

**Member's report on activities to ICRI**

Presented by [Dominican Republic]

Reporting period January 2010 – November 2010

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** (note that this information will be post on the ICRIForum in your member page: <http://www.icriforum.org/about-icri/members-networks>)

Are you an ICRI Member?	Yes
Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Dominican Republic
Focal Point 1:	
<i>Name:</i>	Rubén E. Torres
<i>Organization:</i>	Reef Check Dominican Republic
<i>Email:</i>	ruben@reefcheck.org
Focal point 2:	
<i>Name:</i>	Jeannette Mateo
<i>Organization:</i>	Consejo Dominicano de Pesca y Acuicultura(CODOPESCA)
<i>Email:</i>	jeannettemateo@gmail.com
Last meeting attended:	Monaco, 12-15 January 2010
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	E-mail
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	T.B.D.

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:	
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:	GCFI, CAMPAM, Reef Check, ICRI-lionfish-coral disease-CSI, GCRMN, WRI coral reef valuation, Remote Sensing Specialists Network

2. Updates on your activities (new initiatives/programs/projects of your government /organization which will be of interest to the ICRI Members)

Lionfish Control:

As in many Caribbean countries, the DR has experience the rapid invasion of lionfish, and this several gov and non-gov organizations have initiated activities of public awareness, response, and control of such species.

International Coastal Cleanup Day:

The sub ministry of coastal marine resources, led several initiatives to:

- Conduct coastal cleanups
- Raise awareness about pollution problems
- Involve community members in conservation
- Conserve and restore coral reef resources

Coastal vegetation restoration:

The ministry of tourism, led several initiatives to restore beaches in several beach areas of the Dominican Republic to stabilize and control erosion.

Community-based management of La Caleta National Submarine Park: Reef Check Dominican Republic is collaborating with the ministry of environment in the management of this MPA. Both institutions are working in restoring Park infrastructure and landscape, and a few projects have already started being implemented to initiate a full ecotourism enterprise in the Park to create conservation and social funds to manage the Park and support community-based social projects thru:

- Sustainable fishing Program using lobster casitas, funded by the UNDP small grants programme.
- Development of ecotourism enterprises, including an aquatic center, funded by Interamerican foundation (IAF).
- Community-based management: Education, research and management actions are being taken for a more adequate management, funded by the Interamerican Foundation.

3. Contribution to the ICRI GM: Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the current ICRI action plan and objectives of the general meeting. 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. Session on accidental releases of pollutants

Please provide any lessons you have learned from your experiences in managing accidental pollutions and any projects/programs you are involved in. Do you have report or documents related to this topic?

The vice ministry of coastal marine resources and the legal department of the ministry of environment have led several cases against environmental damages to the marine environment. Reef Check DR has served as local experts in determining and valuating these damages.

b. During the meeting, a full day will focus on the Pacific region. If you have any question about the region, ongoing projects in the region... please let us know.

- c. What other new initiatives/programs/projects/progress, in particular since January 2010, has been made by your government/organization relative to i) Marine Protected Areas, Ramsar, World Heritage sites, and Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) sites designation containing coral reefs; ii) Policy changes; iii) Economic valuation of coral reef ecosystem services, etc., which you believe would be of general interest to other ICRI Members?

Creation of new marine protected areas:

The president of the Dominican Republic, Dr. Leonel Fernandez created by decree (571-09), and with the ministry of the environment of the Dominican government 37 new protected areas, among which, there are two large marine protected areas: Southwestern Coral Reef Sanctuary and Southeastern Coral Reef Sanctuary.

CAMPAM-UNEP MPA manager trainer of trainers

CAMPAM-UNEP implemented a regional training workshop for MPA managers. Participants included MPA staff from DR (11), Venezuela (2), Colombia (2), Panama (2), Costa Rica (1), Cuba (2).

- d. We would also like to know if some of the recommendations or resolutions adopted during the last ICRI meeting (<http://icriforum.org/icrigm24>) have been taken forward by your country or organization.
- e. Is there any topic you would like to raise during the meeting?
- f. Please list publications, reports you have been released since April 2009;

Coastal Capital: Dominican Republic: Case studies on the economic value of coastal ecosystems in the Dominican Republic. WRI-Reef Check DR.

- g. Please indicate upcoming coral reef-related meetings you will attend?

GCFI, San Juan Puerto Rico