



### Member’s report on activities to ICRI

Presented by Abdulla Naseer, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Male Maldives

Reporting period January 2011 - 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):	
<b>Focal Point 1:</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	Abdulla Naseer
<i>Organization:</i>	Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture
<i>Email:</i>	abdulla.naseer@fishagri.gov.mv
<b>Focal point 2:</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	Mohamed Shiham Adam
<i>Organization:</i>	Marine Research Centre, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture
<i>Email:</i>	msadam@mrc.gov.mv
Last meeting attended:	ICRI 26 Reunion Meeting

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, working document available
If you are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relating to coral reefs, please indicate which ones:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Critical habitats considered by the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project</li> <li>- Programs implemented by SACEP</li> <li>- Fisheries programs of the Bay of Bengal Programme Intergovernmental Organisation</li> <li>- Mangroves for the Future Initiative</li> </ul>

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.

All types of shark fishing has been banned in the Maldives in 2011 making the Maldives effectively the only Shark sanctuary in the Indian Ocean. We are now working to provide alternative livelihoods for shark fishermen. A gear buy back program has been conducted successfully. We continue to monitor local trade of shark products, which take place under extended trade licences. A National Action of Action has been formulated.

Coral reef monitoring activities are being enhanced under Projects financed by the World Bank and the EU. This involved the strengthening of the National coral reef monitoring programme, increasing capacity to monitor reef fishery. The new monitoring initiative under the project activities is designed to get the hotel and tourism sector on board in coral reef monitoring. Web based data exchange programs will be in place.

A grouper management plan has been developed and now pending Cabinet approval. New management measures and controls on grouper fishing and protection of spawning aggregations are considered in the Management plan.

The Baa Atoll (approx. 1200 sq. km in area), one of many large atolls in the Maldives, has been declared a Biosphere Reserve. This is the first Biosphere Reserve in the country. Marine Protected areas have been extended in the Reserve protecting critical reef habitats and reef associated species. Areas of whale shark and Manta ray aggregations have also been protected.

The Environment Ministry and the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture are working on the establishment of a system of sensitive coral reef areas countrywide. A comprehensive list of coral reefs, coral islands, lagoons and wetland areas have been identified and presented for discussion review and consideration at Policy level.

### 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?

[Insert text here]

#### b. Community stewardship

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

With financial assistance from the World Bank and EU we are working to enhance national coral reef monitoring capability utilising the tourist resort staff and other the hotel industry community in general. Under the project training will be provided to selected tourist resort staff to undertake field data collection. These trained staff will under take field data collection during their routine dives/snorkelling using specially developed monitoring protocols. A web-enabled coral reef monitoring framework will be developed and integrated with the National geographic systems for data entry and analysis. It is envisaged to engage the diving industry at large in the monitoring of coral reefs and reporting data online enhancing participatory coral reef monitoring and inputs to strengthen policies and decisions on coral reef management.

**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:

[Insert text here]

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

Title (incl. author and date)	Type of publication (Paper, report etc.)
Zahir,H Quinn, N and Cargilia, N (2009). Assessment of Maldivian Coral Reefs in 2009 After Natural Disasters, Marine Research Centre	Government 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

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

[Insert text here]

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

Other: [Insert text here]