



Member's report on activities related to ICRI

CORDIO East Africa

Reporting period November 2016 – November 2017

1. **Contribution to the ICRI Plan of Action 2016-2018.** *Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the current ICRI Plan of Action (<http://www.icriforum.org/icri-secretariat/current>)*

Theme 1 – “Help raise awareness of how coral reefs and related ecosystems help to fight climate change”

- *Goal 1-1: highlight the contribution of coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses to mitigate and adapt to climate change and its impacts*

Question: Do you have examples of solutions provided by coral reefs and coastal systems to mitigate and adapt to climate change?

Question: Are you planning to add in your NDC the importance of coral reefs / mangroves?
N/A

Theme 3: “Help to reduce human threats to coral reefs and associated mangroves and seagrasses, by making greater use of regulatory tools”

- *Goal 3-1: promote legal frameworks for the protection of coral reefs and associated mangroves and seagrasses, with quantified targets and effective enforcement to protect these ecosystems*

Question: What are the legal frameworks for the protection of coral reefs and associated mangroves and seagrasses in place in your countries? If you already replied to the previous request, you don't need reply

- See national and Nairobi Convention reports from the Western Indian Ocean.

Question: Did you to set quantified targets to protect their coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses? And are you able to provide a % of what is currently protected in your country? Please define what you mean by protection?

N/A

- *Goal 3-2: encourage a ban on plastic microbeads in cosmetic products*

Question: How did you implement the recommendation to reduce plastic microbeads pollution in marine environment?

N/A

- *Goal 3-3: improve regulation and enforcement to reduce direct anthropogenic damage due to dredging and physical alteration of reef structures*

Question: are you working on this topic? If yes, could you please share with us your work. Please note that the information provided will help us to develop a recommendation for the next ICRI General Meeting. Please send us information as soon as possible,

CORDIO East Africa has participated in legal action as a witness against unconstrained dredging for port development in Lamu County, Kenya, for the LAPPSET project. See these links:

- <http://cordioea.net/management-action/environmental-assessment-kenya/>
- <http://www.nation.co.ke/business/Lapsset-has-denied-us-cultural-rights--Lamu-fishermen-tell-court/996-3938590-yuxcao/index.html>

- *Goal 3-4: promote the deployment of mooring devices limiting the mechanical destruction of coral reefs and seagrasses*

Question: are you working on this topic? If yes, could you please share with us your work. Please note that the information provided will help us to develop a recommendation for the next ICRI General Meeting. Please send us information as soon as possible,

N/A

- *Goal 3-5: review issues related to the impact of sunscreens and other endocrine disruptors on coral reefs, and encourage the production of sunscreens that are proven not to damage coral reefs*

Question: are you working on this topic? If yes, could you please share with us your work. Please note that the information provided will help us to develop a recommendation for the next ICRI General Meeting. Please send us information as soon as possible.

N/A

Theme 4: “Monitor the state of reefs in order to better manage them”

- *Goal 4-2: better monitor the phenomena of coral bleaching*

Question: How did you implement the recommendation on addressing the decline in coral reef health due to global bleaching events?

Project 1: 2017 WIO GCRMN Coral status report

The 2016 coral bleaching event affected the whole Western Indian Ocean, and as in past years since 1999, CORDIO has been active in both direct monitoring and coordinating general action. This activity was undertaken as part of the regional reporting on the status and health of Western Indian Ocean coral reefs with support from the Indian Ocean Commission Biodiversity Project and implementing the strategy of the Nairobi Convention Coral Reef Task Force.

- **Regional report on the health of coral reefs in the Western Indian Ocean**
CORDIO has been contracted by the Indian Ocean Commission under its Biodiversity Project to be the Technical Lead on the regional GCRMN reporting process for 2017. This report will be launched by the Indian Ocean Commission and the Nairobi Convention (UNEP) at the ICRI General Meeting in Nairobi in 2017.
- Wrote a chapter in the coral status report on the 2016 bleaching event in the WIO, using data collected from a regional initiative to collect real-time reports of bleaching and mortality between January and September 2016.

Project 2: 2017 WIO post-bleaching assessment

In order to get a full picture of the impact of the 2016 bleaching event on the Western Indian Ocean, the Biodiversity Project is supporting the reef network to conduct a post bleaching assessment in six countries in the region (Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania). Under the Coral Reef Task Force – WIO countries which do not fall within the scope of the Biodiversity Project (France, South Africa, Mozambique, Somalia), will also be included in this data sharing joint output. CORDIO is leading the regional coordination of the project with the assistance of national coordinators

from each country. The assignment will build on the regional coral reef health dataset developed for the 2017 Regional Coral Reef Status Report.

- Provided an updated training on coral reef monitoring methods specifically for the post-bleaching assessment.
- Held a meeting of participants at the 10th WIOMSA Scientific Symposium in November 2017, to provide an progress update on the project.

Project 3: Coral bleaching alerts

Each year during the regional (Western Indian Ocean) summer (January – May), CORDIO produces a coral bleaching alert on a two-weekly basis, using the bleaching satellite products of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coral Reef Watch in conjunction with other regional and global climate information.

Project 4: Global GCRMN Implementation and Governance Plan

Implementing the decision taken at ICRI GM31 to develop an Implementation and Governance Plan for the GCRMN for the period 2017-2020 CORDIO has signed a contract with UN Environment to finalize this plan between November 2017 and February 2018, in cooperation with the GOOS Biology and Ecosystems Panel, GEOBON Marine Biodiversity Observation Network and the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS).

Project 5: Coral reef ecosystem and coral species Red List Assessments

As the Chair of the IUCN Coral Specialist Group, CORDIO has developed a parallel project to Project 4, to undertaken Red List assessments of coral species and coral reef ecosystems, using the GCRMN reporting framework as the primary data infrastructure and feeding GCRMN data into societal benefit areas for the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals.

Theme 5: “Progress via education”

- *Goal 5-1: prepare for the 2018 International Year of the Reef (IYOR)*

Question: How did you implement the Recommendation designating 2018 as the third International Year of the Reef? Please let us also know what are you planning to celebrate IYOR2018.

- *CORDIO is a member of the ISRS Conservation Committee which is preparing the ISRS contribution to IYOR, as well as promoting IYOR generally, such as with the Indian Ocean Commission and its planned actions in 2018..*

Please also list the educational material that you’ve developed in the past, so we can share it on the IYOR website.

- *Community coral reef monitoring manual - a pictorial/easy to read monitoring manual for communities. Request from CORDIO.*
- *Locally Managed Marine Areas video - <http://cordioea.net/locally-managed-marine-areas-in-africa/>*
- *Locally Managed Marine Areas - multiple interventions and training - <http://cordioea.net/locally-managed-marine-areas-in-kenya/>*
- *Coral bleaching videos (2007!) - <http://cordioea.net/coral-bleaching/coral-bleaching-videos/>*
- *Blue in Focus - marine conservation and sustainability documentary by GreenHeart Film's Steve Taylor - <http://cordioea.net/blue-in-focus/>*
- *Video by Mathias Klum, Tierra Grande - Vamizi Cradle of Coral - <http://cordioea.net/vamizi-cradle-of-coral/>*

Question: Would you like to report on one of your activities during the ICRI GM meeting?

A presentation on the 2017 GCRMN WIO coral status report has been prepared and will be presented at the GM by CORDIO East Africa. CORDIO was contracted by the Indian Ocean

Commission under its Biodiversity Project to be the Technical Lead on the regional GCRMN reporting process for 2016. This builds on the role that CORDIO has played in supporting regional monitoring and reporting since inception in 1999, and aligned with the GCRMN and as an ICRI Member since then. This work entailed compiling site-level summary data on the status of coral reefs from all participating organizations and countries in the WIO, for a 2016 GCRMN regional report for the WIO. The report includes a regional synthesis, as well as a individual chapter for each of the 9 WIO countries, and details the trends in coral reef health from 1992 – 2016.

Publications. Please list relevant publications/reports (related to the ICRI plan of action) you have released during this reporting period.

Publications

1. Chabanet Pascale, Andréfouët Serge, Barroil Pierre, Bec Béatrice, Bélières Alice, Bigot Lionel, Boissin Emilie, Bourmaud Chloé, Bouvy Marc, Chabanet Pascale, Carré Claire, Crochelet Estelle, Dalleau Mayeul, Dupuy Christine, Durville Patrick, Fari Chloé, Fauvelot Cécile, Gelin Pauline, Got Patrice, Guilhaumon François, Hatey Elise, Magalon Hélène, Nicet J-Benoit, Nikolic Natacha, Obura David, Pennober Gwenaëlle, Roques Cécile, Samoilyls Melita, Sand Aurélie, Savelli Marie-Paule, Schleyer Michael, Sere Mathieu, Tortosa Pablo, Tribollet Aline & Wickel Julien (2017) Programme SIREME - Suivi et inventaire des récifs coralliens de Mayotte et des îles Eparses Glorieuses 2015, Mayotte 2016, Europa 2016. Coordination: (IRD)
2. Kawaka, J.A., Samoilyls, M., Murunga, M., Church, J. Abunge, C., Maina, G.W. (2017) Developing Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs): lessons learnt from Kenya. *Ocean and Coastal Management*. 135 (2017) 1-10.
3. Lenice Ojwang, Sergio Rosendo, Louis Celliers, David Obura, Anastasia Muiti, James Kamula, Maina Mwangi (2017). Assessment of coastal governance for climate change adaptation in Kenya. *Earths Future* 20
4. Mwaura, J., Umezawa, Y., Furaha, J., Kimeli, A., Kamau, J., and Aura, C. (2017) Spatial variability of scleractinian coral bleaching susceptibility in 2010 El Niño-Southern Oscillation between northern and southern reefs, Kenya. *Coastal Marine Science*.
5. Obura D., Gudka M., Bijoux J., Freed S., Gian S.B., Maharavo J., Mwaura J., Porter S., Sola E., Wickel J., Yahya S. and Ahamada S. (2017) Coral reef status report for the Western Indian Ocean. Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)/International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). pp 140
6. Obura DO, Burgener V, Ralison HO, Scheren P, Nuñez P, Samoilyls M, Waruinge D, & John Tanzer J (2017) The Northern Mozambique Channel – a capitals approach to a Blue Economy future. IN: Handbook on the Economics and Management for Sustainable Oceans. Editors: Lisa Emelia Svansson, Paulo A.L.D. Nunes, Pushpam Kumar and Anil Markandya. Publisher: Edward Elgar Publishing (UK).
7. Obura, D. McPhillips J., Chaudhry T., Gamblin P., Burgener V., Owen S. & Gonzales A. 2017. Reviving the Western Indian Ocean Economy: Implementing the SDGs to sustain a healthy ocean economy. WWF International, Gland, Switzerland.
8. Obura, DO (2016) Coral bleaching monitoring guide Western Indian Ocean – 2016. Indian Ocean Commission.
9. Obura, DO (2017) Refilling the coral reef glass. *Science* 357 (6357): 1215 DOI: 10.1126/science.aao5002
10. Samoilyls, MA, Osuka, K., Maina G.W. Obura D.O. (2017). Artisanal fisheries on Kenya's coral reefs: decadal trends reveal management needs. *Fisheries Research* 186 (Feb 2017): 177-191.

Popular articles

1. Obura, DO. 2017. The world has finally noticed that the ocean is a finite resource. June 7, 2017. <https://theconversation.com/the-world-has-finally-noticed-that-the-ocean-is-a-finite-resource-78626>
2. Obura, DO (2017) What Kenya's government can do to protect, and benefit from, ocean resources. August 23, 2017. <https://theconversation.com/what-kenyas-government-can-do-to-protect-and-benefit-from-ocean-resources-82397>
3. Obura, DO (2017) The environmental impact of a coal plant on Kenya's coast is being underplayed. September 19, 2017. <https://theconversation.com/the-environmental-impact-of-a-coal-plant-on-kenyas-coast-is-being-underplayed-84207>
4. Obura, DO (2017) Principal marine environmental concerns about the Amu Coal Plant. Tuesday, 13 June 2017. <http://www.theioo.com/index.php/en/insight/item/524-principal-marine-environmental-concerns-about-the-amu-coal-plant>

2. **General Information.** (Note that this information will be posted on the ICRI website on your member page: <http://www.icriforum.org/about-icri/members-networks>.)

Member type (Country / Organization):	Organization
Focal Point 1:	
Name:	David Obura
Title/Organization:	CORDIO East Africa
Email:	dobura@cordioea.net
Focal Point 2:	
Name:	Melita Samoilyls
Title/Organization:	CORDIO East Africa
Email:	melita.samoilyls@gmail.com