



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef  
Marine Park Authority

# ICRI ad hoc Committee for Resilience-based management – highlights & future direction

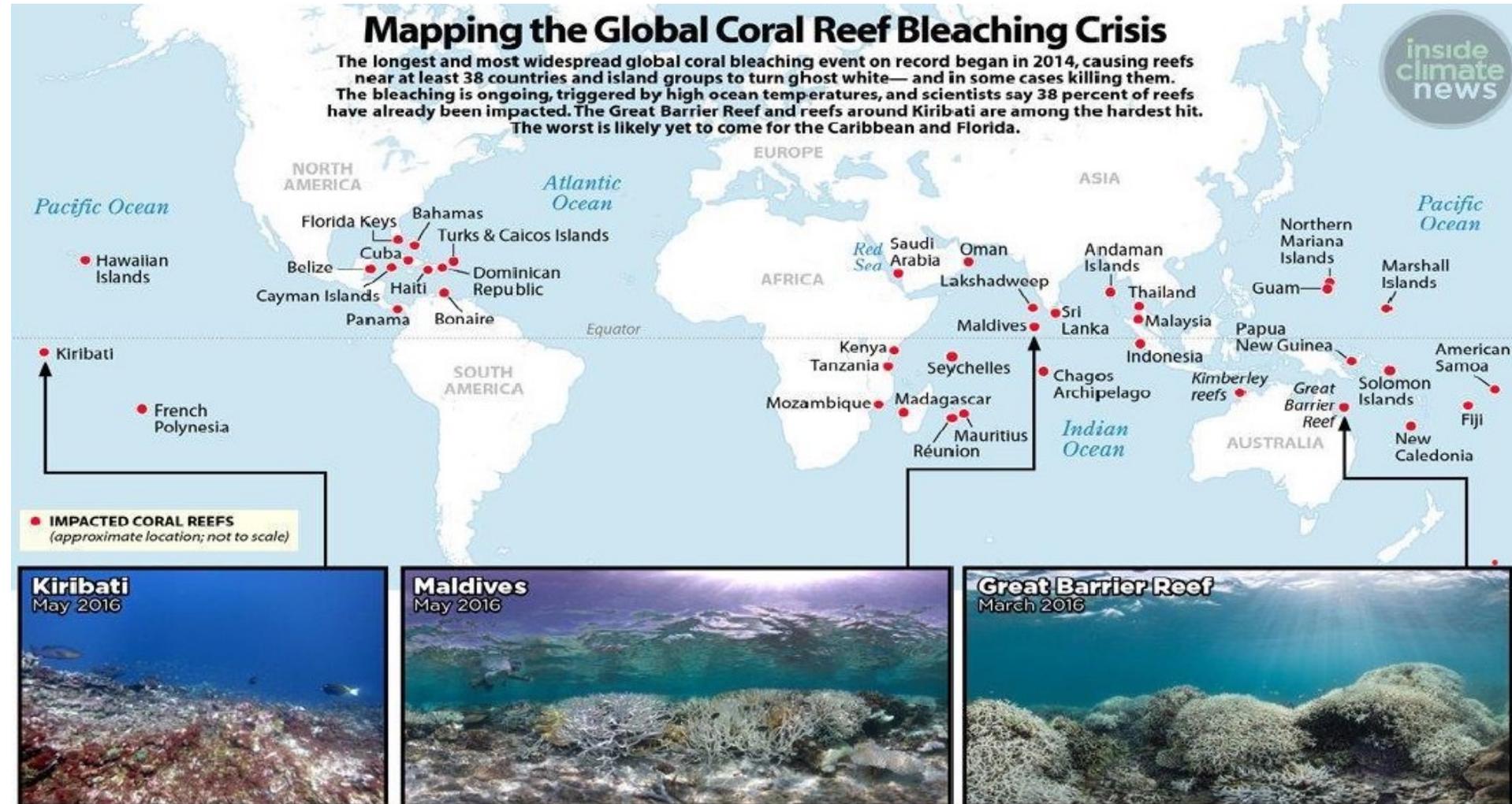
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Chair - Dr Katherine Martin

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

# ICRI ad hoc Committee on resilience-based management

- Established in 2019 at the 34<sup>th</sup> ICRI General Meeting in Townsville, Australia
- Build on objectives in the ICRI Plan of Action 2018-20



# Objectives:

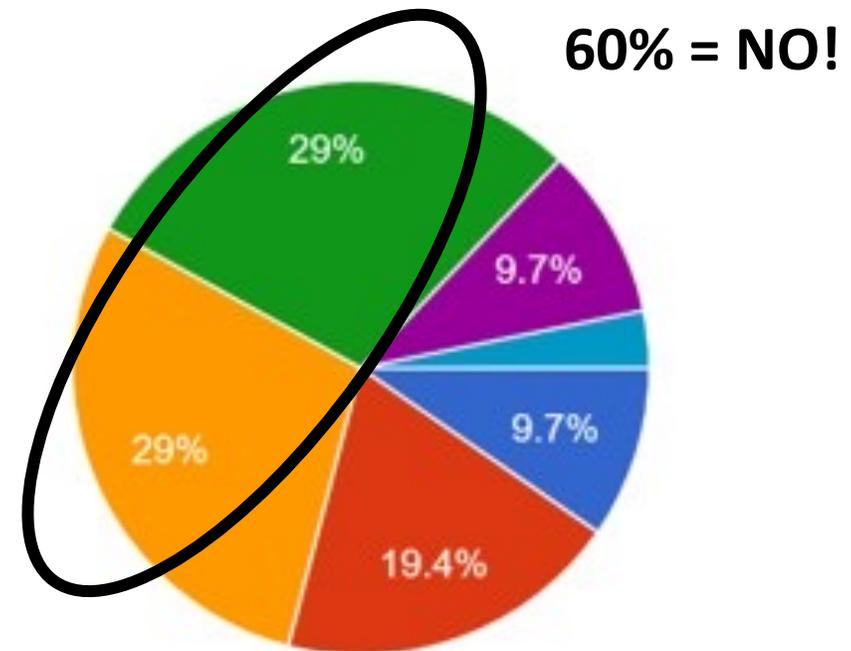
*Identify supports and develop best-practice guidance on the actions that will enable members to tailor and scale up Resilience-Based Management to meet local, national and global needs*

Four supporting objectives:

- Targeted communications
- Overcoming challenges
- Building opportunities
- Building capacity

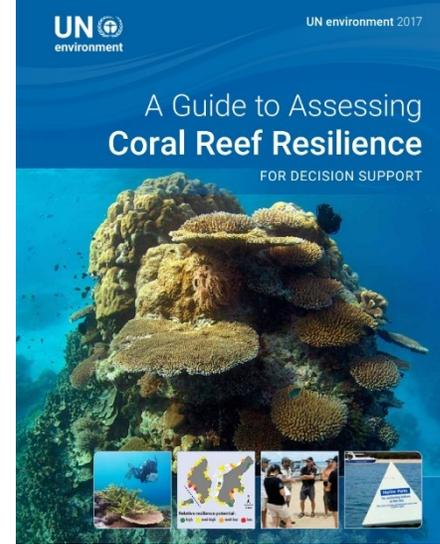
RBM is well understood by government in my country/region.

31 responses



# Key achievements:

1. Targeted communications
  - Centralised 'Resilience Hub' with simple, key messages
  - Infographic
2. Overcoming challenges
  - Policy brief
3. Building opportunities
  - Key contacts
4. Building capacity
  - Policies, plans, practical tools, case-studies, online courses & other resources





# Resilience Hub

ABOUT

SECRETARIATS

MEMBERS

GROUPS

MEETINGS

PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES

NEWS

Q CONTACT



**The Resilience Hub has been created to share key messages about Resilience-based Management (RBM) and its benefits, promote effective implementation of RBM through policy and planning, facilitate networking and encourage cooperation among ICRI members.**

<https://www.icriforum.org/resilience-hub/>



### Why are coral reefs so important?

Coral reefs are one of the most biologically rich and productive ecosystems on earth, as well as being beautiful underwater seascapes that have intrinsic value. They support at least 25 per cent of all marine life<sup>1</sup> and provide coastal protection, wellbeing, cultural value, food and economic security for approximately 1 billion people<sup>2</sup>. The value of goods and services provided by coral reefs is estimated at (US) \$2.7 trillion per year<sup>3</sup>, including (US) \$36 billion<sup>4</sup> in coral reef tourism.

However, coral reefs are also amongst the most vulnerable ecosystems on the planet. Coral reefs are under intense pressure from human activities including land-based pollution from agricultural and urban areas, unsustainable exploitation of marine resources, destructive fishing practices, marine plastics and more. The cumulative impact of these pressures is compounded by human-induced climate change.

Coral reefs around the world are rapidly deteriorating. As global average temperatures continue to rise, reefs will continue to degrade and this will have significant impacts on the communities that depend on them. It is estimated that 70-90 per cent of the world's coral reefs could disappear by mid-century if no action is taken<sup>5</sup>. The next decade is critical if we are to secure their future. We must urgently reduce global greenhouse gas emissions to limit the increase in global average temperature to 1.5°C and ideally less to minimise the loss of coral reef habitats. Meanwhile, fast-tracking management actions to build reef resilience will help buy time for reefs to cope with the changing climate.

With the increased awareness of the vulnerability of coral reefs and the vital role that they play in supporting nature and people, there is an urgent need to build coral reef resilience into marine conservation efforts globally, including in global policy frameworks. The purpose of this briefing is to support decision makers to prioritize actions that build reef resilience and deliver on global biodiversity and sustainability commitments.

*Building the resilience of coral reefs delivers on global biodiversity and sustainability targets, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the proposed CBD Global Biodiversity Framework.*

### What is ecosystem resilience and why does it matter?

Resilience refers to the capacity of a system to resist and recover from impacts and return to a healthy state.

'Resilience-based management', (RBM), identifies and prioritises management actions that build the capacity of coral reefs to withstand and recover from external disturbances. Building coral reef resilience helps to maintain a healthy reef ecosystem, as well as supporting the well-being of communities<sup>6</sup>.

RBM is forward-looking and cost-effective in the long run. It empowers reef managers and communities to address current and future threats. Taking RBM action now will help secure a future for our valuable coral reefs.



Figure 1: Actions for Building Reef Resilience

### Actions for decision-makers

There is an urgent need to accelerate actions to support the resilience of coral reefs and coral reef-dependent communities globally. RBM builds on conventional management approaches – for example, establishing marine protected areas, integrating watershed and coastal zone management, and ensuring fisheries and other extractive uses are sustainable. However, RBM requires us to consider the whole system (community, governance, ecosystem) and anticipate future impacts in the context of climate change.

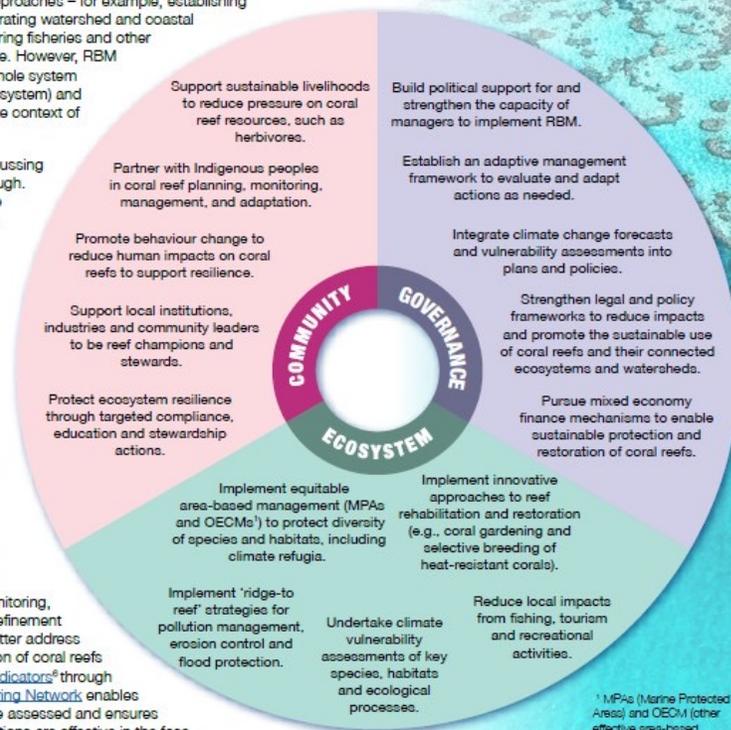
It is important to note that focussing on resilience alone is not enough. To secure a sustainable future for coral reefs and the people who depend on them we need to:

- Decrease global greenhouse gas emissions to limit the increase in global average temperature to 1.5°C; and
- Fast-track actions to build resilience to maximise the ability of coral reefs to resist and recover from external impacts.

RBM is most effective when applied within an adaptive management framework that involves experimentation, monitoring, evaluation, and subsequent refinement of management actions to better address impacts. Tracking the condition of coral reefs using ICRI's recommended indicators<sup>6</sup> through the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network enables progress against targets to be assessed and ensures empowering management actions are effective in the face of future changes. RBM must include participatory approaches, co-management regimes, and engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities to ensure effective and equitable reef management.

*Governments, scientists, industries and communities must come together to take action on climate change, reduce impacts and build coral reef health and resilience.*

Figure 2: Proactive measures to strengthen governance, reduce pressures and help the reef and community bounce back<sup>6</sup>



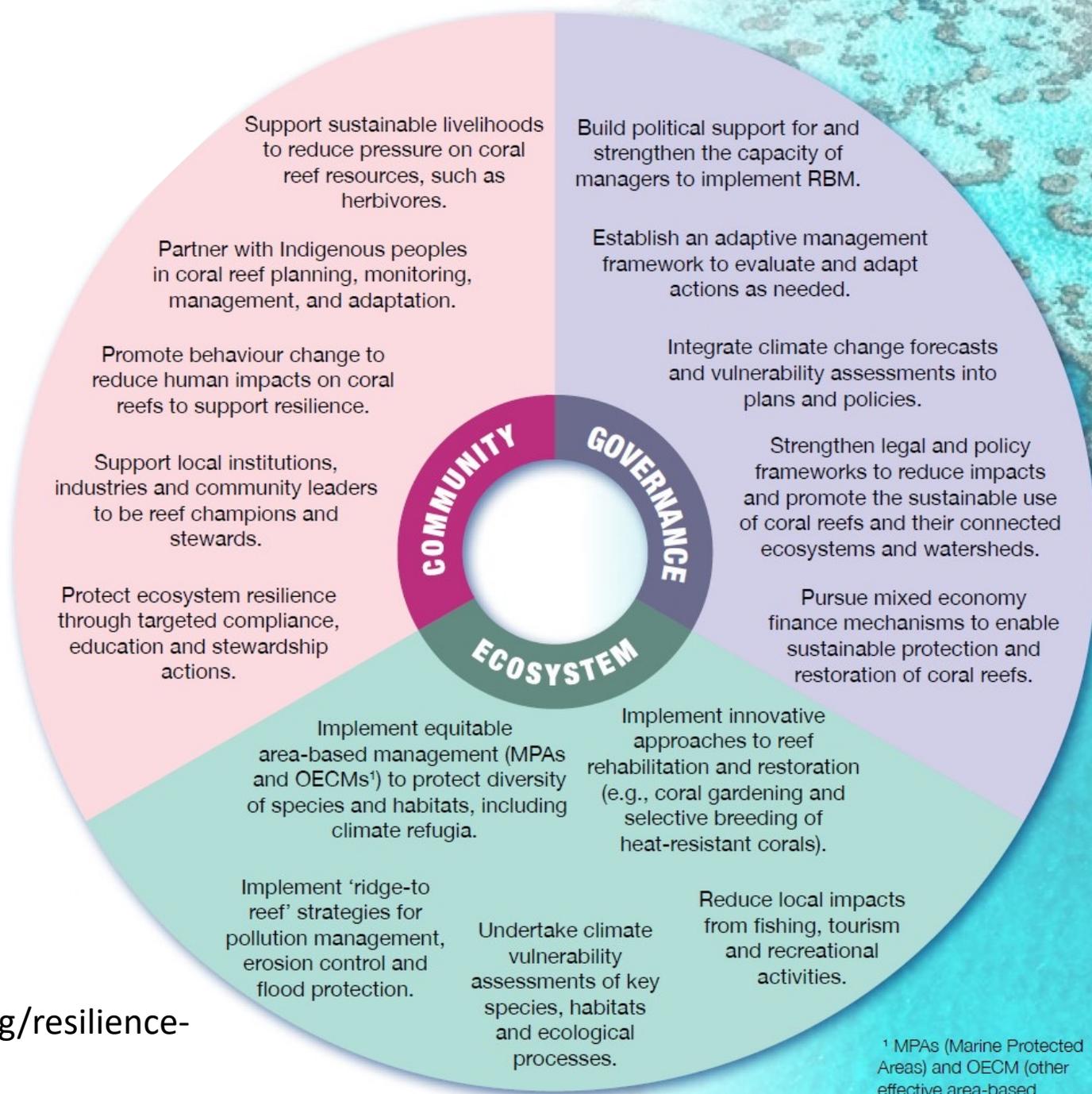
<sup>1</sup> MPAs (Marine Protected Areas) and OECMs (other effective area-based conservation measures)

### Acknowledgements

This work was funded by the Australian Government and led by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, chair of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) ad hoc Committee on Resilience-based Management (RBM). We would like to thank the members of the ICRI ad hoc Committee on RBM for their input: Coral Triangle Initiative On Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security, Great Barrier Reef Foundation, International Coral Reef Initiative, International Coral Reef Society, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, The Nature Conservancy, The Reef-World Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society.

### References

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Great Barrier Reef Foundation (2018)

**Reef Resilience Framework**

<https://www.icriforum.org/resilience-hub/policy-brief/>

# Updated ToR:



1. Assist members to identify and implement resilience-based management actions that support global biodiversity and sustainability targets, such as in the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the proposed CBD Global Biodiversity Framework.
2. Assist members to develop the necessary resources (tools, guidance, finance mechanisms, etc) that support resilience-based management plans and policies.
3. Continue to share knowledge and expertise on implementing resilience-based management with members.
4. Develop closer linkages with the ad hoc Committee on Reef Restoration and the ad hoc Committee on developing a recommendation for a Post 2020 coral reef target

# ICRI Plan of Action:



## Theme 1 – Preparing for the Future: Promoting Resilient Coral Reefs

***ICRI Desired Outcome 2024:** Actions are taken to understand and promote the resilience of coral reefs and related ecosystems through policies and conservation practices that encourage resilience-based management and recovery of coral reefs worldwide.*

**1.A** - Strengthening policies - Supporting conservation and recovery of coral reefs and associated ecosystems through resilience-based management frameworks

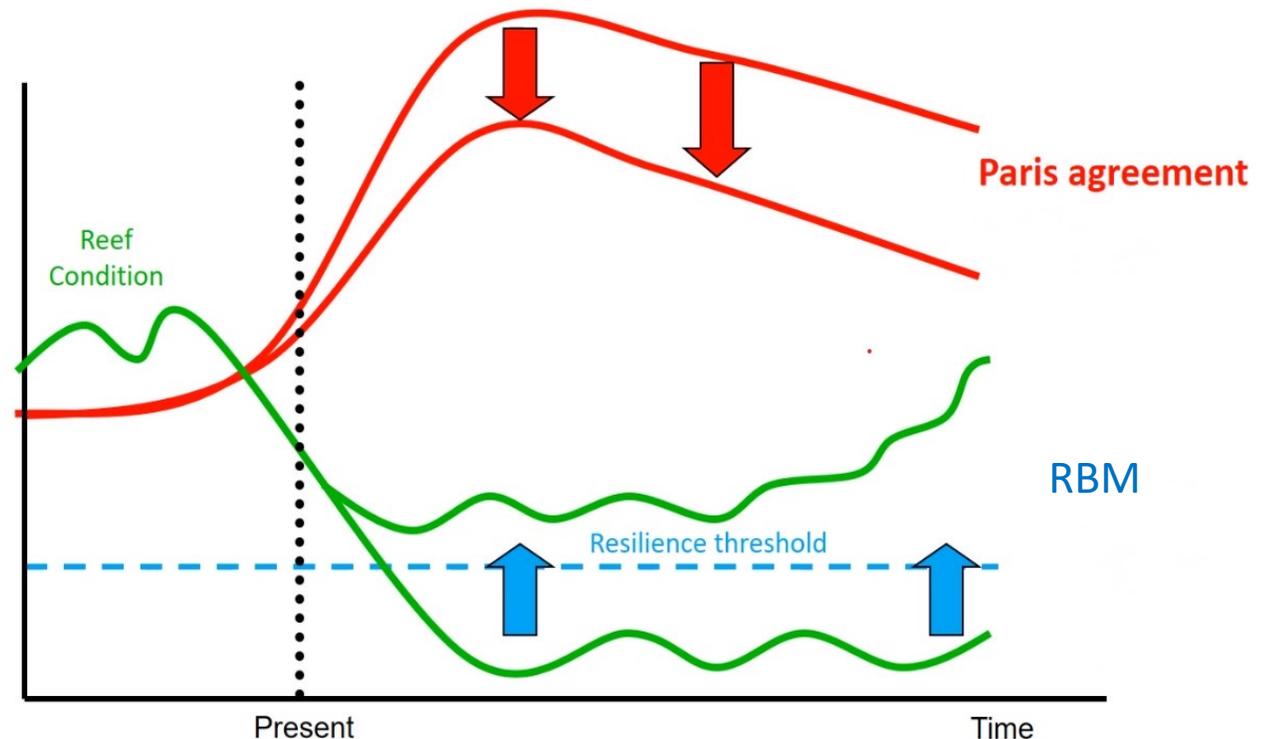
**1.B** – Promote capacity building for applying resilience-based management approaches to coral conservation

# Next steps:



1. Online Q & A session:
  - promote uptake of policy brief
2. Joint meetings with ICRI ad hoc Committee for Reef Restoration and the ad hoc Committee on developing a recommendation for a Post 2020 coral reef target
3. Maintain & update Resilience Hub
4. Develop new tools and resources, support online training & capacity building

## Resilient Reef ecosystem







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# Committee members:

[www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au)

Chair - Katherine Martin



Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

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- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** - Jennifer Koss
- **The Nature Conservancy** - Elizabeth McLeod
- **Coral Reef Alliance** - Madhavi Colton
- **Coral Triangle Initiative On Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security** - Dr. Mohd Kushairi Bin Mohd Rajuddin
- **Great Barrier Reef Foundation** - Sarah Castine
- **Reef World Foundation** - Chloe Harvey
- **UN Environment** - Gabriel Grimsditch
- **Wildlife Conservation Society** - Emily Darling
- **International Coral Reef Society** - Andrea Grottoli
- **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade** – Amanda Brigdale
- **ICRI Secretariat** - Francis Staub & Thomas Dallison