



## ICRAN report on activities to ICRI

Presented by Nicola Barnard, Terri Young, and Penny Stock

Reporting period January – November 2010

### 1. General Information

Are you an ICRI Member?	Yes
Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Operational Network
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<b>Focal point 2:</b>	Terri Young
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Last meeting attended:	Monaco, January 2010
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Through the ICRAN network, UNEP and the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, ITMEMS Network, AdHoc Committee on Coral Disease.
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	In excess of \$485,000 in 2010

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

As reported in January 2010, ICRAN has been working to promote a project concept entitled 'Communities and Coral Reefs: Managing for Resilience in the face of Climate Change' which recognises the opportunities provided by effectively managed coral reefs in supporting the environment and dependent human communities to absorb shocks, regenerate and reorganise so as to maintain key functions, economic prosperity, social wellbeing and political stability. The project seeks to strengthen the capacities of vulnerable coastal communities to respond to the challenges of climate change through the effective management of tropical marine ecosystems.

In line with this initiative, ICRAN and UNEP-WCMC facilitated a multi-disciplinary scoping workshop hosted in Samoa by SPREP. The workshop brought together practitioners from across the world to explore gaps in our understanding and capacity, and to exchange information on existing projects, networks and processes already laying the foundations for the improved resilience of people and marine and coastal ecosystems, in order to define how these might be better connected, strengthened and supported. The sum of the workshop discussions are captured in the [workshop report](#).

Based around this initial concept, the ICRAN Coordinating Unit has worked to broker a large UNDP/ICRAN/UNEP-WCMC partnership focused around two broad components:

- 1) Working through existing or new coral reef management/conservation projects within the global UNDP Biodiversity Portfolio, as a critical platform for testing and integrating management strategies that improve resilience of people and ecosystems and facilitate adaptation to climate change;

- 2) An applied learning network to create opportunities for the practical exchange of knowledge, experiences and evidence-based approaches within and between sectors; and to help countries and communities apply and adapt current science and good practices around resilience and adaptation to their particular context.

To inform this partnership, ICRAN has received funds to advance work around the scientifically reliable integration of ecological and social resilience principles, and to develop practical methodological guidance on the selection and integration of metrics to best suit local contexts; to inform management and adaptation approaches and trade-offs. Starting this work in the latter stages of 2010, ICRAN will liaise with relevant partners to build on existing tools, approaches and efforts in the respective fields of socio-political and ecological resilience, to ensure the greatest synergy and benefit from these activities.

### **ICRI Coral Reef CSI**

In March 2010, a regional CSI workshop was hosted by Reef Check Indonesia in Bali, Indonesia. Eighteen coral reef resource managers and enforcement personnel from the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and the Solomon Islands were trained on the application and uptake of the CSI methodology toolkit, to better coordinate and communicate investigative and enforcement actions and educate the public and decision makers, for enhanced resource protection and management capabilities.

In June 2010 a national level workshop was conducted in Guam, with 12 participants from Guam and an additional six participants attending from neighbouring Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). Discussions with the Local Coordinator during the site visit reflected the need for a full constituency of six people from CNMI to take the training forward in their home country.

The Centre de Recherches Insulaires et Observatoire de l'Environnement (CRIOBE) and CRISP/SPC have completed the translation of the ICRI CSI training toolkit into French. This was undertaken as an in kind activity in support of the CSI programme, and to encourage donor interest in support of further training in the South Pacific.

ICRAN has coordinated the development of an online CSI Alumni Network facility to create a secure environment for CSI practitioners to share information and experiences post training. The facility is accessible from [www.csialumni.net](http://www.csialumni.net) and will shortly be launched in collaboration with CSI participants.

### **Coral Reef Small Grants**

Collaboration between the Centre for Rural Empowerment and the Environment (CREE) and ICRAN during 2010 has facilitated provision of small grant support to the Marine and Coastal Resources Conservation Foundation (MCRCF) in Sri Lanka.

The project aims to strengthen the program of work on Sustainable Livelihoods Enhancement and Diversification, established under the Coral Reefs and Livelihoods Initiative in South Asia (ICRAN, IUCN, IMM), and to extend capacity building training and awareness raising activities to other fishing villages also highly dependent on the resources of the Bar Reef. Activities include seaweed farming and processing, expansion of home garden schemes, and awareness raising activities and training.

### ***Reefs at Risk Revisited* Publication**

In partnership with institutions such as World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), the Nature Conservancy (TNC), The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and others, ICRAN, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and WRI seek to raise awareness once again to the location and severity of threats to coral reefs, and catalyse

targeted, responsible, and informed decisions that protect coral reefs and the broad range of benefits they provide to people.

*Reefs at Risk Revisited* will show decision-makers, politicians and the public where to focus energy and resources to address critical threats, and will inform bilateral, regional and international bodies as they seek ways to help coordinate and finance these efforts. It will support conservation priority setting, constructive public and private alliances, and better private and public policy, as well as highlighting the value of investment in effective coastal management.

ICRAN has led the "Reef Stories" component of the report, gathering over 150 case studies from the wider coral reef community to use in the publication in order to showcase examples of naturally healthy or well-managed reefs, or to highlight particular threats to reefs.

The publication will be officially launched in February 2011.

### 3. **Contribution to the ICRI GM:**

- a. 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?
  - i) In 2010, 5 small grants were made available to build capacity for effective management of coral reef resources through the ICRAN/Buccoo Reef Trust Project 'Coastal and Marine Management and Education in the South Eastern Caribbean':
    - Anguilla: *Sea Turtle Conservation and Education Project for Anguilla's beaches, including Dog Island Marine Park* – this project aimed to build local capacity to monitor sea turtle nesting activity and train staff in conducting nesting beach surveys. These objectives were met through training workshops, in-field sessions on data collection on sea turtle nests, and night patrols.
    - Grenada: *Management Capacity Enhancement for Management Authority of the Sandy Island Oyster Bed MPA (SIOBMPA)* – 19 people trained as potential MPA wardens in June 2010. The participants were introduced to coastal and marine ecosystems, ICZM and EBM; MPA importance, management, implementation, monitoring and maintenance; enforcement; environmental education and tour guiding; first aid, seamanship, GPS navigation and engine maintenance; and scuba diving.
    - St. Maarten: *EcoDiver training course in the St. Maarten Marine Park* – this training aimed to create one or more teams of volunteer divers who could reliably carry out Reef Check surveys in the Windward Netherlands Antilles, provide high quality data annually to Reef Check/GCRMN and assist with conservation. Participants came from St. Maarten, Bonaire's National Marine Park, Reef Care Curacao, the central government department of Environment and Nature (MINA), and the Netherlands Antilles Coral Reef Initiative (NACRI).
    - St. Vincent and the Grenadines: *Reef Check EcoDiver training course in Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP)* – this project aimed to train staff of the Tobago Cays Marine Park and volunteers from the Coast Guard, Customs Office and Water Taxi Association in carrying out Reef Check Surveys in support of the TCMP monitoring program. Participants underwent theoretical and practical training in the reef check protocol over three days and spent the fourth day developing a monitoring program for the TCMP. Approximately 10 people were trained with one participant being certified as an Eco Diver trainer.

- Trinidad and Tobago: *Installation and Maintenance of Buoys Training Course* – the main aim of this course was to train staff of the Department of Marine Resources and Fisheries (DMRF), reef boat operators and other stakeholders in the installation and maintenance of buoys within the Buccoo Reef Marine Park (BRMP). The practical component of this training involved the demarcation of the boating channel within the BRMP. This course facilitated by the Maritime Services of Trinidad and Tobago and the DMRF, trained approximately 20 participants and successfully demarcated the boating channel within the BRMP.

Also under this project, ICRAN co-sponsored the South Eastern Caribbean Conference on MPA Management, a five-day conference for 51 managers from across the region hosted by BRT. Participants requested the development of a structured mechanism for maintaining contact and communication amongst conference participants and in particular MPA practitioners from the SE Caribbean, leading to the development of ([www.caribbeanmpas.net](http://www.caribbeanmpas.net)) by the BRT which will provide resources and access to information for and about these regional MPAs.

To raise the public profile of MPAs within the South Eastern Caribbean, the project team worked with stakeholders in five countries (Grenada, Barbados, Tobago, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines) to prepare a film 'Sanctuaries of the Caribbean, launched at the above mentioned conference in March 2010. The film has received extensive air coverage on Caribvision. Available to view from [www.icran.org](http://www.icran.org)

- ii) ICRAN brokered additional funding for the World Resources Institute to conduct the social vulnerability analysis component of the Reefs at Risk work, via the International Coral Reef Initiative, and has coordinated the associated contractual and administrative processes to release and programme these funds.
  - i) 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.

### **Resolution on the International Coral Reef Action Network**

At the ICRI General Meeting in Monaco in 2010, the membership reiterated its endorsement of ICRAN as an operational network of ICRI, and requested that an *Ad Hoc* Committee on ICRAN was formed to elaborate: a) the role and responsibilities of ICRAN; b) appropriate governance and oversight; and c) appropriate funding model for its continued operation.

An *Ad Hoc* Committee, consisting of USDOS, UNEP, Ministère de l'écologie, de l'énergie, du développement durable et de la mer France, UNEP-WCMC, and the ICRI Secretariat, supported by the ICRAN Coordinating Unit, has worked together during 2010 to review the global niche of ICRAN, roles and responsibilities, and scenarios of operation.

The broad consensus of feedback from the Committee indicated a preference for a near-term operational model for ICRAN which facilitates the delivery of ICRAN projects/commitments on a flexible basis in response to funding availability, while providing financial security for technical staff. Specific terms of reference have been developed to create appropriate management and oversight procedures for ICRAN activities to enable its effective operation beyond 2010. The full details of consultations and proposed global niche and function are available from the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on ICRAN.

## **Resolution on the Fourth International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium**

Following endorsement of a [resolution](#) on ITMEMS4 by the ICRI General Meeting in April 2009, the ICU (which acted as Secretariat ITMEMS3 held in Mexico in October 2006) is leading efforts to prepare for ITMEMS4, scheduled for Q4, 2011.

The *Ad Hoc* Committee has worked in close collaboration with the ICRI Secretariat and France during 2010 to review and develop the structure, format, technical programme and fundraising strategy of ITMEMS4.

As with previous symposia, ITMEMS4 will be designed to strengthen the capacities of managers to innovate and address management challenges in the local context. Building on the lessons from previous ITMEMS, the format of the meeting has been revised to ensure a more focussed and high impact meeting. Tailored action-oriented training and mentoring opportunities, aligned with 4 broad themes, will respond to specific priorities and needs as defined by managers and young leaders, and will support the translation of cutting edge science into management strategies and practices.

Please see the report on the ICRI Ad Hoc Committee on ITMEMS4, posted on the ICRIForum, which details the proposed format and technical agenda for this event.

ii) Please list publications, reports you have been released since January 2010;

### **Outreach: Sammy and Tina's coral reef adventures**

ICRAN, in partnership with the Marine Conservation Society, have adapted and translated the popular cartoon colouring book, "*Sammy and Tina's coral reef adventures*", for the Caribbean region. Previously produced in English, Bahasa Malaysian, Arabic and Visayan, this conservation education tool can now be of benefit to coastal communities throughout the Caribbean, as it will shortly be available in English, French and Spanish. The cartoon has been printed and widely disseminated across the region. Available for download from [www.icran.org](http://www.icran.org)

iii) Please indicate upcoming coral reef-related meetings you will attend?

- Reef Conservation UK, London, December 2010
- ITMEMS4, Q4 2011