Member's report on activities related to ICRI

Reporting period December 2016 – Noviembre 2017

NOTE: TO CHECK A BOX, DOUBLE CLICK ON IT AND TICK 'CHECKED' UNDER 'DEFAULT VALUE' IN THE POP UP WINDOW

1. **Contribution to the ICRI Plan of Action and GM.** *Contribución al Plan de Acción de la ICRI y GM. Answers will help the Secretary with the evaluation of the contributions to the most important topics of the current ICRI Plan of Action (http://www.icriforum.org/icri-secretariat/current) and the objectives of the General Meeting .*

2. Were you affected by the Third Global Coral Reef event? Did you do some monitoring, if yes what are the results and could you explain what method did you use? Would you like to report during the ICRI Meeting?.

We present the updated report prepared by the Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras de Colombia "José Benito de Andreis" (INVEMAR), attached to the Minister of Environment (MoE) . There is no interest at present from the MoE in presenting solid results or scientific protocols related to coral bleaching but we are seeking support and cooperation to implement a project to assess its effects on the Pacific and Caribbean coral reefs of Colombia. In so doing, we hope to strengthen the government´s institutional mandate to follow and monitor coral reefs.

Since 1998, the INVEMAR´s National Monitoring System of Coral Reefs in Colombia o (SIMAC), conducts monitoring of the main coral reef areas in the Colombian Caribbean and Pacific oceans, with the support of other research institutions, researchers and universities. In 2014, an Index of Condition-Trend for Coral Reefs (Indicador de Condición Tendencia de Arrecifes Coralinos (ICT_{AC}) was implemented in Marine Protected Areas. . The index is an indicator of the initial condition and, with the help of time series data, of the trends in the ecological structure of coral reef areas up to a depth of 30 meters. It is based in four variables: percentage cover of corals, percentage cover of algae, biomass of carnivorous fish, and biomass of herbivorous fish.

Between September 2014 and December 2015, the database was populated and ICT_{AC} were generated for the the Caribbean MPAs PNN Old Providence McBean Lagoon, PNN Tayrona, Rosario and PNN San Bernando, and the Pacific MPAs PNN Gorgona and PNN Utría, under the framework of the GEF project ""Design and implementation of a subsystem of marine protected areas" (Diseño e implementación de un susbsistema de áreas marinas protegidas – SAMP en Colombia).

In 2015, a monitoring station with fice (5) transects was installed in PNN Bahía Portete – Kaurrele. The plots in PNN Utría and PNN San Bernardo were increased to five transect each (before there were only three). In September, an annual monitoring was conducted in SFF Malpelo following the SIMAC protocol. Under the coral reef monitoring framework an undergraduate student´s thesis was undertook entitled ""Spatial and temporal variation of

coral communities within the PNN Tayrona: an index of conservation status" (Variación espacios – temporal de las formaciones coralinas del Parque Nacional Natural Tayrona: un indicador de estado de conservación).

In early 2015, the first technical workshop to evaluate the data generated from the ICT for coral reefs and seagrass beds was organized. Representatives from AMPs that are part of SAMP, Coralina and INVEMAR met to analyse jointly the results. In December 4 2015, the National Coral Reef Day was celebrated (by national decree) with a meeting of experts to discuss conservation and restoration advances.

Coral reef monitoring at PNN Gorgona, PNN Old Providence Mc Bean Lagoon, PNN Corales del Rosario y San Bernardo was conducted throughout 2015. On these surveys, coral bleaching was monitored.

The INVEMAR´s projection is to continue studying and monitoring marine and coastal ecosystems under the same health-stressor parameters, to understand the natural variability and ecological dynamics and to support the work of provincial institutions (Corporaciones) as well as the MoE in their mandate to protect the ecosystems.

a. ***INDCs - Intended Nationally Determined Contributions*** *– Did your national contribution mention 'marine ecosystems or coral reefs'? Would you be interested in joining an Ad Hoc committee to develop guidelines to integrate coral reefs in the INDC?*

It was defined that the country will focus its efforts to 2030 jointly with other global targets that contribute to increasing resilience, such as those of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the 2030 Development Agenda, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), as well as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, in the following strategic lines:

i. ...
ii. Socio-ecosystem based adaptation
iii...

b. ***UN Sustainable Development Goals*** *– Do you have example(s) showing how coral reefs and related ecosystems address the SDG (SDG 14 but also other related ones such as SDG 1 – End poverty in all its form; SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition…)*

Through the Decree 280 of 2015 the High Level Interinstitutional Commission was created to prepare and implement de Post 2015 Development Agenda and its Sustainable Development Objectives (SDO). Currently, the MoE and other government entities are working on the national indicators for the SDOs, which should be in line with international indicators, recognizing the different process that take place in each of the countries committed with the ODS. . Among the proposals to define and develop, there is an indicator that answers to the Integrated Coastal Zone Management within the Plans for Spatial Zoning (Planes de Ordenación) and the Integral Management of the Coastal Environmental Units (Manejo Integrado de las Unidades Ambientales

Costeras – POMIUAC), which is an instrument of environmental zone planning of higher hierarchy for the marine environment.

c. *Do you have notional measure(s) – existing or in development - to ban the sale and manufacture of cosmetics and personal care products containing plastic microbeads? And plastic bags?*

   There is a technical and legal tool but not a law on plastic bags. Thus, it is not presented in the ICRI factsheet

   Colombia, through the MoE, joins international efforts to the rational use of plastic bags by implementing the Resolution 668 of 2016 by the MoE.

   The production and indiscriminate use of plastic bags generates landscape, soil and water contamination. They also cause an operational problem in landfill sites.

   According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, between 500 000 million and 1 billion plastic bags are use annually.

   PROJECT OF RESOLUTION FOR THE RATIONAL USE OF PLASTIC BAGS

   The resolution considers the following aspects:

   - *Presentation of the program for the Rational Use of Plastic Bags by the distributors, including these big shopping malls and chain stores*
   - *The program must include prevention, reutilization, recycling, communication, awareness and capacity building to achieve the proposed goals.*
   - *From 30 December 2016, all distributors should provide bags with the following characteristics: top surface 30cm x 30cm, thickness 0.9 inches or one appropriate to the holding capacity.*
   - *Monitoring of the goals of reducing the distribution of plastic bags by the competent authorities.*
   - *A gradual implementation of the strategies with the distributors that are not part of the present resolution.*
   - *Final considerations about the duties of the consumers, the veracity of the information, the appropriate management of plastic bag, among others. A technical annex is included to guide the formulation of programs for the rational use of plastic bags.*

d. ***Upcoming events -*** *Do you plan to attend:*

- *November 2016 - Marrakech Climate Change Conference / The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22)*
- *December 4, 2016 to December 17, 2016 - Convention on Biological Diversity COP13*
- *June 2017* - Oceans & Seas Global Conference, Fiji
- Other(s):
- *November 22 – 2 December - Ecuador – Ramsar Initiative coral reef and mangroves.*

2. **Updates on your activities.** The following table is a summary of ICRI's *Framework for Action* (FFA) and its four cornerstones. (The full text of the FFA is available in English, French, and Spanish at http://icriforum.org/icri-documents/icri-key-documents/continuing-call-action-2013).

Integrated Management	**Objective**	**Manage coral reefs and related ecosystems using an ecosystem approach, recognizing place based activity; connectivity within and among ecological, social, economic, and institutional systems; as well as with attention to scale; resilience of ecological and social systems; and long-term provision of ecosystem services.**
	General Approach	**Integrated management, using a strategic, risk-based, informed approach, provides a framework for effective coral reef and related ecosystem management which supports natural resilience, ecosystem service provision, and enhances the ability to withstand the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.**
	Desired outcome	**There is a demonstrable reduction in the threats to coral reefs and related ecosystems through management action.**
Capacity Building	**Objective**	**To build capacity in all facets of management of coral reefs and related ecosystems and support dissemination and application of best practices to achieve the widest possible engagement of all stakeholders in planning and management activities.**
	General Approach	**Continued collaboration, partnerships, outreach, information sharing and education to ensure the uptake of best practices and encourage behavioural change. This can only be successful if the diversity of cultures, traditions and governance among nations and regions are taken into account.**
	Desired outcome	**Persons who have influence in the management of coral reef and related ecosystems have the knowledge, tools and capital necessary to apply best practices, adapted to the cultural and socio-economic context.**
Science & Monitoring	**Objective**	**To support research and citizen science approaches to enable countries and communities assess and report on the status of and threats to their coral reefs and related ecosystems in a coordinated, comparable and accessible manner.**
	General Approach	**Research and monitoring programs are essential to ensure that management of coral reefs and related ecosystems is based on best available (scientific) information.**
	Desired outcome	**Knowledge of the status and trends in coral reefs and related ecosystems health is enhanced and used to inform planning and management, improving management outcomes.**
Periodic Assessment (Review)	**Objective**	**To engage in periodic review of the impact and effectiveness of all elements of management to enable evaluation and refinement of management measures in an adaptive framework.**
	General Approach	**Periodic assessments of management effectiveness and evaluation of projects and activities to ensure the efficacy of management tools and systems in tackling the range of pressures affecting coral reefs and related ecosystems and protecting the values associated with them.**

	Desired outcome	**Management processes and activities are regularly reviewed and improved using a structured approach, to enhance their ability to effectively reduce pressures and threats.**

Using the table on the previous page, as well as the detailed descriptors of approaches and strategies available in the full text of the FFA as a reference, please give us an update on an activity/project/program(s) which has been particularly successful in your country/organization during this reporting period.

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Project 1

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: ☐ Integrated Management ☐ Capacity Building ☐ Science & Monitoring ☐ Periodic Assessment (Review)		
Project Title	[Insert text here]		
Location	[Insert text here]		
Dates	[Insert text here]		
Main Organizer(s)	[Insert text here]		
Main Stakeholder(s)	[Insert text here]		