



ICRI Member's Report

Colombia

Reporting period December 2017 – November 2018

1. **Reporting on the ICRI Plan of Action 2016-2018.** *Your responses will help inform the Secretariat about members' contributions toward the previous Plan of Action.*
 - a. **Please list any relevant examples from your organisation/country of investment/projects to protect and restore the natural infrastructure of reefs and mangroves.** (See Goal (1) 2 [ICRI Recommendation for supporting investments in the natural infrastructure of reefs and mangroves to increase climate resilience](#)).

Coral Reefs actions

1. With INVEMAR, the MADS works together in order to generate a primary information in a coral reef area called "El Varadero" in Caribbean Sea – Cartagena Bay, with this information we created a GIS map, to update the Coral Areas Cartography for Colombia called "Áreas Coralinas de Colombia - 2000", it is planned to incorporate it into the aforementioned cartography.
2. We celebrated with INVEMAR, among other actors, the IYOR 2018, with a massive event in Bogotá called "environmental coffee to know and understand the reef corals"
3. CORALINA – San Andres Island Government and NGOs, worked in a massive mechanism of coral restoration in the biosphere reserve declared by UNESCO. whose jurisdiction concentrates the highest percentage of coral reefs in the country, works on the restoration of coral reefs, through the installation of nurseries and other active and large-scale methods.
4. They work together with help from scuba centre diving, university among others.
5. We publish the condition – tendency indicator to monitor the coral reef health. The complete document, can be found in the web site: www.cinto.invemar.org.co/samp/portfolio-view/protocolo-indicador-condicion-tendencia-areas-coralinas-ictac/

Mangroves actions

6. In June of 2018, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development adopted, through Resolution 1263, the guidelines for the ecological mangroves restoration, which constitutes a technical reference framework to implement restoration actions on these important ecosystems, in addition since 2015, the regional environmental authorities have been reported approximately 2,000 hectares of mangroves in process or restoration actions, both for the Pacific coast and in the Caribbean.
7. We worked with indigenous community in Cauca Department and the Regional Environmental Authority – CRC, to create the first mangrove ecological restoration guidelines in *eperaara siapidaara* languages, to incorporate the

traditional knowledge in technical procedures. The publication can be found in this link:

- http://www.minambiente.gov.co/images/Gu%C3%ADa_de_Restauraci%C3%B3n_Ecol%C3%B3gica_de_Manglares_Eperaara_Siapidaara.pdf

- b. **Has your organisation/country made any progress in the following areas to target anthropogenic pressures?** Please give detail below. Note: If no change since your last ICRI member report, please write 'no change'.

Encourage ban of plastic microbeads in cosmetic products. (See Goal (3) 2 & [See ICRI Recommendation to reduce plastic microbeads pollution in marine environment](#)):

1. In 2016, with INVEMAR technical support, we generated the diagnostic document waste and micro plastics in marine areas, also realized a workshop for environmental authorities to building capacities in the micro plastics sampling and analysis in marine waters, the training was staffed with technical personnel and generated the prioritization of pilot areas for the evaluation of solid and miroplastic waste, in some Caribbean beaches, and Pacific and insular areas.

Improve regulation and enforcement to reduce direct anthropogenic damage due to dredging and physical alteration of reef structures. (See Goal (3) 3 & [ICRI Recommendation to reduce damage due to dredging and dumping on coral reefs](#)):

National government has established mechanisms and instruments to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Colombian Political Constitution: Articles 79 and 80, whose purpose is the sustainable development of the nation through requirement of inclusion of measures and / or prevention, control, mitigation and / or compensation actions to minimize environmental impacts during the development of projects or activities that are developed in marine-coastal areas.

Deployment of mooring devices limiting the mechanical destruction of coral reefs and seagrasses. (See Goal (3) 4).

No change

- c. **Did your organisation/country celebrate International Year of the Reef?** Please give details below. (See Goal (5) 1 & [ICRI Recommendation designating 2018 as the third International Year of the Reef](#)):

Yes, we celebrate the international year of the reefs within the framework of the International Fair of the Environment – FIMA (Spanish acronym), through the development of several spaces for the general public, researchers and decision makers:

June 21, 10:00 am to 11:00 am, panel of experts "environmental coffee", 2018 international year of coral ecosystems.

June 21, 11:00 a.m. 12:00 pm, in the Room 'Climate Change': large-scale restoration of coral reefs in the archipelago, challenges and challenges of the hand of the local community.

In addition, INVEMAR realized the evaluation workshop on the current state of the coral reefs of the Mesoamerican Caribbean and Colombia: tools for handling and management, to celebrate the IYOR 2018, on November 14th & 15th in Santa Marta City.



- 2. Contribution to the ICRI Plan of Action 2018-2020 and upcoming ICRI general meetings.** *Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the draft ICRI Plan of Action 2018-2020.*

Theme 1 – Promote effective and adaptable solutions to improve the protection of coral reefs

- a. **Which of the below topics do you consider to be the three top challenges that your organisation faces in managing coral reefs?** Please select from the options below:

- Climate change impacts
- Inadequate planning, zoning and management
- Unsustainable resource extraction
- Tourism and recreation
- Shipping
- Coastal development
- Dredging
- Illegal and destructive fishing
- Fish and coral trade
- Marine debris

Other. Please specify:

- b. **Please list any examples of innovative management practices that your organisation/country is involved in, such as use of VMS, drones & ecological mooring devices.** Include their limits, conditions of implementation, financing and an assessment of their results and links for more information if possible.

No changes

- c. **Please list any examples of innovative funding for management that your organisation/country is involved in.** Include their limits, conditions of implementation, financing and an assessment of their results and links for more information if possible.

Colombia has SISMAC - Support System for the Monitoring of Coral Areas. (Data Monitoring Coral Areas), which is a long-term program whose purpose is to generate information about the health and dynamics of Colombia coral reefs, to contribute to understanding of the factors that have caused their deterioration, to generate recommendations for the sustainable use of its resources and conserve its biodiversity.

- <http://siam.invemar.org.co/sismac>

- d. **Please list any examples of leading practices, techniques and strategies for building reef resilience that your organisation/country is involved in.** Include their limits, conditions of implementation, financing and an assessment of their results and links for more information if possible.

No changes

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

In 2016 and 2017, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, together with the Geographical Institute Agustín Codazzi - IGAG, developed the criteria and geovisor system to create the Registry of Ecosystems and Strategic Areas - REAA, which will identify and prioritize ecosystems and environmental areas of the national territory, with the exception of the protected areas registered in the National Registry of Protected Areas (RUNAP), in order to implement payments for environmental services (PSA) and other incentives and / or conservation-oriented instruments. In this sense, at the national level, the official cartography of coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses was incorporated.

- <http://www.siac.gov.co/reaa>

With an Agreement celebrated between Archipelago Department of San Andrés Government and CORALINA; and Agreement Association held with CORALINA and the

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, is followed by the BANCO2 project, in order to made a coral transplant pilot. For more information, follow the link:

<http://www.coralina.gov.co/nuevositio/component/k2/item/1803-banco2-realiza-los-primeros-trasplantes-de-corales>

Theme 3 – Support communities reliant on coral reefs

- f. Is sustainable tourism development a significant challenge for your organisation?** If so please include detail below of the kinds of challenges faced and your strategies to deal with them.

- g. Is your organisation involved in activities to raise awareness and encourage action to support communities reliant on coral reefs?** Please include details below.

Theme 4 – Help to reduce anthropogenic threats to coral reefs, particularly those that occur at a global or regional scale

- h. What activities is your organisation involved in to elevate awareness of the global nature of the threat of climate change to coral reefs?** Please include details below

- i. Has your organisation made any progress in dealing with destructive fishing and trade?** Please include details below.

Yes, Through the Resolution 0225 of 2018, "By which normative guidelines are established for the management, control and use of marine ornamental species and other dispositions are adopted", that normative mentioned among other points that Colombian native species (Reef fishes) are not subject to extraction unless a work generated under the guidelines of research and / or breeding.

- j. Has your organisation made any progress in dealing with marine debris?** Please include details below.

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Minambiente), head of the Directorate of Marine Affairs, Coastal and Aquatic Resources, has carried out the following actions to address this problem in Colombia:

With the support of INVEMAR during 2017, the first national diagnosis of microplastics in the coastal marine areas was made, which shows the problem from different areas, the management and environmental management of solid waste in a national and regional perspective; and the evaluation of the state of contamination by marine garbage, seen as plastics and microplastics, on beaches of environmental and tourist interest.

An assessment was also made of the state of pollution and of the environmental impacts caused by marine litter in the mangrove ecosystem of the Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta as an input for the development of management tools.

The Ministry in order to mobilize public participation and awareness about conserving our clean seas and rivers, understanding the water resource as fundamental for the generation and preservation of life, joined the strategy "The biggest cleaning in the world", Within the framework of the activities promoted by the UN environment within the campaign # *SinContaminación*, celebrating the World Environment Day.

3. **Would you like to report on your activities during the ICRI GM?** Please give details below.

No

4. **International events.** Please list any upcoming international events relevant to ICRI which someone from your organisation plans to attend in 2018-2019.

ICRI GM, Monaco, 5-7 Dec 2018

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 3-14 Dec 2018

Reef Futures 2018: A Coral Restoration and Intervention-Science Symposium, Florida, 10-14 Dec 2018

Global World Heritage Marine Managers meeting, Alaska, US, 26-31 May 2019

Other:

5. **Publications.** Please list relevant publications and reports you have released during this reporting period.

In the following links you can consult information related to coral reefs in Colombia:

CORALES ESCLERACTINIOS DE COLOMBIA

<http://www.invemar.org.co/documents/10182/0/CORALES+ESCLERACTINIOS+DE+COLOMBIA.pdf>

REPORT OF THE STATE OF THE CORAL REEFS AND SEAGRASSES IN COLOMBIA
(2014 - 2015)

<http://cinto.invemar.org.co/samp/portfolio-view/reporte-del-estado-de-los-arrecifes-coralinos-y-los-pastos-marinos-en-colombia-2014-2015/>

INDICATOR PROTOCOL TENDENCY CORAL AREAS

<http://www.invemar.org.co/documents/10182/14479/01+ProtocoloIndicadorAreasCoralinasdigital.pdf/2cbba4fe-dc3e-423a-b2f1-e191ee42deed>

6. **ICRI Member Feedback.** What do you find most valuable about the ICRI member reports? If you have any ideas for improvement, please list below:

7. **General Information.** (Note that this information will be posted on the ICRI website on your member page: <http://www.icriforum.org/about-icri/members-networks>.)

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