



Member Report

ICRI GM 28 – MR/MALDIVES

INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE (ICRI)

28th General Meeting

14-17 October 2013 – Belize City, Belize

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):	Country
Focal Point 1:	
<i>Name:</i>	Abdulla Naseer
<i>Organization:</i>	Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture
<i>Email:</i>	abdulla.naseer@fishagri.gov.mv
Focal point 2:	
<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 27 GM Cairns, Australia
Related website(s)	www.fishagri.gov.mv www.mrc.gov.mv

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.

The grouper fishery of the Maldives has shown signs of over exploitation over the years. The Government officially launched the Grouper Fishery Management Plan in December 2012. The management plan was developed to address the need to manage the Maldivian grouper fishery to ensure sustainability of the reef resources for future generations. The nature of groupers – their longevity, late maturity and the formation of spawning aggregations – make them extremely vulnerable to overfishing. Five major spawning aggregation areas will be protected under the management plan.

The Government launched new regulations on dredging and reclamation on and around coral reefs in April 2013. The regulation was designed to protect coral reefs from dredging related pollution and to minimize impact relating to dredging and reclamation on reefs.

The Environment Protection Agency continues to manage the Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve in collaboration with the atoll communities and the tourism industry in the atoll. New Marine Protected Areas have been established in the Reserve protecting critical habitats and species. Whale shark and Manta ray aggregations have been protected under relevant laws and regulations in 2012.

A comprehensive inventory and database of all coral reefs and coral reef islands of the entire reef system of the Maldives is underway. The database is based on Google Earth maps and the reef database will be available online in the new future.

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.

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.

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.)
Management Plan for the Maldives Grouper Fishery, Maldives Marine Research Center & Marine Conservation Society UK, December 2012.	Government Report
Sattar SA, Najeeb A, Islam F, Afzal MS, Wood E (2012) Management of the grouper fishery of the Maldives. Proceedings of the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium, Cairns, Australia, 9-13 July 2012	Paper

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

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