

Input from Japan to Secretary-General Report:
Protection of coral reefs for sustainable livelihoods and development

II. Importance of protecting coral reefs and related ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods and development (current status and adverse impacts)

As a source of information on the current status of coral reefs and related ecosystems which is to be included in the SG report, *Status of Coral Reefs of the World* (2008) by GCRMN(Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network)contains relevant information (<http://www.gcrmn.org/status2008.aspx>). GCRMN is an operating unit of ICRI (International Coral Reef Initiative).

Within the framework of ICRI, Japan has made substantive contribution to conserve coral reefs. For example, it had organized ICRI East Asia Regional Workshops which led to the formulation of ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy on MPA Networks 2010. Japan also has updated an MPA database (<http://mpa.reefbase.org/>) and published a coral reef habitat map (http://coralmap.coremoc.go.jp/sangomap_eng/) of the Asia Pacific region.

VI. The role of national legislation in protecting coral reefs (including importance of inclusion of indigenous/local communities)

In Japan, many of the coral reefs have been conserved through the designation of protected areas such as national parks. Also, “The Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reef Ecosystems” (attached to this sheet) was formulated to facilitate participation of various stakeholders in conservation activities in Japan. One of the main ideas of the Plan is to create socio-economic settings where the benefit of conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs is widely recognized by local communities.

VII. The way forward: Potential actions (consistent with international law) needed to protect coral reefs and related ecosystems, including proposals for coordinated and coherent action across the United Nations system.

As one of the potential actions to be taken for the protection of coral reefs and related ecosystems, global gap analysis on coral reef MPAs could be conducted with the involvement of the UN or regional organizations/institutions. Also, strengthening the function of the sections in charge of the conservation of coral reefs in the UN system, such as UNEP Coral Reef Unit could be suggested.