



International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

Member's Report | 37th General Meeting

19th – 23rd September 2023 Hawai'i, – United States of America

Reporting Period: 2021 – 2023

A. Member Information:

- Name of ICRI member: Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Name of person(s) completing member's report: Margarita Victoria Caballa
- Email: margarita.caballa@un.org
- Are you a Focal Point: Yes No
 - If no, who are you completing the form on behalf of:
- Which was the last General Meeting you attended:
- Will you be attending the 37th ICRI General Meeting: Yes No
- Member social media:
 - Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNEP_COBSEA
 - LinkedIn: UNEP-COBSEA

B. Reporting on the implementation of ICRI Plan of Action 2021-2024: turning the tide for coral reefs. *Your responses will help inform the Secretariat about members' contributions toward the current Plan of Action*

Theme 1 - Preparing for the Future: Promoting Resilient Coral Reefs

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

- (ICRI) How have you embedded resilience-based management into your policies? (*Tip – refer to the RBM policy brief: <https://icriforum.org/resilience-hub/>*)

Answer:

COBSEA is currently exploring opportunities to expand our work to include climate resilience. This is aimed to be reflected in the next Strategic Directions. Leading to this, we organized a session under the Resilience of Ecosystems and Ecosystems Services stream during the 8th Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) Forum held on 30 August – 01 September. The session focused on nature-based solutions to address climate challenges as well as strengthening transboundary collaboration at a regional level.

1.B - Promote capacity building for applying resilience-based management approaches to coral conservation Ad Hoc Committee on Resilience-based Management.

- (ICRI) Please list any examples of leading practices, techniques and strategies for building reef resilience that your organisation/country is involved in. Include their location and extent, methods of implementation, financing, and an assessment of their results (or likely results), with links for more information if possible.

Answer:

- (ICRI) Have you developed, or are you aware of, training materials that you can share?

Answer:

1.C - Promote and build capacity for the restoration of resilient coral reefs Ad Hoc Committee on Reef Restoration

- (ICRI) Please list any examples of reef restoration mechanisms that your organisation/country is involved in. Include their limits, conditions of implementation, financing and an assessment of their results, with links for more information if possible.

Answer:

Theme 2 – Coral Reef Science and Oceanography: Advancing and Utilizing the Latest Science and Technology

2.A – Coral monitoring capacity building

- (ICRI) Do you have information / case studies that could contribute to the update of the “Methods for ecological monitoring of coral reefs” (<https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/documents/2004-023.pdf>), especially related to the use of new technologies.

Answer:

We submitted a proposal during the 1st call by the Coral Research and Development Accelerator Program (CORDAP). While it was not successful, we are still aiming to finance this project through other means. The project was focused on harmonizing coral reef monitoring methods in the East Asian Seas using e-DNA method that was developed by the National University of Singapore.

- (ICRI) Are you aware, developing, or involved with, any capacity building activities related to the use of coral reef monitoring mechanisms, especially regarding the advancement of monitoring practices (noting technology)?

Answer:

In relation to the abovementioned Harmonized Coral Reef Monitoring for the East Asian Seas, the three components of that project include low-cost monitoring using eDNA, a data management platform that leads towards guided management practices, and a guidance on using the monitoring tool. While the project was unsuccessful with CORDAP, we still envision to finance this through other potential means.

2.B – The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)

The GCRMN would like to receive feedback on the [Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020 report](#) to improve the production of future regional and global reports. As such, please kindly respond accordingly to the questions below:

- (ICRI) In reference to the Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020 report:
 - Have you read the report?
 - Did you utilise the report and/or use the results and contents?
 - How could the next report be improved (considering the entire process from data acquisition to reporting)?

Answer:

I have read the report for the East Asian Seas Region. We used the report as one of the references in developing the COBSEA Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Framework that was endorsed at intergovernmental level.

The report would do well in having very specific recommendations that the region can adopt. At the moment, it only focuses on the status and trends of coral reefs (which makes sense) with a brief mention on what should be done (which is focused on monitoring efforts). I think concrete action outside of improving monitoring methods may also be included in the report.

- (ICRI) The GCRMN intends to establish time-bound task forces to address specific priority issues and to build capability and capacity across the network. As a first priority, a Data Task Force was established. The Task Force brings together subject matter experts to increase the transparency, reproducibility, and robustness of future GCRMN reports alongside capacity in monitoring, data collection, analysis, management and sharing of coral reefs and associated ecosystems. The Task Force will focus on:
 - Improving data integration and analyses to facilitate the production of GCRMN regional and global reports; and
 - Promoting good data management practices based on FAIR data principles for the coral reef scientific community.

Tell us if you will be interested in joining the Data Task Force, or upcoming task forces. More so, please inform us if you have data to contribute to upcoming regional, or global, reports and if you will be organising and/or partaking in any capacity building activities regarding data monitoring:

Answer:

1. *Taskforces:*
2. *Data to contribute (GCRMN Region Country, Data description):*
3. *Upcoming capacity building activities:*

Theme 3 - Local Threat Reduction: Integrating Response Planning Frameworks

Please tick the most appropriate box/boxes:

- (ICRI) Do you have (or in the process of developing) a coral reef response plan(s) on, for example, but not limited to:
 - coral disease
 - vessel groundings
 - bleaching
 - invasive species outbreaks (lionfish and COTS)
 - large storm events
 - other:

If yes, please provide us with more information.

Answer:

COBSEA just have a general thematic area on the conservation and restoration of habitats including coral reefs. We could use some more information on specific activities we should do on the above topics.

Theme 4 - Diversity and Inclusion: Expanding the Coral Reef Community

4.A – Connect with youth audiences:

- (ICRI) Are you developing (or planning to develop) any communication campaigns or outreach materials? What will your primary target audiences be and what would your key messages include?

Answer:

4.B - Collaborate with Indigenous people and seek to incorporate indigenous and local knowledge into policies and management plans:

- (ICRI) How do you incorporate indigenous and local knowledge into policies and management frameworks. Please provide us with some examples. Do you have any plans or strategies to further promote this incorporation?

Answer:

- (ICRI) Do you have any, or know of, best practices to solicit Indigenous and local community knowledge?

Answer:

C. Kunming-Montreal Global biodiversity framework

- (ICRI) Do your current National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) incorporate coral reefs? If not, what kind of material will be useful for your Country/organisation to ensure coral reefs are integrated in the revision of NBSAPs?

Answer:

COBSEA has the Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Framework which aims to address targets of the KM GBF. We have identified coral reefs as one of the thematic areas that need to be addressed.

- (ICRI) How are you planning to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global biodiversity framework. For you, which targets are the most relevant for coral reefs?

Answer:

COBSEA has the Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Framework which aims to address targets of the KM GBF. We have identified coral reefs as one of the thematic areas that need to be addressed. Targets 1, 2, 3 are all relevant for coral reefs. As well as the targets 20, 21, and 22 may also be relevant.

D. Upcoming events

Please tick the most appropriate box/boxes:

- September 19th – 23rd 2023: 37th ICRI GM, USA, Hawaii
- 30th November – 12th December 2023: 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- 26th February – 1st March 2024: 6th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
- 10th – 12th April 2024: 2024 UN Ocean Decade Conference, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2024: United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP16) of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Turkey.
- Other

Please list any upcoming regional / international events relevant to ICRI that your organisation plans to attend:

Answer:

E. Publications. Please list relevant publications / reports you have released recently (+ add a link if possible)

Publication	URL
COBSEA Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Framework	Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Framework (unep.org)

F. ICRI Member Feedback. What do you find most valuable about being a member of ICRI as well as completing the ICRI member reports? If you have any ideas to improve the Member Reports, please list below:

Answer:

G. Contact information & member information. (Note that this information will be posted on the ICRI website on your member page: <https://icriforum.org/members/>).

Please use the table below to provide us updates to your member’s focal points as well as the blank cells to indicate changes to information (please add more rows, as needed):

Focal Point 1:	
Name:	Mahesh Pradhan
Title/Organisation:	COBSEA Coordinator
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Focal Point 2:	
Name:	Margarita Victoria Caballa
Title/Organisation:	COBSEA Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Lead
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Focal Point 3:	
Name:	
Title/Organisation:	
Email:	
Member page updates:	
Section	Update
	Will update as soon as we finalize our Strategic Directions 2023-2027



<i>Resource description</i>	<i>URL</i>
COBSEA Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Framework	Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Framework (unep.org)

Thank you very much for sharing your valuable experiences and information with ICRI. Members reports, meeting outputs and resources will be uploaded to:
<https://icriforum.org/events/37th-icri-general-meeting/>