



International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

Member's Report | 37th General Meeting

19th – 23rd September 2023 Hawai'i, – United States of America

Reporting Period: 2021 – 2023

A. Member Information:

- Name of ICRI member:
Japan
- Name of person(s) completing member's report:
Jun Nagao
- Email:
JUN_NAGAO@env.go.jp
- Are you a Focal Point: Yes No
 - If no, who are you completing the form on behalf of:
- Which was the last General Meeting you attended:
36th
- Will you be attending the 37th ICRI General Meeting: Yes No
- Member social media:
 - Twitter: -
 - LinkedIn:-

B. Reporting on the implementation of ICRI Plan of Action 2021-2024: turning the tide for coral reefs. *Your responses will help inform the Secretariat about members' contributions toward the current Plan of Action*

Theme 1 - Preparing for the Future: Promoting Resilient Coral Reefs

1.A - Strengthening policies - Supporting conservation and recovery of coral reefs and associated ecosystems through resilience-based management frameworks.

- (ICRI) How have you embedded resilience-based management into your policies? (Tip – refer to the RBM policy brief: <https://icriforum.org/resilience-hub/>)

Answer:

The Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reef Ecosystems in Japan includes enhancing scientific knowledge and counter measures against excessive red soil runoff and nutrients from the Land to reduce local stress and enhance resilience of the coral reefs.

1.B - Promote capacity building for applying resilience-based management approaches to coral conservation Ad Hoc Committee on Resilience-based Management.

- (ICRI) Please list any examples of leading practices, techniques and strategies for building reef resilience that your organisation/country is involved in. Include their location and extent, methods of implementation, financing, and an assessment of their results (or likely results), with links for more information if possible.

Answer:

In Yoron Island, Kagoshima Prefecture, where coral reef ecosystems have been declining due to decreased groundwater recharge and terrestrial nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) runoff caused by land use change, we tested a method to reduce nitrogen leaching from agricultural land to groundwater without compromising yield and quality, targeting sugarcane and other crops with high agricultural land utilization rates.

Location (extent): *Agricultural land on Yoron Island, Kagoshima Prefecture (multiple 3m x 3m plots)*

Method: *Type of fertilizer was changed in each plot, and production was measured after a certain period of time.*

Results: *By using slow-release fertilizers, yield and quality could be maintained with 30% less amount of fertilizer (nitrogen equivalent) than before. However, the cost of slow-release fertilizers was 1.3 to 2 times higher, and economic measures are needed.*

- (ICRI) Have you developed, or are you aware of, training materials that you can share?

Answer: Nothing special

1.C - Promote and build capacity for the restoration of resilient coral reefs Ad Hoc Committee on Reef Restoration

- (ICRI) Please list any examples of reef restoration mechanisms that your organisation/country is involved in. Include their limits, conditions of implementation, financing and an assessment of their results, with links for more information if possible.

Answer:

The Sekisei Lagoon Nature Restoration Project: *The Ministry of the Environment is implementing a coral community restoration project in the Yaeyama area in Okinawa. 144 communities have discussed about coral restoration and each member has carried out restoration actions. They developed a long-term goal to revive the healthy coral ecosystem as the same level of the reefs in 1972 that was the year when the Iriomote-Ishigaki national park was designated". They have also established "the Coral reef foundation" as financing source of the restoration actions.*

<http://sekiseisyoko.com/szn/> (Japanese language Only)

Theme 2 – Coral Reef Science and Oceanography: Advancing and Utilizing the Latest Science and Technology

2.A – Coral monitoring capacity building

- (ICRI) Do you have information / case studies that could contribute to the update of the “Methods for ecological monitoring of coral reefs” (<https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/documents/2004-023.pdf>), especially related to the use of new technologies.

Answer: Ministry of the Environment has implemented national coral reef monitoring every year to identify status and trend of coral communities all over Japan with standardised methodology that developed at the initial stage of the monitoring program in 2003.

- (ICRI) Are you aware, developing, or involved with, any capacity building activities related to the use of coral reef monitoring mechanisms, especially regarding the advancement of monitoring practices (noting technology)?

Answer: Nothing special

2.B – The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)

The GCRMN would like to receive feedback on the [Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020 report](#) to improve the production of future regional and global reports. As such, please kindly respond accordingly to the questions below:

- (ICRI) In reference to the Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020 report:
 - Have you read the report? *Yes*
 - Did you utilise the report and/or use the results and contents? *Yes*
 - How could the next report be improved (considering the entire process from data acquisition to reporting)? *Currently under consideration*
- (ICRI) The GCRMN intends to establish time-bound task forces to address specific priority issues and to build capability and capacity across the network. As a first

priority, a Data Task Force was established. The Task Force brings together subject matter experts to increase the transparency, reproducibility, and robustness of future GCRMN reports alongside capacity in monitoring, data collection, analysis, management and sharing of coral reefs and associated ecosystems. The Task Force will focus on:

- Improving data integration and analyses to facilitate the production of GCRMN regional and global reports; and
- Promoting good data management practices based on FAIR data principles for the coral reef scientific community.

Tell us if you will be interested in joining the Data Task Force, or upcoming task forces. More so, please inform us if you have data to contribute to upcoming regional, or global, reports and if you will be organising and/or partaking in any capacity building activities regarding data monitoring:

Answer:

1. *Taskforces: Japanese government supports GCRMN East Asia, and they also have organized a special task force team on regional data analysis. Some of the experts of the team could be interested in helping the global Task Force.*
2. *Data to contribute (GCRMN Region Country, Data description): GCRMN East Asia will collect monitoring data for next regional data analysis and could contribute for the global analysis once they solve data sharing agreement issues with the member countries in the region.*
3. *Upcoming capacity building activities: Nothing special*

Theme 3 - Local Threat Reduction: Integrating Response Planning Frameworks

Please tick the most appropriate box/boxes:

- (ICRI) Do you have (or in the process of developing) a coral reef response plan(s) on, for example, but not limited to:
 - coral disease
 - vessel groundings
 - bleaching
 - invasive species outbreaks (lionfish and COTS)
 - large storm events
 - other: *Vessel Groundings*

If yes, please provide us with more information.

Answer:

About the COT:

Okinawa prefecture made the COT remove guidelines in 2006.

https://www.pref.okinawa.jp/site/kankyo/shizen/hogo/documents/onihitode_guideline_1.pdf

About the vessel groundings:

There was a Panamanian grounded vessel of 9000t in Yaeyama Area from January 2023. The insurance company is currently working to remove it. They are carrying out the coral monitoring. But there are no restoration programs or plans yet.

Theme 4 - Diversity and Inclusion: Expanding the Coral Reef Community

4.A – Connect with youth audiences:

- (ICRI) Are you developing (or planning to develop) any communication campaigns or outreach materials? What will your primary target audiences be and what would your key messages include?

Answer: Nothing special

4.B - Collaborate with Indigenous people and seek to incorporate indigenous and local knowledge into policies and management plans:

- (ICRI) How do you incorporate indigenous and local knowledge into policies and management frameworks. Please provide us with some examples. Do you have any plans or strategies to further promote this incorporation?

Answer:

Local fishermen keep protected areas of the important fish resources in Yaeyama area, Okinawa: *In the Yaeyama area, fishermen have set up marine reserves for reef fish (like Groupers). Currently, fishermen are considering plans to restore the coral reefs as an important ecosystem for fishing grounds. A fishing ground restoration Working Group was established by the fishermen under the Sekisei Lagoon Nature Restoration Project.*

<https://www.pref.okinawa.jp/site/iken/r2/documents/01gaiyou.pdf>

- (ICRI) Do you have any, or know of, best practices to solicit Indigenous and local community knowledge?

Answer: Nothing special

C. Kunming-Montreal Global biodiversity framework

- (ICRI) Do your current National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) incorporate coral reefs? If not, what kind of material will be useful for your Country/organisation to ensure coral reefs are integrated in the revision of NBSAPs?

Answer: Incorporated.

- (ICRI) How are you planning to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global biodiversity framework. For you, which targets are the most relevant for coral reefs?

Answer:

Target 3: Promote efforts to conserve coral reefs, seaweed beds, tidal flats, etc., and promote certification as OEEM.

D. Upcoming events

Please tick the most appropriate box/boxes:

- September 19th – 23rd 2023: 37th ICRI GM, USA, Hawaii
- 30th November – 12th December 2023: 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- 26th February – 1st March 2024: 6th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
- 10th – 12th April 2024: 2024 UN Ocean Decade Conference, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2024: United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP16) of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Turkey.
- Other

Please list any upcoming regional / international events relevant to ICRI that your organisation plans to attend:

E. Publications.

Please list relevant publications / reports you have released recently (+ add a link if possible)

Publication	URL
Status and Trend of East Asian Coral Reefs	https://www.env.go.jp/nature/biodic/coralreefs/pdf/international/gcrmn/GCRMN_East_Asia_Regional_Report_2020.pdf



F. ICRI Member Feedback. What do you find most valuable about being a member of ICRI as well as completing the ICRI member reports? If you have any ideas to improve the Member Reports, please list below:

Answer: -ICRI could provide key information and global trends of coral reef conservation that should be national priorities on planning and implementation process. If Member Report include national/regional priorities or urgent issues, we could share them and discuss possible solutions at the special session during the General Meeting.

G. Contact information & member information. (Note that this information will be posted on the ICRI website on your member page: <https://icriforum.org/members/>).

Please use the table below to provide us updates to your member’s focal points as well as the blank cells to indicate changes to information (please add more rows, as needed):

Focal Point 1:	
<i>Name:</i>	Takuya Ishikawa
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Focal Point 2:	
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Focal Point 3:	
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Member page updates:	
<i>Section</i>	<i>Update</i>
-	-



Do you have new resources (reports, guidelines etc.) that you would like to display?	
<i>Resource description</i>	<i>URL</i>
-	-

Thank you very much for sharing your valuable experiences and information with ICRI. Members reports, meeting outputs and resources will be uploaded to: <https://icriforum.org/events/37th-icri-general-meeting/>