



Member's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by Maria Rivera, Senior Advisor Americas, Ramsar Convention Secretariat

Reporting period July 2008 – April 2009

Please note that the purpose of this report is to help you share information about your activities within the ICRI community to allow discussion at the next ICRI General Meeting. The reports will be made available on the ICRI Forum prior to the meeting. The ICRI secretariat is well aware of your busy schedule, thus don't hesitate to submit an incomplete report.

1. General Information

Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Ramsar Convention
Focal Point 1:	Maria Rivera, Senior Advisor Americas
Focal point 2:	
Last meeting attended:	2008
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Reports
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	Not specific budget but funding of projects (SGA, SGF, WFF)

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?	YES / NOx but Ramsar has some resolutions related with the conservation of Coral Reefs as unrepresented in the List of Wetlands of International Importance and other related guidelines. Also in the strategic plan 2009-2012 are included some actions related with coral reefs. (Goal 1, Wise Use , Goal 2. Wetlands of International Importance.
Is this plan publicly available? If so please provide location:	Resolutions VIII.14. Principles and guidelines for incorporating wetland issues into Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). Resolution VIII.11. Additional guidance for identifying and designating under represented wetlands types as wetlands of international importance. VIII.32. Conservation integrated management, and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems and their resources. http://ramsar.org/res/key_res_viii_index_e.htm . StrategicPlan http://www.ramsar.org/res/key_res_x_01_e.doc
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative or Task Force?	xYES / NO Under the framework of the Convention there are some regional initiatives (Americas Mangrove Initiative and Waco Wet for Africa) that address the conservation of mangroves

	and related ecosystems including coral reefs..
Are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relating to coral reefs:	Yes
If yes, please indicate which programmes/initiatives:	Mangrove Regional Initiative/Waco Wet

2. Member contribution to the ICRI GM: Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the Mexico-United States action plan. Due to the heavy schedules of ICRI members, we have tried to keep the questions to a minimum and value any response you can provide.

NOTE: The Secretariat will compile Members' responses to the below questions into a general presentation to be given during the April GM. The Secretariat will also request specific Members to highlight certain initiatives, should additional information be of interest to the full ICRI membership. Please keep this in mind when filling out this report and place special emphasis on calling attention to new initiatives/programs/projects of your government/organization which will be of interest to the ICRI Members.

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?

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

Under the Ramsar Convention the CP have elaborated wetlands policies for the conservation and wise use of wetlands (including coral reefs and associated ecosystems) under an integrated management approach. Also in the framework of the Convention toolkit there are some resolutions as mentioned above that encourage the implementation and provide guidelines for Integrated Coastal Management, designation of coral reefs as wetlands of international importance among others.

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?

Examples could include any efforts through workshops, environmental education programs, beach and underwater clean ups, etc. with coastal/local communities to promote understanding and recognition of the environmental services coral reefs provide.

For the Neotropics, under Wetlands for the Future Fund, the Ramsar Convention has funded many projects related with the conservation of Coral Reefs: Studies on Brazilian Coral Reefs: training and application of remote sensing techniques, Towards the wise use of coastal wetlands strengthening human capacity in ICZM of the Laboratory of mangrove Bio ecology (Bioma) in Brazil, Conservation of Guajira coastal wetlands in Colombia, Manual for the management of Costa Rica mangroves, Conservation of wetlands (mangroves) from the Arenillas Ecological Reserve and its buffer zone (Costa Rica), Conservation and population diversity of eelgrass coastal zone along the pacific coast of Mexico, Ramsar information sheet for the designation

of Arrecife National Park as wetland of international importance (Mexico), Assessment and maintenance of San Pedro de Vice Mangrove's in Peru, Training in participatory and collaborative approaches to wetland management in the insular Caribbean (Saint Lucia).

Also in the cycle 2008 the following projects were approved: A Brazilian training program for local guides on coral reef conservation and monitoring and training in Reef Check Protocol for a long term monitoring in Isla del Caño biological reserve (Costa Rica).

Through Small Grants Fund in the cycle 2006 it was funded the project: Designation of North Naraw/Na'a Conservation Area in Kiribati to assist its accession to the Convention. Also under this fund we expect to fund the project Namdrik atoll, second Wetland of International Importance, designation and improved of management from Marshall Islands.

- 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?
- 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?

As mentioned above under the Ramsar Convention, the CP of Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, México, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Panama and Venezuela agreed in the Pan American Meeting in 2007 and in COP10 Korea 2008, to develop and strategy for the conservation of mangrove wetlands and related ecosystems.

Under the Goal 2 of Ramsar Strategic Plan: Ramsar sites or wetlands of international importance, currently there are 1834 sites at the global level with a total area of 170,427,084 hectares. Of the designated sites 70 of them contain as a main type of wetlands, Coral Reefs with a total area of 12.464.600 hectares. Regarding Ramsar regions, the Neotropics is the region with the greatest number (20) of Ramsar sites with coral reefs with an area of 4.392.115 hectares follow by Oceania with 10 Ramsar sites and a surface of 2.710.953. Europe has designated 6 sites with a total area of 2.389.641 hectares, North America 16 sites with an area of 1.961.782 hectares and one in process, Africa 8 sites and an area of 727.753 hectares and Asia 10 sites with a surface of 282.356 hectares.

From all the Ramsar regions Mexico is the country with the greatest designations (16) of Ramsar sites with Coral Reefs.

The Ramsar Convention contributes to the conservation and wise use of coral reefs through the designation of Ramsar sites and formulation of its management plans, formulation of wetlands policies and implementation of technical guidelines (inventory, monitoring, integrated coastal management).