



Regional Initiative for the Integral Management and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs

The initiative aims at developing a Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the conservation, management and wise use of mangroves and coral reefs.

The initiative will put in place regional cooperation mechanisms to promote the sustainable use of mangroves and coral reefs, through exchange of knowledge and lessons learned.

Local communities living near the mangrove ecosystems are encouraged to participate in the initiative, as well as other social, territorial, institutional stakeholders, including private sector partners.



Main objectives:

1. To promote the generation and exchange of knowledge on the current status of conservation of mangroves and coral reefs in member countries, through inventories and ecosystem studies.
2. To strengthen capacity and develop a regional approach for the conservation and wise use of mangroves and coral reefs.
3. To promote the review, adaptation and harmonization of the legal framework, including national policies, to guarantee the protection and conservation of mangroves, coral reefs and associated wetlands.
4. To manage mangroves, coral reefs and associated wetlands effectively by adopting an integrated watershed approach, including measures of adaptation and mitigation to climate change.
5. To develop and strengthen communication, education, public awareness and participation (CEPA) in member countries to increase the visibility and awareness of mangroves, coral reefs and associated wetlands.
6. To encourage, strengthen and disseminate basic and applied research, including traditional knowledge, socio-economic studies on mangroves, coral reefs and associated wetlands.

Endorsement and members

This initiative was approved by the Ramsar Standing Committee (SC40) in May 2009 and the Standing Committee (SC41) approved its operation for the triennium 2010-2012. The following Contracting Parties are members of the initiative: Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Nicaragua, Honduras, Dominican Republic



Meetings of the regional committee. Left Mexico DF; right Guayaquil, Ecuador

Panama, and Venezuela. The International Organization Partners of the Ramsar Convention, BirdLife International, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN, Wetlands International) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and other international organizations working for the protection of mangroves and coral reefs were also invited to participate.

Coordination

Mexico and Ecuador lead the coordination of the initiative, with the Ramsar Secretariat support. The initiative has also a regional committee, working groups, and support groups in which the Contracting Parties, the International Organization Partners of Ramsar, and other International Organizations participate.

Coordination Structure

Participants: Mexico, Ecuador (Ramsar Secretariat).

Regional Committee

Participants: Contracting Parties (Technical Focal Points).

Working groups

Participants: Support Organizations (IOPS, National and International Organizations)

Supporting Groups

Participants: Contracting Parties and selected organizations by thematic areas.

Coordination bodies of the initiative

Activities

The Regional Committee meets annually to follow up on the initiative's implementation and to discuss topics of common interest. Besides the establishment of its governance structure, the initiative has developed a 3-years work plan, a strategic framework, a logo and a public awareness video.

Working groups



Crabs harvesting by local communities



Delegates and participants with the Minister of Environment of Nicaragua Ms Juanita Argueñal and Vice Minister Roberto Araquistáin, Montelimar, Nicaragua 2013.

Meetings

22-26 April, 2013, Montelimar, Nicaragua. *III Meeting of the Regional Initiative for the Integral Management and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs.*

13-17 June, 2011. Guayaquil, Ecuador. *II Meeting of the Regional Initiative for the Integral Management and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs.*

24 -26 March, 2010. Mexico D.F. Mexico. *I Meeting of the Regional Initiative for the Integral Management and Wise Use of Mangrove and Coral Reefs Ecosystems.*

Other Documents

Regulations of the Coordination Committee

Video

Document of the Regional Initiative for the Integral Management and Sustainable Use of Coral Reefs and Mangrove Ecosystems.

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