

Member's Report

ICRI GM 29 - Grenada

INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE (ICRI) 29th General Meeting 20-23 October 2014 – Okinawa, Japan

Member's report on activities related to ICRI

Reporting period October 2013 - September 2014

1. Updates on your activities.

Project 1

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: ☑ Integrated Management ☑ Capacity Building ☑ Science & Monitoring ☑ Periodic Assessment (Review)	
Project Title	Reef Guardian Stewardship Program	
Location	Grenada: Beausejour River watershed	
Dates	September 2014 - present	
	Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment.	
Main Organizer(s)	Caribbean Aqua - Terrestrial Solutions Program	
	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	
	Communities along the Beausejour River catchment area	
Main Stakeholder(s)	Crop and livestock/pig farmers	
	Fisher folk	
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	The Reef Guardians program is a stewardship program that works closely and builds relationships with communities and industries that use, or rely on MPAs and their catchment areas. The program utilizes a 'hands-on', community-based approach, aimed at guiding the everyday actions and decisions of users in a direction that would assist in ensuring long term environmental benefits for coral reefs.	
	The program is an awareness tool, which works by identifying, assessing and promoting positive/sustainable environmental practices utilized by farmers, fishers, schools and communities within and around MPA catchment areas.	
	The driving force behind the success of the program is the provision of a platform where members can gain recognition for their good environmental practices, as opposed to the current trend of being criticized for their unhealthy ones. Ultimately, these members will be encouraged to continue, and improve, their environmentally safe, sustainable practices, while motivating others to do the same.	
	Grenada is the first country within the Caribbean region to attempt adaptation and implementation of a Reef Guardian stewardship program. The target groups are famers, fishers and schools within the	

	Moliniere-Beausejour watershed area.	
Outcome (Expected outcome)	 Farmers: To educate farmers on the importance of safeguarding coral reefs and associated ecosystems through sustainable land management practices. To demonstrate the linkages between sustainable land management practices and the health of marine ecosystems. To recognize and promote practices (such as proper fertilizer application and good water quality and soil management practices) already utilized by farmers. To improve the overall health and resilience of coral reefs within the MBMPA. Schools: To promote understanding and appreciation for coral reefs, connected ecosystems and associated organisms. To create awareness of the importance of MPAs. To empower students through knowledge, participation and the belief that they can make a positive difference. To foster community stewardship and encourage reef custodianship. 	
Lessons learned	Project is still ongoing. Preliminary assessments to determine suitable land management adaptations for implementation on farms are being conducted.	
Related websites (English preferred)		

Project 2

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: ☐ Integrated Management ☐ Capacity Building ☐ Science & Monitoring ☐ Periodic Assessment (Review)	
Project Title	MPA Summer Camp 2014	
Location	Grenada: Moliniere-Beausejour MPA	
Dates	July 2014	
Main Organizer(s)	Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment The Caribbean Aqua-Terrestrial Solutions (CATS) with the support of the CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grants Program (coordinated by UNEP-CEP/SPAW)	
Main Stakeholder(s)	Members (especially kids and parents) of the Moliniere, Happy Hill & Beausejour communities	
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA	The Marine Protected Area Summer Camp pilot program is a 3-week program designed for 9 - 13 year old students living within the adjacent villages of the Moliniere / Beausejour Marine Protected Area	

cornerstones)

The program was conceptualized in an effort to give back to communities, while establishing ties and promoting understanding of the functions and importance of coral reef ecosystems in the Moliniere / Beausejour MPA, as well as addressing the existing sociological issues by breaking down barriers and building trust and respect between communities and MPA officials.

One of the many aims of the pilot program was building healthy relationships between the Fisheries Division and members of the Beausejour, Happy Hill and Moliniere communities. It was designed to develop the creative capacity of children between the ages of 9 - 13, while instilling knowledge and appreciation for marine life and coastal ecosystems, through fun, dynamic, hands-on learning activities.

• Increased understanding of the relationship between humans and coral reef ecosystems

Participants of the summer camp pilot program now have a greater understanding of the complex relationships between humans and their environment. They now have a greater appreciation for the coral reef ecosystem and are fully aware of the ways in which their daily actions may have an impact on their surroundings as well as ways in which they can reduce impacts on reefs.

Increased awareness of marine protected areas

Participants are now aware of MPAs. They have gained knowledge on:

- The purpose and importance of managing marine resources
- The reasons for some of the rules within the MPA and the importance of following these rules
- o The role of the MPA Rangers

Outcome (Expected outcome)

• Instilled awareness and appreciation for marine organisms

Students benefited from exercises that enabled them to identify marine organisms such as specific coral and fish species. They now understand and appreciate the role of these organisms to their ecosystems and to the ultimate sustainability of livelihoods.

• Students learned about career options in the environmental field

Most students are aware and exposed to typical career fields, such as medicine, law and accounting, but are less aware of job opportunities in the environmental fields, such as marine and wildlife biology or careers in conservation, etc. By inviting professionals in various environmental fields to conduct classroom sessions, students were exposed to some of the career options available to them. The inclusion of a fieldtrip/tour of the marine laboratory at St. Georges University also enlightened them on educational facilities available to assist them in pursuing these careers.

• Transfer of knowledge from students to parents

The summer camp pilot program has been a huge success in that

	students have been passing on information learned during the camp to their parents, friends who were not camp participants and other community members. • Overall attitude changes Already the Fisheries Division has begun to see a change in people's attitudes towards the MPA in the Moliniere-Beausejour area. The sense of understanding and appreciation gained during the summer camp pilot program is reflected in eagerness of students to continue looking after their beaches, even after the program has ended. Some students have formed a committee, responsible for organizing beach clean-ups and educating others on the importance of protecting the marine environment.
Lessons learned	Targeting children within MPA communities is a very effective tool in the development of a sense of attachment to, and ownership of, the MPA.
	It is also apparent that targeting children may be an effective way of indirectly passing information to their parents, who may not be as willing to receive new information or may not possess the intellectual ability to completely comprehend it.
Related websites (English preferred)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7p_fQ3lU8&feature=youtu.be

2. Contribution to the ICRI Plan of Action and GM.

a. Engaging other sectors

Grenada is in the process of embarking on a program where local communities adjacent to the Moliniere Beausejour Marine Protected Area, are engaged to develop sustainable livelihood programs and awareness raising initiatives. This program will commence in October 2014, with support from the Easter Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network.

b. Reef zoning for multiple use

Location where a zoning plan has been implemented		
Year when the zoning plan was implemented		
Is the zoning plan accepted by the local community?	□ Yes □ No	
Did the zoning plan cause conflicts among stakeholders?	□ Yes □ No	
Did the zoning plan resolve conflicts among stakeholders?	□ Yes □ No	
Has there been effective enforcement for stakeholders to follow the	□ Yes □ No	
zoning plan?		
Overall, how would you rate the success of the zoning plan?	□ Very successful	
	☐ Somewhat successful	
	☐ Not so successful	
	□ Unsuccessful	

[Insert text here]

3. Publications.

Title (incl. author and date)	Website URL if available	Type of publication (Paper, report, etc.)

4. General Information.

Member type (Country / Organization):	Grenada / Country
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