

The Problem	Coral reefs support more than a quarter of all marine species. An estimated one billion people depend on them for coastal protection, food security, and livelihoods (a total of \$2.7 trillion USD in ecosystem services). However, approximately 14% of the world’s corals were lost between 2009 and 2018, due to stress from climate change, ocean acidification, overexploitation, coastal development and pollution. Left unchecked over the next two decades, scientists warn that 70% to 90% of coral reefs around the world could disappear.		
The Solution	World leaders and their governments have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to secure a future for coral reefs through the Global Biodiversity Framework (GFB). Members of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), which includes more than 45 countries that are custodians of 75% of the world’s coral reefs, adopted a consensus recommendation urging CBD Party governments to ensure that the GFB prioritises coral reefs and our most vulnerable and important ecosystems; applies a strategic approach that focuses on retention; and adopts key indicators for coral reefs to incentivize action and increase accountability.		
	Ask: GBF goals & targets	Ask: GBF goals & targets	Ask: Monitoring Framework
The Asks	Prioritise the vulnerable ecosystems we depend on, particularly coral reefs.	Retain the integrity of existing coral reef ecosystems and restore around them.	Adopt global coral reef indicators.
The Reasoning	Not all ecosystems are the same. The GCRMN 2020 report demonstrated that coral reefs are in exceptional decline -- projected to worsen under current climate scenarios -- despite their immense value to people.	Applying the conservation hierarchy at different scales, with a focus on ecosystem retention and avoidance of impacts, is essential to national and global outcomes. The current rate of loss of coral reefs will never be offset by restoration efforts.	Monitoring coral reefs through a comprehensive, consistent set of indicators incentivizes action, allows for adaptive management of coral reefs at different scales, and increases accountability.
The Call to Action for CBD Parties	Explicitly define and prioritise 'vulnerable' or 'climate-vulnerable' ecosystems such as coral reefs in goals and targets in order to direct implementation efforts and resources.	Ensure that all targets in the GBF reflect the conservation hierarchy, with a focus on avoidance of impacts.	Adopt the ICRI-recommended indicators for coral reefs as part of the GBF monitoring framework. The indicators, which include coral cover, coral reef extent, fleshy algae cover, area of coral protected, water quality and restoration, work together to create a globally consistent, scientifically sound means to establish baselines and track coral reef health against GBF goals and targets.
Text Proposals	<p>The focus of Aichi Targets on vulnerable or threatened ecosystems is gone. Conservation and restoration efforts outlined in Targets 1, 2, and 3 should prioritise ecosystems uniquely important for biodiversity and vulnerable to global and local threats.</p> <p>There is a need to define vulnerable ecosystems within the glossary for Parties.</p>	<p>Target 1: Add “and to reduce pressures on the most vulnerable ecosystems.”</p> <p>Target 2: Make reference to enhancing integrity and connectivity through restoration efforts, and that an ecosystem’s vulnerability is considered when identifying priority ecosystem types for restoration.</p>	<p>Retain indicators for ecosystem extent (currently A.0.1), including coral reefs, but adopt ecosystem integrity as a headline indicator as well. For coral reefs, Parties should use “Cover of live coral and other key benthic groups,” which forms the basis of existing monitoring programs and combines several existing indicators in the monitoring framework (a.13, a.14, a.20 and a.21).</p>