contributed to losses of information and capacity building due to major gaps in the exchange of approaches and expertise within the region.</p> <p>To address these dysfunctions a workshop was convened in Curacao during August 6th -8th 2014, under the impulsion and support of UNEP-CEP, its SPAW-RAC, The Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and NOAA.</p> <p>Coral reef experts from various organizations discussed how to better coordinate ongoing Caribbean coral reef monitoring and stimulate and support monitoring in areas that lack the people or expertise for sustained monitoring efforts.</p> <p>In direct line with ICRI FFA cornerstone on science & monitoring, this project supports the coral reef monitoring in the Wider Caribbean region, so far represented through the GCRMN. It aims to revitalize and organize the coordination of coral reef monitoring across the region (through research but also allowing other types of participation – e.g. volunteers with Reef check) with validated methods and data, by providing concrete solutions that would improve the network capacities, through the following specific objectives: 1- Improve data collection & archiving; 2- Improve the network internal functioning for a better diffusion of information; 3 -Increase the support for regional and sub-regional cooperation</p> <p>The outcomes associated with the second and third project objectives reinforce as well the implementation of the FFA cornerstone on Capacity building. The network, through the support and lead of a Steering committee, will be instrumental as an informative and exchange platform for all the region and its actors. It aims to gather all the region sites eventually, taking in account the Caribbean sub regions geographical, political and cultural representation and available means.</p> <p>It will allow partnerships and collaboration enhancement, promote expertise exchanges and support and extend coral reef monitoring outreach through internal and external</p>

	<p>communication. Gaps and needs in the region will be more easily identified, and efforts will be directed towards reinforcing fund-raising and gathering forces for co-financing. It will help developing cooperative concrete projects specifically addressed to build local capacity through training programs and expert support.</p> <p>This project indirectly supports an efficient integrated management of coral reef, as well as a regular assessment of the latter 's effectiveness, by providing a simple, precise and regular monitoring, at the regional level but also locally. Socio and economic aspects linked to those ecosystems are also considered and fully integrated into the monitoring and regular reporting of reef status and network.</p>
<p>Outcome (Expected outcome)</p>	<p>The workshop developed proposals for an improved, functional and sustainable monitoring network. The participants agreed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A core set of data that should be collected by all countries and standards which such data should comply with. New coral reef monitoring minimum guidelines were proposed for ecological and socio economic data collection with a view to produce comparable data that can be used to enhance current management and conservation efforts, specially related to Marine Protected Area (MPA) Networks. - Setting up a central database for the region that will allow an easy input of collected data, facilitate reporting and support information sharing and communication. The Waitt Foundation offered to build and maintain such a tool.. - A new organizational structure for a revitalized and dynamic regional network of coral reef monitoring groups, with a core group (a future Steering Committee) that will be responsible for coordinating reports and publications, providing scientific & technical advice, (i.e. evaluating data standards, address issues of science, standardization and methods, evaluate new monitoring techniques and technology, support capacity building), advising on archiving and data management (including setting up the central database and oversee its management), increasing membership and participation, fund-raising (i.e. identify possible funding sources); and representing the network in regional and international fora. - The Steering Committee will be composed of a chair, a co-chair and several members from the people present at the workshop. The composition of the committee reflects the cultural and geographical diversity of the region, represents a variety of technical, scientific and policy expertise in order to fulfil the roles identified. - Any individual member of the steering committee may be responsible for one or more of the previously described roles. This steering group will also assist with internal and external communication of the regional network, address building local capacity through training programs and expert support, and will try to engage all countries in the region to join this network. Members will meet regularly, on an opportunistic basis using other relevant regional meetings as a platform whenever possible. <p>To coordinate these efforts the UNEP-SPAW-RAC was designated as regional coordinator. A document describing both Steering Committee and regional coordinator Terms of References was drafted.</p>
<p>Lessons learned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Importance of institutions and people/individuals involvement <p>This is a crucial parameter that must be taken in consideration. Several examples within the Caribbean region showed that a lot of the communication and network collapsing came from the departures of individuals who were committed, and when their institution could not provide necessary replacement and dynamism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Importance of not dividing the region into sub-zones that may create isolation and miscommunication <p>Instead, it can be better to gather relevant actors, with various but complimentary expertise and representation, not focusing on their geographical origin for decisions processes and expert advice. On this lesson was based the proposal of a steering committee, replacing the previous sub regional nodes system, that will use and make profit of everyone assets and experience, as well as being representative of the region heterogeneity and richness, in terms of geography, language, culture, governance, technical expertise..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Importance of a coordinating actor, to act as a catalyst, to ensure a fluent and regular diffusion of information and to provide sustainability to the network <p>The current WCR GCRMN system' lacks a dedicated coordinator at the region level and this could partly explain the network dysfunction. The workshop participants proposed UNEP-SPAW-RAC as regional coordinator.</p>
<p>Related websites (English preferred)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - www.car-spaw-rac.org (workshop report and workshop proposals available online from mid October 2014) - www.cep.unep

Project 2

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	"Regional support for the Caribbean Challenge initiative: Networking, consolidation and regional coordination of MPA management".
Location	Eight countries of the Wider Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and Grenadines and The Bahamas)
Dates	March 2010 – Dec 2013
Main Organizer(s)	UNEP-CEP with funding from Italian Government (Foreign Affairs Directorate of Environment)
Main Stakeholder(s)	"Caribbean Challenge" countries (see above)
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	The project was designed to assist countries participating in the Caribbean Challenge initiative which aims to conserve "20% of their marine environment by 2020". Main objectives included: - Enhanced coherence and financial sustainability of a large-scale transboundary (national and eco-regional) Caribbean MPA Network; - Improved and mutually compatible approaches and frameworks for management and monitoring of MPAs, both individually and in national systems; - Improved capacity of MPA practitioners for more effective MPA management.
Outcome (including expected outcome)	A coherent MPA Network was substantially strengthened through CaMPAM, including platform for coordinating and sharing of information. Participating countries better able to identify and adopt methodologies, models, indicators and tools for management and monitoring to measure effectiveness, and enforcement of MPAs (e.g. ReefCheck, SocMon etc.). Enhanced knowledge base and capacity of MPA practitioners. As well as improvements to infrastructure including the instalment of buoys, demarcation of boundaries and equipment for patrolling and monitoring the areas under their jurisdiction. Resulting in significant improvements in capacities of what was previously, in several cases, paper parks. Enhanced knowledge and management capacity of personnel in all participating countries on various cost recovery mechanism to place their MPAs on a better financial footing. Including procedures for the creation and management of their national conservation trust fund, part of their commitment to participate in the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF). Many of the processes initiated with this project are complemented through other UNEP-CEP projects under development (e.g. see ECMMAN below).
Lessons learned	Despite considerable progress, MPAs needs in the WCR are significant. Resources allocated for management, including for ecosystem monitoring, enforcement and assessment of management effectiveness are very limited. Conflicts with development, such as tourism are challenging and opportunities for collaboration not sufficiently explored. Lack of political will is often a limiting factor for conservation. Many project outcomes require a time longer than the life of the project
Related websites (English preferred)	CaMPAM website and its Caribbean Challenge and CaMPAM-ECMMAN pages

Project 3

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN)
Location	The Eastern Caribbean countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada
Dates	2014-2017
Main Organizer(s)	TNC with regional partners (see below) and funding from Government of Germany
Main Stakeholder(s)	UNEP-CEP/SPAW RAC, OECS, PCI Media Impact, countries marine resources and environmental planning and management agencies and academic and non-governmental conservation organizations; and education, fisheries and tourism sectors.
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project)	ECMMAN aims to build strong constituencies for sustainable livelihoods and ocean use, by declaring new marine managed areas (MMA) and strengthen existing ones. Objectives: -Improve and update an Eastern Caribbean Decision Support System (ECDSS) that provides

implements the FFA cornerstones)	<p>accessible decision making tools and incorporates current ecological, socio-economic, and climate change data; The ECDSS will also help institute sustainability mechanisms to support the MMA network, including regional political commitments and actions, collaboration mechanisms on marine and coastal resources, and sustainable financing</p> <p>-Assist participating countries with capacity to meet conservation objectives. Consultations have been conducted for each country in order to determine the targets and priorities to be supported during the ECMMAN project, in particular through the CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grant Program. In-country Project Coordinators were recruited to coordinate and support the execution of all project activities and ensure the project is effectively implemented and serves the needs of the country.</p> <p>Regarding coral reef ecosystems in particular, ECMMAN will provide funding and technical assistance for the protection, management and monitoring of coral reefs and associated habitats within existing and potential marine managed areas, and support the development of their web sites for sharing information with the public.</p>
Outcome (Expected outcome)	Establishment and implementing coral reef monitoring protocols and management tools, sharing of MMA management and research data; increasing awareness and involvement of many stakeholder groups.
Lessons learned	In progress
Related websites (English preferred)	CaMPAM website and its Caribbean Challenge and CaMPAM- ECMMAN pages

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

a. Engaging other sectors

To some extent, there have been useful linkages with the tourism sector for implementation of better practices but results are inconsistent and fragmented. Likewise, components within tourism sector (local partners) participate at some sites in reef monitoring (e.g. dive shops, hotels) or provide opportunities for alternative livelihoods (e.g. fishers as tour guides around MPAs). These also are limited and site-specific.

b. Reef zoning for multiple use

Several MPAs in the Caribbean do have MPA zoning (“reef zoning”). Those countries would be in better position to respond (e.g. Colombia, Belize, Jamaica, Grenada, St Lucia etc.)

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

3. Publications.

Title (incl. author and date)	Website URL if available	Type of publication (Paper, report, etc.)
"Review, improve and revitalize the regional GCRMN network for a more effective coral reef monitoring and data management in the Wider Caribbean (WCR)" Report of the regional workshop in Curacao, 6-8th of August 2014 -UNEP-CEP/SPAW-RAC,2014	in progress - Available from mid October 2014 http://www.car-spaw-rac.org	report
UNEP/IUCN "Status and Trends of Caribbean Coral Reefs: 1970-2012" .Ed.. by J. Jackson, 2013	http://www.icriforum.org/caribbeanreport	report

4. General Information.

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