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### In this issue

#### Announcements

1. [The Coral Reef MPAs of East Asia and Micronesia online website](#)
2. [Coral reef habitat map was released](#)
3. [Atoll Research Bulletin issue updated at ReefBase Publication Database](#)
4. [Coral Triangle Atlas update](#)
5. [Coral bleaching update](#)

#### ReefBase Publication Database

1. [Wetlands Australia : National Wetland Update 2011](#)
2. [Vulnerability of Fiji's mangroves and associated coral reefs to climate change. A review](#)
3. [Reef Rescue Marine Monitoring Program: Intertidal Seagrass](#)
4. [Reef Rescue Marine Monitoring Program. Final Report of AIMS Activities – Inshore coral reef monitoring 2009/10](#)
5. [Coastal Capital: Dominican Republic. Case studies on the economic value of coastal ecosystems in the Dominican Republic](#)

#### Online GIS

1. [March 2011 NOAA Coral Reef Watch's Satellite Monitoring Products](#)

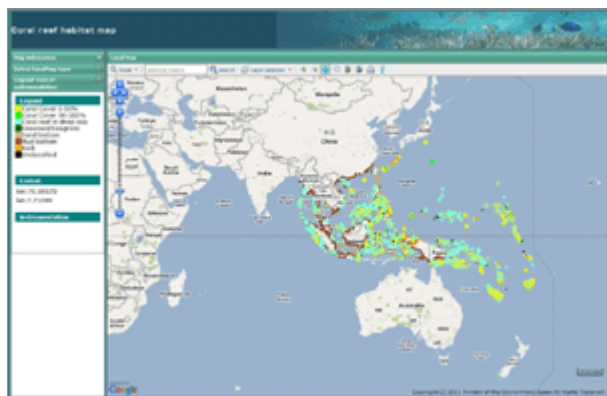
### 1. The Coral Reef MPAs of East Asia and Micronesia website



The "Coral Reef MPAs of East Asia and Micronesia" is a collaboration project between the Japan Wildlife Research Center (JWRC) and The WorldFish Center (ReefBase Project), funded by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MoE). The initial dataset was provided by the UNEP-WCMC through the MPA Global database project (currently merged into the World Database on Protected Areas) and the updated data were provided by various country partners in East Asia and Micronesia regions. This database was first developed in 2005-2007 as part of the Japan-Palau ICRI secretariat Plan of Action for 2005 -2007 which updated the MPA Global database with 313 new coral reef MPAs data and linked with the spatial and other data on ReefBase. The database was subsequently upgraded on

ReefBase during 2008-2010. This 2nd phase of the project aimed to strengthen the usability of the database for MPA planning and management by further updating the MPA data, improving the GIS (Geographic Information System), adding analytical functions, and providing an online/offline updating system, so that the countries could have their own virtual MPA database on their website. 950 MPAs have been added since the database was first launched in 2007. Other features on this websites include publication and case studies related to MPAs in the regions. For more detail on the website please click on the link: <http://mpa.reefbase.org>

### 2. Coral Reef Habitat Map was released



The "Coral Reef Habitat Map" project is an initiative of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan in collaboration with the ReefBase project. The map was developed to provide a useful tool to conserve and manage coral reefs and related ecosystems in the Asian and Oceanian regions (i.e., North East Asia, South East Asia, Micronesia and Melanesia). This satellite based GIS map shows the distribution of coral reefs and related ecosystems in these regions. The latest distribution of live corals, seaweed/seagrass and other benthic features have been analyzed using the satellite images and are now available to the general public via the Internet. The

data can be viewed at the Coral Reef Habitat Map website ([http://coralmap.coremoc.go.jp/sangomap\\_eng/](http://coralmap.coremoc.go.jp/sangomap_eng/)) and will also be available on ReefBase soon.

### 3. Atoll Research Bulletin updated at ReefBase Publication Database



The latest issue and previous issues of the Atoll Research Bulletin is available for download at ReefBase Publication database. The journals cover from issue 1 to 588 since year 1951 to 2010. To view all the Atoll Research Bulletin journals in the Reefbase database please click on the link [http://www.reefbase.org/resource\\_center/publication/main.aspx?keyword=Atoll%20Research%20Bulletin](http://www.reefbase.org/resource_center/publication/main.aspx?keyword=Atoll%20Research%20Bulletin). All the publications also can be downloaded at Atoll Research Bulletin website; [http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/atollresearchbulletin/ARB\\_search.cfm](http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/atollresearchbulletin/ARB_search.cfm)

The Atoll Research Bulletin is issued by the Smithsonian Institution to provide an outlet for information on the biota of tropical islands and reefs and on the environment that supports the biota. The Bulletin is supported by the National Museum of Natural History; electronic publication is facilitated by Smithsonian Institution Libraries. The Bulletin was founded in 1951 and the first 117 numbers were issued by the Pacific Science Board, National Academy of Sciences, with financial support from the Office of Naval Research. Its pages were devoted largely to reports resulting from the Pacific Science Board's Coral Atoll Program.

### 4. Coral Triangle Atlas updated



New datasets of Indonesia for the CT Atlas have been contributed by WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature). This spatial data cover a range of categories (particularly biological data, habitat, socioeconomic) and are available to view and download. Please click the following link to have a look through our updated database <http://ctatlas.reefbase.org/default.aspx>

### 5. Coral bleaching update

- Western Indian Ocean Coral Bleaching Alerts

Full report alert for 31st March 2011 is available for download. Please click here to download the report. Further information on the bleaching alert at Western Indian Ocean region and to view previous bleaching reports, can be accessed at CORDIO WIO website; <http://www.cordioea.org/bleachingalert/>

## ReefBase Publication Database

### 1. Wetlands Australia: National Wetland Update 2011

- Australia's wetlands number in the many thousands. There are 64 Ramsar listed wetlands (covering around 8.1 million hectares) and over 900 nationally important wetlands in Australia. These wetlands include coastal estuaries, mudflats and salt marshes, coral reefs, floodplain lakes and billabongs, swamps and marshes, and alpine bogs and peatlands. Wetlands are extremely rich in biodiversity with many plants and animals being completely dependent on these ecosystems. They also provide critical habitat for threatened species such as the northern corroboree frog and Murray cod. Wetlands are important sites for migratory species and many support large numbers of waterbirds (more than 20 000), using wetland habitats for critical stages of their life-cycle, such as feeding and roosting. This edition of Wetlands Australia aligns with the theme for World Wetlands Day 2011 "wetlands and forests

- forests for water and wetlands". This year is extra special as it is the fortieth anniversary of the Ramsar Convention. It also coincides with the United Nations designation of 2011 as the International Year of Forests.

Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. 2011. Wetlands Australia: National Wetlands Update, Issue No. 19. 56 pp.

[http://www.reefbase.org/resource\\_center/publication/main.aspx?refid=73111&linksource=nl](http://www.reefbase.org/resource_center/publication/main.aspx?refid=73111&linksource=nl)

## **2. Vulnerability of Fiji's mangroves and associated coral reefs to climate change. A review**

- This report was commissioned by the WWF to review and compile existing studies and other literature on the state of knowledge of the vulnerability of Fijian mangroves and adjacent coral reefs to climate change. Information is reviewed on strategies or methodologies to adapt or increase the resilience and resistance of the region to impacts of climate change. The review has found that there is little work to date on methodologies and projects that have designed an adaptation strategy to climate change effects for mangroves or coral reef systems. The majority of work to date has been focused on assessment of impacts.

Ellison, J. 2010. Vulnerability of Fiji's mangroves and associated coral reefs to climate change. A Review. Suva, Fiji, WWF South Pacific Office.

[http://www.reefbase.org/resource\\_center/publication/main.aspx?refid=73112&linksource=nl](http://www.reefbase.org/resource_center/publication/main.aspx?refid=73112&linksource=nl)

## **3. Reef Rescue Marine Monitoring Program: Intertidal Seagrass**

- Overall there are indications that seagrass meadows along the GBR are in state of decline. The indicators of this decline are; 67% of sites with reduced seagrass abundance (below the seagrass guidelines), 50% sites exhibiting shrinking meadow area, many sites have limited or are not producing seeds that would enable rapid recovery, indications of light limitations at 63 % of sites, nutrient enrichment at 33% sites and 90% of sites with either high or elevated nitrogen. There is also evidence of long term increases of seagrass nutrient content (in tissues) in coastal and reef seagrasses particularly in the Wet Tropics and Burdekin regions. This document highlight the key component of Reef Rescue team were to understand the status and trends of GBR intertidal seagrass, identify response of seagrass to environmental driver of change and integrated reporting on GBR seagrass status including production of seagrass report cards metrics.

McKenzie L. J, R. K. F. Unsworth and M. Waycott. 2010. Reef Rescue Marine Monitoring Program: Intertidal Seagrass, Annual Report for the sampling period 1st September 2009 – 31st May 2010. Fisheries Queensland, Cairns. 136pp.

[http://www.reefbase.org/resource\\_center/publication/main.aspx?refid=73114&linksource=nl](http://www.reefbase.org/resource_center/publication/main.aspx?refid=73114&linksource=nl)

## **4. Reef Rescue Marine Monitoring Program. Final Report of AIMS Activities – Inshore coral reef monitoring 2009/10**

- This report is part of the coral reef monitoring component of the Reef Rescue Marine Monitoring Program (MMP) undertaken in 2009/10. This report documented the completion of the fifth inshore coral reef survey under MMP allows for updated assessments of the overall status of the inshore coral reef communities monitored over the four year period in GBR. The coral monitoring program continued to survey the cover of benthic organisms, the numbers of genera, the number of juvenile-sized coral colonies and sediment quality at 23 inshore reef locations in four NRM regions, the Wet Tropics, Burdekin, Mackay Whitsunday and Fitzroy regions. Coral recruitment monitoring also continued at three core sites in each of the four NRM regions.

Thompson, A., J. Davidson, B. Schaffelke, H. Sweatman. 2010. Reef Rescue Marine Monitoring Program. Final Report of AIMS

## 5. Coastal Capital: Dominican Republic. Case studies on the economic value of coastal ecosystems in the Dominican Republic

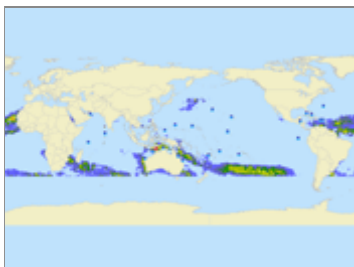
- Coastal and marine ecosystems provide many valuable services to the people and economy of the Dominican Republic. At first glance, these benefits can be difficult to see. Reefs and mangroves help to build beaches and slow erosion, draw local and international tourists to the coast, and provide habitat for valuable recreational commercial fish. Unfortunately, these services are often overlooked in key development and policy decisions. As a result, coastal ecosystems are threatened by unsustainable coastal development, pollution, overfishing, and other local and global pressures. One of the key barriers to better decision-making is lack of information and understanding of the scope and value of benefits provided by these ecosystems. Little work has been done on this topic in the Dominican Republic, and data gaps make it difficult to assess the economic impact of ecosystem services provided by coral reefs at the national level. This document presented a small sample of the benefits that coastal ecosystems provide to the Dominican Republic. These ecosystems (a) protect white sand beaches in vital tourism areas; (b) provide habitat for commercial fisheries; (c) provide the engine for potential tourism growth in a small marine protected area; and (d) generate local tourism dollars in the southwestern part of the country. The studies highlight the contribution of coastal ecosystems to the economy and the need for greater investment in protecting coastal and marine ecosystems, including better management of marine fisheries, protection of existing reserves, and enforcement of coastal development guidelines.

Wielgus, J., E. Cooper, R. Torres and L. Burke. 2010. Coastal Capital: Dominican Republic. Case studies on the economic value of coastal ecosystems in the Dominican Republic. Working Paper. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute

[http://www.reefbase.org/resource\\_center/publication/main.aspx?refid=73116&linksource=nl](http://www.reefbase.org/resource_center/publication/main.aspx?refid=73116&linksource=nl)

## Online GIS

### 1. March 2011 NOAA Coral Reef Watch's Satellite Monitoring Products



This map shows the global observations of coral bleaching occurrences combined with NOAA Coral Reef Watch's satellite monitoring products including Sea Surface Temperature, Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly, Bleaching HotSpot and Degree Heating Weeks. These datasets are added into ReefBase Online GIS each month.

To view the latest January 2011 maps, click here.

<http://reefgis.reefbase.org/redirect.aspx?urlid=50965&linksource=nl>

ReefBase::A Global Information System For Coral Reefs

Website: <http://www.reefbase.org>

Email: [reefbase@cgiar.org](mailto:reefbase@cgiar.org)