



Member's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by Niphon Phongsuwan

Reporting period

1. General Information

Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Thailand / Department of Marine and Coastal Resources
Focal Point 1:	Mr. Niphon Phongsuwan
Focal point 2:	Dr. Thamasak Yeemin (from Ramkhamhang University)
Last meeting attended:	Cozumel
How do you circulate ICRI information with your country and/or organization?	Summary report to the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources
Budget allocated for coral reefs (please mention for year/period):	

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef actions plan?	YES
Date of publication:	1992 (we are now revising)
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative?	YES
Relevance to regional program / initiative:	Coral Reef Rehabilitation Coral reef biodiversity Conservation and public awareness program
How and where to obtain more information:	Contact Phuket Marine Biological Center (www.pmbc.go.th)
Monitoring	
Is there a national monitoring programme for your country?	Yes
Date of the last assessment?	23 March 2007
How and where to obtain more information:	www.pmbc.go.th
Marine Protected Areas	
How many MPA(s) with coral reefs?	65
What is the percentage of coral reef MPA(s) to the (coastal zone / marine area)?	
Number of sites (with coral reefs) under the World Heritage Convention?	No
Number of wetland sites (with coral reefs) under the Ramsar Convention?	5
Number of Biosphere Reserves (with coral reefs) under UNESCO's MAB Programme?	1

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. Contact person: Mr Nipphon Phongsuwan, Phuket Marine Biological Center, P.O. Box 60, Phuket, 83000, Thailand, e-mail: nipphonph@gmail.com

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

Conservation/public awareness program: establishing a network of friendly-environmentally dive operators and tourist divers (Green Fins project), network of local fishermen to conserve the reefs.

Coral reef monitoring project: This is the long term project to update the information for management.

Coral reef rehabilitation: proceed nursering of coral nubbins and monitoring of transplanted corals.

Coral reef biodiversity: The project is implemented at the southern part of Phuket Island (pilot site). Status and diversity of coral reef fauna and flora are studied.

If available, brief description of near future plans:

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

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. Coral reef status monitoring	Both in the Andaman Sea and Gulf of Thailand	Within the reef area of 150 square kilometer	(long-term study)	Manta-tow survey and Line intercept transect assessment	www.pmbc.go.th
2.1 Coral reef rehabilitation	Both in the Andaman Sea and Gulf of Thailand	7 major areas		Coral nubbins nursery for transplantation (year 2005-2008 under EU project). Coral transplantation project (since year 1994)	www.pmbc.go.th
3. Public awareness in coral reef conservation	Both in the Andaman Sea and Gulf of Thailand			Establishing network of reef conservation groups (eg. Dive operators, general divers, local fishermen) (year 2004-present).	www.pmbc.go.th www.greenfins-thailand.org

				Training on reef conservation to school teachers and youths. Establishing snorkelling/diving trail in coral reefs for the eco-tourism purpose in 6 provinces in the Andaman Sea (started in 2006).	
4. coral reef biodiversity	Southern part of Phuket Island	Reef size 7 square km	Year 2007	Study the status and diversity of corals, reef fish, some target reef fauna (such as sea cucumber, lobster etc) and algae.	
5.					

2. Please list:

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

Implement the coral reef monitoring, restoration and Green Fins project

- 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

Green Fins project have been implemented for 2 years in Thailand and Philippines with the support from UNEP. The funding is very small and it is hard to implement effectively. The project needs to raise fund and have partnership from other organizations for working more effectively.

- Identify forthcoming activities that might be of interest to other members in terms of funding; partnership; uptake.

Green Fins project (establishing of the network of dive operators for sustainable tourism) should expand to other countries. At present the project is implemented in Thailand and the Philippines. The project is supported by UNEP.