



BRAZIL Member's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by Ana Paula Prates and Beatrice Padovani Ferreira

Reporting period (july – december 2007)

1. General Information

Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	BRAZIL
Focal Point 1:	Ana Paula Leite Prates (MMA)
Focal point 2:	Beatrice Padovani Ferreira (UFPE)
Last meeting attended:	Cozumel/Mexico
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	In web sites, trough mail list for NGOs and other organizations, using promotional material and during meetings and campaigns.
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	US\$ 100.000 /2007

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?	NO (we have a National Program for Coral Reef Conservation but it was not constituted through a formal act)
Is this plan publicly available? If so, please provide location:	-
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative or Task Force	No
Are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relevant to coral reefs:	Yes
If yes, please indicate which programs/initiatives:	Brazil is a member of the SA Node of the GCRMN
Marine Protected Areas	
How many MPA(s) with coral reefs?	10
What is the percentage of coral reef MPA(s) to the (coastal zone / marine area)?	18,53% of the total coastal zone / marine area are under protection ¹
Please provide the appropriate contact name for MPA data holdings	Ana Paula Leite Prates
Details for contact (email/fax/telephone)	ana-paula.prates@ma.gov.br/5506133171213/5506133171387

¹ Percentage considering both fully protected and sustainable use MPAs in relation to the Northeastern Brazil continental shelf, see map. Also see Prates, 2003 - Atlas of Coral Reef Protected Areas in Brazil.

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.);

The compensation mechanism is already applied in Brazil in cases where environmental damage takes place. For coral reefs, however, economic evaluation has not yet been applied directly, although there have been initiatives to establish the value of coral reef fisheries in order to determine a benchmark for future compensation claims, specially in areas vulnerable to oil/gas exploitation impacts.

In the GEF-Mangrove project, to be started in 2008, mangrove economic valuation studies will be conducted at Abrolhos Coral Reef bank region. This assessment will take into consideration not only the mangrove intrinsic value but also its related value with adjacent coral reefs as a nursery place to many coral species (including important economic fisheries resources). The results of the studies will also be used as the basis for future negotiation with state government agencies for determining compensation measures. The innovation sought in this Project is to invest the compensation funds to benefit the same type of ecosystem damaged, in this case, the mangrove and the associated ecosystems as coral reefs. One important policy of this Project is the replication activities such as dissemination of this pilot lessons learned for future use in different States and publication and wide dissemination of outreach material for the general public containing information on the ecosystem socio-economic values.

- b. Do you have established methods for assessing these values? If so, please provide further information.

Methods related to value of fisheries are comparable to many used worldwide. Methods for economic impact assessment referred above are to be developed/adapted.

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 means development with a low impact on the environment and local culture, while helping to generate income, employment, and the conservation of local ecosystems. It is responsible tourism that is both ecologically and culturally sensitive.

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

Coral reefs areas are very fragile and are affected by unplanned tourism. Once tourism starts to grow in an area, one of the main challenges is to determine the carrying capacity and thus keep growth to a sustainable level. Often expansion of the activity takes places before the need to control it comes to attention of both users and authorities. Users behaviour is also an important issue. Since 2001 a Coral Reef Conservation Campaign has been developed and implemented in Brazil with the objective of promoting

public awareness on the importance of the conservation of coral reefs. The objective of this campaign is to inform scuba divers, environment and tourism agencies on the minimum impact rules to be adopted when visiting a coral reef area. Some already established practices are a challenge such as fish feeding and marine animals handcraft commerce, but in general the campaign has achieved good results having already reached five locations along the north eastern Brazilian coast.

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.

So far the Brazilian Ministry of Environment developed in a web site a page informing about IYOR and its importance. Outreach material was also prepared to be distributed to tourists in the north eastern beaches during the 2007/2008 summer, as part of the Coral Reef Conservation Campaign. An exhibition on coral reefs, consisting of a two sided panel was placed in four Brazilian airports (Bahia, Alagoas, Pernambuco and Rio Grande do Norte States). A 2008 coral reef calendar was created, featuring Brazilian coral reef sites and initiatives, and celebrating IYOR. The Ministry of Environment and partners, including NGOs, Universities and private initiative, produced this calendar. Part of the copies will be distributed by the Ministry and partners (2.000) and part will be sent to subscribers of one of the main Brazilian divers magazine (12.500), who funded the reprints. We are also planning to support Clean Up Day event in four Brazilian beaches, as well as other events concerning community monitoring for which planning is under way.

C. Emerging Issues

- The following emerging issues relevant to coral reef ecosystems are presented for ICRI to consider:
 - global changes and coral reefs
 - coral reefs and marine protected areas
 - tourism in coral reefs areas
 - sustainable fisheries on coral reefs
 - ecosystem connectivity and the future of coral reefs; and,
 - land based impacts on coral reefs and restoration and recovery initiatives.

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 **YES**
- UNICPOLOS 9, New York, June 2008
- ICRS 11, Fort Lauderdale, 7-11 July **YES**
- IUCN World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, 5-16 October
- Ramsar COP 10, South Korea, 29 October - 4 November **YES**
- Other (please specify):
 - IV Protected Areas Symposium (Brazilian), May 2008
 - Brazilian Oceanographic Congress, May 2008
 - Support to the Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group Meeting in Brazil, November 2008.