



Member's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by Philippines

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 ICRI Forum 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 (Philippines/Department of Environment and Natural Resources):	
Focal Point 1: Department of Environment and Natural Resources	
Focal Point 2: Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (Second focal point of ICRI)	
Last meeting attended: Nov. 17-19, 2008, Tokyo	
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization? Inter-agency Meetings	
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period): within DENR Budget 2009.	

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?	YES / NO
Is this plan publicly available? If so please provide location:	
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative Task Force?	YES / NO
Are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relating to coral reefs:	YES
If Yes, please indicate which programmes/initiatives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion Conservation Plan, www.sulusulawesi.net; 2. South China Sea Coral Reef Project 3. Still on the process of developing the Regional and National Plan of Action on the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) for World Ocean Conference/CTI

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/projects of your government/organization which will be of interest to the ICRI members.

- a. Please provide any lessons you have learned from your government/organization which will be of interest to the ICRI Members?**

a.1 Participatory Approach- Under the NIPAS, establishment of MPAs passes through various steps/stages, including the suitability and socio-economic assessments, series of consultations with the stakeholders, plan preparation and legislation. The management of MPAs is through a multi-sectoral management board, of which the local communities & local government units are represented. The management board is the decision-making body for the management of MPAs hence, all the stakeholders are well-represented.

a.2 Community Based MPAs – Among the most successfully managed MPAs in the country are those that are managed by the local communities. These communities are clustered into Peoples Organizations (POs) and they themselves decide for the management of their MPAs, such as designation of zones as well as the close and open seasons.

a.3 Ecosystems-Based Management (EBM)– MPAs have started to be viewed through an EBM instead of at the local/site levels alone. This has been applied in the country through marine biodiversity conservation corridor projects, such as the Verde Island Passage and Balabac Straits. Likewise, it is being applied thru the inter-LGU collaboration [with the Municipalities of Leganes, Pandan, Sebaste and Culasi, Province of Antique (LEPASECU)] or shared seas such as creation of Alliances or even a shift in the clustering of Peoples Organizations from regional to ecosystems-based clusters, such as the Pambansang Alyansa ng mga Maliliit na Mangingisda na Nangangalaga ng Sanktuario at Karagatan ng Pilipinas, (PAMANA KA).

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

Yes. Republic Act 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992.

- 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.

- Yes. 1. Biodiversity Monitoring System
2. MPA Award System
3. Annual Coastal Clean-up*

- 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?

The info/data is with the Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources (BFAR) under the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Needs for inter-agency coordination.

- 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. Revision of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the NIPAS Act;*
- 2. Preparation of the National Plan of Action for the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) as well as inputs to the Regional PoA on CTI..*

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?

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