



Member's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by Reef Check Foundation, USA
Reporting period July 2011 – July 2012

1. General Information

Are you an ICRI Member?	Yes
Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Reef Check Foundation, Headquarters, USA
Focal Point 1:	
<i>Name:</i>	<i>Gregor Hodgson</i>
<i>Organization:</i>	<i>Reef Check Foundation</i>
<i>Email:</i>	<i>gregorh@reefcheck.org</i>
Focal point 2:	
<i>Name:</i>	Ruben Torres
<i>Organization:</i>	Reef Check Dominican Republic
<i>Email:</i>	ruben@reefcheck.org
Last meeting attended:	2011
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Email, listserve, website, forum, newsletter
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	\$850,000 2012

2. Updates on your activities (Key activities)

- In 2012, Reef Check has teams in 90+ countries and territories and we expect to receive survey reports on approximately 700 reefs in all regions of the world. Requests from scientists and managers for the Reef Check database continue and we provide all data freely.
- Papers using RC data are published each year. The most recent paper is: Chavanich et al. 2012. Reef Communities after the 2010 Mass Coral Bleaching at Racha Yai Islang in the Andaman Sea and Koh Tao in the Gulf of Thailand. *Phuket mar. biol. Cent. Res. Bull.* 71: 103–110
- Reef Check now has offices and/or formal NGO status in Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Dominican Republic, Australia, Italy, US, Germany, New Zealand.
- In 2011, the Reef Check monitoring protocol was formally adopted by the governments of Brazil and Bahamas as part of their national monitoring programs bringing to total to 12 countries.
- Carried out first comprehensive survey of coral reefs of Brunei May 2012 and assisted in the establishment of the first MPA network in Brunei that now includes 90% of coral reefs in “no-take” MPAs.
- RC Dominican Republic successfully implemented the La Caleta MPA in cooperation with the DR government and established a sustainable financing mechanism through ecotourism.
- First comprehensive survey of coral reefs of Haiti in cooperation with RC DR (July 2011 in progress)

- Reef Check continues to offer regular training for its EcoDiver program as well as comprehensive Workshops on Monitoring for Climate Change. The latter includes monitoring program design, implementation, data management, analysis, interpretation and reporting.
- Reef Check has expanded its subtropical program in the Gulf of California to help monitor and manage sustainable fisheries and has developed a specific monitoring protocol for the Eastern Pacific (Mexico to Columbia)

3. **Contribution to the ICRI GM:**

- As recommended by Reef Check in 2009, GCRMN was turned over to IUCN to coordinate. Unfortunately, there has been little communication regarding plans leaving Reef Check and many coordinators in the dark. \$25,000 in US State Department funding previously earmarked annually for Reef Check has been taken by IUCN without any notification. There is no network without networking. It would be helpful to clarify plans and advise members of what level of communication should be expected.
- GCRMN and Reef Check have partnered for many years on global status reporting and share many coordinators who have volunteered huge amounts of time and energy to support these efforts.
- We would continue to urge ICRI to play a role in checking on progress of conservation of coral reefs in each country not just updating of who is doing what.