



Member's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by Project AWARE Foundation

Reporting period July 2008 – 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):	Project AWARE Foundation
Focal Point 1:	
<i>Name:</i>	<i>Jenny Miller Garmendia</i>
<i>Organization:</i>	<i>Project AWARE Foundation</i>
<i>Email:</i>	<i>jenny.miller.garmendia@projectaware.org</i>
Focal point 2:	
<i>Name:</i>	
<i>Organization:</i>	
<i>Email:</i>	
Last meeting attended:	Ft. Lauderdale, USA July 2008
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	email and e-newsletter
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	Approximately \$100,000 per year

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

2008 - 2009

Project AWARE Foundation's Project the Living Reef program includes education and awareness, CoralWatch monitoring, AWARE Kids related activities, small grants to coral related projects, advocacy for the protection of coral reefs and management for fisheries and sharks as well as activities related to IYOR.

ACTIVITIES

CoralWatch monitoring & awareness program in partnership with the University of Queensland

- Registered 1106 Project AWARE CoralWatch Operators (Worldwide)
- Completed Spanish translation of the CoralWatch Operators materials.
- Conducted a workshop in Cartagena at the invitation of the Diving Planet Foundation for staff of the National Park and 40 dive shops as part of National Coral Reef Day and the launch of a national reef monitoring campaign along Colombia's coast.

- Conducted 6 workshops and seminars on CoralWatch for diving professionals; sponsored ICRI IYOR Coordinator Francis Staub at DEMA (Diving Equipment Manufacturer Association); together with partner CoralWatch from the University of Queensland, Australia, showcased the underwater efforts of volunteer divers in protecting coral reefs including coral monitoring and AWARE Kids programs at ICRS, Ft. Lauderdale.
- Hosted Dr. Mark Eakin, NOAA Coral Reef Watch, at DEMA in 2008 and 2009 to present seminars on coral bleaching, bleaching alerts and ocean acidification.

Cleanups with a Focus on Reefs for IYOR

In 2008, coordinators organized more than 1,000 cleanup events and data collection in over 100 countries and territories with a special focus on reef cleanups. In 2009, cleanups took place in 110 countries and territories.

Ongoing Coral Reef Revitalization Project, Japan

Initially organized in 2004, "Team Tyura Sango" set out to revitalize and protect coral reefs around Onna Village, Okinawa. About 90 percent of coral reefs in Japan are located around Okinawa, but they have been severely damaged by rising ocean temperatures, coral disease, destructive crown-of-thorn starfish blooms and sediment run-off from onshore development. The coral regeneration project, involving Project AWARE, 12 partner organizations and volunteer divers, uses planting techniques and methods established by the Japanese Coral Reef Society. The survival rate of the planted corals has improved in recent years by the use of protective cages as shelter from crown-of-thorns. In addition to coral planning, "Coral Forums" are held to widely promote the importance of corals and their need of urgent support. This project is in collaboration with the Fisheries Cooperative Association of Onna Village and also supported by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan and Okinawa Prefecture. The project has been featured on National Geographic Television, Japan.

AWARENESS & EDUCATION

IYOR PSA

Project AWARE Foundation, Wyland and Olympic gold medalist, Heather Pease Olson, teamed up for coral conservation during 2008, when the Olympic Games and International Year of the Reef (IYOR) coincided. The PSA placed on YouTube, available on more than 100 websites and shown by partner TV stations, aquariums and facilities, created thousands of impressions. Each viewer was challenged to adopt three conservation actions: switch to CFL light bulbs; prevent daily runoff of oil fertilizer and household chemicals; and refuse to purchase coral jewelry, species and reef-related products.

2008 Project AWARE and Reef Check Photo Contest

Project AWARE Asia Pacific and Reef Check Australia celebrated IYOR 2008 by promoting the "What do coral reefs mean to you?" photography competition. Steve Rosenberg's compelling photograph of a loggerhead turtle took top prize. The photograph captures this loved coral reef icon while reminding viewers that all seven species of marine turtles are endangered or threatened.

AWARE Kids International Year of the Reef 2008 Art Contest

Children ages 3 – 12 took creative action to help protect reefs by entering their artwork and conservation messages in this unique global art contest. 1400 entries were received from AWARE Kids around the world featuring stunning artwork on the theme "Celebrate the Reef – Every Act Counts". Special thanks to the art contest judges, famed artists and conservationists, Wyland and Rogest for taking part. Congratulations to the Coral Reef Ambassadors chosen from Indonesia, the UK, Canada and China.

ADVOCACY

Coral Reef Related Management Support and Advocacy

- Worked with CORDIO at IUCN World Conservation Congress to Co-Sponsor resolution 4.080 Mobilizing action build resilience and assist adaptation to climate change of coral reefs and marine ecosystems and people that depend on them. We included the resolution in public comment to the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force to bring it to the attention of all the Federal agencies, US States, Territories, Commonwealths, Freely Associated States and NGO partners.
- Supported ICRI Recommendation on Improving Shark conservation for Coral Reef Resiliency and publicized resolution to divers worldwide.
- Encouraged support widely in the U.S. for the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act, the Coral Reef Conservation Act, the Shark Protection Act, the Ocean Act and ratification of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- Provided public comment on Florida's Department of Environmental Protection legislation to reduce and eliminate ocean sewer outfalls by focusing on the critical importance to reef health.

GRANTS

Small grant program provided financial support to 44 coral related projects worldwide including following examples:

- Ras Mohammed National Marine Park project to save corals damaged by illegal fishing boat grounding
- Borneo Divers and Sipadan Water Village Resort's Adopt a Coral program, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah Malaysia. Malaysian Tourism Culture and Environment Minister Bolikiah Ismail and other dignitaries planted juvenile corals on special cement bases that were transferred to an underwater nursery before permanently cementing in various sites. At the same time more than a hundred divers also collected garbage from Mamutik Island, Sabah Malaysia.
- Trial reef restoration project with the Belize Fisheries Department, Friends of Nature and researcher Lisa Carne using protocol developed by Dr. Harold Hudson of NOAA.
- Chuuk's Historic Preservation Project development of a management and monitoring manual specific to Chuuk Lagoon and hands-on workshops for residents focused on monitoring and documenting coral health, human impacts, invertebrate populations and fish sightings.
- Grants to GCRMN for printing of Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2008, to IYOR for printing of IYOR Report and sponsorship for ICERS in Ft. Lauderdale
- Grants for 14 mooring buoy projects including in Bonaire, the Bahamas, Honduras, Hawaii, Belize, Tonga, the Philippines, Fiji, and Keramalslands & Chibishi Atoll in Okinawa, Japan.

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.

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

N/A

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

ICRI is already doing so with the intention of adding climate change effects to the document as global threats to reefs.

Should add that reef sharks as apex predators are of particular importance to reef health. The threat to reef ecosystem from the loss of sharks should be included in the “call to action.”

- 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.

It would be critical for any thematic report from GCRMN on shifting baselines to focus on this region.

- 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.

N/A

- 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?

Our small grant program that has a focus on mooring buoys (see report of activities).

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

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

No

- 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)

Considering

- 10th Meeting of the conference of the Parties to the convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10), October 18-29, 2010, Nagoya, Japan

No

- Other (please specify):