



## **UNEP-WCMC report on activities to ICRI**

**Presented by One Ocean Programme, UNEP-WCMC**  
[www.unep-wcmc.org/oneocean](http://www.unep-wcmc.org/oneocean)

**January 2008**

### **1. General Information**

Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Administrative Secretariat/ UNEP-WCMC
Focal Point 1:	Emily Corcoran
Focal point 2:	
Last meeting attended:	Tokyo GM, April 2007
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Email updates, meetings and reports
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	

UNEP-WCMC has been addressing marine and coastal biodiversity issues for over twenty years, from the polar regions to the tropics, and from coastlines to the shallow and deep seas. In 2007 UNEP-WCMC decided to consolidate its considerable marine experience and expertise to form the *One Ocean Programme*. This programme has been designed to reflect the interconnected nature of the world's oceans and coastlines, and the rich and varied biodiversity it supports. This Programme considers the many values of marine biodiversity and the importance it has to a range of sectors and stakeholders, including, UN, governmental and international agencies, processes and conventions. It also recognizes the great importance of marine resources to millions of people and numerous local communities.

The One Ocean Programme seeks to synthesise, analyse and disseminate marine and coastal biodiversity knowledge, which not only provides the basis for decision -making, but advances the understanding and debate regarding the sustainable use and development of marine and coastal goods and services. It liberates and gives direct, applied relevance to the data and knowledge it accumulates and assesses in order to assist UNEP and other partners to respond appropriately to current and emerging issues of importance for the marine environment, such as, *inter alia*, climate change, regular assessment of the marine environment, the high and deep seas, 2012 MPA target, marine bio-prospecting, etc.

In addition to the core strategic objectives, the One Ocean Programme incorporates into its Programme of Work the relevant UNEP-WCMC 'hosted Units' of the [Secretariat of the International Coral Reef Initiative \(ICRI\)](#), the Coordinating Unit of the [International Coral Reef Action Network \(ICRAN\)](#), and UNEP Coral Reef Unit (CRU), as well as the Centre's work in supporting international biodiversity conventions e.g. CBD, CITIES and CMS.

More information about the Programme and recent activities can be found at [www.unep-wcmc.org/oneocean](http://www.unep-wcmc.org/oneocean)

### **2. Member contribution to the ICRI GM:**

#### **A. Questions to inform the break-out discussion groups**

### **Session 1: Economic Valuation of coral reef ecosystems**

- a. Do you have examples of economic valuation of coral reefs being applied in practice? (e.g., in consideration of coastal land use, coastal/marine spatial planning, for determining compensation, etc.);
- b. Do you have established methods for assessing these values? If so, please provide further information.

UNEP-WCMC are developing, with partners (including the World Bank and WRI) a project proposal to “Strengthen Capacities for Evaluating Services Provided by Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems”. It is the intention of this project to review the various methods of economic valuation being used around the world, comparing and evaluating their efficacy with the aim of developing user friendly, standardised guidelines for use on all levels.

The first step of the work to review existing methods and how these have been applied has begun, with a review of approximately 200 articles and analysis of the goods and services that economic valuation methods have been applied to date. This work will be incorporated in a forthcoming gap analysis that will be jointly prepared by UNEP-WCMC, World Bank and WRI. Please contact us if you would like to discuss this project further. We do intend to provide an information document to support the discussion during the Economic Valuation break out session.

### **Session 2: Designing the ICRI Regional Workshop on Sustainable Tourism (to be held in July 2008 directly following ICRS-11)**

- a. With respect to coral reefs, what does sustainable tourism mean to you?

Sustainable Tourism is an industry that aims to achieve an approach to development that goes beyond limiting impact on the environment, to promoting the conservation of local ecosystems, and proper consideration of local communities through multiple stakeholder collaboration, engagement of local communities, awareness and education and the appropriate distribution of generated income.

Sustainable tourism, where implemented properly, is a tool that can achieve a balance between economic development, the needs of coastal communities and the local environment through alternative livelihoods and revenue generation mechanisms, and potentially generate financial revenue for the protection and conservation of the area, creating a win win situation where both people and reefs can benefit without the detriment of the other.

- b. What are the key challenges you face to achieving sustainable tourism?

- Limited awareness within the tourism community of the fragility of coral reefs.
- Rapid tourism growth
- A ‘lag’ in policy and national enforcement
- Poor enforcement and uptake of sustainable standards and regulations.
- Inappropriate distribution of benefits throughout stakeholder groups to encourage long-term buy in.
- Inappropriate financial feedback into the conservation of local environment.

### **B. Summary of IYOR 2008 Activities**

- Briefly tell us about your activities for IYOR 2008. Information provided will contribute to the discussion during the IYOR 2008 Session on Friday, January 25, 2008.

UNEP-WCMC, with partners, will work towards the following list of activities for 2008:

- Organisation of events at International/National meetings
- IYOR stall at the London International Dive Show
- Promotion of coral reef awareness through articles in dive related media
- Promotion of IYOR 2008 through the UNEP-WCMC websites
- Schedule of talks / awareness workshops for schools in the UK
- Promotion of IYOR 2008 using various media such as the web, and published articles such as for Terra et Aqua (journal of the International Dredging Association)
- Information dissemination at all meetings attended during 2008

Additional activities will be undertaken through 2008 as potential partnerships develop.

### **C. Emerging Issues**

- Please identify any emerging issues relevant to coral reef ecosystems that you believe ICRI should consider.
  - Ocean engineering for mitigating climate change, for example through influencing carbon sequestration, with impacts on near shore tropical marine ecosystems.
  - Setting out the consequence of continued loss/ degradation of coral reefs

### **D. ICRI and Other Meetings**

Are your ICRI Focal Points considering attending any of the following meetings in 2008?

- 2008 Ocean Sciences Meeting, Florida, 2-7 March
- CBD COP 9, Bonn, 19-30 May**
- UNICPOLOS 9, New York, June 2008**
- ICRS 11, Fort Lauderdale, 7-11 July**
- IUCN World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, 5-16 October**
- Ramsar COP 9, South Korea, 29 October - 4 November**
- Other (please specify):
  - **Global Forum for Oceans and Coasts, 7-11 April 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam**