



Member's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Reporting period January – November 2010

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 (Organization):	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)
Focal Point 1:	
Name:	John Baldwin
Organization:	GBRMPA
Email:	j.baldwin@gbrmpa.gov.au
Focal point 2:	
Name:	vacant
Organization:	
Email:	
Last meeting attended:	Monaco, January 2010
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Formalised intra- and inter-governmental committees (a) and Senior Executive briefings (b)
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	\$AUD45.0million (2009/10 Financial Year)

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?	YES ¹ / NO
Is this plan publicly available? If so, please provide location:	http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mpa/commonwealth/coord/index.html
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative or Task Force?	YES ² / NO
Are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relevant to coral reefs:	The Australian Government is engaged in various multi-lateral and bilateral environmental initiatives within the Asia/Pacific region with coral reef implications.
If yes, please indicate which programs/initiatives:	

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

Please see the list of recent initiatives addressing the major risks identified in the *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2009 (Attachment A)*.

¹ Within the context of the Australian National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (NRSMPA)

² Within the context of the Australian "Marine Protected Areas Working Group"

- 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 GBRMPA has played a major role in the response to the grounding of the 230m (68,000 tonne) coal carrier *Shen Neng 1*. Full details including a series of information sheets is at: www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/oil_spill_and_shipping_incidents/shen_neng_1_grounding

- 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.

Nil

- 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?

- Participation in the process of Periodic Reporting for the Great Barrier Reef as one of Australia's listed World Heritage Areas.
- Contributed to development of Ecological Character Descriptions for Ramsar sites (Bowling Green Bay & Shoalwater and Corio Bay) as part of Qld Wetlands Program
- Participated in Ramsar inventory to identify existing barriers to fish passage in Bowling Green Bay and to give priority for their removal

- 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.

Nil

- e. Is there any topic you would like to raise during the meeting?

Nil at this time

- f. Please list publications, reports you have been released since April 2009;

Publications

McCook, L., Almany, G.R., Berumen, M.L., Day, J.C., Green, A.L., Jones, G.P., Leis, J.M., Planes, S., Russ, G.R., Sale, P.F., Thorrold, S.R. 2010, Management under uncertainty: guide-lines for incorporating connectivity into the protection of coral reefs, *Coral Reefs* 28: 353-366.

Almany, G.R., Connolly, S.R., Heath, D.D., Hogan, J.D., Jones, G.P., McCook, L.J., Mills, M., Pressey, R.L., Williamson, D.H. 2009, Connectivity, biodiversity conservation and the design of marine reserve networks for coral reefs, *Coral Reefs* 28: 339-351.

Day, J.C. 2009, Case study: thinking outside the (MPA) box on EBM: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, *Marine Ecosystems and Management* 2(2): 7-8.

Diaz-Pulido, G., McCook, L.J., Dove, S., Berkelmans, R., Roff, G., Kline, D.I., Weeks, S., Evans, R.D., Williamson, D.H., Hoegh-Guldberg, O. 2009, Doom and boom on a resilient reef: climate change, algal overgrowth and coral recovery, *PlosOne* 4(4): e5239.

Fernandes, L., Dobbs, K., Day, J., Slegers, S. 2010, Identifying biologically and physically special or unique sites for inclusion in the protected area design for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, *Ocean and Coastal Management* 53: 80-88.

Maynard, J.A., Marshall, P.A., Johnson, J.E., Harman, S. 2010, Building resilience into practical conservation: identifying local management responses to global climate change in the southern Great Barrier Reef, *Coral Reefs* 29: 381-391.

McCook, L.J., Ayling, T., Cappo, M., Choat, J.H., Evans, R.D., De Freitas, D.M., Heupel, M., Hughes, T.P., Jones, G.P., Mapstone, B., Marsh, H., Mills, M., Molloy, F.J., Pitcher, C.R., Pressey, R.L., Russ, G.R., Sutton, S., Sweatman, H., Tobin, R., Wachenfeld, D.R., Williamson, D.H. 2010, Adaptive management of the Great Barrier Reef: a globally significant demonstration of the benefits of networks of marine reserves, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS Early Edition, 22 February, 2010)*, viewed 3 September 2010, <<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2010/02/18/0909335107.full.pdf+html>>

Negri, A. and Marshall, P. 2009, TBT contamination of remote marine environments: ship groundings and ice-breakers as sources of organotins in the Great Barrier Reef and Antarctica, *Journal of Environmental Management* 90: S31-S40.

Osmond, M., Airame, S., Caldwell, M., Day, J. 2010, Lessons for marine conservation planning: a comparison of three marine protected area planning processes, *Ocean and Coastal Management* 53: 41-51.

Selected Reports

Report Title	ISBN/ISSN
Water Quality Guidelines for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	9781876945930
Great Barrier Reef Heritage Strategy 2009	9781921682025
Scientific Information Needs for the Management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	9781921682162
Responsible Reef Practices - revised edition	9781921682254
Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2009	9781876945893
GBRMPA Corporate Plan 2010 - 2014	1039-8538

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

Marine World Heritage Site Managers Meeting organised by UNESCO– Honolulu USA1–3 December, 2010

CBD COP10 side event: "**Dialogue on Protected Areas Management**" organised by the World Bank – Nagoya Japan 28-29 October, 2010



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Update on Activities

The left column presents the key risks to the Great Barrier Reef identified in the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2009. Text in italics is quoted from the conclusions of the chapter on management effectiveness (chapter 6). The right column lists select recent actions by the GBRMPA to address those risks.

Key issue (management effectiveness conclusion)	Actions & progress
<p>Climate Change</p> <p><i>"The challenge remains to translate plans and measures into specific policies and measurable on-ground actions".</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Release of Coral Bleaching Response Plan 2009/10 including training. ▪ A mid-term review of the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan. ▪ Working on a climate change vulnerability assessment with the marine aquarium fishing industry Supporting implementation of the <i>Great Barrier Reef Tourism Climate Change Action Strategy 2009</i>. ▪ Keppel Islands resilience-based management project – follow up surveys of resilience and Reef health indicators at Reef Protection Markers - protected sites.
<p>Loss of coastal habitats from coastal development</p> <p><i>"A lack of integrated planning, resources and enforcement in managing coastal development is compromising protection of the Great Barrier Reef".</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expansion of Reef Guardian Councils program, with more Councils signing up to the program (e.g. Gladstone and Rockhampton Regional Councils, bringing total to 12 Councils). ▪ Enhanced protection of wetland ecosystems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As part of Qld Wetlands Program, support identification, assessment and protection of all high value GBR coastal wetlands under Queensland's new wetlands regulation. ○ Contributed to development of Ecological Character Descriptions for Ramsar sites (Bowling Green Bay & Shoalwater and Corio Bay) as part of Qld Wetlands Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in Ramsar inventory to identify existing barriers to fish passage in Bowling Green Bay and to give priority for their removal ○ ○ Rollout out the GBRMPA/DERM wetland curriculum in 9 schools in the GBR catchment and wetland interactive knowledge kiosks in 12 regional GBR catchment science and education centres.

Key issue (management effectiveness conclusion)	Actions & progress
<p>Fisheries</p> <p><i>"A lack of coordination, plus variable uptake of best practice management, is limiting effectiveness of fisheries management"</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Progress in enhancing partnerships with the Queensland Aquarium collection industry with the release in late 2009 of Provision Reef's Stewardship Action Plan. ▪ Working together with Fisheries Queensland on an ecological risk assessment (ERA) for trawl fisheries. ▪ Encouragement of best practice approaches including greater use of Bycatch Reduction Devices and sea trials of a prototype of a 'large critter-friendly' set net. ▪ Expanding Reef Guardians concept to fishers
<p>Water Quality</p> <p><i>"progress is slow and patchy"</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Water quality guidelines for the GBRMP</i> (based on best scientific evidence) launched in late 2009. Exceedence of trigger levels reported in GBRMPA's Marine Monitoring Program used to guide reviews of management actions to improve water quality. ▪ Marine Monitoring Program (partnership program) is continuing to inform management on the quality of the water in and entering the GBR. The program contributes to the assessment of the effectiveness of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and Reef Rescue Package measuring key water quality parameters against GBRMPA's GBR Water Quality Guidelines and reporting exceedences. ▪ Also expanding the Reef Guardians concept to farmers and fishers.
<p>Traditional Use</p> <p><i>"Improvements are being made in the management of traditional use, including through joint resource use agreements, but progress is slow."</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Progress on the implementation of the \$10 million Reef Rescue Indigenous Land and Sea Country Partnerships Program 2009-2011. ▪ The Program is establishing Traditional use of Marine Resource Agreements (TUMRAs) with Traditional Owners, and implementing collaborative management arrangements, to protect cultural values and to achieve sustainable hunting of culturally important species. ▪ A further objective of the Program is to strengthen communications between local communities, managers and reef stakeholders to build a better understanding of Traditional Owner issues.
<p>Information needs / gaps</p> <p><i>"Consideration of cumulative impacts, ecosystem resilience and connectivity issues is currently lacking or not reflected explicitly in most measures for biodiversity protection."</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The GBRMPA's scientific information needs have been updated to reflect the structure and priorities of the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2009. These needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ complement the National Environmental Research Program's Policy questions; ○ provide additional information to guide the development of research programs to be funded by the NERP in the new Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait hub; and ○ articulate research priorities that are highly relevant to management. ▪ This approach highlights issues of high concern that currently lack critical information to support management decisions.