



## Member's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by United States of America

Reporting period April 2009 – December 2009

*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

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Are you an ICRI Member?  | YES   |
| Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):                                     | United States Government / U.S. Dept of State, NOAA, USAID  |
| <b>Focal Point 1:</b>  |   |
| <i>Name:</i>   | <b>Christine Dawson</b>   |
| <i>Organization:</i>   | U.S. Department of State  |
| <i>Email:</i>  | <a href="mailto:DawsonCL@state.gov">DawsonCL@state.gov</a>  |
| <b>Focal point 2:</b>  |   |
| <i>Name:</i>   | <b>Kelly Milton</b>   |
| <i>Organization:</i>   | U.S. Department of State  |
| <i>Email:</i>  | <a href="mailto:MiltonKK@state.gov">MiltonKK@state.gov</a>  |
| Last meeting attended:   | April 2009 GM – Phuket, Thailand  |
| How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?       | via email communication and through meetings of the USCRTF  |
| Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period): | Fiscal Year 2009:<br>International:<br>Dept of State: ~\$1.4M USD<br>USAID: ~\$33M USD<br>Domestic:<br>NOAA CRCP: ~\$27M USD<br><br>Compiled Federal expenditures for U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Conservation activities for FY2009 not yet available |

For countries only:

| <b>National Action Plan / Initiative</b>                        |  |
|---|--|
| Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?                  | YES  |
| Is this plan publicly available? If so please provide location: | In June 2008, the USCRTF released a report to U.S. Congress entitled Implementation of National Coral Reef Action Strategy: Report on the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Activities from 2004-2006. The report provides summaries and examples of activities conducted by the USCRTF members and their |

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|---|--|
|   | extramural partners in 2004-2006 to implement the 13 goals in the National Coral Reef Action Strategy. Hard copies can be requested at <a href="mailto:coralreef@noaa.gov">coralreef@noaa.gov</a> , and the complete report is available online at <a href="http://coris.noaa.gov/activities/reportcongress2008/">http://coris.noaa.gov/activities/reportcongress2008/</a> |
| Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative or Task Force?                     | YES<br>U.S Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF)  |
| Are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relating to coral reefs: | YES  |
| If yes, please indicate which programmes/initiatives:                           | Many, including Coral Triangle Initiative, Micronesian Challenge, SPREP, Caribbean Challenge, CAMPAM,  |

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

**USAID has launched a new public-private partnership, the Global FISH Alliance.** The Global FISH Alliance promotes sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices through the application of a system-wide approach that balances economic, environmental, governmental, and social components essential to enhancing livelihoods and biodiversity. Supported by the U.S. Government and partners, G-FISH brings together government, private sector, and civil society to work collaboratively on specific fisheries around the world. The initial target fishery is the spiny lobster fishery in Honduras and Nicaragua. Please visit <http://globalfishalliance.org>

**NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program released its 20-Year “Goals & Objectives” and “International Strategy”**

The NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program’s International Strategy 2010-2015, released in June 2009, outlines a set of long term strategic goals and short term objectives for the CRCP to more effectively address international threats to coral reefs. The international strategy and a corresponding set of domestic goals and objectives emphasize a more narrow range of activities with the greatest potential to reverse declines in coral reef health. In this regard, the international strategy will emphasize support for existing initiatives and partnerships to build MPA networks and local MPA management capacity in four priority regions: the Caribbean, Micronesia, Southwest Pacific (with a focus on Samoa), and the Coral Triangle. To learn more about the Strategy, visit <http://coralreef.noaa.gov/threats/>.

**Goals & Objectives:** The CRCP is narrowing the focus of its U.S. domestic program and shifting allocation of CRCP resources to taking on-the-ground and in-the-water action. To narrow its range of activities, the CRCP will emphasize efforts on understanding and addressing the top three recognized global threats to coral reef ecosystems. The [NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program Goals & Objectives 2010-2015 \(pdf, 2.52 mb\)](#) provides strategic guidance on the CRCP priorities for FY 2010-2015.

**International Strategy:** The CRCP is expanding its international presence by becoming more actively involved in coral conservation efforts abroad, primarily in the Pacific, the Coral Triangle region, and the Caribbean. The [NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program International Strategy 2010-2015 \(pdf, 1.5 mb\)](#) provides strategic guidance on the CRCP international priorities for FY 2010-2015. <http://coralreef.noaa.gov/aboutcrctp/strategy/currentgoals/welcome>.

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.

*NOTE: The Secretariat will compile Members' responses to the below questions into a general presentation to be given during the GM. The Secretariat will also request specific Members to highlight certain initiatives, should additional information be of interest to the full ICRI membership.*

- a. **Fisheries session:** Please provide any lessons you have learned from your experiences in managing fisheries and any projects/programs you are involved in.

**Fisheries improved for Sustainable Harvest (FISH) – USAID funded project in the Philippines.** USAID is currently supporting innovative approaches to improve small and medium-scale fisheries management and address declining fish stocks in four key ecosystems brought on by overfishing and destructive fishing practices. Working in four target ecosystems, the goal of the program is to increase fish stocks by 10% within seven years using an ecosystem-based approach to management. FISH has been introducing and establishing best practices in fisheries management since 2003, always applying participatory planning and implementation to promote sustainability, with a focus on reforming fisheries governance and management. The program includes a unique three-prong approach to management that resonates well with fishers and communities:

- GROWTH – practices to grow the fisheries through community-based marine protected areas, networks of no-take reserves and protection of critical fish habitats;
- CONTROL – practices to control access to the resources, introducing licensing and permitting, gear restrictions, seasonal closures, etc., and,
- MAINTENANCE – practices to build management capacity and financial streams to sustain the system

A recent assessment of the stocks in the four target areas found that stocks have already increased almost 20% from 2004 to 2008, and catch per unit effort increased by more than 26%. For more information, visit [http://www.oneocean.org/fish/the\\_project.html](http://www.oneocean.org/fish/the_project.html) and [http://www.usaid.gov/stories/philippines/fp\\_philippines\\_fishes.html](http://www.usaid.gov/stories/philippines/fp_philippines_fishes.html)

- b. The ICRI secretariat is planning on revisiting/updating the ICRI “call to action” ([http://www.icriforum.org/library/call\\_action.pdf](http://www.icriforum.org/library/call_action.pdf)) and ICRI “framework to action” ([http://www.icriforum.org/library/framework\\_action.pdf](http://www.icriforum.org/library/framework_action.pdf)). Please provide any guidelines you think would be useful.

The United States would not be in favour of re-opening the historical documents. Rather, ICRI may wish to assess whether a Renewed Call to action is necessary. A more useful approach could be to conduct a review of the call to action and framework for action, focusing on what we've learned, as well as what we as the coral reef community should seek to re-emphasize and/or address as emerging issues. A Renewed Call to Action (as was previously undertaken) could be a result of such a review, rather than revision/updating of these historical documents.

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

- NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program is conducting a coral reef management priority setting process, an initiative underway in all coral reef states and territories. In the Caribbean, this includes Puerto Rico and the USVI. CRCP decided on a 2 step process for each jurisdiction:
    - Facilitate the development of coral reef management priorities (2009 – early 2010)
    - Assess capacity to implement these management priorities (2010 – 2011)
  - NOAA will develop a strategy in 2010 for implementing the CRCP International Strategy in the Wider Caribbean region.
  - NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) is documenting the biology and ecology of invasive lionfish in the Southeast U.S. and Caribbean. They are working to develop early detection and rapid response strategies and larval dispersal models to identify regions where control efforts should be focused.
- d. During the meeting, we are planning on having a presentation on the “Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)”. Could you please list your coral reef sites listed under the MAB programme.

Everglades/Dry Tortugas National Park  
 Hawaiian Islands  
 U.S. Virgin Islands  
 Channel Islands

- e. What other new initiatives/programs/projects/progress, in particular since April 2009, has been made by your government/organization relative to Marine Protected Areas, Ramsar site designations containing coral reefs, policy changes, economic valuation of coral reef ecosystem services, etc., which you believe would be of general interest to other ICRI Members?
- On November 17, 2009, the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) signed a partnership agreement with its newest international partner, France’s Agence des Aires Marines Protégées (AAMP). Since the United States and France have the two largest Exclusive Economic Zones in the world, cooperation between the two nations on MPA work is a natural link and will yield significant marine resource protection in American and French waters around the world. The agreement provides for a five-year program of work between ONMS and AAMP, focusing on exchanges of experience and expertise in various realms of MPA designation and management, as well as partnering on major MPA projects. Separate projects will also be developed for the Pacific and Caribbean regions within the next year. Pacific projects are already being discussed and will include a series of exchanges between the Monument, Fagatele Bay NMS, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS, and their partners, and their French Polynesian counterparts, focusing on traditional Polynesian culture and management methods, MPA experiences, and World Heritage cooperation. The first exchange is tentatively scheduled for summer of 2010 between Hawaii and the Marquesas.
  - USAID/Indonesia will be supporting 15 high priority biodiversity coral reefs sites under the Coral Triangle Support Program in Indonesia. The decision was based upon a broad participatory consultation process and analysis to determine the highest priority sites in the country. The CTSP has also designated the priority CTSP sites that will be supported in the region.
  - In July 2009 US Department of Interior, USFWS signed a sister site agreement between Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and the Phoenix Islands Protected

Area in Kiribati. Earlier in 2009, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument was officially nominated for consideration on the UNESCO World Heritage List as a mixed natural and cultural site. In August 2009, IUCN and ICOMOS evaluators visited Papahānaumokuākea as part of the review process leading up to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee's July 2010 decision on its nomination.

- Management plans are being developed for the U.S.'s new monuments: Pacific Remote Island Areas and Marianas.

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

- The Global FISH Alliance has compiled a series of briefs that highlight the role of fisheries in food security, hunger and nutrition for select countries and for Africa. Please visit <http://globalfishalliance.org/activities.html>
- "Changing the Landscape: Ten Years of Impact and Learning in USAID's Global Conservation Program" <http://www.vimeo.com/7411653>
- NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program National Goals & Objectives <http://coralreef.noaa.gov/aboutcrccp/strategy/currentgoals/welcome>.
- NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program National International Strategy: <http://coralreef.noaa.gov/aboutcrccp/strategy/currentgoals/welcome>.

***For any of the above questions, please provide links to further information. As appropriate, the Secretariat will compile such information to make it accessible to all Members on the ICRI Forum.***

**ICRI and Other Meetings** - Are you considering attending any of the following meetings in 2009?

- 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Doha, Qatar, from 13 to 25 March 2010
  - Several U.S. government representatives will attend
- 5th Global Oceans Conference: Ensuring Survival, Preserving Life, and Improving Governance:
  - Policy, Science, and Technical Symposium (May 3-4, 2010)
  - Policy Conference (May 6-7, 2010)
  - U.S. government representatives will attend
- 10th Meeting of the conference of the Parties to the convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10), October 18-29, 2010, Nagoya, Japan
  - ICRI Focal Point will attend
- Other (please specify):