



Insights on Engaging Youth to Further the ICRI Plan of Action

9.23.23 | 37 General Meeting, Hawai'i



Our Speakers



Diwigdi Valiente
Looking for a job



Esther Maina
Marine Action Coordinator
Kenyan Youth Biodiversity Network

Our Goal

- Under Theme 4 of ICRI's Plan of Action, expanding the coral reef community, ICRI aims to broaden the coral reef community to include underrepresented voices, including the Indigenous, local, and youth communities. This addresses the pressing need to;
- Incorporate diverse youth voices
- Empower the youth
- Foster Intergenerational equity, dialogues and collaborations
- Positioning youth as implementing partners in the Plan of Action
- Elevate youth efforts in implementation of national strategies such as the KM- GBF through NBSAPs

Goal: Develop reflections for the inclusion of Youth in future ICRI actions and global efforts.



State of the Youth

“Meaningful youth engagement advances the achievement of sustainable development, peace and security, human rights, and gender equality goals.”

– *UN Policy Brief*

Over 50%
of the world's
population are
youth.

~90 SDG
Indicators are
deemed to be
youth-related.



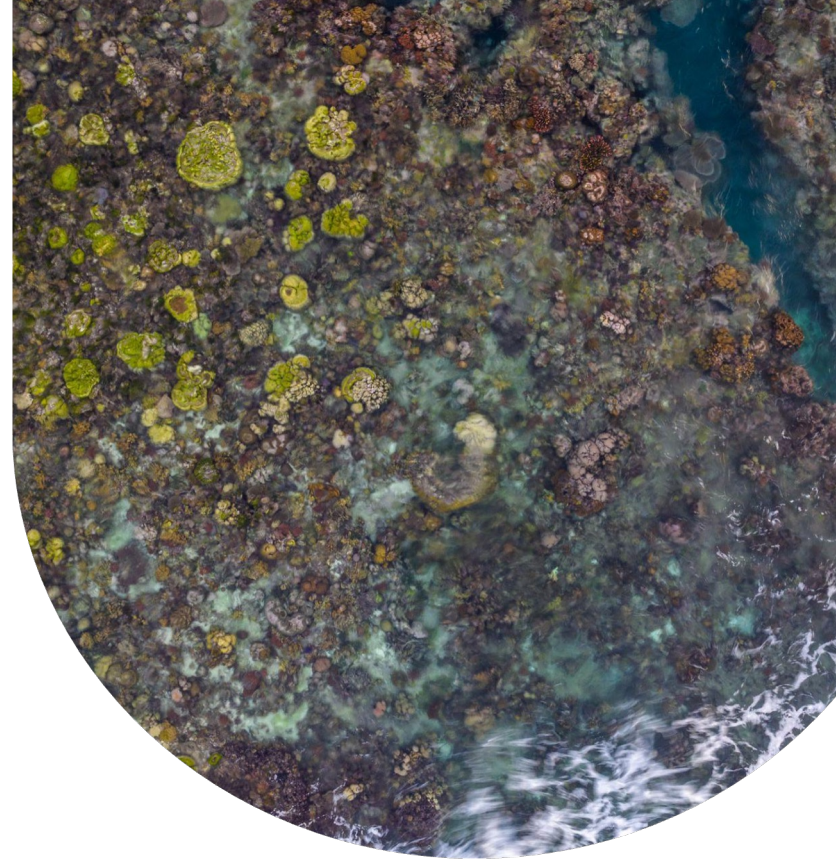
The Issue

- Informal participation remains unnoticed
- Absence of a defined strategy
- Perception of inexperience

The integration of diverse voices, especially from youth, in coral reef conservation efforts could **bring fresh perspectives and innovative solutions** to the challenges faced.

The young generation will **inherit the consequences of the decisions** made in addressing today's challenges

This is sometimes **in tension with historical practices and structures of global conservation initiatives**, which have often inadvertently excluded or overlooked these critical voices.



A Case Study

Lack of time, information and resources; opportunity cost scenario



Why?

Lack of awareness, rapid pace and distractions of urban life overshadow environmental concerns.



Why?

Limited or no personal experiences with natural ecosystems like coral reefs.



Why?

Overwhelm or hopelessness from the gravity and scale of environmental issues.



Our Recommendations

1

Catalog or
Digital
Interactive
Platform

2

Youth
Ambassador
Program

3

Capacity Building,
mentorship &
retention programs

4

Funding support for
youth-inspired and led
coral projects

Our Recommendations, Cont.

5

Community
Engagement

6

School
curriculum
integration

7

Compensate and
credit young
people - grants for
young experts and
knowledge holders

8

Give youth a seat at the
table to co-lead; youth
representation in ICRI's
decision-making

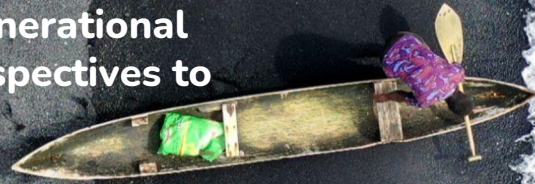
Considerations for ICRI Action

- Establish a dedicated ad-hoc committee
- Stakeholder analysis to have a more complete understanding of the issue and opportunity
- Balance and diversify existing ICRI materials - e.g. voices #ForCoral are 8% youth
- Help support funding for travel to facilitate participation from wider diversity of youth



It's imperative to remember that youth are not just beneficiaries but key stakeholders in coral reef conservation. They should and can play a vital role in shaping environmental management policies, especially given their vulnerability to environmental challenges and their profound impacts.

We envision a future where a diverse and balanced cohort of youth representatives are incorporated and empowered to foster intergenerational dialogue and bring fresh perspectives to motivate action #ForCoral.



Mahalo!

Reading & Resources



ICRI

