

**Member's report on activities to ICRI**

Presented by [Brazil]

Reporting period July 2008 – April 2009

1. General Information

Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Brazil /Ministry
Focal Point 1:	Ana Paula Leite Prates (MMA)
Focal point 2:	Beatrice Padovani Ferreira (UFPE)
Last meeting attended:	Florida/USA
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	At the website, meetings and within the organizations
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	US\$ 16,000 (August- December /2008)

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?	NO (we have a National Program for Coral Reef Conservation but it is not formal act)
Is this plan publicly available? If so please provide location:	
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative or Task Force?	The Initiative was designed in 2008 but the decree has not yet been signed by the President
Are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relating to coral reefs:	YES
If yes, please indicate which programmes/initiatives:	Brazil is part of the SA Node of GCRMN, although is not part of Regional seas program for Caribbean as all the other SA country members in the node.

Member contribution to the ICRI GM:**a. Please provide any lessons you have learned from your experiences of developing partnerships with the private sector that might be relevant to ICRI members?**

In Brazil, most partnerships with the private sector have been developed locally, and usually are with the tourism sector that benefit from coral reefs in a given location.

The coral reef monitoring program in Brazil has the local support from dive operators who have provided logistics during field expeditions, ranging from full logistic support

in the field, as is the case in Fernando de Noronha (by Atlantis Divers) and in Maracajau (by Maracajau Divers) to participation of instructors as volunteers in Abrolhos (by Aratur turismo). This support has been essential to the development of the program, as it has greatly reduced costs and also promoted local participation in the monitoring. Private sector has also helped supporting baseline studies for the establishment of small no take area in São Jose da Coroa Grande, Pernambuco, Coral Coast Environmental protection area, where field expeditions have been conducted through Marina do Mangue (boat and guide) and Arcor/Dahouie (financing). (<http://www.recifescosteiros.org.br/reefcheck/>).

The Living Coral Project (Projeto Coral Vivo), initially funded by a Fund of the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment (FNMA - Environmental National Fund), has continued in South Bahia with the help of partnerships developed with the private sector, in special a partnership with Arraial d'Ajuda Eco Parque, a thematic water park in Arraial D'Ajuda beach. The park initially provided free space and laboratories for research activities, while the coral vivo project provided monitored tours to research tanks. From 2006 onwards, the park became a financial sponsor for some of the project activities. This partnership allowed for continuity of research activities of the project and promoted public awareness about coral reef conservation, with 20,000 signed visitors only in 2008. (<http://www.coralvivo.org.br/>)

The NGO PROMAR in Itaparica island, Bahia, has received support from the private sector for the Mare Global Project, that develops coral reef monitoring activities (in partnership with the national program and Reef Check Brasil) and educational activities. The resort Club Med hosts an NGO outpost within the resort premises, and GDK, a petroleum and gas engineering company based in the region, has provided funds for equipment and several other activities. The project is also supported by Avina Foundation. (<http://www.promar.org.br>).

b. Are you aware of programmes or policies by your country/organization for implementing integrated ecosystem management from watershed to reef slope?

The National Council of Water Resources implements a Technical Chamber (CT Coast) to discuss the integrated ecosystem management from watershed to coastal zone. The Chamber is coordinated by Ministry of the Environment and composed by different government institutions and no government organizations. They have periodic meetings and have elaborated a resolution with guidelines that is still waiting for approval. (<http://www.mma.gov.br>).

A reef fish spawning aggregation project, conducted by Universities and NGOs in partnership with the ICMBio, will investigate the spawning events of commercially important snappers and groupers in the slope of the continental shelf, an area of give up reefs, and their synchronicity with recruitment events occurring at coastal ecosystems such as mangroves and seagrass beds. The study aims to investigate patterns of cross shelf connectivity, and indicate areas for protection in order to improve management of fisheries resources.

The Brazilian Node of the Marine Management Areas Science Program (MMAS), led by Conservation International (CI) in partnership with universities and the Brazilian Government, has a Cross-Shelf Connectivity component, studying the biological relationships between estuaries, reefs, algae banks and shelf break in the Abrolhos Region, Bahia. The results so far include the discovery of an entire reef system at least twice larger than the previous known reefs in Abrolhos and the

identification of key sites for important commercial species of fish. (<http://www.conservation.org.br/onde/ecossistemas/>).

c. Are there any monitoring or research activities you are either involved in or aware of aimed at improving understanding of adaptive management of coral reefs and related ecosystems that may be of interest to ICRI members?

Examples could include any efforts through workshops, environmental education programs, beach and underwater clean ups, etc. with coastal/local communities to promote understanding and recognition of the environmental services coral reefs provide.

In the Coral Coast MPA, a multiple use MPA encompassing coastal coral reefs in northeastern Brazil, which extends through 120 km of coast and includes 12 municipalities, an experiment with the establishment of a small no take areas (3-4 sqkm) was initiated in 1999 in Tamandaré, one of the municipalities, as part of the *Projeto Recife Costeiros* funded by IADB. The recovery of the area was monitored during several years, and the results showed recovery of fish resources. The dissemination of the results lead other municipalities in the MPA to become interested in establishing similar areas and Cepene, a Center of the Brazilian Institute of Biodiversity Chico Mendes (ICMBio) is conducting a program to establish those areas. The process includes baseline surveys in the reefs and presentation of results to the local communities, organized in municipal environmental councils (COMDEMAS), for subsequent discussion of options for closure. So far, the process was conducted in one municipality, São Jose da Coroa Grande, mentioned in the examples of partnerships with the private sector section in this report. We consider this an adaptative management example because the first no take area was established as an demonstration experiment.

The National Coral Reef Monitoring Program in Brazil is based on reef check protocol thus allowing for participation of local community in the surveys. This participation has generated the opportunity for participants to debate local problems and issues concerning coral reef conservation with coral reef specialists and managers, to establish hypothesis, and then to propose new sites for monitoring. The program is coordinated by Federal University of Pernambuco and is executed by the Instituto Recife Costeiros. (<http://www.recifescosteiros.org.br/reefcheck/>).

The Campaign for Responsible Conduct in Reef Environments was launched in 2001 with the objective to explain how tourists, or the population in general, can contribute to the conservation of reefs by carrying out these activities. The publicity material is made up of leaflets, booklets and an eight-minute video describing the importance of corals and the principles of conduct to be followed when visiting these environments. In 2008, 294 environmental and tourism guides were trained as the campaign has been incorporated as part of educational activities of several environmental state agencies and NGOs. (<http://www.mma.gov.br>).

The Clean up activity was coordinated by Aqualung NGO and in 2008 they developed 4 actions – one in January during the carnival time cleaning the beaches, one in may to commemorate the Brazilian Environment Day, one in September during the World Clean Up day and one in December. The beaches they cleaned were located at Rio de Janeiro, Cabo Frio and Porto Seguro and 3.000 volunteers participated in these actions. (<http://www.institutoaqualung.com.br/>).

The Living Coral Project (Projeto Coral Vivo) has established a Reef Research Net to facilitate projects to subsidize the management plan of the Recife de For a municipal MPA. Environmental education activities include a newsletter and so far 200 local elementary school teachers were trained to develop activities with their students on the ecology and importance of coral reefs (<http://www.coralvivo.org.br/new>).

The Bahia Federal University has a research coral reef group coordinated by Prof Zelinda Leão that works with coral reef from Bahia State such as ecology of coral reef, environment impact of petroleum industry, coral reef monitoring research project and coral reef taxonomy (<http://www.cpgg.ufba.br/lec/grecifes.htm>).

The MMAS Program mentioned above, was designed for understanding the effectiveness of the marine managed areas, generating information for adapting their management, and designing efficient MPA Networks. In the Abrolhos Region, the project was subsidized by an eight years monitoring effort conducted by CI and partners, comparing protected and unprotected reef areas in the region. (<http://www.conservation.org.br/onde/ecossistemas/>).

d. Please indicate the effects of the Live Reef Food Fish Trade on your government/organization. Are you aware of any programs/policies in place to address these impacts?

There is no Live Reef Food Fish Trade in Brazil. The trade of live rocks, mostly fragments of coral reefs, however, was quite significant, in spite of the fact that coral reefs in Brazil have been protected by the Environmental Crimes Law since 1998, which prohibits purchase and trade of handicrafts that use corals; anchoring of vessels or throwing debris on coral banks; and fishing with explosives or chemicals. Recently, in a coordinated action, the Federal Police dismantled an international illegal coral reef extraction, trade and export scheme. The *Nautilus* Operation, launched in April 2008 involved 12 Brazilian states and 8 countries from Europe, North America and South America, where the product was resold. The aim of the operation was to suppress the illegal removal and trade of “live rocks”, in fact coral reef fragments. It was the first action to prevent this type of environmental crime in Brazil.

e. What other new initiatives/programs/projects/progress, in particular since January 2008, has been made by your government/organization relative to Marine Protected Areas, Ramsar site designations containing coral reefs, integrated coastal zone management measures, policy changes influenced by economic valuation of coral reef ecosystem services, etc., which you believe would be of general interest to other ICRI Members?

The Ministry of the Environment launched in 2009 the book Diagnosis of the Coastal and Marine Zone of Brazil with all the maps and an analysis of the direct and indirect impacts in the coastal zone. (<http://www.mma.gov.br>).

Brazil developed activities during IYOR that includes coral reef training program to tourism, education and environmental agents in some states at the northeast of the country. In 2008 we had training 294 persons that work with environmental and tourism in some Brazilian marine protected (see the IYOR report). (<http://www.mma.gov.br>).

Brazil has applied for the designation of Abrolhos Marine National Park as a Ramsar Site. The National Park is an important coral reef area located at south of Bahia State.

In 2008 a Global Environmental Fund (GEF) five million dollar project was approved with the main objective of strengthening public policies for the conservation of mangroves and implementation of protected areas including mangroves. (<http://www.mma.gov.br>).

In December 2008 the workshop of the IUCN specialist group on groupers and wrasses was held in Brazil, to assess the status of conservation of wrasses and also some parrot fishes. In the sequence, the ICMBio held a regional workshop of Brazilian and overseas specialists to assess the status of conservation of groupers and snappers in Brazil using IUCN criteria for regional evaluation.

For any of the above questions, please provide links to further information. gef, ramsar, etc As appropriate, the Secretariat will compile such information to make it accessible to all Members on the ICRI Forum.

ICRI and Other Meetings

Are your ICRI Focal Points considering attending any of the following meetings in 2009?

- IMCC, Washington DC
- World Ocean Congress, Manado, Indonesia

Other (please specify):

Acronyms:

FNMA – Environmental National Fund

NGO – Non-Governmental Organization

IBAMA – Brazilian Institute for the Environment and the Natural Renewable Resources

ICMBio- Chico Mendes Biodiversity Conservation Institute

CEPENE- Northeastern Fisheries Research Center/IBAMA

CONDEMAS- local environmental councils

IADB- Inter American Development Bank

MPA – Marine Protected Area