



[2nd] Member's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by [Aisake Batibasaga]

Reporting period: January 2006 to March 2007.

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.

1. General Information

Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	
Focal Point 1: Fiji: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forest (MAFF).	Aisake.T.Batibasaga (Mr). Principal Research Officer- Fisheries Department.
Focal point 2:	
Last meeting attended:	Palau ICRI Meeting,2005.
How do you circulate ICRI information with your country and/or organization?	ICRI information is circulated through e-mail messages and attachments.
Budget allocated for coral reefs (please mention for year/period):	Budgetary allocation from MAFF: \$200,000 for 2006,\$150,000 for 2007.

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef actions plan?	NO (still being formulated)
Date of publication:	
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative?	YES
Relevance to regional program / initiative:	Relevant to regional program-CRISP.
How and where to obtain more information:	CRISP Website,National Focal Point.
Monitoring	
Is there a national monitoring programme for your country?	Yes.
Date of the last assessment?	October-2006.
How and where to obtain more information:	Country Report, Fiji Focal Point.
Marine Protected Areas	
How many MPA(s) with coral reefs?	155
What is the percentage of coral reef MPA(s) to the (coastal zone / marine area)?	7.2%
Number of sites (with coral reefs) under the World Heritage Convention?	2
Number of wetland sites (with coral reefs) under the Ramsar Convention?	4
Number of Biosphere Reserves (with coral reefs) under UNESCO's MAB Programme?	None as yet.

2. Report

A. Specific requests / questions for the next ICRI General Meeting

International Year of the Reef (IYOR) 2008

Do you have a committee/focal point for IYOR 2008?

If yes, contact information: Yes. Focal Point would be the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forest (MAFF), and a coordinating committee based at the Fiji Fisheries Department in Suva.

If available, brief description of what has been done so far:

We have recently set up a committee for IYOR 2008 with all stakeholders, the main players are Government, Non Government Organisations such as WWF, WCS, Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area (FLMMA) Network, University of the South Pacific, Provincial Administration Offices, and Local Communities.

If available, brief description of near future plans:

A national workshop to be held from 17-19 July, 2007 on The Need for Coral Reef Habitat and Reef Fisheries Management and Conservation in Fiji. Future plans would include more Coral Reef Awareness and Educational work across all sectors of the communities, targeting maritime and rural coastal communities and schools across Fiji for 2007 and 2008. Training on Coral Reef Management and reef Monitoring work for 14 Provinces and 178 Districts in Fiji (2 year timeline, including Catch Per Unit Effort data collection for Coral Reef Fisheries Harvest from 178 Districts, to gauge subsistence and artisanal fish consumption across the 178 Districts (thus a definite calculation for household per capita fish consumption across the country, and a closer estimate of cost and revenue generated from subsistence fishery consumption in Fiji). There are numerous other plans to be formulated for Coral Reefs, some of which are already ongoing such as the National Coral Reef Assessment Work being undertaken by Government and a host of NGOs, and include large scale or seascape ecosystem based management, and incorporation of eco-region marine protected areas across archipelagic waters (largely within the 12 mile zone).

Relevance to mangrove ecosystems - Please give details of activities pertaining to mangroves, particularly where mangroves are associated with coral reefs.

Coral reefs in Fiji are managed in an integrated manner with other associated ecosystems or wetlands, such as seagrass beds, mangrove forests, and coastal-plain shrub forests. There is an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Committee in Fiji which deals with the sustainable use and conservation of mangroves in Fiji, and it is a common practice now in Fiji to have Mangrove Replanting Programmes, which is part of a greater restoration programme for Inshore coastal ecosystems.

B. Summary of activities and pertinent points

1. Brief summary of major coral reef activities/projects:

Activity / Project Title	Location	Amount	duration	major activities	for more info (web site / email)
1.FLMMA network of marine protected areas.	Across Fiji, covering 11 Provinces & 58 Districts,from 147 Traditional Fishing ground.	US\$150,000 per annum.	Ongoing for the last 7 years.	MPA management, stock assessment, data collection, and reef monitoring.	LMMA website, FLMMA Coordinator (swaqainabete@fisheries.gov.fj)
2.Reef Fisheries Inventory Surveys.	Across Fiji, and coordinated by Fisheries Department.	US\$150,000 for 2006, and US \$100,000 for 2007.	Ongoing program for last 4 years.	Coral reef stock assessment (density,biomass for Fishes,invertebrates,& substrate cover for coral species). Site selection and development of MPAs, and stock monitoring. Species of Special Concern action plan, e.g. sea turtles, giant clams, giant tritons, large reef fishes such as Humphead Wrasse, & sharks.	Fiji Fisheries Technical Reports, Annual Reports, Quarterly Reports. Email: swaqainabete@fisheries.gov.fj.

3. Integrated Coastal Zone Management	Across Fiji, but currently target the Coral Coast of Western Viti Levu- where Tourism is concentrated.	US\$25,000 per annum, ongoing for last 5 years.	An ongoing programme, coordinated by USP's Institute of Applied Sciences.	Environment and Coastal Habitat Management and monitoring, environment impact assessment of coastal developments, community training & empowerment.	University of the South Pacific website. ICM newsletter.
4. Ecosystem-based Management Framework Development.	Trialled in two province of Bua and Macuata in Vanua Levu (2 nd largest island in Fiji).	US 250,000 for 2005 and 2006. (Funding by Packard Foundation)	An Ongoing Programme for the last 3 years, and leading agencies are WCS, WWF, USP- in partnership with the Fiji Government.	Ecosystem-based management framework, biological inventory assessment, socio-economic assessment, development of network of MPAs, Community consultation and training.	WCS websites, WWF websites, Technical reports, Status Report to Funding Organizations.
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	Covers the whole of Fiji. Voluntary participation and coordinated by the Department of Environment	US \$20,000 per year. Partnership between resource managers, scientists and researchers, include Government agencies, NGOs, SPREP, etc.	Ongoing programme for the last 5 years (and reviewed every 3 years).	Status Report for Environment and biological resources, include species of special concern- their management and conservation actions, and needs.	NBSAP Status Report and Implementation

2. Please list:

- Key activities of the member since last report relating to coral reefs and associated ecosystems:

Coral Reef and Reef Fisheries Inventory Assessment work being currently undertaken across Fiji since 2004, and is now being standardized for all players, with the incorporation of Remote Sensing, using satellite imagery and geographical information system framework- with the

technology and technical expertise being developed and enhanced with time (and major focus on local capacity building and human resource upskilling for 2007).

- Identify points of relevance to other ICRI members, or the secretariat (eg points of particular concern; questions to ask of ICRI; information requested; assistance sought; lessons learned.

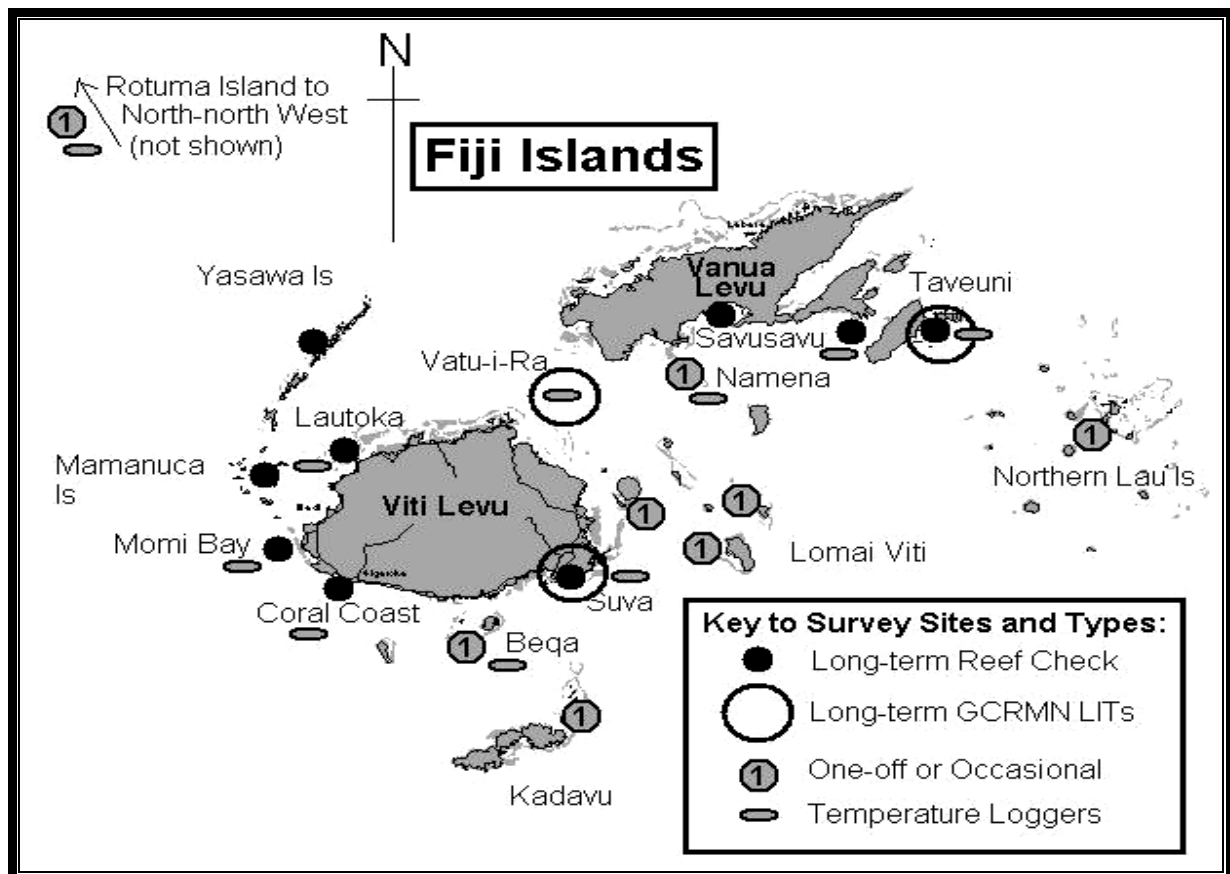
CRISP being funded by the French Government need to liaise and link up closely with local in-country programmes. As it is, the CRISP activities are just determined by a few managers and scientist at a regional secretariat level, and not closely linked to each in-country initiatives for Coral Reef Management.

- Identify forthcoming activities that might be of interest to other members in terms of funding; partnership; uptake. Fiji's target is to extend its coastal waters under marine protected areas above 10%, and there is interest in establishing large tracks of reefs and inshore territorial seas to come under eco-region national park status- thus the development of the ecosystem based management framework in Fiji, currently being trialled in two province in Vanua Levu (as mentioned above, and funded by the Packard Foundation).

GCRMN Update for Fiji in 2006

- One of the benefits of establishing the GCRMN in Fiji has been the overall adoption of standard survey techniques, which allows surveyors on different projects to submit comparable data. Reef Check teams based at resorts have also been able to collate information on reefs not regularly accessible to researchers. These two factors have made it possible to establish a network of survey teams that contribute data from around the country, with the intention to continue this over the long term.

Fiji Monitoring Sites



- USP hosted a GCRMN Fiji review and planning meeting from the 6th to the 7th of March 2006 where 45 participants representing institutions, NGO's and the Government came together and discussed strategies that could be used effectively to coordinate and collate coral reef monitoring data from the various stakeholders.

The two day meeting had discussions on:

- Current methods and approaches to biological monitoring of coral reefs in Fiji
- Strengths and weakness of the various approaches and identify gaps
- Current status of existing mechanism in reporting of coral reef monitoring, example bleaching, awareness on it and dissemination of information to the public
- Potential gaps and opportunities within the information flow starting from the physical collection of data
- Strengthening and enhancing networking amongst stakeholders.
- Currently, Fiji has about 40 temperature loggers placed throughout the country, the majority of which are at a depth range of 5-10m and some down to 30m. IMR will coordinate, store and analysis this data. The loggers are placed and monitored by Helen Sykes and Zahida Rahiman.
- A CRISP – IRD/USP workshop was held at USP from the 22nd November to the 2nd December 2006. The objective of the workshop was to examine the effectiveness of different taxonomic survey intensities represented by different methodologies in understanding the effects of Marine Protected Area designation on fish population abundance in a Fijian context. It was concluded from the workshop, that additional studies will be needed to form a more Fiji wide understanding of techniques to assess MPA effectiveness.

- A Reefbase Pacific Unit has been established and two new IMR staff appointed. USP-IMR will implement jointly with WorldFish, a ReefBase Pacific node in Fiji. In addition, a Reefbase Pacific Coordinator will be appointed shortly by Worldfish and will be based at USP to guide and assist the IMR team. The IMR team have begun collecting information for input into Reefbase focussing on experts, projects and organizations in the region working in relevant thematic areas. The Reefbase project aims to address key information gaps for the Pacific region and develop a quality product which is open-access on the Reefbase global information system.