



Member Report

ICRI GM 27 – MR/BRAZIL

INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE (ICRI)
27th General Meeting
16 -19 June 2012 – Cairns, Australia

Member’s report on activities to ICRI

Presented by Ana Paula Prates

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):	Brazil/Brazilian Ministry of the Environment
Focal Point 1:	
<i>Name:</i>	Ana Paula Leite Prates
<i>Organization:</i>	Brazilian Ministry of the Environment
<i>Email:</i>	ana-paula.prates@mma.gov.br
Focal point 2:	
<i>Name:</i>	Beatrice Padovani Ferreira
<i>Organization:</i>	Pernambuco Federal University
<i>Email:</i>	beatrice@ufpe.br
Last meeting attended:	La Reunión

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
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:	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). Examples include MPA declarations, World Heritage sites status, economic valuation of reefs, policy changes in relation to coral reefs etc.

- **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. (www.mma.gov.br).
- **National Coral Reef Monitoring 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. One of the program’s objectives is to monitor the effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas under different management regimes. In 2010 the Chico Mendes Brazilian Institute of Biodiversity incorporated the Coral Reef Monitoring Program under the regular activities of the Federal MPAs. In 2012, surveys were conducted in Rocas Atoll Biological Reserve. Monitoring and training activities are planned for the second semester. A publication

with the results of 10 years of Brazilian coral reefs monitoring will be launched in 2012. 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 2012 activities were conducted in some beaches such as Maceió, Alagoas State, Caravelas, Bahia State, and Ponta do Pirangi, Rio Grande do Norte State 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. In January 2012, 27 cnidaria taxa, including all coral reef building species from Brazil, were regional assessed.
- 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.
- **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.merodosbrasil.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. In 2012, in Porto Seguro, the Project started bioassays to test the effect of changes in temperature and pH on coral reefs (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.
- **Reef Fishing Spawning Aggregation Project** – the project “PRÓ-ARRIBADA is an 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, 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 2011 a five years **Marine Protected Area project** designed by Brazilian Ministry of the Environment, ICMBio, Funbio, World Bank and Petrobras was approved by GEF. The project has 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.
- **Rio+20:** an open access side event promoted by Brazilian Ministry of the Environment (Aquatic and Fishery Biodiversity) with presentations about aquatic biodiversity, hydroelectric, fisheries and impacts, and marine biodiversity, including coral reefs, mangroves and climatic changes. The National Coral Reef Monitoring Program and the Coral Vivo Project presented their results. At the Cúpula dos Povos, results and divulgation from Brazilian goliath grouper Project were presented.

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?

b. Community stewardship

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

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.)
Costal and Marine Ecosystem View, Prates, A.P, Gonçalves, M.A, Rosa, M 2012	book

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

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

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

Other: