

**Member's report on activities to ICRI****Presented by Brazil****Reporting period January – December 2011**

1. **General Information** (note that this information will be post on the ICRIForum in your member page: <http://www.icriforum.org/about-icri/members-networks>)

Are you an ICRI Member?	Yes
Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Brazil/ Brazilian Ministry of The Environment
Focal Point 1:	
<i>Name:</i>	Ana Paula Leite Prates
<i>Organization:</i>	<i>Brazilian Ministry of the Environment</i>
<i>Email:</i>	<i>ana-paula.prates@mma.gov.br</i>
Focal point 2:	
<i>Name:</i>	Beatrice Padovani Ferreira
<i>Organization:</i>	Pernambuco Federal University
<i>Email:</i>	beatrice@ufpe.br
Last meeting attended:	Monaco
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	At the website, meetings and within the organizations
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	US\$ 80.000,00 (2011) Training Courses Material (folders) Monitoring program

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?	NO
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 relating to coral reefs:	YES
If yes, please indicate which programmes/initiatives:	Brazil is part of the SA Node of GCRMN, although is not part of Regional seas program for Caribbean as all the other SA country members in the node.

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

- Mangroves: The activities of the GEF-Mangrove project started in October 2009. In this project, 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 compensation mechanism is already applied in Brazil in cases where environmental damage takes place. The innovation sought in this Project is that compensation funds must be applied in the same type of ecosystem damaged, in this case, the mangrove and the associated ecosystems as coral reefs (www.mma.gov.br).

- Coral Reef Monitoring: *A National Program*

The Brazilian National Coral Reef Monitoring Program started in 2002 with a two year pilot phase to test and adapt Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) protocols to characteristics of Brazilian reefs. The adopted protocol is Reef Check compatible, expanded to include more indicators and identification at species level, individual size measurements as well as abundance, and to incorporate more refined measurements for coral bleaching and diseases. The program has run now for seven years and one of the objectives is to monitor the effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas under different management regimes. In 2010 the Chico Mendes Brazilian Institute of Biodiversity incorporate the Coral Reef Monitoring Program under the regular activities of the MPAs. For this, more than 60 MPA personnel and local guides and volunteers have been trained on monitoring activities during several courses and joint expeditions in 2010/2011. The initiative is funded by the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment.

- Coral Reef Conservation Campaign: has run for several years. It is focused on promoting public awareness regarding the importance of the conservation of coral reefs and the fragility of these environments. It includes awareness materials such as posters, brochures, booklet, and a video (DVD) with 8 minutes of duration. In 2010 training four courses were conducted in: Abrolhos National Marine Park and Corumbau Extractivist Reserve. In 2011, three courses were conducted in Marau Municipality, in Environment Protected Area with support of Brazilian Ministry of the Environment (www.mma.gov.br).

- IUCN Red listing for marine species: The Institute Chico Mendes of Biodiversity Conservation (ICMbio), the body responsible for conservation and management of threatened species in Brazil, in partnership with IUCN and the Global Marine Species Assessment is leading a national initiative to assess the status of conservation of species, including coral reef species, in Brazil. So far, the results indicate that a significant number of reef species are under threat, and many remain under the Data Deficient category, a clear message that information, including detailed fisheries statistics, is a priority for conservation.

- On the recovery and restoration front, the Recifes Costeiros Project, an integrated coastal management initiative for the APA Costa dos Corais, the largest multiple use coral reef MPA in Brazil, that started in 1998 funded by IADB, has shown by demonstrative experiments the potential for recovery of reef areas by the creation of small no take areas. Now, with funding from Foundation SOS Mata Atlântica through Fundo Costa Atlântica and AVINA Foundation, the Project is working on capacity building of local tourist guides to operate in the buffer zones of the no take areas. The strategy aims to improve engagement of local coastal communities in monitoring activities and on the dissemination of the importance of no take areas as a strategy for coral reef conservation (www.sosmatatlantica.org.br).

- The Marine Management Areas Science Program - MMAS is an international program of Conservation International that is evaluating the effects of different management regimes and thus helping to point out best future actions. The

Abrolhos Shelf is part of this network of four intensive study areas around the globe (Brazil, Fiji, Belize and Panama), all trying the same kind of experiment in parallel. More than 150 natural and social scientists, educators, managers, and policy makers are sharing knowledge, research, and lifetimes of experience in this global network experiment (www.conservation.org.br).

- Pro Abrolhos Project - The Abrolhos Bank is a complex suite of interconnected coastal and marine habitats located in Eastern Brazil that holds probably the largest biodiversity of the South Atlantic Ocean. A large sampling program, funded by CNPq/Research Institutes was created to study the area at local and regional scales. The work is led by the Oceanographic Institute of the University of São Paulo and is composed of a network of 11 Brazilian research institutions. The main aim of the project is to understand the coastal and oceanic processes that govern the Abrolhos ecosystem in order to create better policies for its management and rational use.
- Brazilian goliath grouper Project - The goliath grouper *Epinephelus itajara* is the largest Atlantic grouper. It is considered a *critically endangered* species according to IUCN criteria. In Brazil, the goliath grouper has been protected since 2002 by federal law. A network of institutions and people (scientists, NGOs, universities, fishermen, SCUBA divers) have been engaged in a project improving both scientific and traditional knowledge, enhancing awareness and protecting the goliath grouper and marine ecosystems where it occurs in Brazil (e.g. coral and rocky reefs, mangroves). The goliath grouper was the first fully protected marine fish species in Brazil and is a symbol of the threat that uncontrolled fisheries and habitat destruction represent to large and long lived marine species (www.merosdobrasil.org).
- Coral Vivo Project - It works for the conservation and sustainable use of Brazilian coral reef environments. It acts in an integrated way in three major lines: scientific research, environmental education and social mobilization. Through educational and research networking, the Project amplifies its social penetration and capacity building for environmental management. The Project is working at a Buzios Marine State Park with training courses to managers and has a interpretation center at Porto Seguro City (www.coralvivo.org.br).
- Mesophotic reefs in the Abrolhos Bank, Brazil -The mesophotic reef realm lies right below the conventional limits of SCUBA (<30m) and well above the dark ocean layers in which submersibles generally operate (>300 m), holding unique “twilight zone” assemblages. Recent sidescan sonar surveys revealed a broad extension of mesophotic reefs in the Abrolhos Bank, the region with the richest South Atlantic reefs. A team of scientists from Conservation International, Rio de Janeiro Botanical Gardens, São Paulo State University and the Federal Universities of Paraíba, Espírito Santo and Rio de Janeiro are now surveying this area with ROVs and mixed-gas diving, unveiling its potential roles in terms of ecosystems services and functioning.
- Reef Fishing Spawning Aggregation Project – the project “PRÓ-ARRIBADA is a initiative to study spawning aggregations of reef fishes (mainly groupers and snappers) in Brazil. Although well known informally, especially by fishers, the nature of the aggregations was only speculative and there are no protection measures in place regarding fisheries activities or other activities, such as seismic prospection over the aggregations. The project Pro-Arribada is under the agreement of seismic prospection activities between the Brazilian Institutes of Environment (IBAMA and ICMBio) and the Brazilian Fund of Biodiversity (FUNBIO) and is executed by Universities and NGOs. The project aims to study transient spawning aggregations of reef fishes in four large regions along the

entire coast of Brazil. The results of this two year project, started in 2009, will help to determine the impact of fishing and oil and gas exploitation activities on the aggregations and to establish management and conservation measures (www.funbio.org.br).

- In 2010 The Commission for Coral Reef Conservation was created by Brazilian Ministry of The Environment under the Ramsar Nation Commission to discuss an action plan for Brazilian coral reef conservation program.
- In 2011 Brazilian Ministry of The Environment, ICMBio, Funbio, World Bank and Petrobras present a Marine Protected Area project with the objective to create and implement Brazilians MPA, including areas with coral reefs. The project has three components: 1- Creation and implementation of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas, 2- Design of financial mechanisms to support MCPAs system and 3- Coordination, monitoring and management. The total amount of grant is U\$ 20,000,000 and the indicative Brazilian government co-financing is U\$ 98,400,000.

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. Rio+20

To support efforts to share ideas and plans for coral reefs/marine initiatives at Rio+20 and nurture opportunities for collaboration, we would like to invite you to share your proposed events and ideas:

- Are you/your organization attending Rio+20? Yes
 - Are you proposing an event or other initiative? (please share any ideas and/or details)
Brazil is hosting the RIO+20 and we are planning to organize a side event about Brazilian Coral Reefs, launch the book about 10 years of Brazilian Coral Reef Monitoring Program and present an exhibition about Marine and Coastal Biodiversity at Environment Museum in Rio de Janeiro.
 - Are you looking to collaborate with others? Yes
- b. What other new initiatives/programs/projects/progress, in particular since November 2010, has been made by your government/organization relative to i) Marine Protected Areas, Ramsar, World Heritage sites, and Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) sites designation containing coral reefs; ii) Policy changes; iii) Economic valuation of coral reef ecosystem services, etc., which you believe would be of general interest to other ICRI Members?

Brazilian Ministry of The Environment will work with financial support of GEF a Marine Protect Areas Project in 2012 .

The Ramsar Site Abrolhos National Marine Park is one of the site that is in the Monitoring Program of Coral Reef and training courses including the theme coral ref conservation are being developed in 2011.

c. Coral reef sites listed under the MAB programme in Brazil:

Brazilian coral reef sites listed under the MAB programme are: Northeast MAB: Fernando de Noronha Marine National Park, Atol das Rocas Biological Reserve, Abrolhos Marine National Park, as core zone and Costa dos Corais Environmental Protected Area as buffer zone all as part of Atlantic Forest Biosphere Reserve

Brazil attended the Marine Protected Areas Seminar occurred in November, 2011, in São Paulo organized by FAO - Red Parques.

d. Is there any topic you would like to raise during the meeting? No

e. Please list publications, reports you have been released since the last meeting.

- Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Overview, Brazilin Ministry of The Environment, 2010
- Brazilian Coral Reef initiatives. Brazilin Ministry of The Environment, 2010
- Poseidon, a publication and a game about marine protected areas , Brazilin Ministry of The Environment , 2010
- Coral Vivo Project Newsletter , 2011

f. Please indicate upcoming coral reef-related meetings you will attend?

- Third Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-3), 25-27 January 2012, and Global Conference on land-ocean interaction 23-24 – no
- IUCN World Conservation Congress, 6-15 September 2012, Jeju. Are you planning to organize an event? – no
- 26th Meeting of the CITES Animals Committee, 15-20 March 2012, Geneva, Switzerland Yes
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- Others:
- COP Ramsar Convention , 2012
- Coral Reef Symposium, Australia, 2012