



## ICRI Member's Report

### MEXICO - Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas

#### 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.*

**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](#)).

1.- Through the Conservation of Species at Risk Program (CONANP 2018), the following projects were carried out:

- Evaluation of the anthropogenic impacts derived from tourism in the reef system of the Sian Kaan biosphere reserve,
- Mangrove restoration in Cayo Centro Banco Chinchorro biosphere reserve and
- Evaluation of the state of health of the coral reef in Caribe Mexicano biosphere reserve.

Of these projects, strategic lines can be obtained to develop restoration and protection projects.

2.- The initiative to secure the reefs has been supported, to carry out first aid in a category 4 and 5 hurricane.

- a. **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](#)):

**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](#)):

The publication of the management program of the Caribe Mexicano biosphere reserve (same that includes approximately 6 million hectares, of which, almost 5 million correspond to marine surface) has the objective of preserving and promoting sustainable use, considering the strong pressure of

coastal development and tourism activities. Also prohibits the construction of breakwaters and regulates the construction of the coastal dune system, the installation of artificial reefs and the extraction of the area.

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

More than 1 million pesos have been invested in 5 projects for the installation of mooring buoys in 4 protected natural areas, with the aim of continuing to strengthen the management of tourist activities and avoid the use of anchors.

- b. **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](#)):

Yes, were made: talks, workshops and photographic exhibitions on the importance of conserving and sustainably using the reef. Dives were made for observation and collection during the spawning of *Acropora palmata* in the Costa Occidental de Isla Mujeres, Punta Cancún y Punta Nizuc national park and Arrecife de Puerto Morelos national park.

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: poor water quality

- 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.

Actually, the staff is in the process of training on the use of drones.

- 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.

Adaptation to climate change project (El Proyecto adaptación al cambio climático ADAPTUR) began in mid-2018, is based on ecosystems with the tourism sector and is financed by the German Federal Ministry of the Environment. The CONANP together with the Federal Tourism Secretariat (SECTUR) and the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC) are the counterparts of this project. The objective is to support the tourism sector to adapt to climate change. The purpose is to reduce the risk to the business of tourism companies, protect their natural assets such as beaches, reefs, jungles, biodiversity and the services they provide. The project works under the scheme of public-private cooperation; the participation of all actors in the tourism sector and the social sector, communities and the academy is sought to develop solutions and shared measures for all involved.

Some of the results of the project will be: contribute to Mexico complying with its international commitments to adapt to climate change, develop a plan to adapt the tourism sector as part of the national adaptation plan, develop economic analyzes on the impact of climate change in the tourism sector, help integrate adaptation measures into sectoral plans and processes.

- 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.

Development of the Climate Change Adaptation Program of the Costa Occidental de Isla Mujeres, Punta Cancún y Punta Nizuc national park, Manglares de Nichupté flora and fauna protection area and Arrecife de Puerto Morelos national park. The objective of this program is to strengthen the effectiveness of management and the resilience of protected areas to preserve biodiversity threatened by climate change. The final report will be ready at the beginning of 2019.

- 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.

- 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.

The integration of environmental care and local culture in the tourism sector is a challenge, especially in this region of the Mexican Caribbean, because there is a great diversity of resources and a high interest of visitors to enjoy them, so it is important to value at all levels, as well as the integration of the local community as the main actor in each project, generating economic benefits for local people and greater interest in conserving their resources. Also, an application of planning and regulatory instruments that include principles of sustainability and adaptive management is required, covering from the design of projects to the specific links that are applicable to them. That's why the CONANP focuses on supporting projects that benefit local and viable communities according to the feasibility results, as well as providing people with training tools and close follow-up that allow the sustainability of the companies.

Likewise, CONANP promotes the elaboration of studies, plans and official instruments that organize tourism activities based on the conservation of natural and cultural resources, such as productive projects, studies of the limit of acceptable change (ELCA), among others.

This year, through the CONANP, two studies will be obtained that will allow to have the load capacities and limits for the use and sustainable use of the natural elements that contain protected areas of the Yucatan Peninsula region, these are:

- Acceptable Change Limit Study for recreational tourist activities in Akumal Bay (ELCA para actividades turístico recreativas en la Bahía de Akumal)
- Acceptable Change Limit Study to regulate the recreational tourist activities of observation and swimming with whale shark in three protected natural areas of the Mexican Caribbean (ELCA para regular las actividades turístico recreativas de observación y nado con tiburón ballena en tres áreas naturales protegidas del Caribe Mexicano)

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

Yes, the Institution has different subsidy programs for communities that depend on coral reefs. The projects facilitate talks, courses, training, equipment for productive activities such as fishing and tourism. There are specific projects for monitoring, surveillance, implementation of good environmental practices, support for the acquisition of sustainable energy, etc.

#### **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

Development of the program of adaptation to climate change in 3 protected natural areas, referred to above.

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

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

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

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 3-14 Dec 2018

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.

Article: A brief description of invasive lionfish (*Pterois* sp.) diet composition in the Arrecifes de Cozumel national park.

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:

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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|---------------------------------------|---|
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*Thank you very much for sharing your valuable experiences and information with ICRI.*