

ICRAN Newsletter

March 2006

ICRAN MAR WINS AWARD FOR BEST ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE

The ICRAN Mesoamerican Reef Alliance (MAR) project was recognised in 2005 for the work of partners in the engagement of the marine tourism industry and efforts towards the identification of best practices to protect coral reefs, by being awarded the Best Environmental Initiative as selected by Scuba Diving Magazine. The Editors' Choice Awards launched in the July 2005 edition of Scuba Diving Magazine aims to highlight organisations who have taken on humanitarian and ecological challenges, and those who recognise the significance of the diving community in this context.

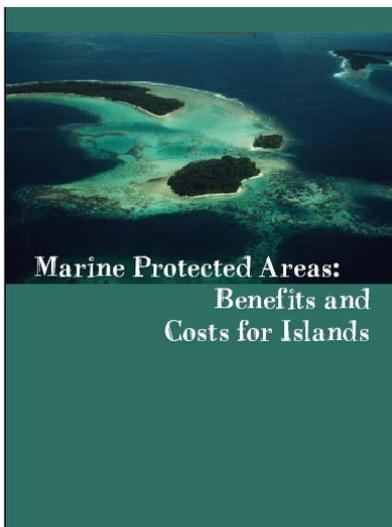
The MAR is a multi-pronged programme to help improve the economic and environmental sustainability of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef, which addresses three areas that impact reef health; watershed management, fisheries, and marine tourism. The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) is leading the marine tourism part of the project and working with dive operators and critical sectors of the marine tourism industry in Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras to consider and adopt voluntary codes of conduct, and to formulate and

facilitate the application of policy guidelines and best practice models.



For further information please contact the MAR Coordinator Liza Agudelo: lagudelo@icran.org

Featured Publication



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS: COSTS AND BENEFITS FOR ISLANDS

In collaboration with WWF, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), the ICRAN Coordinating Unit (ICU) assisted with the development of the 'Marine Protected Areas: Benefits and Costs for Islands' publication which draws on the current understanding of MPAs and uses case studies to illustrate the experience of islands in the establishment of MPAs and MPA networks. The publication was launched by the President of the Republic of Palau at a side event at the CBD Working Group on MPAs meeting in Montecantini, June 2005, and is available from www.icran.org

CREATION OF A NATIONAL PARK IN THE PRIMEIRAS AND SEGUNDAS ARCHIPELAGO



ICRAN with the UN Foundation, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Conservation International (CI) have formed a partnership to support the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) activities in the Archipelago of Primeiras and Segundas Islands, Mozambique.



The main objective of the project is to create a functioning protected area in the Primeiras & Segundas Archipelagos Area; to protect the unique habitats and endangered species of the area; to increase fish and prawn capture and thereby improve living standards of the people who depend on these waters for their livelihoods; and to promote a focus for tourism development in Nampula and Zambezia provinces.

This project, lead at the country level by the Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs (MICOA), commenced in May 2005 and will run initially for two years. Specific aims of the project include:

- Completion of the public and community consultation process and document preparation for the establishment of the park and the Mozambican Council of Ministers, including the preparation of a draft Park Management Plan.
- Establishment of an emergency protection scheme for endangered species in the Archipelago area.
- Development and implementation of first-phase Park management structures, including administrative, management and infrastructure arrangements and development of the community livelihood programme.

The project is being implemented through community based organisations, namely in the Districts of Angoche, Moma and Pebane. An education programme targeting fishermen is already underway to further enhance and raise awareness on the need for protecting birds, marine turtles, coral reefs, sharks, whales and dolphins. Actions undertaken by the Angoche Fishermen Association in the islands of Puga-Puga between May and November 2005, have lead to greater protection for a colony of more than 30,000 nests of Sooty Terns (*Sterna fuscata*) and Greater Crested Terns (*Sterna bergii*) along the coast of the District of Angoche, and marine turtles accidentally caught by local fishermen nets are being tagged and returned to the sea in the hope of improving the understanding of these species.

In August 2005, a sector wide group lead by the MICOA visited the Districts of Angoche, Moma and Pebane for consultations with the local communities on the process of creating a protected zone in the region, and also conducted visits to local biologically significant sites.

Activities will continue throughout 2006. For more information please contact the WWF Office in Mozambique, wwfmoz@wwf.org.mz, or visit the website www.wwf.org.mz.



H. Motta, 2005



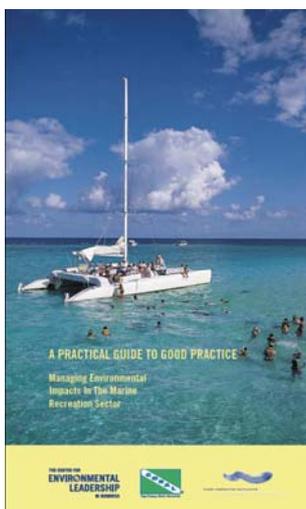
The Mesoamerican Reef system stretches over 1000 km, spanning the eastern coasts of Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras. It is the largest reef complex in the western hemisphere and has been identified as a unique and globally important coral reef ecosystem. Unfortunately the Mesoamerican Reef system is under severe natural and human induced threat that jeopardises the livelihoods and food security of the people in the adjoining Mesoamerican countries who rely on the diverse habitats.

The ICRAN Mesoamerican Reef Alliance (MAR) project is a collaborative effort aimed at confronting the decline of coral reef ecosystems and improving the economic and environmental sustainability of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef through capacity building activities, the development of better practices, and building of partnerships with the private sector.

Pioneering, innovative and strategic actions, the ICRAN-MAR initiative and its partners (WRI, UNEP-WCMC, UNEP-DTIE, CORAL, WWF, and Reef Check) are concentrating efforts by focusing on achieving tangible results at the local and regional level in three component areas of *watershed management, sustainable fisheries, and sustainable tourism*.

To ensure compatibility with existing work efforts in the area, the MAR collaborates with, amongst others, the Regional Environmental Program for Central America (PROARCA), Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System (MBRS) project, The Nature Conservancy, Rainforest Alliance, Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society, Dole, Chiquita, Fyffes, and CropLife Latin America.

The 3-year project, which started in 2004 through funds generously provided by the United Nations Foundation and USAID, has made excellent advances, and project outputs to date have included an analysis of watershed based threats to coral reefs, the development of tools for the prediction of future land use impacts on the reef, the establishment of a Mesoamerican Fishers Alliance, the release of a manual for best management practices within the lobster fishery, the establishment of the Standards and Code Taskforce for the development of sustainable codes of conduct within the tourism industry, and the production of a Practical Guide to Good Practices for managing environmental impacts in the marine recreation sector.



This regional initiative is designed to build partnerships with policy makers, private sector e.g. agro-industry officials, marine recreation suppliers, hotels, and the tourism industry to promote the continued application of sustainable practices after the current project completion date in 2007.

As part of its efforts to reduce contaminants in the watersheds of the Mesoamerican reef, WWF has worked with agro-industries in the region to identify the most pressing threats derived from agricultural pollution, and seek the commitment of the agriculture industry for the implementation of Better Practices.

Utilising state of the art technology provided by NASA and NOAA, as part of its collaborative efforts, WRI, in conjunction with UNEP-WCMC and in coordination with local counterparts, has compiled data sets reflecting the best available information in land cover for the MAR region, as well as a complete delineation of the region's watersheds. Hydrological and circulation models will be used to produce a series of scenarios on the potential impacts of land-use activities in the region aimed at influencing policy-makers.

WWF has led training workshops in best fishing practices, eco-tourism and mariculture for fishermen, and is assisting with studies on the development of markets and processing potential within the region. Information from WWF market assessments will feed into workshops held in Belize on the use of seamoss (*Euचेuma isiforme* and *Gracilaria*) seed material. The workshops are being conducted in conjunction with Alan Smith, a leading regional expert and trainer from CANARI in St. Lucia, and the leader of the Seaweed Farmers Association of St. Lucia, Leo Francis.



Sian Ka'an Lobster Fisher ©Oscar Alvarez

Activities on sustainable tourism led by CORAL, WWF, and UNEP-DTIE have engaged a broad spectrum of stakeholders in the marine industry and coral reef conservation, to participate in the development of a collaborative Standards and Code Taskforce. The task force seeks to build ownership in the development of a voluntary marine recreation code of conduct and the implementation of voluntary standards, and is working to improve the sustainability of the MAR initiative through the development of policy and commitments. The December

issue of Scuba Diving highlighted the work of the Sandy Bay and West End Marine Park Association in Roatan, Honduras (an ICRAN MAR pilot site) in reducing poaching through marine patrols that have been funded partially by the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL).



CORAL - Honduras Workshop

CORAL and partners coordinated three national learning workshops in the region during 2005 with the aim of establishing a broad awareness of the economic and ecological value of coral reefs. Evaluation of the workshops revealed that the majority of participants perceived a greater understanding of coral reef ecology and were motivated to participate in the voluntary standard implementation. A further positive outcome was the identification of new ways for businesses to work together for sustainable practices.

Reef Check continue to engage the private sector in conservation activities and has conducted workshops for fishermen, and training for local dive operations and marine park staff in Mexico, Belize and Honduras.



Reef Check – Survey training in Mexico

For the remaining 18 months of the project, partners will continue activities in their area of expertise and hope to capitalise on achievements made so far, to extend activities beyond the life of the project and to further expand alliances in the region. For more information contact the Project Coordinator Liza Agudelo, lagudelo@icran.org, or visit www.icranmar.org.

Project Launch

With funding from the European Union



INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF MCPAs ENCOMPASSING CORAL REEFS IN SOUTH ASIA

Coral reefs have been estimated to provide the world with US\$ 375 billion in goods and services annually, which per unit area, places them among the most valuable ecosystems globally. South Asia is home to 6% of the world's coral reefs, providing a critical source of food and livelihoods to an estimated 400 million people.

Demographic and economic changes have increased demands on marine and coastal resources across the region. Extractive processes for food, income generation, medicines, and building materials degrade coastal ecosystems in many locations and, combined with natural impacts, inflict heavy pressures on the resource base.

The South Asian region was ranked the lowest in the world in terms of declared Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) in the 2003 United Nations List of Protected Areas, making the Indian Ocean with its wealth of coral reefs, seagrasses, and mangrove forest, perhaps the most poorly protected ocean. As a result, the degradation of coastal and marine resources continues at an unprecedented rate, and despite current protection measures, one third to half of the coral reefs of South Asia are now effectively dead, and a further 30% threatened.

Through funding from the European Commission a three-year ICRAN project was initiated on 1 January 2006. The aim of which, is to contribute to the reduction in the rates of marine and coastal biodiversity loss within the South Asia region, and protect the natural resources on which the economic and social development of future generations is based, through the promotion of representative networks of marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs) encompassing coral reefs.

Actions will include:

- The development of human and technical expertise, the improvement of information and networking services, and the allocation of technical equipment to sites.
- Review and rationalisation of training and management processes across the region to ensure greater consistency and aptitude for management and conservation, and to formulate a transferable resource base.
- Institutional strengthening to mainstream environmental considerations into development policy and readdress the unique situations of poor coastal communities.
- The creation of advisory and coordination capacity through the establishment of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force, developing linkages between all levels of management, focusing existing regional expertise, facilitating coordinated responses to transboundary management issues and improving the representation of South Asian marine and coastal resource management challenges within global discussion fora.

The South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), based in Colombo, is responsible for the coordination of project activities and is working alongside, ICRAN, United Nations Environment Programme - Coral Reef Unit (UNEP-CRU), and Integrated Marine Management (IMM Ltd) to conduct project activities. Further information on project activities can be obtained from Nicola Barnard nbarnard@icran.org or Nishanthi Perera np@sas.eol.lk

Project Development Profile

COASTAL AND MARINE MANAGEMENT AND EDUCATION IN THE SOUTHEASTERN CARIBBEAN

The island of Tobago, located at the Southeastern end of the Caribbean Archipelago, has a small population with limited resources to tackle the challenges of sustainable development. The reality, like in so many other small island developing states, is that the loss of ecologically fragile resources upon which associated communities depend is outpacing the present response time to implement effective management regimes.

The Buccoo Reef Complex is the largest coral reef in Tobago and also the most important tourist attraction. The Buccoo Reef Marine Park (BRMP) has been established as a management tool for the marine and coastal resources of Tobago. Yet the management plan developed for the BRMP has so far been inadequately resourced and poorly implemented, and despite the restricted area status, the reef continues to be adversely affected by intense tourist activity and pollutant discharges.

In support of the Buccoo Reef Marine Park, a designated ICRAN site, and the Buccoo Reef Trust (BRT) as a member of the Management Committee of the BRMP, C.L Financial Ltd. and the UN Foundation, as part of their continued commitment to ICRAN, have allocated funds for action to strengthen coral reef management, monitoring, outreach and education programmes. The actions undertaken through this project will engage stakeholders and encourage support for the long-term management needs of the park whilst garnering support for the creation of new MPAs and the sustainable use of resources in Tobago.

The specific aims of this project are to:

- Increase the capacity of the BRT to assist with resource management and to make available greater scientific expertise and technical capabilities specifically to the Buccoo Reef Marine Park Management Committee, and generally throughout the Southeastern Caribbean.

- Support the existing Education Program of the BRT and increase public awareness of the essential functions and significance of coral reef habitats to the economy and ecosystems of the Caribbean islands.
- Strengthen the sub-regional nodes of the GCRMN and provide a focal point and coordination function for coral reef related monitoring, socio-economic and research activities for reporting and information exchange purposes.
- Encourage the exchange of best practice across the region through the provision of high level education and research opportunities, and generate greater awareness of Caribbean coral reef related issues through collaborative research and exchange programmes.



Underpinning this project will be the creation of an endowment fund to support project actions beyond the 3-year project timeframe. This innovative scheme will allow invested monies to be used in the future to leverage funding from multi-lateral and bi-lateral donors, and facilitate the continuation of BRT outreach, education, research and management activities. Capacity and infrastructure development exercises will be undertaken to prepare the BRT for the full responsibility of the endowment before the end of the project.

The launch of the project is anticipated in March 2006 when a project coordinator will be appointed, based at the BRT in Trinidad and Tobago, to oversee the coordination of activities. In the meantime, for further information on the project and related activities in the area, please contact Nicola Barnard nbarnard@icran.org or visit the BRT website www.buccooreef.org.



Network in Action

International Tropical Marine Ecosystem Management Symposium (ITMEMS 3)



The International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS) is a major activity of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). Convened previously in Australia (1998)

and the Philippines (2003), ITMEMS facilitates productive discussion and information sharing by people involved in the management of coral reefs and related ecosystems, and the implementation of the ICRI Framework for Action. ITMEMS is not a scientific or academic meeting, but works towards the principal goal of developing the capacity of resource managers to implement programs that support the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs and related ecosystems at the local, national, regional and global levels.

ITMEMS 3 will be hosted in Cozumel, Mexico on the 16-20 October 2006. Participants will work together through a series of parallel sessions to share experiences and define needs. Poster sessions and side meetings will also be used between sessions, to facilitate additional discussion, and to provide networking opportunities. 14 themes have been identified for discussion at the symposium, through stakeholder consultation, and the programmatic committee continue to work towards the finalisation of the agenda and identification of case studies for oral or poster presentation along each theme.

ICRAN continues to focus effort towards developing linkages within the marine and coastal resource management community and in support of the under resourced manager constituency, seeks to further develop the ICRAN Managers Network at ITMEMS 3, bringing managers together for direct face-to-face contact. ICRAN will

provide a unique and organised opportunity to facilitate discussion between managers through a specialised networking session, providing time enough for participants to define commonalities, identify opportunities for collaboration, and better understand each others working roles.

The desired outcomes of the symposium are to:

- Share experiences and knowledge across sectors and disciplines
- Develop personal and institutional capacity
- Establish peer connections and networks
- Provide new skills, and access to new information for managers
- Share lessons learned through applied and practical experiences exchanges
- Strengthen linkages and synergies between different partners and initiatives at all levels from local to global
- Review progress in achieving the objectives of the ICRI Framework for Action
- Review progress since ITMEMS 2
- Identify management priorities for improving coral reefs and related ecosystems
- Discuss the foundations for future Regional TMEMS

A final plenary session will be utilised to develop an Action Statement of priority issues with outcomes and recommendations intended for dissemination to partners in conservation and integrated management.

ITMEMS 3 is jointly hosted by the ICRI Secretariat, the Governments of Palau and Japan, with support from the US State Department, and is being coordinated by ICRAN through programmatic and organisational teams. Full details of the event, including the proposed thematic areas for discussion, meeting logistics and registration requirements are available from the ITMEMS ICRAN Coordinator Penny Stock pstock@icran.org, or from the ITMEMS website: www.itmems.org.

ICRAN Regional Updates

East Africa



Somalia, and the Seychelles. The workshops are intended as a platform to launch training products from the **Western Indian Ocean Marine Biodiversity Conservation Project**, including a toolkit for managing MPAs, a workbook for assessing the management effectiveness of MPAs, and the Western Indian Ocean fisheries database (WIOFISH). Training of practitioners and managers in the region in the application and use of these tools is critical to their success and effectiveness. The workshop participants will include key stakeholders focussing on MPA, fisheries and ICZM practitioners, managers and conservationists. Implementation of the ICRAN supported workshops is anticipated in the first quarter of 2006.

- A community Mangrove Boardwalk was constructed across the mangroves of Mida Creek Marine Park as part of ICRAN ecotourism activities within the **Malindi-Watamu Marine Parks and Reserves** complex in **Kenya** to demonstrate an alternative, non-extractive use of mangroves to generate funds for school bursaries for the local community.
- ICRAN has been working alongside the Eastern African Regional Office of the World Conservation Union (IUCN-EARO), NORAD, UNEP and WCS to support the planning and organisation of three **workshops in Tanzania, Kenya and**
- **SCMRT, Seychelles**, preparations are underway with the manager from the Soufriere Marine Management Park in St. Lucia to develop and conduct a fishers exchange programme for fishermen experiencing conflict with the marine park management regulations.

East Asia

- The East Asian Seas component of ICRAN is conducting a review of coral reef projects undertaken in the region, to determine the potential of projects to become self-sustaining after financial assistance from external donors ends. It is intended that the review will facilitate the identification of follow-up activities that can be undertaken to augment coral reef management in the region. Following the review, the **UNEP East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit (EAS-RCU)** in conjunction with ICRAN, have planned to conduct a workshop for countries in the region to introduce ideas from the study and to present management tools, such as an operational handbook, to highlight effective strategies and activities and to maintain enthusiasm and momentum for on-going and effective coral reef management programmes. The dates for the workshop are to be finalised with partners and stakeholders in the region.
- Additional funds have been raised by the local ICRAN coordinator, Mr Tran Phong, for the continuation of ICRAN activities at the Ninh Thuan province in Vietnam.

Red Sea and Gulf of Aden

- ICRAN, in partnership with PERSGA, are supporting the installation of mooring buoys in **Sanganeb Marine National Park** in Sudan. Sanganeb Atoll has a highly diverse coral fauna assemblage that attracts large numbers of European divers each year, and tourist control measures have been deemed essential to prevent further disturbances to the habitat from anchor damage and physical contact from divers.
- ICRAN is also currently working with partners in the region to translate the CORAL issue briefs and 'Good Practice' guidelines into Arabic for wider dissemination in the region.



Pacific

- The WorldFish Centre continues contributing to ICRAN, leading the AFD funded CRISP project component 'Reefbase Pacific: Strengthening Information Access and Dissemination in Support of Effective Coral Reef Conservation and Management', which will bring together and organise up-to-date information and data on the status and threats, and management of coral reefs, into an information system, with services and products for managers, researchers and reef users in the Pacific Region.

In parallel, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) are leading the second CRISP project component 'Managing for the Future: A Programme to reverse the degradation of coral reefs and related ecosystems and enhance livelihoods in the Pacific Islands', which will form the core of SPREP's Coastal Management Program for the next three years and which will work alongside communities for improved livelihoods. (See www.crisponline.net for further details of CRISP)

- The ICRAN Coordinating Unit participated in the **CRISP Coordination and Steering Committee Meeting**, held in Fiji, 3 - 4 March, 2006.

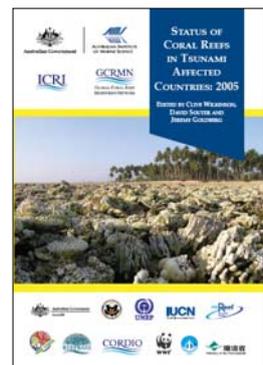
Caribbean

- The Training of Trainers course, designed to introduce participants to relevant teaching methods, and skills required to conduct training programmes in marine protected areas, and to strengthen the communication among MPA practitioners for the exchange of lessons learned, took place in the Florida Keys in February 2006, lead by the Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP CAR-RCU). (www.cep.unep.org)

Network News

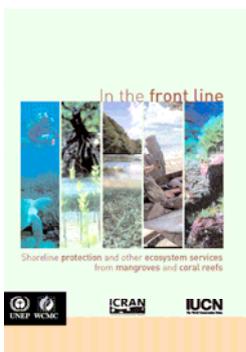
- **WRI** developed the **Belize Coastal Threats Atlas** as a product of the Reefs at Risk in Belize publication and with support from the ICRAN MAR project. The atlas combines detailed assessments and expert mapping of threats with GIS to visualise and analyse the relationship between human activities (pressures) and coral reef health. (www.marine.wri.org/belizethreatatlas-pub-4131.html)

- **GCRMN** launched a booklet, which compiles information and reports from the affected countries on the status of coral reefs one year after the Indian Ocean Tsunami disaster. The publication was first released at the UNESCO-IOC/WESTPAC meeting 'Post-disaster and Monitoring of Coastal Ecosystems and Biological and Cultural Diversity in the Indian Ocean and Asian Waters' in Phuket, Thailand in February 2006. The publication is available from www.gcrmn.org.



- **The WorldFish Center** compiled the proceedings of the first 8 International Coral Reef Symposia (ICRS) onto a single DVD in advance of the ICRI General Meeting in Palau to facilitate access to information for coral reef stakeholders. The WorldFish Centre in collaboration with partners has also successfully accessed funding from the GEF for the project 'Knowledgebase for best practice and lessons learned in the management of coral reefs' which proposes to review coral reef projects funded by the GEF, to create a knowledgebase containing the major results and outputs of these projects. Major lessons learned and good practices that emerge from the analysis will be considered for replication and implementation at ICRAN sites.

- Following **Reef Check Foundation** surveys in association with the Global Oceans Foundation and IUCN in the Banda Ache region, a publication 'Tsunami and Earthquake Damage to Coral Reefs of Aceh, Indonesia' was released in January 2006, which assesses the extent of the damage resulting from the Indian Ocean Tsunami in the proximity of the earthquake and tsunami epicentre. www.reefcheck.org



- The UNEP – World Conservation Monitoring Centre in collaboration with ICRAN and IUCN has produced a publication '**In the Front Line – Shoreline Protection and other Ecosystem Services from Mangroves and Coral Reefs**' which draws lessons learned from the Indian Ocean Tsunami disaster, and highlights the vulnerable habitats of tropical ecosystems, and the need to ensure that they can continue to function and provide us with their full range of services.

8th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity



ICRAN has been working in collaboration with the **CBD Secretariat**, the Governments of **Italy, the Republic of Palau** and the **United Kingdom, ICRI, TNC, WWF, SPREP, CI, and IUCN**, to organise a series of events at the 8th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Brazil, March 2006. A high-level event

was held to gather together leaders from island Governments, donors and NGO partners to announce significant commitments and profile innovative and inspiring partnerships for the conservation and sustainable use of island and marine biodiversity. A technical experience sharing side-event was also developed with WWF, TNC, and the Governments of Senegal and Indonesia, facilitated by ICRAN Board Member Nicole Glineur, which highlighted effective tools from around the world that have contributed to the attainment of marine protected area targets, and also provided opportunities to showcase model examples for replication by marine protected area implementers. Please contact info@icran.org for more information on these events.

UNESCO Regional Training Workshop for the Caribbean on Marine World Heritage

Of the 184 natural World Heritage sites designated across the globe, only 30 sites have marine protected areas associated with them, and even less are nominated for their marine features alone. The World Heritage Committee, the governing body for the World Heritage Convention, has recognised the under-representation of marine sites on the World Heritage List and has mandated its secretariat, the World Heritage Centre, to promote a better representation of both marine sites, and sites from the Caribbean on the World Heritage List. In support of this mandate, ICRAN was invited to participate in a regional training workshop on marine World Heritage nominations in Soufriere, St Lucia, from 27 February to 3 March 2006, alongside representatives from 15 Caribbean State Parties, international experts, and representatives of regional and global organisations.

The workshop provided an excellent opportunity for participants to become familiar with the processes of elaborating a World Heritage Site nomination, to share experiences of the management and resource constraints faced by Caribbean countries, and identify opportunities for the formation of strategic partnerships between island nations for serial and transnational nominations. In addition, a fieldtrip was organised to the local World Heritage Site, the Pitons Management Area, which encompasses part of the Soufriere Marine Management Area, to meet with staff tasked with implementing management at the site and to share lessons learned, and experiences.



The International community was urged to fully collaborate with State Parties and the World Heritage Centre to ensure the identification, protection, conservation and World Heritage nomination of properties that meet the criteria and conditions of integrity for management and protection, and synergies between the World Heritage Convention and the programmes of ICRAN, SPAW, and IUCN – TAPICOFA were identified.

ICRAN strengths in building partnerships for the exchange of skills and lessons, capacity building and training for improved management, and global representation and communication of coral reefs through established linkages to regional experts and governments were highlighted, and collaboration to promote the integration of sustainable tourism within existing and potential World Heritage Sites was encouraged.

Updating the Chumbe Island Marine Protected Area Management Plan 2006 – 2016



Chumbe Island Coral Park (CHICOP) was the first MPA established in Zanzibar. Situated on the uninhabited Chumbe Island, an ICRAN project site, the park encompasses exceptionally diverse coral reefs with representatives of 90% of all hard coral species known to exist in the Western Indian Ocean. From the time of gazettment, CHICOP has been working to a Management Plan (1995-2005), which supports a fully protected Reef Sanctuary and includes the only permanent and fully controlled 'No-Take-Area' in Tanzania.

The MPA incorporates a marine park, a forest reserve, a visitor's centre and an eco-lodge, and offers educational visitor tours financed entirely through the eco-tourism programme. CHICOP has long been recognised for its successful management and education programmes, and the effective engagement with proximal communities through the provision of training and management building skills.

The existing management plan has now expired and ICRAN is supporting the onsite evaluation of the programme and its accomplishments to date, and the development of a responsive management plan for the next ten years (2006 – 2016) which will accommodate the new ventures being undertaken by CHICOP, and that will enable evolution of the management programme in line with legislative protocols developed in the region in recent years.

Focal group discussions in the key proximal communities related to Chumbe, and interviews with the CHICOP senior management and related political and institutional stakeholders are underway to ensure wide stakeholder input into the new management plan.



Establishing national and regional systems of Marine Protected Areas: A review of selected systems with analysis of lessons learned

A joint initiative is underway by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the UNEP Regional Seas Programme (RSP), in collaboration with the CBD, IUCN/WCPA-Marine, ICRAN and TNC, to improve understanding of the progress being made towards the WSSD target, to establish 'comprehensive, effectively managed and ecologically representative national and regional systems of marine protected areas (MPAs) by 2012'.



The project will look at advances in the development of MPA systems at sub-national, national and regional levels to identify common methodologies, approaches and challenges. The results will be compared with the theoretical recommendations and principles that are being developed and promoted, to produce a report containing a summarised inventory of MPA systems under establishment, lessons learned, and providing preliminary guidance for MPA system establishment.

The project represents a continuation and expansion of the collaborative UNEP Regional Seas Programme, CBD, and ICRAN project which is examining the status of MPAs and systems within the respective regional seas programmes, and which seeks to facilitate the development of a strategic approach for meeting international targets at the regional level. Data collected during the project will be used to augment the existing information systems MPAGlobal, and the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).

Data collection is just starting. Please contact Sue Wells (sue.wells@unep-wcmc.org) and Hanneke Van Lavieren (hanneke.vanlavieren@unep.org) if you are involved with the development of any kind of MPA 'system' and would be willing to complete a questionnaire. Information is being gathered on all types of MPA system, whether no-take or otherwise.



ICRAN Diary Dates

- **CORAL Dive into Earth Day**, 22 - 28 April 2006
- **Marine Conservation Forum for the Arabian Gulf**, 10 – 12 September 2006
- **ITMEMS 3**, Cozumel, Mexico, 16-20 October 2006
- **ICRI GM**, Cozumel, Mexico, 22–24 October 2006

Other ICRAN Business

Events

- A meeting of the ICRAN Board was convened in Cambridge on the 29-30 September 2005, and attended by all Board Members. ICRAN governance, finances and strategic direction beyond 2007 were discussed.
- The ICRAN Coordinating Unit has participated in several important fora in 2005, including the ICRI General Meeting, Seychelles, the 2nd Steering Committee meeting of the MAR project in Washington, the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme Governing Council meeting in Bhutan, the UNDP COMPACT II meeting in Tanzania, the ICRI General Meeting in Palau, and the recent Global Conference on Oceans Coasts and Islands.
- The ICRAN Coordinating Unit (ICU), in association with regional project coordinators presented a showcase of ICRAN project activities to donors, the United Nations Foundation, in February 2006, to provide feedback on the impact and success of the programme of work to date and allow an opportunity for project coordinators from ICRAN projects around the world to share experiences. It is expected this will be undertaken again in 2007.



ICRAN gratefully acknowledges the invaluable support of its funders, especially the United Nations Foundation (UNF), the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the Global Conservation Fund, Agence Française de Développement, and C.L Financial Ltd.

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This newsletter is available at www.icran.org

ICRAN is working to halt and reverse the declining health of the world's coral reefs

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