



ICRAN report on activities to ICRI

Presented by Kristian Teleki, Nicola Barnard and Terri Young

Reporting period July 2008 – April 2009

1. General Information

Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Operational Network
Focal Point 1:	Kristian Teleki
Focal point 2:	Nicola Barnard
Last meeting attended:	Washington, DC July 2008
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Through the ICRAN network, UNEP and the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, ITMEMS Network
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	In excess of US\$1,000,000 in 2007/2008

2. Member contribution to the ICRI GM:

- a. Please provide any lessons you have learned from your experiences of developing partnerships with the private sector that might be relevant to ICRI members?

A guiding objective of the ICRAN Mesoamerican Reef Alliance Project (MAR) (www.icran.org/action-mar.html) was to create alliances and partnerships with the private sector for the benefit of coral reefs in the region. The project had significant success and demonstrated that alliances can be effective in supporting marine and coastal resource management objectives, and can leverage support and resources to consolidate efforts in the longer term. Examples include:

- WWF led efforts to identify sources of pollution and sediment from agricultural activities that have a negative impact on the marine environment, as well as on-the-ground activities with agricultural businesses to adopt a suite of "better management practices" (BMPs). As a result of project activities, a number of industry leaders (e.g. Dole, Chiquita) have moved towards the standardization of measurements and control practices. Agreements signed with these agricultural companies are now promoting the implementation of BMPs and speak of the industry's willingness to participate in actions that can lower their impact on the environment while maintaining their economical benefits.
- Project partners CORAL, UNEP-DTIE and WWF promoted sustainable tourism in the region by: a) Fostering regional dialogues across a broad sector of industry stakeholders leading to collaborative action around sustainable tourism; b) facilitating the development of standards and a voluntary code of conduct for application throughout the Mesoamerican region; and, c) providing training and support for the adoption of the code of conduct, leading to the private sector in the MAR being fully engaged in the practice and promotion of sustainable marine tourism.

Efforts under the Reef Check led Marine Tourism Alliance project in the Dominican Republic aimed to transform the interaction between tourists and service providers and bring partners together to market new products and services and generate revenue as a sustainable financing mechanism for coral reef conservation. More details on the Eco Action Programme can be found on the Reef Check website: www.reefcheck.org

- b. Are you aware of programmes or policies by your country/organization for implementing integrated ecosystem management from watershed to reef slope?

None to report in this period

c. Are there any monitoring or research activities you are either involved in or aware of aimed at improving understanding of adaptive management of coral reefs and related ecosystems that may be of interest to ICRI members?

- ICRIAN has facilitated the ICRI Coral Reef CSI programme which provides innovative training for field investigators in investigative, forensic and rapid ecological assessment techniques, to encourage accurate assessment and data collection and maximise prosecution, mitigation, or negotiation success related to coral reef impact events (e.g. ship grounding). 5 training workshops have been implemented during 2008. This has also included a presentation to the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic's meeting of the North Sea Network of Investigators and Prosecutors to explore the possibility and interest of applying the ICRI CSI approach to temperate ecosystems. See CSI web pages for details. <http://www.icran.org/action-csi.html>.
- A cartoon colouring book, originally produced (in English and Bahasa Indonesian) by ICRIAN and the Marine Conservation Society, under the Semporna Islands Darwin Initiative project, has been translated into Visayan ready for dissemination across the Southern Leyte region of the Philippines. This product, supported by UNEP as an IYOR activity, has been successfully incorporated into the programme of work of ZSL Project Seahorse and Coral Cay Conservation (<http://www.icran.org/awareness-sempornaisland.html>).
- Activities have been conducted with local partners Society for Awareness of Youth (SAY) in Pakistan to boost responsibility and stewardship for on-going conservation efforts in the Jiwani area (a RAMSAR site), through the establishment of accurate baseline information and participatory resource monitoring (e.g. turtle nesting sites monitored with participation from local stakeholders).
- Sustainable livelihood enhancement and diversification activities to increase compliance with MCPA regulations by upgrading the economic status of resource users – activities undertaken in Sri Lanka included providing the tools and training for home gardens to reduce household expenditures, and training fishermen in seaweed farming to reduce unsustainable extractive fishing.
- MPA signage to raise public awareness of regulations, boundaries and purpose of MCPA sites in Lakshadweep Islands, India with CARESS, and Tobago through the ICRIAN/Buccoo Reef Trust project.

d. Please indicate the effects of the Live Reef Food Fish Trade on your government/organization. Are you aware of any programs/policies in place to address these impacts?

N/A

e. What other new initiatives/programs/projects/progress, in particular since January 2008, has been made by your government/organization relative to Marine Protected Areas, Ramsar site designations containing coral reefs, integrated coastal zone management measures, policy changes influenced by economic valuation of coral reef ecosystem services, etc., which you believe would be of general interest to other ICRI Members?

A range of activities have been underway in the maritime nations of South Asia and the Andaman Sea through grants from the European Union (ICRIAN South Asia MCPA project) and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (IUCN initiative 'Management of Climate Change impacts on coral Reefs and Coastal Ecosystems in Tsunami affected Areas of the Andaman Sea and South Asia), focusing on assessment and targeted research in support of management policy, development of management capacity and training tools for staff at marine and coastal protected areas; improving regional communications and data management; strengthening cooperation in marine and coastal management efforts; and to develop a systematic approach to livelihood diversification and enhancement in coastal communities. Full details of which can be found on www.icran.org, www.iucn.org/marine, www.coralionline.org, www.innovation.exeter.ac.uk/imm/. Of note to ICRI members, the diverse partnership with CORDIO, IMM, SACEP, IUCN and numerous local, national and regional partners yielded the following highlights in 2008:

- 5 regional trainings or workshops. These diverse workshops and activities targeted MCPA managers, decision makers and leaders, and communities in support of effective and coordinated coral reef management.
- 15 grants provided to local partners for site level capacity building such as awareness and education at MCPA sites, enforcement and compliance activities at MCPA sites, and sustainable livelihood field grants for community projects.
- The creation of advisory and coordination capacity through the establishment of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF), to focus existing regional expertise and facilitate coordinated responses to trans-boundary management issues.

- Over 24 partners were involved in activities and many more regional and international experts engaged to help share best practices and lessons learned from across the globe and build regional capacity to respond to emerging environmental challenges.
- 6 publications prepared with the participation of local and regional stakeholders, and widely disseminated across the region including:
 1. **Managing Marine and Coastal Protected Areas: A Toolkit for South Asia** published in 2008 by IUCN Ecosystems and Livelihoods Group, IUCN Global Marine Programme, Coastal Ocean Research and Development in the Indian Ocean and ICRAN in collaboration with a range of regional and international partners. The publication builds on the 2004 cooperation of IUCN, WIOMSA, UNEP, WWF and CZMC to publish 'Managing Marine Protected Areas: A Toolkit for WIO' and relied on the adaptation of the original content to provide a South Asian context to this important resource. This can be accessed at: www.southasiamcpportal.org
- **The Coral Reef and Livelihoods Initiative** brought together practitioners from different organisations involved in coastal livelihoods work from 6 countries across Asia to share experiences and develop new livelihood diversification and enhancement approaches for coral reef dependent communities that builds on past experiences and lessons from around the world. The partnership lead to the publication of:
 1. **Systematic approaches to livelihoods enhancement and diversification (SLED): A Review of Global Experiences:** Aims to bring together some of the global experience, understanding and learning around alternative livelihoods and provide guidance on how SLED might be further developed and used.
 2. **Sustainable Livelihoods Enhancement and Diversification (SLED): A Manual for Practitioners:** The Sustainable Livelihoods Enhancement and Diversification approach is a dynamic, people centred approach that helps local people to identify and develop opportunities for positive change in their livelihoods that are actually based on their strengths and capacities, while also being grounded in market realities. Developed through field trials in 6 countries across South Asia and the Andaman Sea, SLED provides flexible process-guidance which can be easily adapted to suit the complex situation in each community.
- ICRAN provided support to the production of the **National and Regional Networks of MPAs: A Review of Progress** report which aims to better understanding of the underlying principals and scientific basis behind MPA network design, and disseminate experiences and lessons learned from the initiatives underway at regional, national, and sub national levels.

ICRI and Other Meetings

Are your ICRI Focal Points considering attending any of the following meetings in 2009?

- IMCC, Washington DC - YES
- World Ocean Congress - YES