



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):	JAMAICA / National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA)
Focal Point 1:	
<i>Name:</i>	Loureene Jones Smith
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Focal point 2:	
<i>Name:</i>	Sean Green
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Last meeting attended:	Monaco – January 2010
Related website(s)	www.nepa.gov.jm

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.

[Declaration of new Special Fishery Conservation Area \(Fish Sanctuary\) located on the Pedro Banks known as South West Cay Special Fisheries Conservation Area.](#)

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

[The Jamaica Coral Reef Monitoring Network](#). This is an Ad Hoc Network of organizations and individuals or work in or are interested in coral reef management. It comprises of the University of the West Indies, government organizations, non-governmental organizations and recreational divers. This volunteer group of divers have assisted in monitoring island-wide and has improved the knowledge of status of inaccessible reefs. The group also assisted with reef assessments in Haiti (2003) and the Turks and Caicos Islands (2006).

The lack of a formal arrangement has resulted in increased flexibility to get the work done. Despite the success of the network the development of a sustainable monitoring programme based on external funding and volunteer divers was the biggest challenge. Another challenge was that assessments were mostly limited to weekends and the availability of volunteer divers who at the time mostly comprised of postgraduate student associated with the University dive club. The group no longer functions as it did in its early years and monitoring has been

institutionalized at the government environmental regulatory agency. However for the assessment of multiple remote sites volunteer members are occasionally co-opted. All data from these assessments are reported on in annual status of the reefs reports and also feed into global Reef Check database.

The National Game Wardens Programme. This is a voluntary environmental stewardship service performed by local community members with an interest in environmental management. After a period of training the recommended individuals are appointed as Game Wardens by the Governor General for one year based on the National Environment and Planning Agency's (NEPA) recommendation. Game Wardens comprise of staff from NGOs, CBOs, community members, NEPA staff and staff from other government agencies. They assist with monitoring island-wide with most concentrated in marine parks and special fishery conservation areas; all are required to submit quarterly monitoring reports. Reporting at times is a challenge and persons are removed from the programme for failing to submit reports.

- Way forward and how countries could support each other through a network of persons involved in monitoring and an online database.

The GCRMN had previously established regional nodes to facilitate and encourage the exchange of information and provide support. The nodes were also to encourage increased coral reef monitoring and reporting on the status of reefs; in the Northern Caribbean and Atlantic node which Jamaica is a part of this was never fully realized. These nodes can be resuscitated/relaunched but would require funds which are hard to come by.

The Caribbean Coastal Marine Productivity Programme (CARICOMP) network formally had an online database which members of the network could access. This data was archived by the Caribbean Coastal Data Centre, Centre for Marine Science, UWI which was established as a repository for coastal and marine data. The main areas of focus of the Centre are the provision of data management services and technical support to coastal and marine projects in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean; currently CARICOMP, Reef Check and AGRRA data are archived. The Centre is capable of providing the service online if the necessary infrastructure is put in place.

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.

Yes. There are co-management arrangements in place for two marine parks; namely the Montego Bay Marine Park and the Negril Marine Park. There are also 14 declared Special Fishery Conservation Areas (formerly known as fish sanctuaries) which are managed by non-governmental organizations on behalf of the Government of Jamaica.

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 relevant publications, reports you have been released since the last meeting.

Title (incl. author and date)	Type of publication (Paper, report etc.)
NEPA (2012.) Coral Reefs of Jamaica: An Evaluation of Ecosystem Health: 2011. National Environment and Planning Agency. 16 pp Author: Loureene Jones	Status Report
NEPA (2013) Coral Reefs of Jamaica: Reef Status and Trends 2012. Ecosystems Management Branch, National Environment and Planning Agency. 22pp Author: Loureene Jones	Status Report
Oracabessa Bay Fish Sanctuary: Year 2 Summary Report. November 2012. 3pp Author: Sean Green	Status Report

6. Please indicate upcoming coral reef-related meetings you or your organisation will attend

- 2nd Global Conference on Land - Ocean Connections (GLOC-2) October 2- 4 2013, Montego Bay, Jamaica
- 17th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SBSTTA-17), 14-18 October 2013 Montreal, Canada
- 2nd Global Marine World Heritage Site Managers Conference, 17-20 October 2013, Corsica, France
- International Marine Protected Areas Congress, 21-27 October, Marseille, France
- 9th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, 2-6 December, Suva, Fiji