

Guidance on coral reef indicators to be discussed at CBD SBSTTA-24 (February 2021)

<u>CBD/SBSTTA/24/3</u> contains the overview of the updated monitoring framework, and draft decision for SBSTTA-24 (item 3) and CoP15. <u>CBD/SBSTTA/24/3Add.1</u> is an addendum with the full list of proposed indicators (i.e. the current proposed monitoring framework). The table below responds to the content of the documents described above and the ICRI recommendation, available at <u>coralpost2020.org</u>. Please contact Francis Staub (<u>fstaub@icriforum.org</u>) and Emily Corcoran (<u>emily.e.corcoran@qmail.com</u>) with any questions.

Indicator Name & 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?	Useful at national and global scales?	What entity facilitates reporting?		
Live coral cover (A.1.1.13)	Integrity of coral reef ecosystems (Goal A, Component A.2)	Data access on request to the data providers. GCRMN can support regional, global syntheses.	Yes, see e.g.: <u>Obura et</u> <u>al. 2019</u> . Indicator also approved by <u>CBD Parties</u> and the <u>BIP</u> .	Global baseline available <u>via GCRMN in</u> <u>2021</u> , will be part of regular assessments.	Data from agencies or scientists can be aggregated at national and global scales.	Reporting via the GCRMN national/regional nodes, supported by tools like MERMAID.	Note: A.1.13 & A.1.14 are redundant. Proposal: Combine A.1.13 and A.1.14 to become "Live coral	
Hard coral cover and composition (A.1.1.14)	Integrity of coral reef ecosystems (Goal A, Component A.2)	Data access on request to the data providers. GCRMN can support regional, global syntheses.	Yes, see <u>GOOS</u> <u>Essential Ocean</u> <u>Variables</u> website for this indicator.	See <u>GOOS Essential</u> <u>Ocean Variables</u> website.	Data from agencies or scientists can be aggregated at national and global scales.	Reporting via the GCRMN national/regional nodes, supported by tools like MERMAID.	cover and composition," supported by GCRMN analyses.	
Global coral reef extent (A.0.1; A.1.1.15)	Extent of coral reef ecosystems (Goal A, Component A.1.)	Yes, via <u>Allen Coral</u> <u>Atlas</u> .	Yes, see: <u>Jiwei et al.</u> <u>2020</u> .	Global baseline available <u>via GCRMN in</u> <u>2021</u> , will be part of regular assessments.	The <u>Allen Coral Atlas</u> can produce maps to support reporting at national, global scales.	The <u>Allen Coral Atlas</u> can support national and global reporting.		
Red List of Ecosystems (applied to coral reefs) (A.1.1.8)	Area and Integrity of coral reef ecosystems (Goal A, Components A.1, A.2)	Data sourced from GCRMN (available via data providers on request) and public sources.	Yes, see: <u>Keith et al.</u> 2013, <u>Bland et al.</u> 2017, <u>Bland et al.</u> 2019	RLE uses a window of 50 years, which may be historical, future or a mixture. Updates on 10 year basis possible.		IUCN Red List of Ecosystems Unit & RLE Partnership are the custodians, data system is under development.		
Cover of key benthic groups (A.1.1.20)	Integrity of coral reef ecosystems (Goal A, Component A.2)	Data access on request to the data providers. GCRMN can support regional, global syntheses.	Yes, for key groups. See: <u>Obura et al. 2019</u> . Approaches being standardized for other groups.	Local and national baselines are available. Global baselines forthcoming through future GCMRN reports.	Data from agencies or scientists can be aggregated at national and global scales.	Reporting via the GCRMN national/regional nodes, supported by tools like MERMAID.	Note: A.1.20 & A.1.21 are related. Proposal: Combine A.1.20 and A.1.21 to become "Cover of	
Fleshy algae cover (A.1.1.21)	Integrity of coral reef ecosystems (Goal A, Component A.2)	Data access on request to the data providers. GCRMN can support regional, global syntheses.	Yes, see: <u>Obura et al.</u> 2019.	Global baseline available <u>via GCRMN in</u> <u>2021</u> , will be part of regular assessments.	Data from agencies or scientists can be aggregated at national and global scales.	Reporting via the GCRMN national/regional nodes, supported by tools like MERMAID.	fleshy algae and other benthic groups," supported by GCRMN analyses.	
Fish abundance and biomass (A.1.1.47)	Integrity of coral reef ecosystems (Goal A, Component A.2)	Data access on request to the data providers. GCRMN can support regional, global syntheses.	Yes, see: <u>McClanahan</u> <u>et al. 2019</u> . See also <u>GOOS</u> <u>Essential Ocean</u> <u>Variables</u> website.	Local and national baselines are available. Global baselines forthcoming through future GCMRN reports.	Data from agencies or scientists can be aggregated at national and global scales.	Reporting via the GCRMN national/regional nodes, supported by tools like MERMAID.	Page 1/2	



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Protected area coverage of coral reefs (2.1.1.4)	Area, representation of coral reefs under protection (Target 2; Components 2.1, 2.2, 2.3)	Yes via both WDPA and <u>Allen Coral Atlas</u> .	Yes, see: <u>UNEP-WCMC.</u> <u>WorldFish Centre, WRI,</u> <u>TNC (2018)</u> .	Current baseline available via <u>World</u> <u>Database on Protected</u> <u>Areas (WDPA)</u> .	Yes, data on protected and conserved areas is submitted by national authorities.	Reporting via the GCRMN national/regional nodes, supported by WCMC.
Index of coastal eutrophication (6.1.1)	Pollution from excess nutrients (Target 6, Component 6.1)	Yes, the metadata is available <u>here</u> .	Yes, see <u>here (in review)</u>	No current baseline.	Remote sensing of chlorophyll-a concentration in surface waters is proxy indicator.	UN Environment is the custodian working closely with UNESCO-IOC and Regional Seas.



The ICRI Recommendation encourages explicit inclusion of coral reef indicators within any monitoring framework. Even meaningful targets can fail to deliver if they are not accompanied by appropriate indicators. The Recommendation identifies a set of six coral-related indicators for adoption, and highlights an additional five indicators for priority development, all of which are particularly helpful to provide an enhanced understanding of coral reef ecosystem integrity, function, intactness, resilience. It is therefore essential that all of these indicators support our monitoring of progress against the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Only those <u>ICRI-recommended indicators</u> that are currently in the proposed monitoring framework are included in the table above.