

## Member's Report

**ICRI GM 30 - THE PHILIPPINES** 

INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE (ICRI) 30<sup>th</sup> General Meeting 1-4 December 2015 – Pattaya, Thailand

### Member's report on activities related to ICRI

#### **Reporting period October 2014 - October 2015**

1. **Updates on your activities.** The following projects/activities were reported in **last year's** ICRI Member's Report. If there have been any updates on these projects, please update the information below using 'track change.'

#### **Project A**

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply:  ☑ Integrated Management ☑ Capacity Building ☑ Science & Monitoring ☑ Periodic Assessment (Review)	
Project Title	Sustainable Coral Reef Ecosystem Management Program (SCREMP)	
Location	Marine Protected Areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) nationwide and identified marine Key Biodiversity Areas (MKBAs) with potential for establishment as MPAs	
Dates	2014-2020	
Main Organizer(s)	Department of Environment and Natural Resources	
Main Stakeholder(s)	Coastal Communities, MPA Managers	
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	The program implements several projects leading towards the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources. The program covers resource and habitat conservation, protection, and rehabilitation. The program takes into consideration not only the coral reef ecosystems but the associated habitats as well. It aims to contribute to the food security and improved human well-being of the coastal communities by building capacities to enhance their livelihood while managing the production of the natural resources. It promotes public awareness and instils social and environmental consciousness on the value of coral reefs and associated coastal and marine ecosystems, especially on mitigating the effects of climate change and enhancing the formation of positive values among the youth and other partners through shared responsibilities in sustainable management of coastal and marine resources and habitats. The program also develops sustainable financing mechanism through the establishment of system of payment for ecosystem services.	
Outcome (Expected outcome)	<ol> <li>Habitat and Vulnerability Assessments         <ul> <li>Resource assessment conducted in all coral reef areas to determine their conditions and their vulnerability to the effects of climate change</li> <li>Boundaries of the coral reef ecosystems mapped and delineated</li> <li>Delineated boundaries of coral reef ecosystems marked with appropriate buoys and markers</li> <li>Database on coral reef ecosystems established and managed</li> <li>Coral reef ecosystems management plans that address problems identified in letter (a) prepared by concerned field offices</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	

	2. Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Protection
	a. Reefs with better chances for recovery and rehabilitation
	identified
	b. Protection measures on coral reef ecosystem established
	c. Appropriate rehabilitation measures, such as stock
	enhancement of marine species, deployment of appropriate artificial reef structure, and even strict protection schemes etc. are in place
	<ul> <li>d. Implementation of activities on the management, protection and rehabilitation of the coral reef ecosystem regularly documented and reported</li> </ul>
	e. UNEP-initiated project "Green Fins Code of Conduct" on Responsible Diving and other science-based information and technologies for coral reef protection and rehabilitation is
	widely implemented nationwide
	f. Conduct of maintenance and reporting, monitoring and
	evaluation of the protection and rehabilitation measures implemented.
	3. Social Mobilization and Development
	a. Information, Education and Communication campaigns conducted
	<ul> <li>Technical and organizational capability-building activities conducted</li> </ul>
	4. MPA Strengthening and Networking
	<ul> <li>Establishment, strengthening and networking of MPAs on a regional scale</li> </ul>
	b. Benefits from sources and sinks within a network of MPAs clear to all MPA managers and stakeholders
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	5. Sustainable Livelihood Interventions
	a. Community-centered, community-driven, practical, sustainable and environment-friendly livelihood projects identified and established
Lessons learned	
	n/a
Related websites	n/a
(English preferred)	11/α

# **Project B**

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply:  ☑ Integrated Management ☑ Science & Monitoring	⊠ Capacity Building ⊠ Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	National Coral Reef Visualization and Assessment	
Location	National Integrated Protected Areas (NIPAS) Marine Protected Areas	
Dates	2014-2016	
Main Organizer(s)	Department of Environment and Natural Resources	
Main Stakeholder(s)	Coastal Communities, MPA Managers	
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project	The project aims to (1) build a consensus among existing researchers on the systematic monitoring of reefs using easily accessible tools; (2) map and assess the current state of the reefs, and other associated	

implements the FFA cornerstones)	habitat; (3) map and evaluate the associated demersal fish in these site as it relates to biodiversity and potential fisheries; (4) map the current state of the associated shoreline up to a depth of 200m; (5) develop high resolution currents and connectivity model for the Philippine coastal ocean; (6) use the data to make initial inferences on the vulnerability and resilience of these coral sites and; (7) capacitate government institutions to engage in long-term coral monitoring activities.
Outcome (including expected outcome)	Status of the coral reefs and associated habitats in the NIPAS MPAs visualized in maps.
Lessons learned	n/a
Related websites (English preferred)	n/a

**Project C** 

Project C		
Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply:  ☑ Integrated Management ☑ Capacity Building ☑ Science & Monitoring ☑ Periodic Assessment (Review)	
Project Title	Integrated Coastal Resources Management Project	
Location	The Project originally targeted 68 municipalities covering five (5) Regions and six (6) provinces of Cagayan, Zambales, Masbate, Cebu, Siquijor and Davao Oriental. In CY 2010, the Governor of Romblon requested for the inclusion of Romblon Province. Per DENR assessment of Region 4B Biodiversity Values and Status of Coastal Resource Management (CRM) Initiatives, the Department endorsed the inclusion of Romblon in the list of participating provinces. With the ADB approval of eight (8) LGUs in Romblon and four (4) other LGUs in Cebu and Masbate, the total LGUs increased from 68 to 80.	
Dates	June 28, 2007 - June 30, 2014	
Main Organizer(s)	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)	
Main Stakeholder(s)	Coastal Communities, MPA Managers	
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	The Project supported the Government's efforts in addressing the critical issues of sustainable management of marine and coastal resources. The salient activities of the Project included (i) development of an institutional framework for integrated coastal resources management (ICRM), addressing policy weaknesses and legal gaps, clarifying roles of national government agencies concerned and local governments, and addressing their capacity-building needs; (ii) assessment of resources in the coastal zone of participating municipalities; development and implementation of ICRM plans and participatory law enforcement; and development of eco-certification mechanisms for trade in coral-associated species; (iii) implementation of biodiversity conservation in priority marine biodiversity corridors supported by focused research on critical ecosystems and threatened species; (iv) assistance to municipal fisher folk in the development of sustainable enterprises and livelihoods, reducing their reliance on fishing; and (v) improvement of water supply, sanitation, and solid waste management for disadvantaged coastal communities.	
Outcome (Expected	Policy and Institutional Strengthening and Development	
outcome)	2. ICRM and Biodiversity Conservation	

	3. Enterprise Development and Income Diversification	
	4. Social and Environmental Services and Facilities	
Lessons learned	During the implementation of the ICRMP, the support of the LGUs was crucial in the success of the project as it facilitated the preparation of necessary documents, provided technical and administrative assistance and support to the beneficiaries. The opening of new opportunities for our communities to find alternative sources of income while enforcing resources rehabilitation and conservation through eco-tourism had also assured the continued and sustainable protection of the natural resources.	
	Another important lesson obtained from this project was the high cost of coral transplantation as rehabilitation strategy. Because of this outcome, strict protection to allow coral communities/reef to recover by itself or the use of cheaper techniques such as those developed in Silliman University in the Visayas may be more practical over the long term.	
Related websites		
(English preferred)	icrmp.denr.gov.ph	

2. **General Information.** Please update the following information on your country/ organization's focal point(s).

Member type (Country / Organization):	
Focal Point 1:	
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