



# A PROSPECTUS FOR INVESTMENT IN CORAL REEF RESILIENCE - AN OVERVIEW FOR FUNDERS SEEKING TO CATALYZE INNOVATION IN PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS

Coral reefs are vital ecosystems that provide support to a quarter of all marine life on the planet. They provide food, income, recreation and protection from storms and flooding to an estimated one billion people across the globe - reef ecosystem services are essential to wellbeing and livelihoods, especially the many vulnerable populations that live alongside coral reefs. These services are valued at \$10 trillion per annum globally – more than the world's largest corporations and many national economies<sup>1</sup>.

An estimated 75% of all coral reefs globally are under threat from a combination of local stresses and the global impacts of climate change and population growth. Addressing this enormous challenge requires a global effort targeting all facets of the system that contribute to the decline of coral reefs - social, economic and ecological.

In 2017, the ICRI/UN Environment Grants Programme (a joint initiative of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and UN Environment which aims to catalyze initiatives that enhance protection and management of coral reef ecosystems), received 233 project concept submissions from across the globe. Projects ranged from engaging community education programs through to complex deep ocean reef research projects.

The unprecedented number of submissions and the diversity of approaches within them demonstrate that the global effort and focus on addressing all threats to coral reefs is growing. The quality, innovation and passion

evident in many of the proposals highlights the range of opportunities to reduce these threats and enhance the resilience of coral reef ecosystems to these threats.

Through generous contributions from France, the Principality of Monaco and in collaboration with UN Environment, five exemplary projects were selected for funding. The high calibre of the remaining proposals, however, represents a valuable opportunity for additional investment to improve the outlook for coral reefs and their ecosystem services that cannot be wasted. To harness this opportunity, ICRI and UN Environment compiled a compendium of 32 projects that exhibit the highest quality, innovation, collaboration and potential impact amongst the submissions. The selection showcases the diversity of projects being designed by communities, industries, researchers and reef managers, to help improve the future for coral reefs and reef-dependent communities.

Funding is urgently needed to harness momentum and enthusiasm for reef resilience and convert ideas into on-ground actions. As we begin the International Year of the Reef (2018), these projects provide an important opportunity for funders to support innovative and impactful actions that can further inspire global efforts to protect and rebuild the resilience of the world's coral reefs.

<sup>1</sup> Costanza, R., R. de Groot, P. Sutton, S. van der Ploeg, S.J. Anderson, I. Kubiszewski, S. Farber, and R.K. Turner. 2014. Changes in the global value of ecosystem services. *Global Environmental Change* 26: 152-158. (pdf, 508k)



# SUMMARY OF PROJECTS

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT
THEMATIC CATEGORY: COMMUNITY & COMMUNICATION		
Department of Fisheries	Saint Lucia	Saint Lucia's call to action for coral reef conservation
Corals for conservation	Kiribati (possible Fiji & Vanuatu)	Reefs of Hope- Restoring corals to severely impacted reefs through propagation of bleaching-resistant corals, no-take MPAs, and building resilience within reef-dependent communities via sustainable non-fishing livelihoods
SEEDO	Tanzania	Community based marine ecosystems (coral reefs and mangroves) - Protection in Tanga Region
Sustainable international Mexico	Mexico	The MARI Mesoamerican Reef Citizen Science program
ICSEM SL	Colombia & Jamaica	Resilience and social adaption to climate change impacts on coral reefs in Caribbean countries
MICS	Marshall Islands	Ajeltake community introduction to the “Reimaanlok” community-based management plan
Oma Tafua	Niue	Coral reef project Niue

THEMATIC CATEGORY: ENTERPRISE & MARKET MECHANISMS		
Emae Makatu Community	Vanuatu, Fiji & Solomon Islands	The sustainable management of traditional marine protected ecosystems (reefs, mangroves and seagrass) and genetic biodiversity
WRCT	Sri Lanka	Enhancing coral reef resilience through research and collaborative resource management.
Reef World	Dominican Republic	The Green Fins approach to managing a sustainable marine tourism industry in the Caribbean
UNAM	Mexico	Development of a sustainable land-based aquaculture system aiming to reduce human pressure on coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves in the Mexican Caribbean
UFRN	Brazil	Pledging sustainable parrotfish fishing for reef patch areas protection
Corcovado	Costa Rica	OSA Coral reef conservation project

THEMATIC CATEGORY: GOVERNANCE & COMPLIANCE		
Ghizo Environmental Livelihood Conservation Association	Solomon Islands	Empowering the Ghizo community to take charge of protecting their coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses in the fight against climate change
Konsorsium Mitra Bahari Papua Barat	Indonesia	Sorong Regency Marine Protected Area Initiative in the Bird’s Head Seascape Papua, Indonesia
Marine Conservation Cambodia	Cambodia	Deployment of conservation and anti-trawling structures in the framework of the 2nd MFMA in Cambodia
Institute for socioecological research	Puerto Rico	Rapid assessment of coral reef habitats of Barbuda after hurricane Irma: the baseline for a restoration program
Reef Conservation	Mauritius	Building the resilience of coral reefs and local communities in Voluntary Marine Conservation Areas in Mauritius

APPLICANT	LOCATION	PROJECT
THEMATIC CATEGORY: LOCAL MANAGEMENT		
Seychelles National Parks Authority	Seychelles	Certification of peer trainers in effective management of coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangroves, & beaches in Marine Protected Areas of the Western Indian Ocean
IRD Madagascar	Madagascar	Status and recovery capacities of coral communities to climate change and anthropogenic stresses in Toliara, southwest Madagascar
Equilibrio Azul	Ecuador	Rocky and coral reef research, protection and restoration, through local apnea fisherman involvement in Machalilla National Park, Ecuador.
GOAL international	Honduras	Resilience of the Blue Economy: Sustainable and inclusive fisheries in the coastal ecosystem of Guimoreto and Bacalar in the north of Honduras
Sanctuary Owners Association	Mozambique	Ecological monitoring and evaluation of a multi-habitat seascape in the Western Indian Ocean to promote collaboration between conservation areas and affected communities
WCS	Belize	Improving coral reef management by determining primary stressors responsible for coral bleaching at a remote Caribbean atoll

THEMATIC CATEGORY: RESEARCH & MONITORING		
Ucal, SantaCruz, TNC	Mexico	High-resolution assessment of the economic benefits of coral reef management for flood risk reduction provided by the Mesoamerican Reef in Quintana Roo, Mexico, and identification of priorities
IRCP	French Polynesia	First acoustic monitoring of coral reef’s biodiversity
OMMM	Martinique, French West Indies	Deep lionfish populations and associated unexplored mesophotic reefs of Martinique, French West Indies
CRIOBE	French Polynesia	“HIDDECORALS”. We protect what we know: Unravelling the hidden world of Polynesian coral reefs in the twilight zone to enhance their protection
Palau International Coral Reef Centre	Palau	Developing coral reef indicators to evaluate recovery potential after catastrophic coral mortality
CUFR	Mozambique	Mesophotic ecosytem coral investigation in Mayotte and Mozambique (MECIM)
PCR	Brazil	Effects of depth on coral reef communities: testing insights of a “deep refuge hypotheses” in the South Atlantic for the first time
Macquarie University	Tanzania & Kenya	From Ridge to Reef: An ecosystem based approach to biodiversity conservation in East Africa



The full compendium can be found at [icriforum.org](http://icriforum.org) along with information on how you can invest in rebuilding reef resilience through funding these projects. For any additional information please contact the ICRI Secretariat through Francis Staub, [fstaub@icriforum.org](mailto:fstaub@icriforum.org)

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## INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE (ICRI)

The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) is an informal partnership between Nations and organizations which strives to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around the world. ICRI's objectives are to:

- Encourage the adoption of best practice in sustainable management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems.
- Build capacity.
- Raise awareness at all levels on the plight of coral reefs around the world.

ICRI was created in 1994 by 8 countries (France, the United States of America, Australia, the United Kingdom, Japan, Jamaica, Philippines and Sweden), and announced on the occasion of the first Conference of the Convention of Parties on biological diversity in 1994. Today, it gathers 37 countries and nearly 80 members in total. As of June 1st, 2016 until June 2018, the ICRI secretariat is chaired by France. More informations: [www.icriforum.org](http://www.icriforum.org)



UN Environment is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. UN Environment is a founding member of ICRI, promoting implementation of the ICRI Call to Action at regional level through the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and, jointly with the ICRI Secretariat, leading the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network.