

Christine Dawson
ICRI co-chair
Director, Office of Conservation and Water (OES/ECW)
U.S Department of State, United States of America

April 12, 2023

Dear Ms. Dawson,

The Initiative Governing Committee (IGC) of the G20 Coral Research and Develop Accelerator Platform (CORDAP), would like to submit an application for membership of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).

As a key partner in the establishment of CORDAP, you are likely aware that we were founded in 2020 by 17 G20 nations with the aim of accelerating global research and development of coral restoration and conservation in response to the challenges posed by climate change and other pressures.

The objectives of CORDAP and ICRI are highly aligned. For instance, one of CORDAP's major goals is accelerating the development, and sharing, of innovations to increase the scale and reduce the cost of interventions, which is also one of ICRI's desired outcomes in its Plan of Action for 2021-2024. Both organizations also prioritize building capacity and engaging coastal communities to foster self-reliance in implementing efficient and affordable conservation and restoration solutions.

Currently, CORDAP is conducting its first coral R&D funding call, the Coral Accelerator Program, with US\$18million earmarked for projects to begin this year. We are also developing Technology Roadmaps in targeted areas of coral conservation and restoration where greater guidance and alignment of global R&D efforts will have a substantial impact. The outcomes of these initiatives will be shared with, and amplified by, ICRI members.

We believe that CORDAP's membership in ICRI would yield significant benefits. We are eager to receive input and feedback from the ICRI Secretariat and its members as we refine our strategic plan and focus on the areas where our R&D solutions can have the greatest effect.

ICRI and CORDAP have already established an excellent working partnership. ICRI serves as a key Advisory Member of our IGC, and we have collaborated on various initiatives, such as co-hosting the ICRI event 'United for a Decade of Conservation Action #ForCoral' at CBD COP15 in Montreal.

We would be delighted to provide additional information for your members to support our application for ICRI membership as required, and we look forward to a fruitful partnership between our organizations as we jointly tackle the crisis facing us all.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Osama Faqeeha", is written over a horizontal line.

Dr Osama Faqeeha,

Chair, CORDAP Initiative Governing Committee
Deputy Minister for Environment, Saudi Arabia