



### Member’s report on activities to ICRI

Presented by Belize

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):	Belize
<b>Focal Point 1:</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	Beverly Wade
<i>Organization:</i>	Belize Fisheries Department
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<b>Focal point 2:</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	James Azueta
<i>Organization:</i>	Belize Fisheries Department
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Last meeting attended:	2010

For countries only:

<b>National Action Plan / Initiative</b>	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan or similar? If so please provide URL:	No
If you are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relating to coral reefs, please indicate which ones:	SPAW, CLME/ICRI

### 2. Updates on activities

The Fisheries Act has been updated and modernized through the Draft Aquatic Living Resource Bill which is pending enactment. The objective of the bill is to promote long term conservation and sustainable use of the aquatic living resources of Belize using the Ecosystem Approach and Precautionary Approach recommended by the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nation (FAO) Principles.

The Government of Belize has banned all types of trawling within the waters of Belize. There is also a ban on the fishing of all parrotfish and tangs.

OSPESCA (Spanish acronym for Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization) and Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) are working together to develop a regional approach to management of shared resources.

The 2011 ECO-Audit of the Mesoamerican Reef Countries is a follow up to the Reef Report Card which was published in 2010 and evaluates the efforts taken to protect and sustainably manage the region’s coral reefs.

There is a proposal to protect the Turneffe Atoll into a marine reserve. The Turneffe Atoll is the largest and most biological diverse atoll in the Caribbean. It has a self-contained coastal marine ecosystem made up of complex pattern of coral reef, cayes, spits, channel and lagoons. A GAP analysis by Jan Meerman, et al in 2005 identified the Turneffe Atoll as one of the largest remaining marine gaps within the National Protected Areas System Plan and in 2008 it was highlighted as a regional gap and priority area in the Mesoamerican Reef Eco-regional Assessment.

There is a proposal to protect an Ambergris Caye Marine Reserve Cluster which will fill a part of the gap between the Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve and Hol Chan Marine Reserve in Northern Belize. The areas are threatened by development activities and are important nursery grounds for sport fishing species such as the bonefish, permit, tarpon.

The following activities are also being undertaken:

- Rezoning of the South Water Caye Marine Reserve Conservation Zone;
- Expansion of the Port Honduras Marine Reserve No Take Zone;
- Propose roll out of the Managed Access tool for fishing in all the country of Belize;
- Coral Reef restoration (*Acropora* spp.); and the
- Expansion of the Gladden Spit and Silk Cayes Marine Reserve Conservation Zone.

### 3. Contribution to the ICRI GM

#### a. Management effectiveness

2011 ECO-Audit of the Mesoamerican Reef Countries carried out by Healthy Reef in collaboration with the World Resource Institute and about forty local government agencies and companies. Twenty-two standardized management indicators were developed across seven thematic areas that included Research, Education and Awareness, Marine Protected Areas, Global Issues, Coastal Zone Management, Sustainability in the Private Sector, Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management and Sanitation and sewage treatment. By country Belize did better than the rest of countries with a 3.3 score. More has to be done to protect the region’s coral reef. Only a little over 2% of reef is fully protected.

An evaluation conducted by Wildtracks on behalf of the Association of Protected Areas Management Organisations on management effectiveness highlighted gaps in management and recommended improvement measures.

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?

[\[Insert text here\]](#)

**b. Community stewardship**

Belize involves community activities through the following:

- Manage Access Committees;
- Marine Reserve Advisory Committees;
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management advisory committees;
- The National Coral Reef Monitoring Network.

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

YES  NO

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

Title (incl. author and date)	Type of publication (Paper, report etc.)
Belize Annual Report 2010	Report

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

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

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

11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties on Biological Diversity (COP-11), 8-19 October 2012, Hyderabad, India, yes