



Member's report on activities to ICRI

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Reporting period: September 2005 to the present day

Summary of Activities

Since the Palau meeting, six new countries (Barbados, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Fiji, and Rwanda) have become Parties to the Convention, making a total of 153. Several of these countries have important coral reef resources, and the Secretariat hopes that this will assist these countries in the conservation of this important ecosystem. The number of Ramsar sites world-wide has increased by 164, giving a total number of 1626 in comparison to the 1462 sites there were in October 2005, covering an area of 145.6 million hectares, of these around 10 million have sites which have corals.

Since October 2005 four new coral sites have been designated as Ramsar sites, 1 in Jamaica, 2 in Japan and 1 in Mexico, giving this a total of 62 as of 25 September 2006, which is only 3.8 % of the total number of sites world wide.

Coral reefs occur in 81 tropical and sub-tropical countries, and in 21 overseas or dependent territories of five countries. The total area is estimated as approximately 279,560 km². By Ramsar Region the largest areas are in Asia (43%) and Oceania (42%) - together holding almost 85% of the global coral reef resource (Table 1).

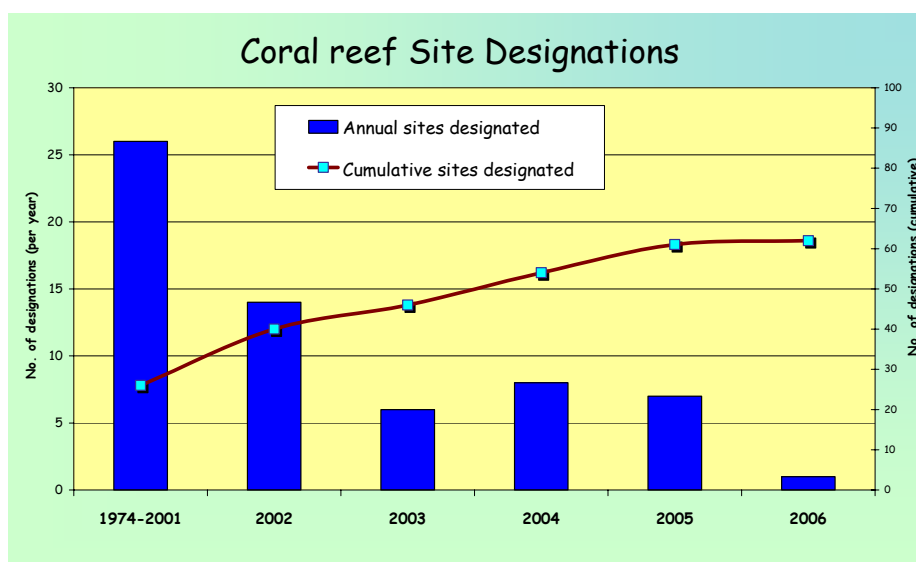
Table 1. Estimated area of coral reefs in each Ramsar region (includes coral reefs in non-Parties; coral reef areas in overseas and dependent territories are included in the Region in which they lie geographically).

	Total area of coral reefs (km ²)	% in territories of Ramsar Parties
Africa	22,330	82
Asia	120,460	82
Neotropics	17,520	92
North America	3,030	100
Europe	0	-
Oceania	116,220	77
Total	279,560	81

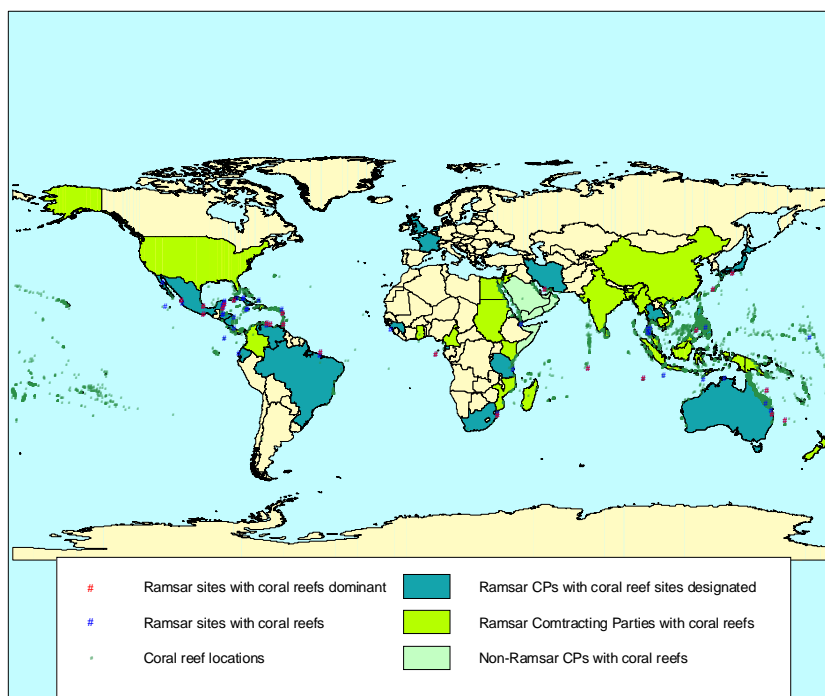
Numbers of sites by Ramsar region are given in Table 2. The largest number of sites has been designated in the Neotropics, followed by North America and Oceania. Africa and especially Asia have so far designated very few coral reef Ramsar sites. Furthermore, despite the adoption in 2002 of additional guidance for the designation of coral reefs as Ramsar sites (Resolution VIII.11), only 36 sites containing coral reefs have been designated since then.

Table 2. Number and area of coral reef Ramsar sites, by Ramsar Region.

Ramsar Region	No. of Ramsar sites containing coral reefs	Area of Ramsar sites containing coral reefs (km ²)	No. of Ramsar sites with coral reefs as dominant wetland type
Africa	6	6734	2
Asia	10	3148	4
Neotropics	23	44713	6
North America	13	16201	5
Oceania	10	27110	5
Total	62	97906	22



Map 1. Global distribution of coral reefs and Ramsar sites with coral reefs.



Source: Reefbase database (2005); Ramsar sites Database (September 2006)

Of the 57 Ramsar Parties which have coral reefs lying within their territories, 28 (62%) have designated some of their reefs. The gaps are greatest in Asia (only 4 of 17 Parties have designated coral reefs), Africa (5 of 11 Parties) and Oceania (2 of 8 Parties). Coverage is better in the Neotropics (13 of 16 Parties) and North America, where Mexico, but not the USA has designated coral reef sites. Parties with the largest numbers of coral reef Ramsar sites are Mexico (13 sites, coral dominant in 5), Australia (9 sites, coral dominant in 4), Cuba (4 sites, coral dominant in 1) and Thailand (4 sites, but coral not dominant in any). So, together these four Parties have designated 30 sites (48% of the total), and ten (45%) of the sites in which coral reefs predominate.

Table 3 - Updated List of Ramsar coral reef sites as of 29 September 2006

	Country	Site Name	Ramsar Site No.	Designation Date
1	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	Codrington Lagoon	1488	01/06/2005
1	AUSTRALIA	Ashmore Reef National Nature Reserve	1220	10/21/2002
1	AUSTRALIA	"The Dales", Christmas Island	1225	10/21/2002
1	AUSTRALIA	Coral Sea Reserves (Coringa-Herald and Lihou Reefs and Cays)	1222	10/21/2002

1	AUSTRALIA	Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve	1223	10/21/2002
1	AUSTRALIA	Moreton Bay	631	10/22/1993
1	AUSTRALIA	Shoalwater and Corio Bays	792	3/11/1996
1	AUSTRALIA	Pulu Keeling National Park	797	3/17/1996
1	AUSTRALIA	Cobourg Peninsula	1	5/8/1974
1	AUSTRALIA	Great Sandy Strait (incl. Great Sandy Strait, Tin Can Bay, and Tin Can Inlet)	992	6/14/1999
1	BRAZIL	Reentrancias Maranhenses	640	11/30/1993
1	BRAZIL	Par. Est. Mar. do Parcel Manoel Luis incl. the Baixios do Mestre Alvaro and Tarol	1021	2/28/2000
1	COSTA RICA	Gandoca-Manzanillo	783	12/11/1995
1	COSTA RICA	Isla del Coco	940	4/10/1998
1	CUBA	Buenavista	1233	11/18/2002
1	CUBA	Gran Humedal del Norte de Ciego de Ávila	1235	11/18/2002
1	CUBA	Ciénaga de Lanier y Sur de la Isla de la Juventud	1234	11/18/2002
1	CUBA	Ciénaga de Zapata	1062	4/12/2001
1	DJIBOUTI	Haramous-Loyada	1239	11/22/2002
1	ECUADOR	Machalilla	503	9/7/1990
1	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	Isla de Annobón	1309	6/2/2003
1	FRANCE	Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin de la Guadeloupe	642	12/8/1993
1	GUINEA	Ile Blanche	618	6/23/1993
1	HONDURAS	Refugio de Vida Silvestre Punta Izopo	812	3/20/1996
1	HONDURAS	Parque Nacional Jeanette Kawas	722	3/28/1995
1	IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF	Sheedvar Island	1015	12/29/1999
1	JAMAICA	Palisadoes - Port Royal	1454	4/22/2005
1	JAMAICA	Portland Bight Wetlands and Cays	1597	02/02/2006
1	JAPAN	Kerama-shoto Coral Reef	1546	08/11/2005
1	JAPAN	Kushimoto Coral Communities	1548	08/11/2005
1	MARSHALL ISLANDS	Jaluit Atoll Conservation Area	1389	7/13/2004
1	MEXICO	Cuencas y corales de la zona costera de Huatulco	1321	11/27/2003
1	MEXICO	Parque Nacional Isla Contoy	1323	11/27/2003
1	MEXICO	Parque Nacional Isla Isabel	1324	11/27/2003
1	MEXICO	Sian Ka'an	1329	11/27/2003
1	MEXICO	Parque Nacional Arrecifes de Xcalak	1320	11/27/2003
1	MEXICO	Parque Nacional Arrecife de Puerto Morelos	1343	2/2/2004
1	MEXICO	Islas Marietas	1345	2/2/2004
1	MEXICO	Playa Tortuguera X'cacel-X'cacelito	1351	2/2/2004
1	MEXICO	Reserva de la Biosfera Banco Chinchorro	1353	2/2/2004
1	MEXICO	Reserva de la Biosfera Archipiélago de Revillagigedo	1357	2/2/2004
1	MEXICO	Parque Nacional Sistema Arrecifal Veracruzano	1346	2/2/2004
1	MEXICO	Parque Nacional Arrecifes de Cozumel	1449	2/2/2005
1	MEXICO	Corredor Costero La Asamblea-San Francisquito	1595	27/11/2005
1	NETHERLANDS	Klein Bonaire Island and adjacent sea	201	5/23/1980
1	NICARAGUA	Cayos Miskitos y Franja Costera Inmediata	1135	11/8/2001
1	PHILIPPINES	Tubbataha Reefs National Marine Park	1010	11/12/1999
1	PHILIPPINES	Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary	656	7/1/1994
1	SAINT LUCIA	Mankôté Mangrov	1170	19/02/2002
1	SAINT LUCIA	Savannes Bay	1171	19/02/2002
1	SOUTH AFRICA	Turtle Beaches/Coral Reefs of Tongaland	344	10/2/1986
1	SOUTH AFRICA	Kosi Bay	527	6/28/1991
1	TANZANIA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF	Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa Marine Ramsar Site	1443	10/29/2004
1	THAILAND	Had Chao Mai Marine National Park - Ta Libong Island Non-Hunting Area - Trang River Estuaries	1182	8/14/2002
1	THAILAND	Kaper Estuary - Laemson Marine National Park - Kraburi Estuary	1183	8/14/2002
1	THAILAND	Mu Koh Ang Thong Marine National Park	1184	8/14/2002

1	THAILAND	Pang Nga Bay Marine National Park	1185	8/14/2002
1	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	Buccoo Reef / Bon Accord Lagoon Complex	1287	07/08/05
1	UNITED KINGDOM	North, Middle & East Caicos Islands	493	6/27/1990
1	UNITED KINGDOM	Diego Garcia	1077	7/4/2001
1	VENEZUELA	Cuare	414	11/23/1988
1	VENEZUELA	Archipelago Los Roques	856	9/4/1996
62	TOTAL			

Total area: 9,790,586 hectares

Table 4. Numbers of Ramsar Parties which have, and have not, designated coral reef Ramsar sites, by Ramsar region. (Note: Numbers for dependent and overseas territories geographically lying in each Region are given in parentheses.)

Ramsar Region	No. of Ramsar Parties with coral reefs occurring in their territory	No. of Ramsar Parties which have designated coral reef Ramsar sites	No. of Ramsar Parties with coral reefs which have not designated coral reef Ramsar sites	No. of non-Ramsar countries with coral reefs
Africa	12 (1)	5	6 (1)	1
Asia	17 (1)	4 (1)	11	8
Neotropics	17 (11)	14 (3)	3 (8)	5
North America*	2 (0)	1	1	0
Europe*	0 (0)	-	-	0
Oceania	9 (6)	2	6 (6)	7
Total	57 (19)	26 (4)	33 (15)	21

Four countries (USA, UK, France and the Netherlands) have overseas or dependent territories in other Ramsar regions which have coral reefs.

Of those Parties which have not yet designated any coral reef Ramsar sites (see Table 4), the largest areas of coral reefs found are in Indonesia (51,020 km² - the country with the largest total area of coral reefs), Papua New Guinea (13,840 km²), and Fiji (10,020 km²), India (5,790 km²), Egypt (3,800 km²), Malaysia (3,600 km²), Japan (2,900 km²) and the USA including its overseas and dependent territories (2,520 km²). Designation of coral reef Ramsar sites within these countries in particular should be considered a strategic priority for increasing the coherence and comprehensiveness of the global Ramsar site network (Resolution VII.11).

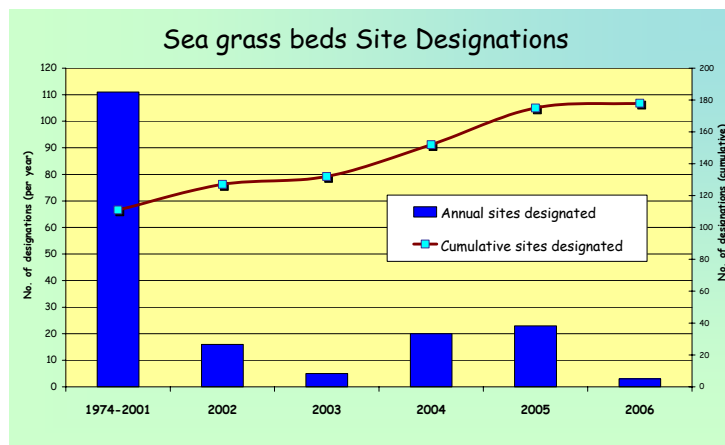
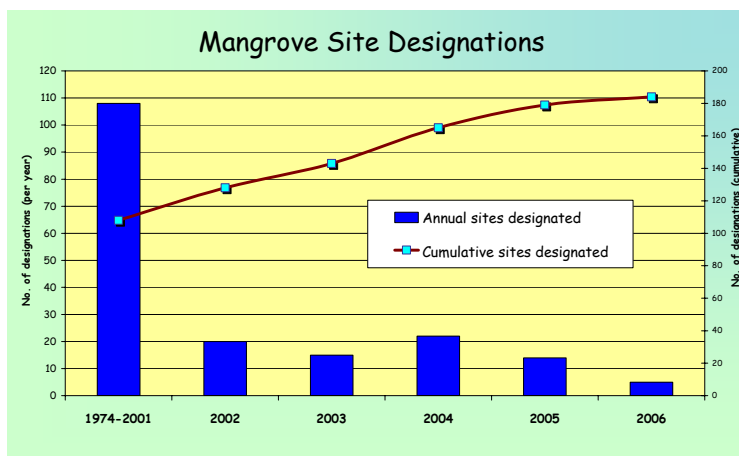
The Ramsar Secretariat is working closely with several of the following countries which are not Parties to Ramsar yet, but that have important coral reef resources to become Parties to Ramsar and assist them in their management of their resources: Brunei, Dominica, Eritrea, Federated states of Micronesia, Grenada, Haiti, Kiribati, Kuwait, Maldives, Nauru, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, Vanuatu and Yemen.

Table 5. Ramsar Contracting Parties with coral reefs which have not yet designated Ramsar sites containing coral reefs. Parties are listed in descending order of coral reef area.

Countries with large areas of coral reefs (>10,000 km ²)	Coral reef area (km ²)
Indonesia	51020
Papua New Guinea	13840
Fiji	10020
Countries with medium-size areas of coral reefs (1,000-10,000 km ²)	
India	5790
Egypt	3800
Malaysia	3600
Sudan	2720
USA (incl. territories)	2520
Madagascar	2230
Mozambique	1860
Seychelles	1690
China	1510
Belize	1330

Vietnam	1270
Palau	1150
Countries with small coral reef areas (50-1,000 km²)	
Colombia	940
Mauritius	870
Panama	720
Sri Lanka	680
Kenya	630
Dominican Republic	610
Samoa	490
Comoros	430
Barbados	<100
Countries with very small areas of coral reefs (<50 km²)	
Bangladesh	<50
Cambodia	<50
Jordan	<50
New Zealand (Tokelau)	<50
Pakistan	<50
Israel	<10
Countries with unknown areas of coral reefs	
Cameroon	
Cape Verde	

Regarding associated ecosystems, there are 182 mangrove sites and 178 seagrass beds. Although the global number of these two associated ecosystems is doing much better than the corals, we are still a long way ahead of where we should be to guarantee their effective protection.



Regarding financial support to Contracting parties, we have received three requests for funding for coral reef and associated ecosystems related projects, from Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Vietnam, and

we are trying to secure the required funding to assist these countries in their implementation. Kiribati has also requested assistance to accede the Convention.

Several resolutions which might be relevant to coral reef and associated ecosystems were approved at the 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005.

Resolutions approved by the Ninth Conference of the Parties relevant to coral reefs, and associated ecosystems, Kampala, Uganda, November 2005

Resolution	Document title
Resolution IX.1	<u>Additional scientific and technical guidance for implementing the Ramsar wise use concept</u>
Resolution IX.1, Annex A	<u>A Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character</u>
Resolution IX.1, Annex B	<u>Revised <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i></u>
Resolution IX.1, Annex D	<u>Ecological "outcome-oriented" indicators for assessing the implementation effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention</u>
Resolution IX.1, Annex Ei	<u>Guidelines for the rapid assessment of inland, coastal and marine wetland biodiversity</u>
Resolution IX.4	<u>The Ramsar Convention and conservation, production and sustainable use of fisheries resources</u>
Resolution IX.5	<u>Synergies with other international organizations dealing with biological diversity; including collaboration on, and harmonization of, national reporting among biodiversity-related conventions and agreements</u>
Resolution IX.9	<u>The role of the Ramsar Convention in the prevention and mitigation of impacts associated with natural phenomena, including those induced or exacerbated by human activities</u>
Resolution IX.20	<u>Integrated, cross-biome planning and management of wetlands, especially in small island developing states</u>

For detailed information: http://www.ramsar.org/res/key_res_ix_index_e.htm