

Global reef reporting – from science to policy. The roles of ICRS/ISRS, IUCN, GCRMN and others AND Bridging the gap: science and conservation

ICRS Town Hall – 13 International Coral Reef Symposium

22 June 2016 – 19:30-21:30; Room 301B

Tweets

#ICRS2016 Build up the #GCRMN. Town Hall meeting Wed 22 19:30 Room 301B
<http://cordioea.net/gcrmn2017-2020> #ICRI #ISRS #coralreef #monitoring

Come and join us with your ideas for the #GCRMN #ICRS2016. Town Hall meeting Wed 22 19:30 Room 301B <http://cordioea.net/gcrmn2017-2020> @ICRS2016

Meeting organizers:

David Obura, IUCN-SSC Coral Specialist Group, CORDIO East Africa, GEOBON WG5/GOOS BioEco Panel
Sue Wells - Conservation Evidence project, <http://www.conservationevidence.com>.

For more information about

- “Global reef reporting” contact David Obura, CORDIO East Africa/IUCN Coral Specialist Group, dobura@cordioea.net.
- a scientific evidence base for reef conservation, contact Sue Wells, suewells1212@gmail.com or Helen Fox, fox.conservation@gmail.com.

ABSTRACT

This event will identify how the scientific community (ISRS/ICRS) can contribute more formally in global science-policy processes through a) building on the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) to develop a mature global ocean observing system, b) identifying and producing Essential Biodiversity/Ocean Variables that will enable more comprehensive and holistic reporting on coral reef state and trends, and c) linking these to conservation decision-support needs at local to regional scales (e.g. IUCN Red List of Species/Ecosystems, Red List Index, Key Biodiversity Areas) for greater impact.

This session will provide for brain-storming among participants on key themes, building on findings from other ICRS sessions, and a prior online survey circulated to ISRS members and ICRS attendees. The format will include a panel that will outline the key themes, followed by small working groups providing input and advice on forward steps. Topics will be determined from survey results, and priority issues identified in building up to the ICRS. Groups will present their messages to a final plenary and by email, to be compiled into a short-list of key messages from this Town Hall meeting to the ICRS Plenary and Closing session. The findings will provide baseline data for further consultations in 2016 (GEOBON Open Science Conference (July) and IUCN Congress (Sept)), and thereafter, a 2017-2020 workplan to strengthen the GCRMN and its contribution to local management and global reporting on coral reefs (Aichi Target 10, and SDG14 on Oceans).

Given both the time conflict and the strong thematic overlap “Bridging the gap: science and conservation” is joining “Global reef reporting – from science to policy. The roles of ICRS/ISRS, IUCN, GCRMN and others.” We welcome individuals who are interested in navigating the interface of coral reef conservation and science, and communicating across that boundary, to join. As part of this session, break-out groups will brainstorm ways to better link solution-oriented science to conservation and management needs, including next steps for “Developing a scientific evidence base for the success of management interventions on coral reefs,” which could potentially inform the Conservation Evidence project www.conservationevidence.com.”

SESSION PLAN (for organizers)

The objective is to get feedback on developing a stronger process, involving the science community as key stakeholders, in strengthening the current global monitoring system for coral reefs. Thus, the workshop must **a) introduce the emerging process** and what the current opportunities are, and **b) provide a mechanism for effective feedback** from potential contributors/participants/leaders.

How to do this in a lecture-hall style room (approx. 200 seating) will be challenging, but will hinge on:

- a) a panel/presentations to identify the ideas/concepts;
- b) small-group work in huddles, enabling discussion among max 4-5 people sitting close to one another;
- c) presentation in plenary of up to 2 points per huddle;
- d) key message/roundup at the end.

These huddles (up to 40?) will have a chance to report back, either in plenary and through written notes. A suggestion for running these groups is indicated below.

The content for the discussion will be partially set by the questionnaire on potential Essential Variables, open data and GCRMN maturity, with space for open topics.

PANEL PRESENTATION – 45 minutes		Support/needs/key items
Walking in ... prior to start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Volunteers at door, instructions on welcome slide</i> • <i>Encourage people to sit with peers working in similar areas, but different research groups/countries/etc.</i> 	
a) Getting science into reporting and decision-making processes (10 mins)		<i>These will be statements from a panel table, with minimal/essential powerpoint support (no slides is fine!). 4 minutes per!!</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISRS/ICRS – contributing to process (organizing committee/council), link to other elements in ICRS (4 mins) 		Ruth Gates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ISRS/science community role in making information accessible to users, based on societal goals (SDGs, Aichi, etc) - ICRS 13 statement and pushing forward coral reef work and action - Links to IUCN Congress?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on the GCRMN to develop a mature global observation network for coral reefs (6 mins) 		David Obura <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ICRI introduction - outline of 2017-20 proposal/concept - SCOR working group - Focus on EBV/EOV and observing system strengthening - Making info more accessible – OBIS and 2017 focus on reefs; CBD coral reef portal - Indicators for decision-making
b) Essential Biodiversity/Ocean Variables and large datasets (20 mins)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCRMN – Carib/Hawaii examples – coral cover parrotfish biomass (5 mins) 		Mary Donovan , <i>recent lessons learned in reporting</i> , <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lessons from Caribbean/Hawaii work – data handling, key variables (reliability, etc), IP -
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EOV/EBVs ... what they are, classes; Live coral cover as an EOV/EBV (4 mins) 		David O , <i>GOOS/GEOBON</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GOOS/GEOBON models of EBV/EOVs - Framework for Ocean Observing and breaking things down into manageable steps, contributors - Regional focus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other – e.g. Coral traits (5 mins) 		Josh Madin – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - experience with coral trait-base

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - most reliable/stable traits, geographic coverage - IP issues - Database management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open data/other users (5 mins) 	<p>Maria Dornelas –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - experience with large/open biodiversity databases - what is gained from open dbase? What is lost by not having one (any examples?) - key lessons/recommendations for CR community
c) Getting information into conservation (10/15 mins)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>linking data users - conservation decision-support tools, managers needs; OBIS/Red List, etc. (5 mins)</i> 	<p>Phil Kramer – <i>conservation planning and value of available datasets</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>discuss with Lizzie</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation evidence project and solutions lab approach to strengthen management of coral reefs (10 mins) 	<p>Sue Wells/Helen Fox - <i>More on this, to stimulate brainstorming session? Conservation Evidence project</i></p>
Questions	<i>Very brief questions/issues for clarification – to be carried into working groups, David O.</i>

DISCUSSION/BREAKOUT GROUPS (70 minutes)	Support/needs
<p>1) Introduction to working groups/huddles</p>	<p>David Obura - facilitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruction slides • Hand out physical sheets for those that need them. • Conservation Evidence – keep the same format or separate and walk out?
<p>2) Huddles (25 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huddles of 3 allow quiet discussion in a crowded room (adjacent, peers but not direct colleagues). Use worksheet (physical/digital) for note-taking. • Select one key topic, complete the survey form. If time, start with another topic. • Submit worksheet – automatic for the online form • Local files and physical sheets - email to gcrmn@cordioea.net - within 24 hours!! • If you hand-write on a sheet of paper, please transcribe into a file (doc, xl or online form) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powerpoint slides – cycle between suggested topics & instructions (google forms url on both). <p>Advice on forms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Names gives us the attendance list - Ensure a real email address is entered for the rapporteur - Include detailed instructions for each field in the survey form description line. - if finish one issue/problem, open a new survey response for the next one.
<p>3) Reporting back (20 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For each group/topic, one rep to read out the problem statement and the key messages – no elaboration (1 minute). • Subsequent teams, if your point is a repetition or close, please don't read it out – we will get it and incorporate it in the reporting, especially with different points elaborated in weaknesses/solutions, etc. 	<p>Use post it notes (multiple colours) to write problem statements and key messages – 2 to write – 1 for issue/problem, 1 for solution; 1 to group them.</p> <p>Summarize the groups briefly, and note any key patterns, and links/disconnects between problems/solutions – another panel member do this/or DO?.</p>
<p>4) Discussion (15 minutes/time remaining)</p> <p>Once through with reporting back from all teams, ask for any points not covered, and allow for short statements/comments on topics already mentioned.</p>	<p>Further discussion – ask for points from the floor</p>
<p>5) Closing/summing up (5 min)</p> <p>Onward process – GEOBON, IUCN and ICRI meetings</p>	<p>David O</p>
<p>OUTPUTS</p> <p>Reporting to ICRS - Key messages will be summarized by the end of the ICRS for use in closing statements by ISRS/ICRS</p> <p>Inputs to GCRMN – emailed content will be compiled and analyzed for inputs to SCOR working group, via GEOBON</p>	<p>Panel</p>

Conference.	
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