



Member's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by UNEP-CAR/RCU

Reporting period
 (November 2006 – April 2007)

1. General Information

Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	UNEP-CAR/RCU
Focal Point 1:	Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury
Focal point 2:	Nelson Andrade Colmenares
Last meeting attended:	Cozumel, November 2006
How do you circulate ICRI information with your country and/or organization?	By email and at meetings
Budget allocated for coral reefs (please mention for year/period):	US \$ 120,000 for 2007 only (includes funding for MPA work)

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef actions plan?	YES / NO
Date of publication:	
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative?	YES / NO
Relevance to regional program / initiative:	
How and where to obtain more information:	
Monitoring	
Is there a national monitoring programme for your country?	
Date of the last assessment?	
How and where to obtain more information:	
Marine Protected Areas	
How many MPA(s) with coral reefs?	
What is the percentage of coral reef MPA(s) to the (coastal zone / marine area)?	
Number of sites (with coral reefs) under the World Heritage Convention?	
Number of wetland sites (with coral reefs) under the Ramsar Convention?	
Number of Biosphere Reserves (with coral reefs) under UNESCO's MAB Programme?	

2. Report

A. Specific requests / questions for the next ICRI General Meeting International Year of the Reef (IYOR) 2008

Do you have a committee/focal point for IYOR 2008?

If yes, contact information:

Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury, Programme Officer, avk.uneprcuja@cwjamaica.com

If available, brief description of what has been done so far:

- 1) **Promoted IYOR among Wider Caribbean Governments at Intergovernmental and Contracting Parties Meeting of Caribbean Regional Seas Programme. Decisions were adopted at those meetings in December 2006 welcoming IYOR and requesting organisations and countries to participate. Those Decisions were forwarded to ICRI Forum.**
- 2) **For Biodiversity Day in May, we have selected reefs and IYOR as one of the themes together with dolphins (since 2007 is Year of the Dolphin). We also plan to capitalise on the attention that climate change is receiving to link reefs into the equation.**
- 3) **Fundraising to support a regional managers & scientists event in 2007 to promote, plan and provide inputs for IYOR (possibly in conjunction with GCFI in Dominican Republic in November 2007).**

If available, brief description of near future plans:

Continue fundraising and promoting IYOR within the region, developing press releases through the year in preparation of IYOR at opportune/strategic times (eg. Biodiversity Day), and organising and hosting 2007 event.

Relevance to mangrove ecosystems - Please give details of activities pertaining to mangroves, particularly where mangroves are associated with coral reefs.

B. Summary of activities and pertinent points

1. Brief summary of major coral reef activities/projects:

Activity / Project Title	Location	Amount	duration	major activities	for more info (web site / email)
1. Continue support to southern Caribbean GCRMN node	Colombia Venezuela Panama Costa Rica	US \$25,000	To be completed in July 2007	Monitoring and participation in GCRMN. Development of a 5 year strategic plan for the node. Contribution to bleaching report	Alberto Rodriguez, INVEMAR betorod@invemar.org.co
2. Support to ReefCheck	Insular Caribbean, Colombia and Panama	US \$20,000	To be completed during 2007	Training and follow-up RC surveys	Gregor Hugdson, ReefCheck gregorh@reefcheck.org
3. Training Course MPA managers	Possibly Key Largo, USA	US \$50,000	July 2007 (tentative)	2-week Course on all aspects of MPA management	Heidi Savelli, UNEP CAR/RCU Hss.uneprcuja@cwjamaica.com
4. Local MPA training activities	12-15 countries of the region	US\$75,000	TBC during 2007	Topic specific training events organised by trainees from regional	(same as above)

				Course (see above)	
5. MPA and fisheries Small Grants Fund	Several countries	US\$50,000	Ongoing	Up to US\$10k to assist MPAs, CBOs or local NGOs with specific MPA needs and fisheries issues	(same as above)
6. MPA database	Wider Caribbean Region	US \$20,000	Ongoing	Updating and making available online the existing CaMPAM database	Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury, UNEP CAR/RCU avk.uneprcuja@cwjamaica.com and Georgina Bustamante, Consultant gbustamante@bellsouth.net
7. Development of economic valuation tool for reefs	St. Lucia and Tobago (Trinidad)	US \$25,000	Ongoing (TBC in 2007)	Capacity building and assessment following R@R Caribbean	Lauretta Burke, WRI lauretta@wri.org

2. Please list:

- Key activities of the member since last report relating to coral reefs and associated ecosystems
- **Launching on 12-13 April 2007 of GEF/UNEP-CEP Project to Reduce Pesticide Runoff to the Caribbean Sea (Colombia, Costa Rica and Nicaragua) (US \$10 million total with US\$ 5million from GEF).**
- Identify points of relevance to other ICRI members, or the secretariat (eg points of particular concern; questions to ask of ICRI; information requested; assistance sought; lessons learned
- **We need more guidance and would like cohesiveness for IYOR activities, while each region and country should develop their own activities, a general strategy and common threads will be useful to have more impact. The issues of overfishing, climate change and pollution (sediments and sewage) and private sector and government roles should be common threads to highlight during IYOR.**
- **Better and more strategic linkages between ICRI and FAO and fisheries commissions are needed (at least for the Wider Caribbean) and their active participation in IYOR should be sought.**
- Identify forthcoming activities that might be of interest to other members in terms of funding; partnership; uptake.
- **Preparation of the GEF/UNDP/UNESCO-IOC Caribbean large marine ecosystem (CLME) Project, which includes one full component reef fisheries and biodiversity to be completed during 2007. Major objective is to strengthen management and policy interventions in countries of the region. UNEP-CAR/RCU is member of Steering Committee.**