



IUCN Member's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by IUCN – The World Conservation Union Global Marine Programme

Reporting period: October 2006 – April 2007

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 report will be made available on the ICRIForum prior to the meeting, and a question and answer session held at the meeting. The ICRI secretariat is well aware of your busy schedule, thus don't hesitate to submit incomplete report.

1. General Information

Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Organization
Focal Point 1:	Carl Gustaf Lundin Head, Global Marine Programme
Focal point 2:	Jerker Tamelander Coordinator, Indian Ocean/CORDIO
Last meeting attended:	Cozumel, October 2006
How do you circulate ICRI information with your country and/or organization?	Email, newsletters, progress reports
Budget allocated for coral reefs (please mention for year/period):	

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef actions plan?	YES / NO
Date of publication:	
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative?	YES / NO
Relevance to regional program / initiative:	
How and where to obtain more information:	
Monitoring	
Is there a national monitoring programme for your country?	
Date of the last assessment?	
How and where to obtain more information:	
Marine Protected Areas	
How many MPA(s) with coral reefs?	
What is the percentage of coral reef MPA(s) to the (coastal zone / marine area)?	
Number of sites (with coral reefs) under the World Heritage Convention?	
Number of wetland sites (with coral reefs) under the Ramsar Convention?	
Number of Biosphere Reserves (with coral reefs) under UNESCO's MAB Programme?	

2. Report

A. Specific requests / questions for the next ICRI General Meeting

International Year of the Reef (IYOR) 2008

Do you have a committee/focal point for IYOR 2008? Yes, focal point
If yes, contact information:

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If available, brief description of what has been done so far:

IYOR incorporated into IUCN work programme and outreach planning for 2008
Information/notification sent to project partners

If available, brief description of near future plans:

Relevance to mangrove ecosystems - Please give details of activities pertaining to mangroves, particularly where mangroves are associated with coral reefs.

Mangroves For the Future (MFF) aims to address the need for better regional and national coordination as well as the need for sustained investment in coastal ecosystem management. MFF is a US\$ 62 million effort that will be supported through a variety of financial mechanisms, including re-allocations of existing tsunami funds, identification of new funding opportunities and use of existing programmes as parallel financing.
<http://www.iucn.org/tsunami/>

'Managing mangroves for climate change' by Elizabeth McLeod and Rodney Salm was published in October 2006.
<http://www.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2006-041.pdf>

B. Summary of activities and pertinent points

1. Brief summary of major coral reef activities/projects:

Activity / Project Title	Location	Amount	duration	major activities	for more info (web site / email)
1. CORDIO South Asia and Andaman Sea	India, Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand		2 years	Resilience research, livelihoods enhancement, awareness, partnerships	
2. ICRI, GCRMN,	Global		continuous	GCRMN Management Group Chair, supporting reports production, networking	

3. Invasive species	Pacific, Indian Ocean		2 years	Baseline surveys, MPAs, aquaculture, risk assessment, prevention, CB, awareness	
4. Working Group on Climate Change and Coral Reefs	Global		3 years	Formulating and testing resilience science and management hypotheses	
5. MPAs and WCPA	Global		continuous	MPAs, MPA networking, creating and disbursing knowledge and best practise, CB	

2. Please list:

- Key activities of the member since last report relating to coral reefs and associated ecosystems
- Identify points of relevance to other ICRI members, or the secretariat (eg points of particular concern; questions to ask of ICRI; information requested; assistance sought; lessons learned
- Identify forthcoming activities that might be of interest to other members in terms of funding; partnership; uptake.

1. A Draft **ICRI resolution on Coral Reefs and Climate Change** is tabled at the Tokyo GM
2. **New projects:** Regional fish spawning aggregation project initiated in South Asia and the Andaman Sea in collaboration with CORDIO and other partners; bleaching response and resilience research projects under development through IUCN-CCCR
3. **Capacity building:** workshops organized include a R2 Reef Resilience workshop and a regional coral reef experts group meeting for South Asia and the Andaman Sea; a Sustainable Livelihoods Enhancement and Diversification workshop in South Asia; as well as technical support to a training workshop on MPA design and management in the face of climate change organized in the Red Sea by the Abu Salama Society.
4. **A GCRMN SocMon South Asia Node** is being developed through a livelihoods intervention in partnership with IUCN, ICRAN, UNEP, CORDIO, SACEP and others
5. **New publications:** 'Managing mangroves for climate change' by Elizabeth McLeod and Rodney Salm was published in October 2006. IUCN is working with ICRAN and other partners on the production of a South Asia Toolkit for MPA managers, based on "Managing Marine Protected Areas – a Toolkit for the Western Indian Ocean", developed through a regional partnership and published by IUCN in 2004. The South Asia MPA Managers Toolkit should be released late 2007. The WIO toolkit is currently being translated into French by the Indian Ocean Commission.

More detailed information on these and other issues can be found in the sections below.

Resilience Workshops

The South Asia Reef Resilience Workshop, held in Bentota, Sri Lanka, 15-18 January 2007, brought together coral reef scientists, managers and policy makers from five countries: Indonesia, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The main objectives of the workshop were to provide insight into the state of coral reef resilience research and management adaptations internationally, identify and discuss regional needs and priorities, as well as to promote learning and exchange of information. The workshop was based on the R2 Resilience Toolkit developed by the Resilience Partnership and the Manual for the Study and Conservation of Reef Fish Spawning Aggregations published by the Society for Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations (SCRFA). The Workshop was convened by IUCN in collaboration with Coastal Ocean Research and Development in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency Sri Lanka (NARA), and was funded through a grant from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, with support from the Macarthur Foundation, the Michael and Andrea Banks Nature Fund, MBA Financial Services and the Baum Foundation.

The R2 workshop was followed by a Coral Reef Experts Group Meeting 19-20 January 2007. The meeting focused on two major elements of reef resilience theory: 1. Coral reef resilience and resistance to bleaching and other stresses; and 2. Coral reef fish spawning aggregations (FSAs). Regional and national/local resilience projects were developed and prioritized and will be implemented in collaboration with IUCN/CORDIO partners in the region.

The Abu Salama Society in the Red Sea organized a workshop to provide training on MPA design and management in the face of climate change, including identifying and enhancing resilience. IUCN GMP conducted the training.

Fish Spawning Aggregations

A regional Project on Reef Fish Spawning Aggregations has been initiated in South Asia and the Andaman Sea. National and local IUCN/CORDIO project partners are carrying out interview surveys throughout the region between February and July 2007 by. The project will seek to determine which reef fish species form spawning aggregations, identify aggregation sites as well as determine the seasonal patterns in spawning aggregations. Further, it will determine the level of awareness of spawning aggregations among fishers, and sensitise fishers and marine resource personnel in South Asia on reef fish spawning aggregations and their implications for conservation and sustainable fisheries. The project will also seek to provide recommendations for the protection and management of sites of spawning aggregations through policy advisories. The activity is funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and responds to the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress Recommendation 3.100 on "Reef-fish spawning aggregations" as well as the ICRI Statement on Coral Reef Fish Spawning Aggregations adopted at the General Meeting in Cozumel in 2006.

Climate Change and Coral Reefs Working Group (IUCN-CCCR)

IUCN-CCCR was established to further the application of resilience principles in the management of coral reefs impacted by climate change. The technical steering committee held its first meeting at ITMEMS3, and the working group has been extended to include a larger group of managers and scientists. IUCN-CCCR is currently focusing on coordinating bleaching response protocols for developing countries, and on coordinating resilience research programmes.

The booklet 'Managing mangroves for climate change' by Elizabeth McLeod and Rodney Salm was published in October 2006 in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy. It synthesises current knowledge on management strategies that can be followed to increase the resilience of mangrove ecosystems to future climate change, and lists specific actions that managers can take to improve the ecological resilience of their ecosystems.

IUCN-CCCR members are collaborating on the development of a bleaching response programme. The main aims are to develop bleaching rapid response protocols that are appropriate and useful for managers around the world, establish regionally coordinated bleaching warning networks, provide contingency funding to implement bleaching response programmes, and to assess the application of resilience principles in monitoring and management. Further, alongside the bleaching response programmes, IUCN-CCCR is working to improve the interpretation of bleaching events and their implications for reefs and reef management through a global research project.

For more information see

http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/coral_reefs/cccr/cccr_home.html

Livelihoods enhancement

The first of three workshop under the Coral Reefs and Livelihoods Initiative (CORALI, a partnership involving IUCN, ICRAN, UNEP, SACEP, IMM Ltd, CORDIO, and other regional and national partners), was held over 8 days in February 2007 in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, India. It brought together 17 practitioners from 16 organisations involved in coastal livelihoods work in 5 countries across South Asia, as well as Indonesia. The workshop aimed to increase participants' knowledge and understanding of sustainable livelihoods, explore the reasons behind the successes and failures in livelihood enhancement and diversification initiatives in reef dependent communities, and to jointly develop a Sustainable Livelihoods Enhancement and Diversification (SLED) approach. The concepts underpinning socioeconomic monitoring were also explored, with the objective of developing a socioeconomic monitoring plan for the communities in their pilot sites. This will establish a regional SocMon network under GCRMN in South Asia.