



Member’s report on activities to ICRI

Presented by
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Reporting period July 2008 – April 2009

Please note that the purpose of this report is to help you share information about your activities within the ICRI community to allow discussion at the next ICRI General Meeting. The reports will be made available on the ICRIForum prior to the meeting. The ICRI secretariat is well aware of your busy schedule, thus don’t hesitate to submit an incomplete report.

1. General Information

Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Republic of Palau/Palau International Coral Reef Center
Focal Point 1:	
Focal point 2:	
Last meeting attended:	Ft. Lauderdale, FL July 2008
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	E-mail communications with collaborating agencies, update PICRC Board of Directors and personnel, publication in annual reports, newsletters, discussions during outreach programs
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	About 45% for FY2009

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?	NO
Is this plan publicly available? If so please provide location:	We have a PICRC Annual Work Plan that we can make available upon request
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative or Task Force?	NO
Are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relating to coral reefs:	YES
If yes, please indicate which programmes/initiatives:	The Micronesia Challenge; Micronesians in Island Conservation (peer learning network)

2. Member contribution to the ICRI GM: Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the Mexico-

United States action plan. Due to the heavy schedules of ICRI members, we have tried to keep the questions to a minimum and value any response you can provide.

NOTE: The Secretariat will compile Members' responses to the below questions into a general presentation to be given during the April GM. The Secretariat will also request specific Members to highlight certain initiatives, should additional information be of interest to the full ICRI membership. Please keep this in mind when filling out this report and place special emphasis on calling attention to new initiatives/programs/projects of your government/organization which will be of interest to the ICRI Members.

- 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?

We welcome every opportunity to share the work we do with the private sector and to discuss with them ways that they can contribute to our conservation efforts. Providing outreach activities and doing presentations to educate various private establishments have resulted in financial contributions to support our programs. For instance, Shell Palau, Inc. has been donating fuel to support our monitoring activities since 2001. To date, they have contributed over \$100,000.00 worth of fuel. Another activity that we do that has been supported by local businesses is the production of the Art & Tides Calendar. Every year we solicit about \$8,000.00 from the various companies to support this awareness activity. So basically, with a clear understanding of Palau's conservation efforts and the work we do at PICRC, the private sector is willing to participate, and the support they provide is crucial in helping to sustain our programs, and we are very thankful for their continued support

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

1. Babeldaob Watershed Alliance (BWA) is a program that has been recognized through a Resolution by the House of Delegates in 2008 that is aimed at conserving water resources through the conservation of terrestrial forest as buffers for clean water. In doing so, this helps to promote sustainable land use practices that will help to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation in coastal marine waters. As of today, there are 4 sites in Babeldaob that has been designated as conservation areas through BWA efforts.
2. Babeldaob Ecosystem Based Project links government and non government agencies in an effort to better understand the linkage between terrestrial and marine habitat, recognizing that people are important part of the system and must be considered in the management of both terrestrial and marine systems. This project has been ongoing for three years and has resulted in the recognition of the Ngeremlengui Bird Sanctuary as well as numerous data that has shown impact of sedimentation on coastal marine areas adjacent to major watershed in Babeldaob. Such information has been used by BWA to work with States in designating terrestrial areas in the watershed under protection.

- 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.

1. PICRC has launched a long term monitoring program with 22 sites. This year, we have begun our monitoring activities of these 22 sites and have invited State Conservation Officers to participate in the monitoring activities. Through this approach, we have provided training to these conservation officers.
 2. MPA capacity building and monitoring with 4 States involving their conservation officers in the hopes that the information being gathered in collaboration with the States will be used for adaptive MPA management.
 3. Currently involved with Koror State in trying to come up with a training program for Koror State Rangers to conduct rapid assessment for ship grounding which will assist Koror State to adaptively manage grounding sites and to reduce ship groundings.
 4. Currently working with Koror State to collect data on tourist perception on dive sites to help Koror state to implement adaptive management of the dive sites through restriction of access. By knowing, the perception of the tourist as to what is considered to be a crowded site, Koror State can then set up a visitor's limit to each site through permit fee or others.
- 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?

In 2008, Palau National congress passed a legislation to ban live reef fish trade in Palau.

- 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?
1. Legislation to implement the green fee to support PAN
 2. Ebiil has joined PAN
 3. Ngarchelong State has formed a committee to draft a management plan for the Northern Reef, major fishing ground which has not been regulated in the past.
 4. Workshop to discuss indicators for PAN sites.

For any of the above questions, please provide links to further information. 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?

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

Other (please specify):
