
Prioritising coral reefs in the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework



Emily Corcoran,
ICRI Consultant, on behalf of the ad hoc Committee



With thanks to Vulcan for their on going technical and financial support



Image credit: Coral Reef Image Bank

THE VALUE OF CORAL REEFS

Taking action to prioritise coral reefs can deliver benefits of \$2.7 trillion USD, contributing to the safety, nutrition, economic security, health and wellbeing of millions of people

**1
BILLION**

More than one billion people benefit directly from coral reef resources for food and as a source of income through activities related to fishing and tourism

**60,000
YEARS**

The time that the Great Barrier Reef has been a part of the culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

1/4

Coral reefs support 25% of marine life

**\$36
BILLION**

Coral reef tourism contributes \$36 billion to global tourism industry annually

97%

A healthy reef can reduce coastal wave energy by up to 97%

**\$9
BILLION**

Healthy coral reef ecosystems reduce shoreline erosion and protect coastal housing, agricultural land and beaches with a global net benefit of 9 billion USD/year

300-400x

The prospect of finding a new drug in the sea, especially among coral reef species, may be 300 to 400 times more likely than isolating one from a terrestrial ecosystem

ICRI
INTERNATIONAL
CORAL REEF INITIATIVE

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Post 2020
documents

Working Group
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CBD // CONFERENCES // POST2020



The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

HEALTHY CORAL REEF INDICATORS

2 Coral Reef Extent

Measures area covered by coral reef ecosystems and can tell us if this is increasing or decreasing



Live Coral Cover

The amount of live coral cover on a reef — an important first look at coral reef health

1

5 Percent Coral Reefs Effectively Protected

The amount of the world's coral reefs that are included within MPAs or Other Effective Conservation Measures



4 Fish Abundance and Biomass

The number of fish on the reef and the amount of energy available, telling us about the health and integrity of the system



Index of Coastal Eutrophication

Measures water quality in coastal areas

6



3 Fleshy Algae Cover and cover of key benthic groups

An increase in the cover of fleshy algae indicating a decline in coral reef health with less diversity of fish and lower productivity



Coral reef ecosystems and the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

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The ad hoc
committee

The
Recommendation
(full text) and
summary

Supporting
Materials

Voices of Support

Frequently Asked
Questions

This work was done with the support of Vulcan Inc.



Every day the sea provides a livelihood for the Saeraghi people. Growing up in my community, the importance of protecting our marine resources has been taught by our parents. When we are protecting our marine resources, we are doing it for future generations.

Nerolyn Iani
WWF COMMUNITY FACILITATOR, SAERAGHI COMMUNITY,
SOLOMON ISLANDS

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We lose coral reefs at 2°C global warming. Without coral reefs, how can we have a healthy Ocean? Without a healthy Ocean, how can we have a healthy planetary ecosystem? Greenhouse gases are our common enemy.

Peter Thomson
UNSC'S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE OCEAN

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Protection of our ocean is a global challenge requiring global action. Coral reefs remain vital to this effort, as they support over a quarter of all life in the ocean, and are facing unprecedented threats.

Zac Goldsmith
THE UK INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

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We have already lost 50 percent of the coral reefs globally. To save what is left we must halt climate change and protect these beautiful and life supporting ecosystems. The world will be a lot poorer without them.

Helen Ågren
AMBASSADOR FOR THE OCEAN AT
THE SWEDISH MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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The urgent need to prioritize coral reefs could not be more in line with our vision of a 'resilient Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.' Our island nations depend on coral reef and their survival is imperative and foundational to all we hold dear.

Kosi Latu
DIRECTOR GENERAL, SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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The future of coral reefs will ultimately depend on local actions to build resilience and address key threats combined with global action to reduce the extent of climate change. Australia will continue to advocate for the conservation of these critical ecosystems within the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Dr. Ian Poiner
CHAIRPERSON, GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY,
AUSTRALIA

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Coral reefs are an invaluable heritage to pass on to future generations. The Government of New Caledonia is fully conscious of its responsibility towards 30% of the planet's remaining pristine reefs, still unaffected by human activity.

Thierry Santa
PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
NEW CALEDONIA

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As a country that literally lives and breathes by virtue of our coral reefs, we understand the need to prioritize and safeguard this fragile ecosystem. It is not enough to just have indicators. Unless they're being used as part of the strategy to change and implement policies, it's just paper and coral reefs could slip further into the abyss.

Umiich Sengebau
MINISTER OF NATURE RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT
AND TOURISM, PALAU

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The Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 confirms that coral reefs have 'shown the most rapid increase in extinction risk of all assessed groups' due to climate change and other human pressures. This underlines the urgency to prioritize coral reefs in the new Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Alain de Comarmond
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES

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The world's coral reefs are being killed off at an astonishing rate. It is not only reef-dense countries like Fiji that will suffer the consequences; without reefs, life in our oceans will be knocked out of balance. To help us avoid this coral catastrophe, we must harness the best available science and research to target those critical reefs with the best prospects and strongest capacity to regenerate.

Hon Jossia
PRIME MINISTER OF FIJI

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The value of healthy coral reefs lies in their incredible biodiversity, which supports tourism, medical research and provides food security for coastal communities who depend on the fish living around the reefs. Coral reefs are a global asset, but they are under threat. Join me in supporting their protection.

Dona Bertarelli
UNCTAD SPECIAL ADVISER FOR THE BLUE ECONOMY,
CO-CHAIR BERTARELLI FOUNDATION

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In our region (the Pacific) our reefs are part of our heritage and important for our future - 70% of the protein in diets of Pacific Islanders come from reef-associated fisheries. Our island efforts are not enough on their own. We need policy within the new Global Biodiversity Framework that supports strong and concerted action.

Kate Brown
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GLOBAL ISLAND
PARTNERSHIP, NEW ZEALAND

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Sustainable use of coral reef resources is a cornerstone for the wellbeing and prosperity of millions of people from tropical countries and SIDS. ICRI's call to the CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is to save and nurture this wealth, and recognise the flagship role coral reefs have in inspiring and measuring our sustainable future.

David Obura
CORDIO, EAST AFRICA

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Please draw your attention to the worrying status of the coral reefs, which must be the subject of special treatment, given their urgent situation. The Recommendation put forward by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), which Monaco co-chairs recognizes their importance in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Join me in supporting coral reefs.

HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco

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Coral reefs and associated ecosystems are vital for marine biodiversity. They play a crucial role in protecting coastal areas and are critical for the health and wellbeing of many species. Saving coral reefs is also about saving us and future generations.

Virginijus Sinkevičius
COMMISSIONER, ENVIRONMENT, OCEANS AND FISHERIES,
EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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We women are usually the primary users of marine resources. We clean, cook and even sell whatever the family produces or catches in the market to bring in money, whether they be fish, seaweed, or shells. This is why I have encouraged and led women and girls in my community to venture into other livelihood options, as a way to help reduce fishing pressure on our reefs.

Rindah Melsen
PRESIDENT OF THE NUSATUVA WOMEN'S
SAVINGS CLUB, A WWF INITIATIVE
SOLOMON ISLANDS

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Coral reef ecosystems bring about nature's contributions to people including a great deal of blessings. I hope that ICRI will continue to contribute to the conservation of coral reefs under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Torii Toshio
DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NATURE CONSERVATION BUREAU
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, JAPAN

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Coral reefs are widely known to be an essential pillar of our existence; one of the very reasons contributing to the prestige Maldives enjoys internationally. However, an increase in the frequency and the magnitude of climate change associated impacts, such as mass bleaching, and ocean acidification, threatens this same system which is also the backbone of our economy. It is crucial to come together to find global solutions to save the interconnected coral reefs, of the Maldives and the world.

Zaha Waheed
MINISTER OF FISHERIES, MARINE RESOURCES,
AND AGRICULTURE, REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

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Every Fijian is brought up by the ocean. The first thing they see is the ocean and the reefs around them. In my traditional area, the Great Sea Reef is not only our life, it's a sanctuary for us. My vision for the next 10 years is for people to not have to go far to find fish; to have enough food and fish to eat.

Wilame Katoivere
TRADITIONAL HEAD, TUI MACUATA, FIJI

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Coral reefs, a breeding place for fish and marine animals, are very valuable for people who live in coastal areas. We have experienced the impact of damaged coral reefs from bombing and coral mining activities in 2007, where people could not cultivate seaweed and our fishers found it very difficult to find fish. Protecting the coral reefs is very important for all of us.

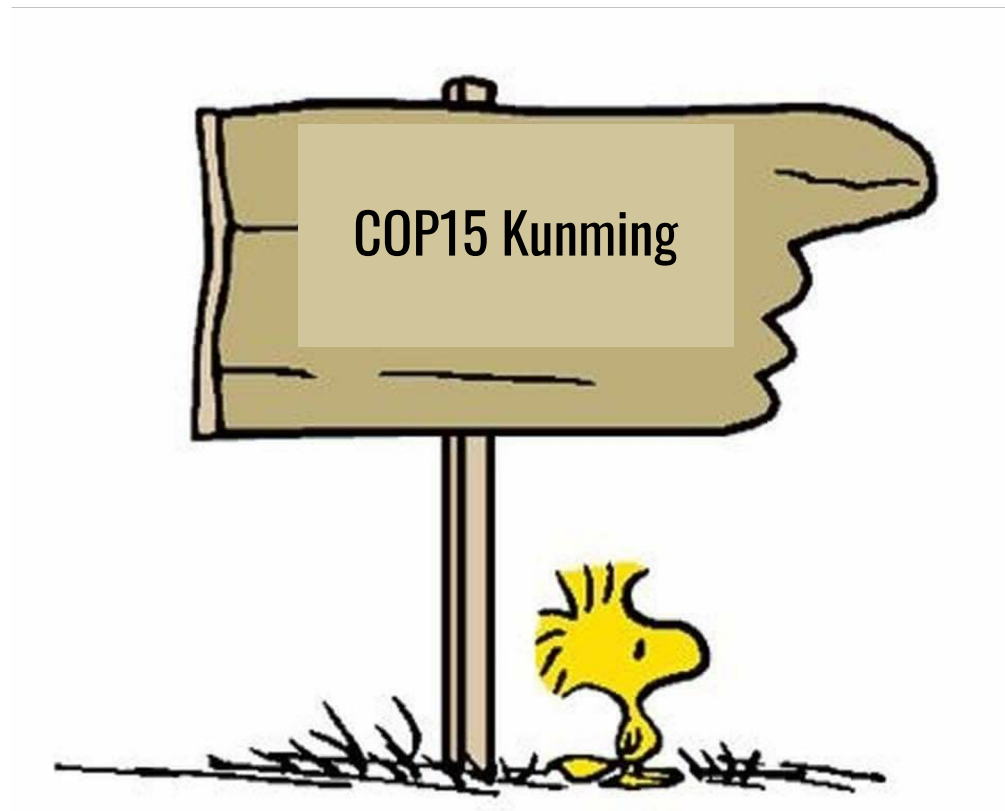
Nurmini Sifati
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER
MOROTAI ISLAND, NORTH MALUKU, INDONESIA

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Voices of Support

#ForCoral



Q1 2021

Q2 2021

Q3 2021

Q4 2021



**Informal virtual
SBSTTA/SBI**

**Formal sessions of
SBSTTA/SBI**

OEWG 3

COP 15

Strategy Focus areas

1. Ensure coral reef related indicators are retained in the monitoring framework;
2. Continue to look for opportunities to strengthen the GBF for application to coral reefs;
3. Ensure guidance for resource mobilisation / financial mechanisms is framed in a way that enables targeted and urgent action in specific ecosystems
4. Consider what happens after adoption: how can the Post-2020 GBF and its monitoring framework, be applied to a specific ecosystem, such as coral reefs?

How will we do this?

Working together with Parties to take the recommendation through into negotiations and interventions

- ★ Virtual briefings
- ★ Negotiation tool kit
- ★ Making the links - helping connect to
 - other areas of work - critically to continue collaborating with GCRMN
 - Relevance and connect to other policy areas (climate-ocean; sustainable development)
 - UN Decades of Ocean Science and ecosystem restoration

★ Communications

Current indicator use questionnaire

We have asked:

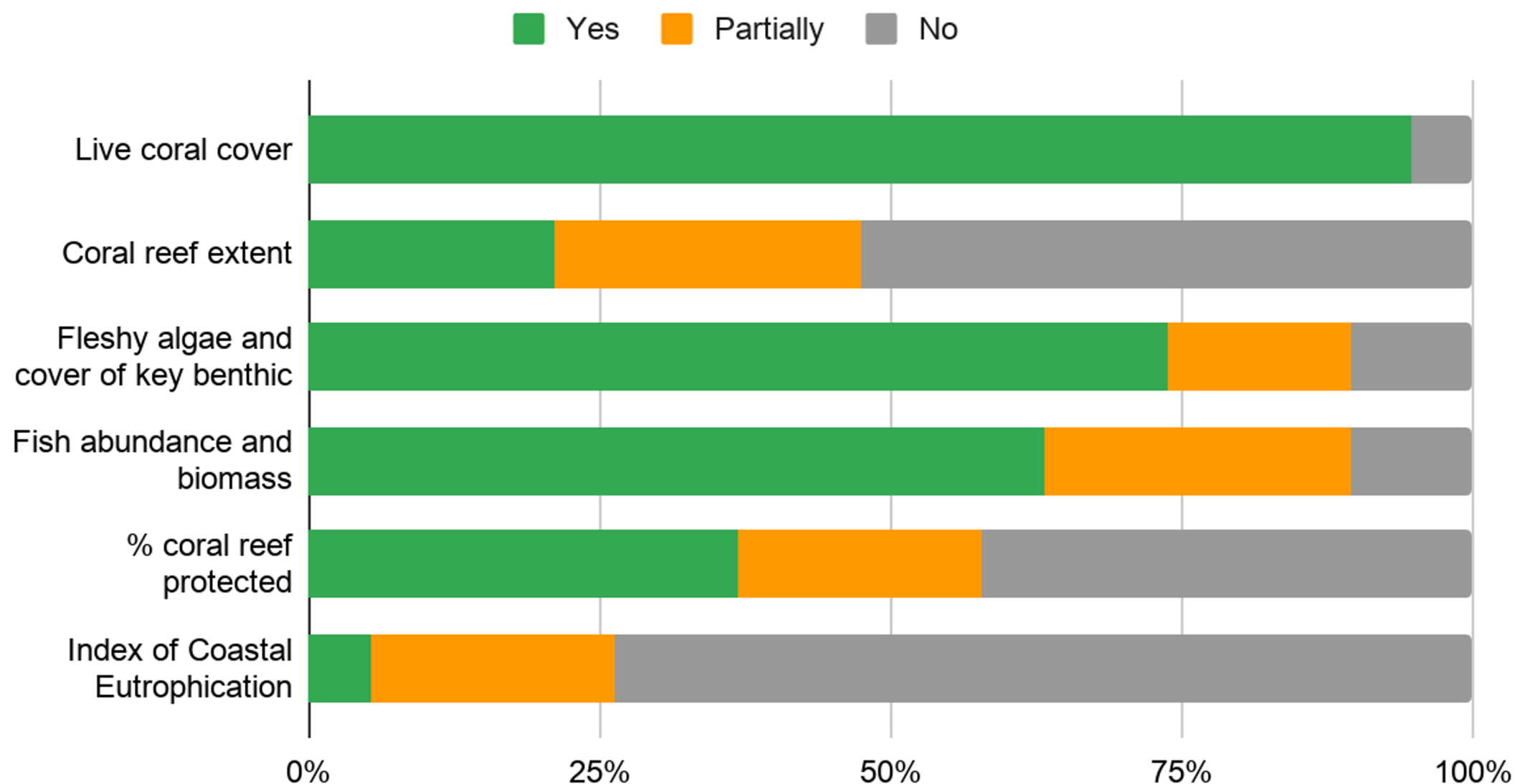
- Which of the recommended indicators are being used by national administrations? for what? what protocol is used and where is the data
- If they are not being used - why not?
- Are any of the indicators recommended for development already in use?
- Are there any other indicators used to monitoring coral reefs nationally?

Questionnaire returns:

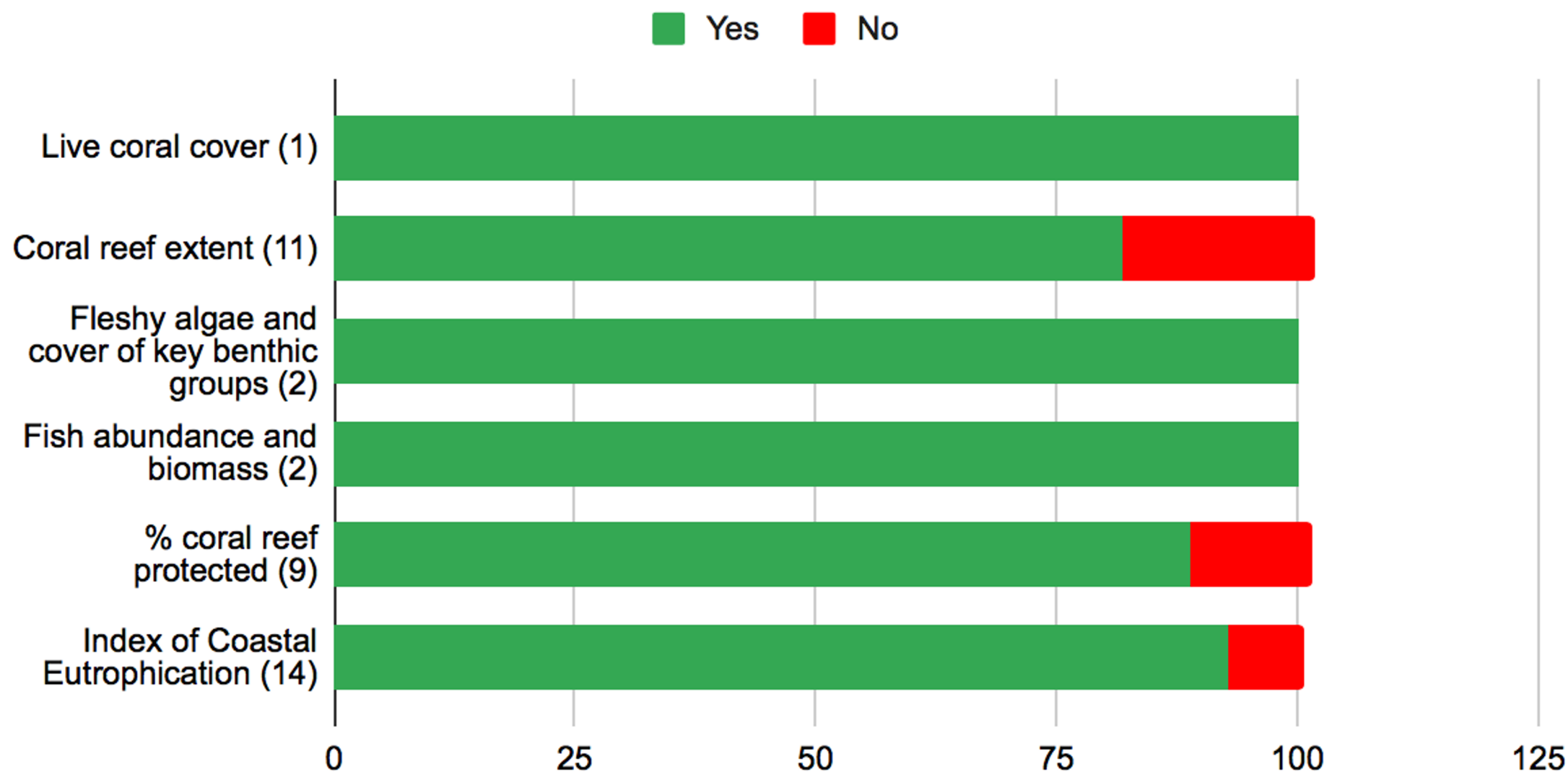
19 countries/ territories | 35% of the world’s reefs

ICRI members	Australia	Cuba	Honduras	Kenya	Myanmar	Seychelles	UK (Bermuda, Cayman Is, Turks and Caicos)
	Barbados	Dominican Republic	India	Korea	New Caledonia	South Africa	USA
	Belize	Egypt	Indonesia	Madagascar	Panama	Sri Lanka	Vietnam
	Brazil	Fiji	Jamaica	Malaysia	Philippines	Tanzania	
	Colombia	France	Japan	Maldives	Palau	Thailand	
	Costa Rica	Grenada	Jordan	Mexico	Samoa	The Netherlands	
Non - ICRI members	Trinidad and Tobago						

Current use of indicators in national monitoring (n=18)



If no (or partial use) - would you consider using the indicator in the future?



Negotiation tool kit: e.g. *in prep* - Indicator fact sheet to support SBSTTA

Indicator Name	Reference Number	What does it measure?	*Are the data & metadata publicly available?	*Has the methodology been peer-reviewed?	What is the baseline? How often are updates?	*Is there an entity or mechanism to maintain it?	How will Parties report?
Live coral cover	A.1.1.13	Measures ecosystem integrity for coral reef ecosystems under Goal A , Component A.2	Data [and metadata] available on request.	Yes: https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2019.00580/full Approved by the BIP .	Global baselines presented in GCRMN 2021 report.	Yes. GCRMN. Data from coral reef surveys led by different groups can be aggregated to national level.	Via engagement in the GCRMN as well as use of tools like MERMAID to support data aggregation and reporting at different scales.
...							

- Technical review of SBSTTA/24/3/Add.1 from the perspective of the Recommendation
- Reaction to indicators included + response to proposed indicator selection criteria
- Comment on sufficiency of the current framework - is anything missing? are there other ways of representing the indicators?

Action Part 1:

Motion: Amended Terms of Reference

The updated objectives of the ad hoc committee are to:

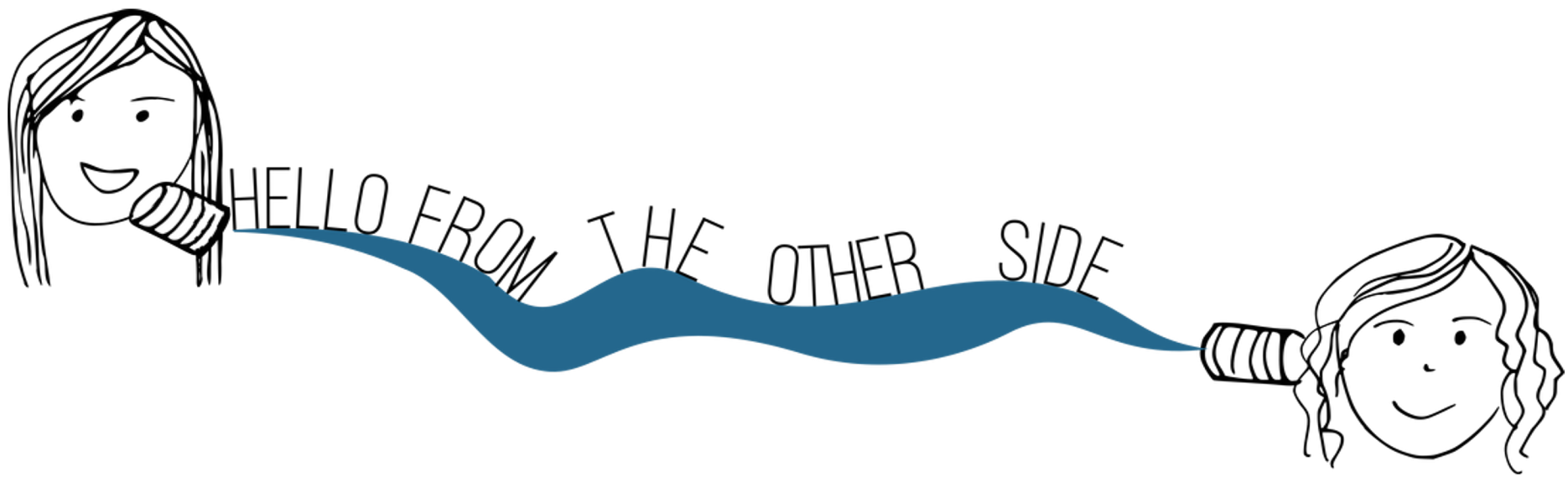
1. Coordinate ICRI's contribution to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; and
2. Develop and implement a communications strategy to promote the ICRI Recommendation at important international meetings and events in preparation for and including the 15th COP of the CBD.

Note: no comments received by the Secretariat

Actions contd..:

1. To champion the ICRI Recommendation to trigger action for healthy coral reefs
 - a. Engage in the ad hoc Committee
 - b. Respond to the Questionnaire
 - c. Sign up to the WhatsApp Group
 - d. intervene to ensure uptake of the ICRI recommendation

1. Consider the role for ICRI beyond adoption of a GBF;



WhatsApp Post-2020 group - contact emily to be added +46735232543

Join the ad hoc Committee - contact fstaub@icriforum.org

Bilateral discussions emily.e.corcoran@gmail.com/ fstaub@icriforum.org

Social media  [@ICRI_CoralReef](https://twitter.com/ICRI_CoralReef) | [#ForCoral](https://twitter.com/ForCoral)

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Current use of Indicators proposed for future development (n=19)

