



## Member's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by UNEP- World Conservation Monitoring Centre

Reporting period July 2008 – April 2009

### 1. General Information

Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	UNEP-WCMC One Ocean Programme
Focal Point 1:	Kristian Teleki
Focal point 2:	Terri Young
Last meeting attended:	Fort Lauderdale, Florida July 2008
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Travel report, intra-organisational newsletter, meetings
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	\$250,000 (2009)

- 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?

- 1. Guidelines on dredging and port construction around coral reefs.** UNEP-WCMC in collaboration with the dredging industry (represented by the main international dredging associations through PIANC's Environmental Committee, Working Group 15) is leading the work on the development and publishing of guidelines for environmentally sound dredging operations in the vicinity of coral reefs and related marine ecosystems. The guidelines have been reviewed by the coral reef and dredging/port construction communities and will be launched shortly. The guidelines will be made available to different stakeholders; national policy and decision makers, port and coastal zone managers/developers, dredging operators. Copies will be distributed within the UNEP, Global Programme of Action (GPA) and Regional Seas Programme (RSP) networks.
- 2. Private sector Proteus Partnership.** Started in 2002, this partnership provides financial support for the redevelopment of the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), which improves the quality and quantity of terrestrial and marine protected areas data. Proteus partners receive updated information on protected areas, including best available spatial and descriptive data, to assist with their development planning and to avoid actions that negatively impact biodiversity.

UNEP-WCMC have just moved into the next phase of this partnership, 2008-2012, where activities will focus on continuing improvement of WDPA content, as well as working with national authorities and NGOs to increase data flow to the WDPA, and capacity-building efforts related to increasing the accessibility and functionality of the WDPA. In addition, future actions will be dedicated to integrating the WDPA with other key biodiversity data sets such as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), High Conservation Value Areas, WWF ecoregions, and IUCN Red List species. Finally, the third emphasis of activities includes increased access to up-to-date information on the distribution and status of coastal and inshore marine ecosystems.

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

**3. Ecosystem Service Flows** UNEP - WCMC is supporting an international workshop which will look at ecosystem services in freshwater and marine environments, how these services can be assessed, quantified and mapped, and how flows between them can be more readily understood in development and planning. This workshop will address environments ranging from ridge to reef, and on into deep sea ecosystems, and will capture lessons learned to encourage proper implementation of the ecosystem approach to assess ecosystem services. The outputs of the workshop will form the basis of a publication and will inform a parallel effort which aims to add a spatial dimension to ecosystem services, and making available associated analysis tools.

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.*

**4. Implications for aquaculture activities in East Africa (social, economic and ecological).** The work is aimed at providing information on the possible ecological, social and economical implications the introduction of shrimp farming activities can have on the East African region. The information is derived from a review of the concept of sustainable shrimp farming and lesson learned from other regions of the world where shrimp culture activities have been taking place for an extended period of time, and by looking at the specific environmental social and economical condition of the East African region.

**5. The Future of mangroves under a changing climate.** Mangroves are valued for potential adaptation and mitigation roles in facing the challenge of climate change. Building resilience into mangrove conservation plans requires an understanding of how mangroves will respond to these changes. In order to support mangrove conservation, a research project titled 'Future of mangroves under a changing climate' is being undertaken. Based on experience from the 'Mangroves for the Future (MFF)' programme, the objective of the project is to generate information on the future of mangroves that is easily interpretable and usable by policy makers and planners. The area of focus is South Asian coastlines and the Bay of Bengal rim. A combination of review, consultation, GIS and simulation modelling will be used in the research. The anticipated outputs are maps of existing mangrove area, mangrove coverage by protected areas and potential future mangrove areas. A user's guide explaining how to use these outputs will accompany the maps. Along with these, key considerations for decision making and planning for mangroves of the region will also be outlined.

**6. Reefs at Risk Revisited.** UNEP-WCMC is working with ICRAN and the World Resources Institute to build upon the previously successful and highly utilised Reefs at Risk. Since this map based global analysis was published in 1998, we have seen a dramatic decline in the state of the world's reefs, despite greater public awareness and the recognition of larger threats that demand global action. Reefs at Risk Revisited includes new and innovative analyses such as vulnerability to coral bleaching, a social vulnerability analysis, a comparison of change in threat over the last 10 years,

and a global economic valuation of coral reefs, in order to help guide future conservation efforts. For more detailed information please see the project overview and timeline under Agenda Item 6.

**7. IYOR 2008 activities.** Please see separate IYOR report

- 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?

**No**

- 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?

**8. Development of Capacity-Building Training Module for marine protected area knowledge and data management, monitoring, and application.** This project aims to build the capacity of marine protected areas managers, practitioners, and national agencies to manage, monitor, and analyse information made available through the WDPA-Marine, regarding marine biodiversity knowledge and data thus informing planning and political decisions that positively impact marine conservation successes.

**9. Integrating Marine Data into the World Database on Protected Areas.** This project aims to develop a mechanism for integrating existing marine protected area global databases, including MPA Global and details about important high seas areas. The main objective of this project is to centralise the management and dissemination of global marine data so it is more accessible to users, consists of best available and updated data, and assists with the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Programme of Work on Protected Areas. It builds on the multi-year programme of work at WCMC to build data improvements and validation to the WDPA.

**10. Protected Areas Management Effectiveness - Information Module.** The Global Study of protected area management effectiveness was conceived to address the lack of standardisation of approaches to measuring management effectiveness around the world, and the absence of a compiled set of completed assessments. The work developed from a call from practitioners for systems to be 'harmonised', and from the call from international organisations and conventions such as the CBD for global reporting on management effectiveness, rather than just protected area coverage. The Global Study has listed, and where possible assembled and analysed, all studies of management effectiveness that can be located around the world, drawing on information from the conservation community, NGOs and park management agencies. This material is being analysed and it is expected that these analyses will help to understand more about what factors are essential to good management, and to recommend ways to maximise the benefits obtained from conducting evaluations of management. Ultimately, it is hoped that by sharing experiences and identifying common issues, challenges, and 'best practice', the management effectiveness of protected areas will be strengthened around the world.

**11. National Networks of Marine Protected Areas: A Review of Progress.** Launched at the International Coral Reef Marine Protected Area Network Meeting, 4th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop (November 17-19, 2008 - Tokyo, Japan) in response to the global challenge for a systematic conservation planning approach to MPA establishment, set by the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international agreements and action plans, there are now many initiatives to develop ecologically representative MPA networks. This report describes the progress being made in 30 national and 35 sub-national ecological MPA network initiatives, using information from the literature, MPA practitioners and planners, and conservation experts. The report explores the diverse range of approaches applied, at various spatial and geographical

scales, to demonstrate how MPA networks can be established in practice, and how they can be adapted to different needs and priorities.

- 12. Global Islands Database.** A collaborative effort between agencies within the Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA), countries and organisations to create an islands database and information portal, that will provide a critical tool for the monitoring and assessment of progress towards meeting international targets and MEAs, and support the CBDs Island Biodiversity Programme of Work.

*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.*

### **IYOR Reporting**

There is a separate reporting template for IYOR which has already been distributed by Francis Staub to IYOR Focal Points. If you have not received the IYOR request for reporting, please contact Francis Staub at: [fstaub@iyor.org](mailto:fstaub@iyor.org).

### **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**

Other (please specify):

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