

UNEP report to the International Coral Reef Initiative

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UNEA-5

Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

- 22nd – 23rd February 2021
- Leadership dialogue
- Contribution of the environmental dimension of sustainable development to building a resilient and inclusive post-pandemic world
- Opportunity to feature coral reefs – contributions still possible

UNEA Resolution 4/13 – Sustainable Management of Coral Reefs

UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/EA.4/Res.13
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United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
Fourth session
Nairobi, 11–15 March 2019

Resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment
Assembly on 15 March 2019

4/13. Sustainable coral reefs management

The United Nations Environment Assembly,
Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/150 of 20 December 2010 on protection of coral
reefs for sustainable livelihoods and development, in which the General Assembly urged States, within
their national jurisdictions, and the competent international organizations, within their mandates, given
the imperative for action, to take all practical steps at all levels to protect coral reefs and related
ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods and development, including immediate and concerted global,
regional and local action to respond to the challenges and to address the adverse impact of climate

Paragraph 1 and 3 on international coral policy analysis

Paragraph 2 on coral restoration:
UNEP/ICRI report on best practices

Paragraphs 4 and 5 on the GCRMN

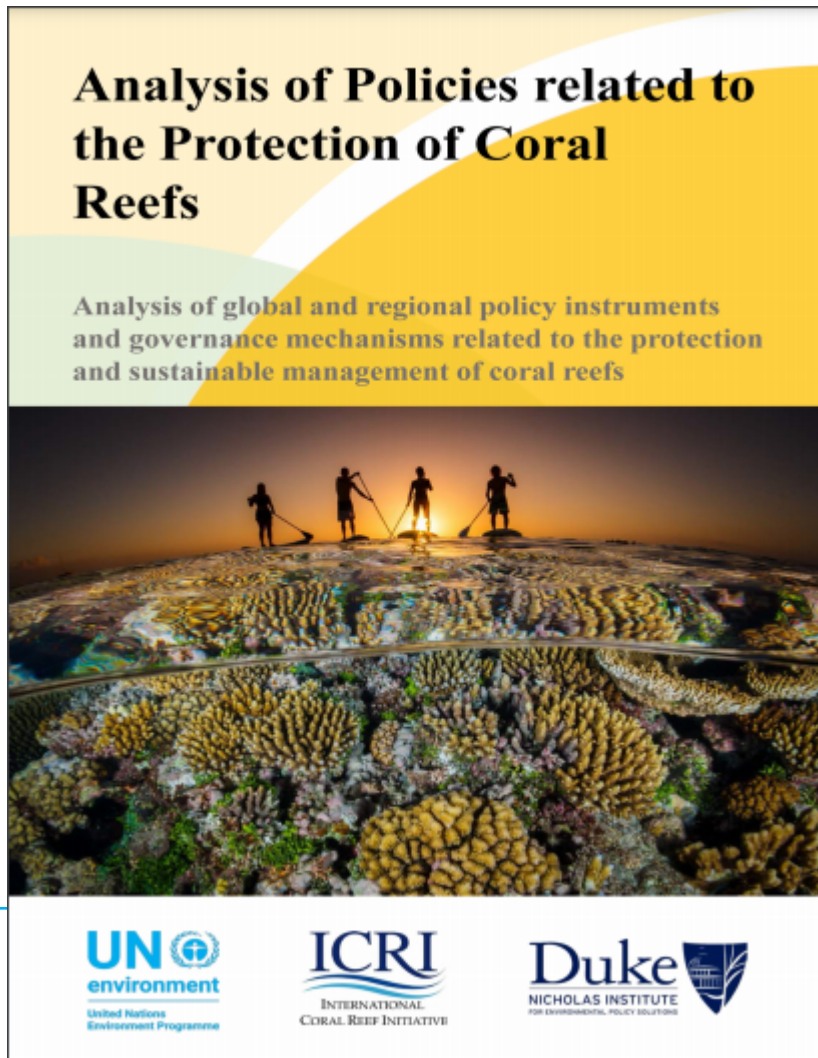
Paragraph 6 on awareness-raising

Implementation through the Global Coral Reef Partnership

Generously supported by funding from the governments of USA, Monaco, France and Sweden.

UNEA Resolution 4/13 – Paragraphs 1 and 3

International coral reef policy



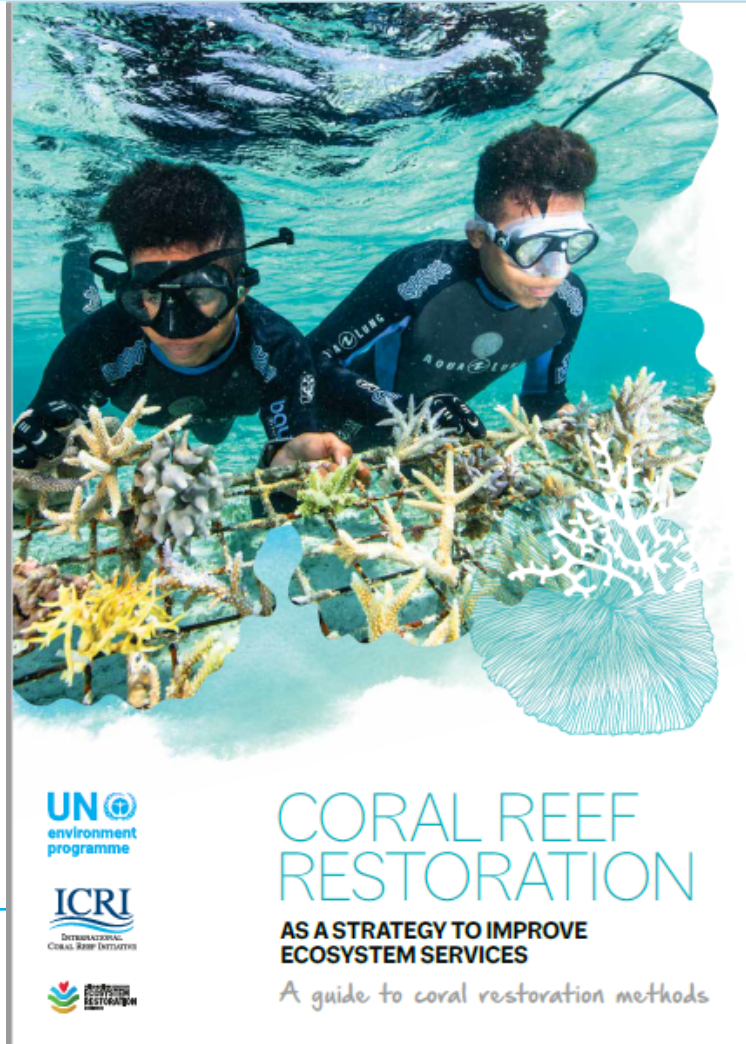
An analysis of over 230 coral reef related international policy instruments was submitted to UNEA-4, including recommendations

UNEA members have reviewed the analysis and provided feedback, for further discussion during UNEA-5

UNEP has supported communication around the ICRI recommendations on coral reefs to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

UNEA Resolution 4/13 – Paragraph 2

Coral reef restoration



UNEP/ICRI coral reef restoration best practices report published in January 2021

Webinar with the Reef Resilience Network

Kicks off the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

Coral reef restoration with the tourism industry

UNEA Resolution 4/13 – Paragraph 6

Awareness raising



UNEP has promoted the visibility of coral reefs

- Partnership with Adobe and The Ocean Agency
- Web Stories, social media
- Reef Life Exhibition at Beijing Capital International Airport
- Support by leaders to ICRI recommendations
- Celebrity and ocean expert influencer social media campaign that will launch in 1Q 2021.
- Digital Interactive Story to support the launch of GCRMN Report

Coral bleaching projections using IPCC climate models

Projections of future coral bleaching conditions using IPCC CMIP6 Models



Downscaled climate projections to predict future bleaching conditions with NOAA

Different emissions scenarios and adaptation scenarios. Update from 2017 report.

Business-as-usual scenario: average year for annual severe bleaching (ASB) conditions = 2034

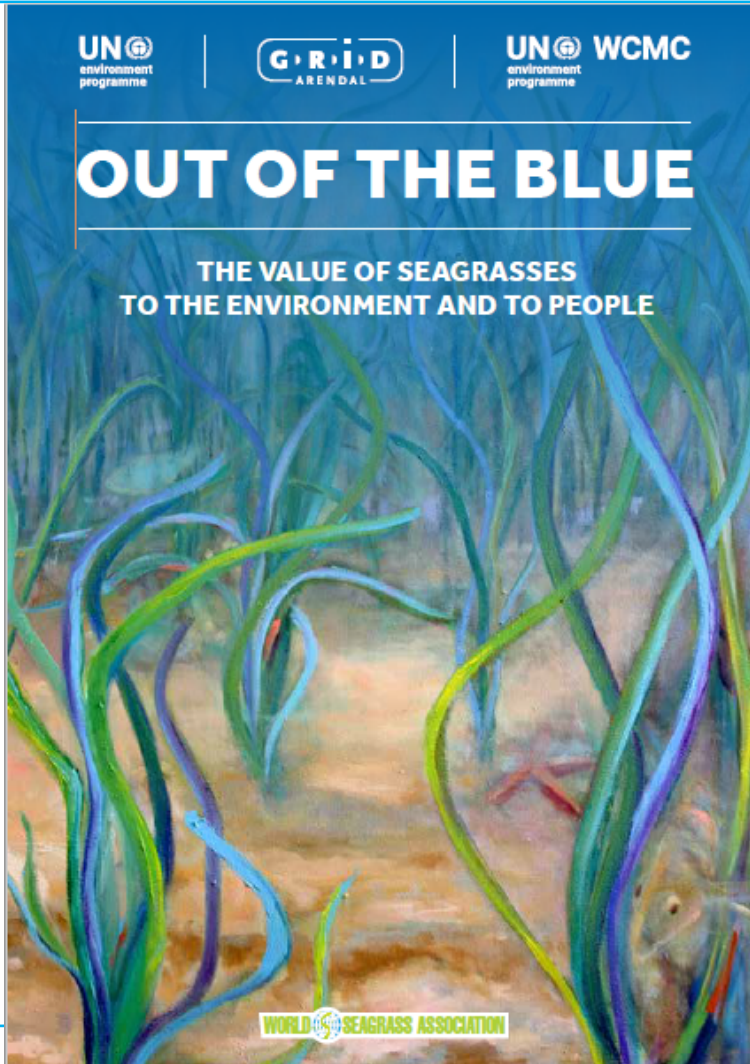
Scenario where NDCs are over-achieved: average year for ASB conditions = 2045

Coral adaptation: every $\frac{1}{4}$ °C pushes back average year of ASB by 7 years

6 countries identified as potentially having large areas of “climate refugia” : Indonesia, Western Australia, Bahamas, Madagascar, India and Malaysia.

Seagrass, mangroves & blue carbon

The value of coastal ecosystems for climate change mitigation & adaptation



First global report on the status and importance of seagrass ecosystems by UNEP

GRID-Arendal and UNEP-WCMC

Guidance on “protecting seagrass through payments for ecosystem services” and “opportunities and challenges for community-based seagrass conservation”

Guidance on developing coastal carbon projects

Support to blue forests projects in Kenya, Madagascar & Ecuador

Marine Protected Area Toolbox

Assisting countries and regions to design, development, & implement effective and equitable MPAs



Step-wise problem-solving framework for MPA design, planning, management

Identify tools & practical experiences

Online platform with guidance. Create a learning journey for MPA professionals

ICRI/UNEP Small Grants Programme

Supported by the Governments of France and the Principality of Monaco



Including coral reef resilience and vulnerability to climate change in marine spatial planning in Malaysia

Innovative financing and legal mechanisms for reef restoration and emergency response in selected sites of the MAR Region

Managing mangroves for climate change regulation and other ecosystem services in Kenya

A seascape genomics approach to improve coral reefs conservation strategies against bleaching in New Caledonia

Certification of Peer Trainers in Effective Management of Coral Reefs, Seagrass Beds, Mangroves, & Beaches in Marine Protected Areas of the Western Indian Ocean

Support to international partnerships



Support to the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network

Support to the Global Fund for Coral Reefs

Support to Green Fins and the Reef World Foundation

GEF Projects

ICRI committees

Thank you



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