



ICRI Member's Report

SPREP

Reporting period December 2017 – November 2018

1. **Reporting on the ICRI Plan of Action 2016-2018.** *Your responses will help inform the Secretariat about members' contributions toward the previous Plan of Action.*

- a. **Please list any relevant examples from your organisation/country of investment/projects to protect and restore the natural infrastructure of reefs and mangroves.** (See Goal (1) 2 [ICRI Recommendation for supporting investments in the natural infrastructure of reefs and mangroves to increase climate resilience](#)).

MACBIO completed

Kiribati, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji. Marine ecosystem service valuation, marine spatial planning, effective management and dissemination.

Blue Belt Project completed 01/12/2018

French Polynesia-underwater trails; Wallis and Futuna- mangrove trails; and New Caledonia-water surveillance.

New Zealand-Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification

Fiji, Kiribati, Tokelau and Vanuatu. Pilot project: identification and implementation of practical adaptation actions; research and monitoring; capacity building and awareness raising.

Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Project (BIOPAMAI) Phase II

14 Pacific ACPs. Pacific Islands protected area practitioners can share expertise and benefit from opportunities.

PacWaste completed PacWaste Plus

Improve regional hazardous waste management across the Pacific in the priority areas of asbestos, healthcare waste, E-waste and integrated atoll solid waste management.

Wallis and Futuna Wetland Inventory

Updated inventory of wetlands in Wallis and Futuna to equip stakeholders with collated literature to nominate a site under the Ramsar Convention's requirements.

Pacific Ecosystem-Based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC)

To fully integrate into development, climate change adaptation and natural resource management policy and planning processes

- b. **Has your organisation/country made any progress in the following areas to target anthropogenic pressures?** Please give detail below. Note: If no change since your last ICRI member report, please write 'no change'.

- Encourage ban of plastic microbeads in cosmetic products.** (See Goal (3) 2 & [See ICRI Recommendation to reduce plastic microbeads pollution in marine environment](#)):

Endorsement of the *Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan*, which includes policy and drafting instructions to ban microbeads amongst other single use plastics.

Improve regulation and enforcement to reduce direct anthropogenic damage due to dredging and physical alteration of reef structures. (See Goal (3) 3 & [ICRI Recommendation to reduce damage due to dredging and dumping on coral reefs](#)):

SPREP provides recommendations and best practices to reduce damage on coral reefs through environmental impact assessments and state of the environment reports. It is ultimately under the discretion of countries to regulate and enforce.

Deployment of mooring devices limiting the mechanical destruction of coral reefs and seagrasses. (See Goal (3) 4).

No change, however, SPREP encourages our Members to use best practices such as the establishment of mooring devices to prevent damage to marine ecosystems.

- c. **Did your organisation/country celebrate International Year of the Reef?** Please give details below. (See Goal (5) 1 & [ICRI Recommendation designating 2018 as the third International Year of the Reef](#)):

SPREP's Open Day involved the completion of a temporary mural of the Pacific with coral reefs as part of the awareness about the importance of coral reefs.

Pacific Year of the Coral Reef 2018 and 2019 is SPREP's commitment to celebrating the importance of coral reefs in the Pacific during the International Year of the Reef 2018. PYOCR was launched during the inception workshop of the second phase of the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme in Apia, Samoa. The thematic biennial year was officially endorsed during the 1st SPREP Executive Board Meeting in Apia, Samoa, along with the endorsement of a proposed Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan 2020-2030. The regional launch of the Status and Trends of Coral Reefs of the Pacific report was during the 6th National Reporting of the Pre-CoP CBD meeting in Apia, Samoa. Country and territory briefs on recommended coral reef management will be published later this year. These briefs are based off of State of Environment reports and the GCRMN Status and Trends of Coral Reefs of the Pacific report. The Pacific Media Awards included factsheets about coral reefs and their importance, along with a factsheet about Pacific challenges for coral reefs. PYOCR advertisement was printed in the Island Business Magazine for their September issue.

As part of the CBD CoP for the Pacific Pavilion, the Pacific's progress, achievements and recommendations on Aichi Target 10 will be presented by SPREP and by countries. During the UNFCCC CoP, SPREP will host the Islands Pavilion, targeting below 1.5 °C as part of the recommendations from the Pacific Region.

The Blue Belt Project 2.0 has supported the Pacific Year of the Coral Reefs as part of the awareness raising for projects in Wallis and Futuna and French Polynesia.

2. **Contribution to the ICRI Plan of Action 2018-2020 and upcoming ICRI general meetings.** *Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the draft ICRI Plan of Action 2018-2020.*

Theme 1 – Promote effective and adaptable solutions to improve the protection of coral reefs

- a. **Which of the below topics do you consider to be the three top challenges that your organisation faces in managing coral reefs?** Please select from the options below:

- Climate change impacts
- Inadequate planning, zoning and management
- Unsustainable resource extraction
- Tourism and recreation
- Shipping
- Coastal development
- Dredging
- Illegal and destructive fishing
- Fish and coral trade
- Marine debris
- Other. Please specify:

- b. **Please list any examples of innovative management practices that your organisation/country is involved in, such as use of VMS, drones & ecological mooring devices.** Include their limits, conditions of implementation, financing and an assessment of their results and links for more information if possible.

Ecosystem based adaptation management are options for adapting to climate change, which is under the Pacific Ecosystem-Based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) project, implemented in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Fiji. Using ecosystem and socio-economic resilience analysis and mapping. (Natural solution)

The main limitations to innovative management is the high turnover in various organisations and levels of government. Funding for management is limited and mainly driven by project funds.

Drones and various technologies have been used to map seagrass and mangroves in the region, however, most of the technology is outsourced from the region or misplaced training.

- c. **Please list any examples of innovative funding for management that your organisation/country is involved in.** Include their limits, conditions of implementation, financing and an assessment of their results and links for more information if possible.

Funding mechanisms implemented by SPREP are through ecosystem services through the PEBACC project.

We encourage and help to implement the 'Blue Economy'.

There are finance mechanisms for coral reef and related ecosystem management and conservation such as the Micronesia Challenge and National Trust of Fiji.

- d. Please list any examples of leading practices, techniques and strategies for building reef resilience that your organisation/country is involved in.** Include their limits, conditions of implementation, financing and an assessment of their results and links for more information if possible.

Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan 2020-2030

The proposal for a coral reef action plan was endorsed by SPREP members. Funding is being sought, for a regional coral reef working group meeting.

- e. Please list any examples of leading practice reef restoration mechanisms that your organisation/country is involved in.** Include their limits, conditions of implementation, financing and an assessment of their results and links for more information if possible.

There are no direct reef restoration projects implemented by SPREP, but educational and awareness project about reef restoration in French Polynesia. We encourage reef restoration projects that are viable and have substantial evidence to be successful prior to being executed.

Theme 3 – Support communities reliant on coral reefs

- f. Is sustainable tourism development a significant challenge for your organisation?** If so please include detail below of the kinds of challenges faced and your strategies to deal with them.

SPREP is collaborating with the South Pacific Tourism Organisation to help facilitate and implement better practices for sustainable eco-tourism in the Pacific Region. *See publication: Environmental impact assessment: guidelines for coastal tourism development in Pacific island countries and territories.*

SPREP's dedication to completing the Marine Species Action Plan 2018-2023, which includes better practices with threatened marine species: turtles, sharks and rays, dugongs and whales.

- g. Is your organisation involved in activities to raise awareness and encourage action to support communities reliant on coral reefs?** Please include details below.

SPREP's focus has been to understand better coral reef monitoring practices for managers with the improvement of sustainable implementation.

Theme 4 – Help to reduce anthropogenic threats to coral reefs, particularly those that occur at a global or regional scale

- h. What activities is your organisation involved in to elevate awareness of the global nature of the threat of climate change to coral reefs?** Please include details below.

SPREP's Climate Change Resilience Programme promotes integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management through capacity building and within an ecosystem based approach.

SPREP is a key conduit for our Members to make effective use of the UNFCCC and Conference of the Parties processes, the Paris Agreement, and other global climate initiatives. At the regional level, SPREP promotes the Framework on Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (FRDP) to guide our collaborative approach with regional organisations, donors, and the United Nations to strengthen resilience to climate change.

For more information, please refer to the [Pacific Climate Change Portal](#).

- i. Has your organisation made any progress in dealing with destructive fishing and trade?** Please include details below.

Seven Pacific CITES Members address sustainable trading of corals under the CITES requirements, under Appendix 2. SPREP assists countries and technical report on non-detrimental findings.

Fijian government has been promoting better catch size through their Set Size Campaign.

- j. Has your organisation made any progress in dealing with marine debris?** Please include details below.

Endorsement of the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan. Also include the drafting legislation and policy to ban single use plastics. Assistance to member countries to ban single use plastics – particularly Vanuatu and Samoa. Vanuatu's ban came into effect on the 1st July. Samoa's ban will come into effect on the 1st Jan 2019.

Also work with Pacific Games 2019 to Green the Games, to have a plastic free games.

Assisting in the recycling of plastic through shipment overseas through the Moana Taka Partnership with Swire. A three year agreement signed on the 18th March 2018.

Addressing community engagement through partnership with the Samoan Voyaging Society in implementing an environment stewardship programme "Guardians".

- 3. Would you like to report on your activities during the ICRI GM?** Please give details below.

Y / **N**

- 4. International events.** Please list any upcoming international events relevant to ICRI which someone from your organisation plans to attend in 2018-2019.

- ICRI GM, Monaco, 5-7 Dec 2018
Franck Connan franckc.ext@sprep.org
- Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 3-14 Dec 2018
Patrick Pringle patrickp.ext@sprep.org
Tagaloa Cooper tagaloac@sprep.org
- Reef Futures 2018: A Coral Restoration and Intervention-Science Symposium, Florida, 10-14 Dec 2018
- Global World Heritage Marine Managers meeting, Alaska, US, 26-31 May 2019

Other:

5. Publications. Please list relevant publications and reports you have released during this reporting period.

[Pacific Regional Action Plan: Marine Litter 2018-2025](#)
[Regulating Plastics in Pacific Island Countries: A guide for policymakers and legislative drafters](#)
[Environmental impact assessment: guidelines for coastal tourism development in Pacific island countries and territories.](#)
[Status and Trends of Coral Reefs of the Pacific](#)
[Set Size: A Guide for More & Bigger Fish \(booklet\)](#)
[Share Pacific Invasive Species Data Using the Global Biodiversity Information Facility](#)
[Pacific Marine Climate Change Report Card 2018](#)
[PEBACC Resources](#)

MPA Management and Surveillance expected publish at the end of November

For more publications please refer to [SPREP's Virtual Library Catalogue](#)

6. ICRI Member Feedback. What do you find most valuable about the ICRI member reports? If you have any ideas for improvement please list below:

Template should stay consistent from the previous year, particularly to meet with the action plan. The questions do not align with the [action plan adopted on November 4, 2016](#). Missing theme 2 and questions regarding coral reef monitoring as the implementation and governance plan is being endorsed for this year's general meeting.

7. General Information. (Note that this information will be posted on the ICRI website on your member page: <http://www.icriforum.org/about-icri/members-networks>.)

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