



**Member’s report on activities related to ICRI**

**Reporting period July 2012 - October 2013**

**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
Member type (Country / Organization):	BRAZIL
<b>Focal Point 1:</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	ANA PAULA LEITE PRATES
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<b>Focal point 2:</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	BEATRICE PADOVANI FERREIRA
<i>Organization:</i>	UFPE
<i>Email:</i>	<a href="mailto:beatrice@ufpe.br">beatrice@ufpe.br</a>
Last meeting attended:	<i>Australia 2012</i>
Related website(s)	<a href="http://www.mma.gov.br">www.mma.gov.br</a>

**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.

**National Coral Reef Monitoring Program:**

In Brazil, a National Coral Reef Monitoring Program was under way since 2002, as part of the Ministry of Environment Program for the Conservation of the Brazilian Reefs. Surveys are conducted in 06 MPAs of fully protected and sustainable use, distributed along 2,000 km (17°S 38°W to 5°S 35°W) of the coast and more two oceanic islands (Rocas Atoll Biological Reserve 3°S 33°W and Fernando de Noronha Marine National Park 3°S 32°W). The methodology is compatible to the GCRMN Reef Check Protocol.

Since April of 2010 the Chico Mendes Brazilian Institute of Biodiversity (ICMBio), the body responsible for Federal MPAs, incorporated the coral reef monitoring under their regular marine monitoring program while the Ministry of the Environment remained overseeing the general program and activities in state and municipal MPAs, but the program lacks a formal Institutional or Funding arrangement to this date.

In 2010 a bleaching event was observed in several parts of Brazil and reported from localities distant more than 1000 km. Results were reported in 2013:

-Ferreira, B.P., Costa, M.B.S.F., Coxey, M.S., Gaspar, A.L.B., Veleza, D., Araujo, M. 2013. *The effects of sea surface temperature anomalies on oceanic coral reef systems in the southwestern tropical Atlantic*. Coral Reefs. DOI 10.1007/s00338-012-0992-y

-Miranda, R. J.; Cruz, I. C. S.; Leão, Z. M. A. N. 2013. Coral bleaching in the Caramuanas reef Todos os Santos Bay, Brazil) during the 2010 El Niño event. *Lat. Am. J. Aquat. Res.*, 41(2): 351-360.

### Coral Reef Monitoring networks:

The Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology has funded Networks of scientists working on common projects and sharing data and expertise. The National Institute for Marine Tropical Environment (INCT-AmbTrop) is one of those initiatives and through one of its subgroups aims, among other things, to establish an optimum protocol for coral reef monitoring and strengthen the linkages with the global coral reef monitoring network. (<http://www.inctambtropic.org>)

The National Institute for Climate/ Coastal Zone harbours the Rebentos: a network for monitoring marine benthos. In 2013, the coral reef group was created as a separate group and the objective is the discussion of methodologies and protocols, networking and future data holding. (<http://rebentos.org/>).

### Projects:

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. The Project is working on capacity building of local tourist guides to operate in the buffer zones of the no take areas, with funding from Foundation SOS Mata Atlântica through Fundo Costa Atlântica and AVINA Foundation. The strategy aims to improve engagement of local coastal communities in monitoring activities and on the dissemination of the importance of no take areas as a strategy for coral reef conservation ([www.sosmatatlantica.org.br](http://www.sosmatatlantica.org.br)).

The Marine Management Areas Science Program - MMAS is an international program of Conservation International that is evaluating the effects of different management regimes and thus helping to point out best future actions. The Abrolhos Shelf is part of this network of four intensive study areas around the globe (Brazil, Fiji, Belize and Panama), all trying the same kind of experiment in parallel. More than 150 natural and social scientists, educators, managers, and policy makers are sharing knowledge, research, and lifetimes of experience in this global network experiment ([www.conservation.org.br](http://www.conservation.org.br)).

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.merosdobrasil.org](http://www.merosdobrasil.org)).

The Coral Vivo Project - The Project supports and conducts studies as subsidy for management of conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs, by understanding the relationships between society and the environments of coral. These studies include reproduction, recruitment, growth and mortality of these beings, in addition to mapping physical and biological involving distribution patterns of these communities (algae, corals, gorgonians, seagrass etc). In 2012 the "Space Coral Vivo Mucuge" was launched and it is attracting tourists and residents in Arraial d'Ajuda (Bahia State), promoting awareness for the conservation of coral reefs.

### **Action Plan for the Conservation of Brazilian Coral Reefs:**

Following the evaluation of the status of coral and reef fish species according to IUCN criteria, the Chico Mendes Brazilian Institute of Biodiversity (ICMBIO) has initiated the preparation of a Plan of Action of the Brazilian Coral Reefs to be completed by 2014. ([www.icmbio.gov.br](http://www.icmbio.gov.br))

In 2012 The Commission for Coral Reef Conservation had the first meeting organized by Brazilian Ministry of The Environment under the Ramsar Nation Commission to discuss an action plan for Brazilian coral reef conservation program.

In 2012 Brazilian Ministry of The Environment, ICMBio, Funbio, World Bank and Petrobras approved GEF Project with 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 US\$ 20,000,000 and the indicative Brazilian government co-financing is US\$ 98,400,00.

### **Biological Diversity Convention – CBD**

In 2012 Brazil hosted the regional workshop by CBD, Wider Caribbean and Western MidAtlantic (Recife, Brazil, 28 February - 2 March 2012), available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=rWEBSA-WCAR-01>. The EBSAS described by Brazilian experts included all known coral reefs of the South Atlantic

### **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. Community-based monitoring**

Are you engaged in, or support community-based monitoring in your marine areas? If so, think about what works and what doesn't with it to be prepared for workshop discussions on this topic. The discussions will revolve around:

- The benefit of community-based monitoring for management and reporting
- Way forward and how countries could support each other through a network of persons involved in monitoring and an online database.

- In Brazil community based monitoring has been supported through training courses organized for volunteers. From October 2012 to January 2013 the Ministry of the Environment in partnership with Pernambuco Federal University, Alagoas State Environment Institute, NGO Promar Itaparica and Caravelas Municipality and Coral Vivo Project organized four training courses and monitoring expeditions in municipal and state coastal MPAs (Paripueira, Tamandaré, Itaparica and Porto Seguro). These activities involved 44 people and support of local institutions was essential.

#### b. Co-management

Do you have co-management arrangements in place for your marine reserves? If so, start thinking about what they are, and what works for you in preparation for workshop and field trip discussions on this topic. There will be some interactive exercises to help guide your thinking and possible way forward.

The Extractivist Reserves (RESEX) - a novel and unique partnership in natural resource extraction and conservation that Brazil has been experimenting with since 1989. Extractivist Reserves are one of the categories of sustainable use MPAs that are created on the demands of traditional and indigenous communities with the objective of using public areas to extract natural resources in a sustainable way, thereby preserving both the natural environment and the local culture and traditions. The federal government, through the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity (ICMBio), assists the community in the task of developing a sustainable management plan. Thus it is the community that determines the way it will explore and use the resource potentials, with financial support and government assistance to enforce the local laws. Besides nature conservation, the objectives are to guarantee human rights and to improve the population's quality of life. In 2012 there are 45 million people in Brazil considered to be part of groups defined as traditional peoples or communities. The Extractive Reserves, at this context, could be the alternative model to a development compatible with the Brazilian social and environmental reality. In the last decades, fishers have been losing access to the beaches, due to accelerated coastal development (Diegues & Arruda, 2001). As a demand of the traditional peoples, which are, commonly, at the epicenter of social-environmental conflicts, the Extractive Reserve aims to protect the way of life and culture of these peoples and assure the sustainable use of natural resources within the boundaries of the protected area. Since the first Extractive Reserve was created – 18 years ago – many questions evolved and it was established pattern procedures and tools to ensure that their creation should strengthen the community organization and also recognize the importance of traditional knowledge and their spatial and natural resource management systems. Until 2012, more than 17 Marine Extractive Reserves have been created. The more recent one, Cassurubá Marine Extractive Reserve, protects a large area of mangroves and Atlantic forest and is of great importance for the Abrolhos bank, the largest coral reef formation in Brazil.

#### 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:

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

