



Member’s report on activities to ICRI

Presented by
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), South Asia.
and
South Asia Coral Reef Task Force
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 (Country / Organization):	Dr. R. Venkatesan SASP Coordinator
Focal Point 1:	Director General-SACEP
Focal point 2:	SASP Coordinator, South Asian Seas Programme, SACEP
Last meeting attended:	ICRI General Meeting, Greater Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA 12-13 July 2008
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Via web, newsletter and Regional Meetings
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	US\$ 174,734 /2008

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?	
Is this plan publicly available? If so please provide location:	
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative or Task Force?	
Are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relating to coral reefs:	
If yes, please indicate which programmes/initiatives:	

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.

- 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?

SACEP had few interactions with the Private sector

During the South Asian Games an awareness campaign on solid waste management was brought to the notice of public in collaboration with ART TV Sri Lanka and ABANS pvt Ltd Sri Lanka and Standard Chartered Bank sponsored the Environment Awards and Panel Discussion organized by SACEP.

SACEP coordinated international coastal cleanup day every year. In India last 3 years overwhelming response was received for sponsoring events by private sector for conducting quiz, painting and elocution competitions for school children and beach clean up competitions for college students. These events are widely covered by TV RADIO and cable TV network locally

A well known sport person in this region Mr Kumara Sangakara (present Captain of Sri Lankan Cricket team) has agreed to be the Brand ambassador for coral reef ecosystem management. ICRI can support SACEP to develop popular advertisement through electronic media to reach coastal communities and policy makers to show importance fo coral reef conservation and management. During this process we may come across many more sport persons and celebrities who can involve voluntarily. One successful effort being undertaken in India by a TV News channel – Private – Institute (NDTV-TOYOTO-TERI) in the Green environment campaign to provide solar light to people, can be noted

Further under UNEP EU funded programme, each SAS country had taken an educational awareness programme and they found enthusiastic response from private sector

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

Under the programme on the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment from Land-Based Activities a draft regional action plan has been prepared on the basis of Draft National Action Plans prepared by National Consultants for implementation of the GPA at a National Forum

- 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?**

SACEP is not directly undertaking any research programme. However the member countries have their country programme dealing with coral reefs and related ecosystems

- 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?**

Not applicable

- 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. **Managers Exchange programme.** Altogether 24 participants from five maritime countries in South Asia Region attended the 04 days exchange/exposure visit Managers Exchange programme. This was organized from 5- 8 November 2008 and was held at GEER Foundation, Gandhinagar, India in an extensive manner with field visit, live demonstrations and meeting with local people and stake holders.
2. IYOR activities were successfully executed and a separate report was prepared on IYOR
3. 11th GC of SACEP approved for the establishment of **South Asia Initiative for Combating Illegal Trade in Wild Life** which was unanimously adopted as **Jaipur Declaration**. GC also urged the member countries to establish the **South Asia Experts Group on Illegal Wild Life Trade**. SACEP and TRAFFIC INTERNATIONAL has signed a MoU and proposed to organise a regional workshop. SACEP is pursuing with funding agencies to organise this event. Recently SACEP and US Embassy - Kathmandu ,Regional Environment Office, South Asia held a meeting in SACEP Secretariat Colombo in this regard.
4. As approved by SACEP GC, SACEP a training course on the management of **Marine and Coastal invasive species** is proposed with International Ocean Institute - Southern Africa, University of the Western Cape, South Africa. SACEP has approached GEF for funding support

ICRI and Other Meetings

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

- NO IMCC, Washington DC
- YES World Ocean Congress, Manado, Indonesia

Yes, Both the meetings

Other (please specify):

Annex 1.

Presented by South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) COLOMBO SRI LANKA

Background

ICRI framework to action and call to action covers all issues on coral reef ecosystems such as management; capacity building; research and monitoring; and review.

However, it is suggested that some emphasis can be given to the below given issues.

- 1 Capacity building of women stakeholders
- 2 Linking CDM to coral reef ecosystem management
- 3 Emphasize of regional institutions to prepare regional action plan for coral reef ecosystem management

1. Gender equality and capacity building of women stakeholders

One of the most critical steps in resource management process is to identify and include all stakeholders. For areas under customary marine tenure, the most basic stakeholder is that of the resources owner. It is this group in particular that must contribute actively and universally to the management plans and decisions¹. Women fishers are in many places major fishers of shallow waters and their voice must be heard and incorporated into the management plans. It is known that in the Southern Indian coast women involve in pearl diving activities.

The importance of involvement of women in decision making process was emphasized in the recommendations of 25 GC/GMEF MEETING (UNEP). High level gender forum of the network of women ministers and leaders for environment held from 16 to 20 FEBRUARY 2009 and also in the fourth UNESCO Forum on Gender Equality, held on 19 June 2008.

Excerpts recommendation of UNEP HIGH LEVEL GENDER FORUM on International Environmental Governance structures² is given below

General Statement to GMEF (IEG):

Women not just victims but can play a big role in bringing up implementable solutions. They therefore should allocate an equal place in decision making processes.

Decision-making : Considering that the role poor women play at local level in sustainable management of environment including in disaster resilience is no longer contested, it is then prudent to invest in innovation and scale them for longer impact. Ensure that grassroots women are at the centre of policy development and programming and are present in all decision making.

In South Asian seas (SAS) region, women fishers can be effectively used to play a major role in coral reef conservation and management. In India women Self Help Groups (SHGs) mechanism is proved to be functioning successfully. Further they can be trained and motivated to carry this message effectively in the field level. This aspect is not dealt exclusively in any forum on coral reef ecosystem management. ICRI can be a pioneer by taking this initiative in this resolution

¹ James C. Cato, Christopher L. Brown., Marine ornamental species: collection, culture, & conservation Wiley-Blackwell, 2003 p 151

² <http://www.unep.org/GC/GC25/Docs/Recommendations-the-Gender-Forum.pdf>

2. Linking CDM to coral reef ecosystem management

Financial incentives for ecosystem conservation can be stressed. For example, in Sri Lanka, efforts were taken to link climate change to ecosystem conservation³. Exclusively guidelines can be drawn by an expert group. This can motivate private partnership in this conservation effort during the present global economic recession being faced.

3 Emphasize regional institutions to prepare regional action plan for coral reef ecosystem management

Even though international conventions and treaties are in place, it is widely accepted that regional level agreements are vital for its implementation in the field level. Recently South Asian Environmental Ministers (SAARC) have joined to work together on climate change mitigation and adaptation programme by signing Dhaka Declaration by member countries

³ Financial incentives for ecosystem conservation : a review of the development of markets for environmental services in Sri Lanka
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