



Member's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by South Africa

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 ICRIForum 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):	South Africa
Focal Point 1:	Prof. M.H. Schleyer
Focal point 2:	Mr C. Coetzee (EKZNW)
Last meeting attended:	Ft Lauderdale, July 2008
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Contact personnel in relevant state and parastatal organisations.
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	Research: ~\$80 000 (2008/9) Management: Unknown

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?	Development of regional action plan commenced in May 2007. Also covered in MPA management plan, presently under development.
Is this plan publicly available? If so please provide location:	Under development.
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative or Task Force?	No; probably not relevant as all South African coral reefs are in well-managed MPAs
Are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relating to coral reefs:	YES
If yes, please indicate which programmes/initiatives:	Transmap; WWF – Mozambique and CORDIO initiatives; East African Coral Reef Task Force (EACRTF)

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?

The conservation authority in the province in which the South African coral reefs are located, Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife (EKZNW), solicits NGO and private sector sponsorship and participation in projects when appropriate. This is done with discretion in view of public perceptions and misconceptions that involvement in nature conservation can engender. EKZNW also has a voluntary conservation officer programme to bolster its enforcement capacity. The involvement of NGOs and the private sector makes a significant contribution to awareness and education programmes associated with management of the coral reefs.

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

A number of government departments have an active interest in catchment and coastal management in South Africa. However, coral reefs are found only on the north-eastern seaboard where the provincial KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAEA) has the most active programmes in coastal zone and catchment management. Few rivers impinge to any great degree on these reefs but this can occur when major rivers to the south are in flood. DAEA has contracted the Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI) to provide it with decision support from its studies, especially from its Coastal Zone Management and Estuarine Programmes that often undertake directed research for this purpose. Management policies and decisions are formulated and implemented directly by this Department and by the conservation authorities in the region, EKZNW and the IsiMangaliso Wetland Park Authority.

- 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.

ORI has conducted intensive research and monitoring on the South African coral reefs for over two decades; information on publications and results emanating from this research and that of other institutions involved in reef studies is available from the Focal Point. EKZNW runs an educational programme, providing information and posters on coral reefs in the IsiMangaliso Wetland Park. Sea World Education at the uShaka Marine Park in Durban similarly runs educational programmes for all sectors of society, providing information on marine conservation in general. Emphasis was placed on coral reefs during IYOR 2008 with the production of posters and an educators' resource booklet. An AV display on corals has recently been introduced adjacent to aquaria dedicated to hard and soft coral displays with coral-associated fish in Sea World at uShaka Marine Park. The impact of these products is considerable as Sea World and the Sea World Education receive over 600 000 and 100 000 visitors respectively per year.

- 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?

This is difficult to gauge but the collection of marine organisms is only allowed under permit, and coastal harvesting is closely regulated and monitored along the KZN seaboard. The relevant government departments are familiar with and deal with CITES-related issues. Coral biologists are periodically sent requests to identify incoming and outgoing CITES material, especially corals, at ports of entry, so customs controls appear to be effective when contraband is detected. There is presently no evidence of a live reef fish trade in KwaZulu-Natal.

- 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?

The IsiMangaliso Wetland Park Authority has initiated the development of an Integrated Management Plan.