Insights on Engaging Youth to Further the ICRI Plan of Action

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Our Speakers

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Looking for a job

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

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

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!