



Member’s report on activities to ICRI

Presented by Australia

Reporting period January - July 2012

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

Are you an ICRI Member?	Yes
Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)
Focal Point 1:	
<i>Name:</i>	John Baldwin
<i>Organization:</i>	GBRMPA
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Focal point 2:	
<i>Name:</i>	Anne Caillaud
<i>Organization:</i>	GBRMPA
<i>Email:</i>	anne.caillaud@gbmpa.gov.au
Last meeting attended:	ICRI GM 26: La Reunion

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan or similar? If so please provide URL:	Yes ¹
If you are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relating to coral reefs, please indicate which ones:	The Australian Government is engaged in numerous multi-lateral and bilateral environmental initiatives within the Asia/Pacific region with coral reef implications.

2. **Updates on your activities** (new initiatives/programs/projects of your government /organization which will be of interest to the ICRI Members). Examples include MPA declarations, World Heritage sites status, economic valuation of reefs, policy changes in relation to coral reefs etc.

The Australian Government's Marine Bioregional Planning Program is supporting the conservation and sustainable use of Australia's oceans. It is doing this by building a better understanding of our unique marine environment, the life it supports and those things that are putting the health of our oceans at risk. One outcome of the Marine Bioregional Planning Program will be the establishment the world's largest network of marine reserves protecting examples of Australia's most precious ocean environments. The other key outcome of the program will be the finalisation of Marine Bioregional Plans to guide decision-making on oceans matters across large-scale marine planning regions.

Environment Minister Tony Burke released the Government's final network of marine reserves which - once proclaimed under national environmental law - will increase the number of marine reserves in offshore waters (beyond 3 nautical miles) from 27 to 60, expanding the national network to cover more than a third of Commonwealth waters. Australia’s states and the Northern Territory have primary responsibility for the establishment of protected areas inside 3 nautical miles.

¹ Within the context of the Australian National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (NRSMPA)

The new marine reserves take the overall size of the Commonwealth marine reserves network to 3.1 million square kilometres, by far the largest representative network of marine protected areas in the world. Together the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Coral Sea Commonwealth marine reserve will become the largest continuous marine protected area in the world, covering 1.3 million square kilometres.

For more, visit: www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/index.html

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.

a. Management effectiveness

Are you engaged in an assessment of management effectiveness in your marine areas? If so, the ICRI Secretariat invites members to provide a 5-minute presentation on a case study relative to assessing the management effectiveness of an MPA during the management effectiveness workshop that will be held on the Tuesday (17 July). The 5 minute presentation will provide an overview of:

- What kind of assessment was undertaken
- How the results of this assessment are being used.

The presentation can be illustrated with a PowerPoint presentation or not; if a PowerPoint is used than it should not exceed 5 slides.

Please indicate whether you would like to provide a presentation as described above:

YES NO

Is there any other aspect of management effectiveness you would like to share with ICRI members?

An assessment of the effectiveness of management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park was a cornerstone of the *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2009*. The assessment was undertaken by two independent external expert assessors based on six assessment criteria:

- understanding of context
- planning
- financial, staffing and information inputs
- management systems and processes
- delivery of outputs
- achievement of outcomes.

The effectiveness of existing measures to protect and manage the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem was independently assessed for 12 broad management topics, ranging from biodiversity protection to fishing, coastal development and ports and shipping. Management effectiveness challenges are evident for those management topics which are broad in scale and complex socially, biophysically and jurisdictionally (for example climate change, coastal development, water quality and fishing). Effectiveness is strongest on issues that are limited in scale, intensity or complexity (for example defence and scientific research).

For more, visit: www.gbrmpa.gov.au/outlook-for-the-reef/great-barrier-reef-outlook-report

b. Community stewardship

Are there any activities or initiatives involving community engagement in coastal marine management that you are involved with?

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's (GBRMPA) Reef Guardian program recognises the good environmental work undertaken by communities and industries to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

The program involves working closely with those who use and rely on the Reef or its catchment for their recreation or business to help build a healthier and more resilient Reef. The program demonstrates a hands-on, community-based approach can make a real difference to the health and resilience of the Reef. Reef Guardians are taking on voluntary actions beyond what is required by law and sharing information. These actions will help to improve the economic sustainability of industries operating in the Great Barrier Reef Region and ensure the environmental sustainability of the Marine Park.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef Guardian stewardship program began with schools in 2003 to encourage the community to take action for a healthier Reef.

- The [Reef Guardian Schools](#) initiative now has over 285 schools and over 111,000 students involved in building the Reef's resilience.
- In 2007 the initiative was expanded to include local government councils along the Great Barrier Reef coast through the [Reef Guardian Councils](#) program.
- The [Reef Guardian Fishers](#) and [Reef Guardian Farmers and Graziers](#) programs were launched in 2011 to engage with industries connected to the Reef.

4. Is there any other topic you would like to raise during the meeting?

YES NO

If yes, please indicate which topic and the reason why you would like to raise it:

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

Title (incl. author and date)	Type of publication (Paper, report etc.)
Reef in Brief is the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's regular e-newsletter, to keep you updated on the latest news and information concerning the Great Barrier Reef. Click here to subscribe .Subscription is free and you can unsubscribe at any time.	e-newsletter
The Recreation Management Strategy for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park provides an overarching framework for managing recreation by the GBRMPA. It facilitates more coordinated management and sets out in the public arena the management approach of the GBRMPA.	report

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

International Coral Reef Symposium, 9-13 July, Cairns, Australia Yes

IUCN World Conservation Congress, 6-15 September 2012, Jeju Yes

➔ *Are you planning to organise a side event? Please indicate:*

[Participating in side event arranged by Dr Marc Hockings](#)

11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties on Biological Diversity (COP-11), 8-19 October 2012, Hyderabad, India Yes

Other: Nil