



cordap

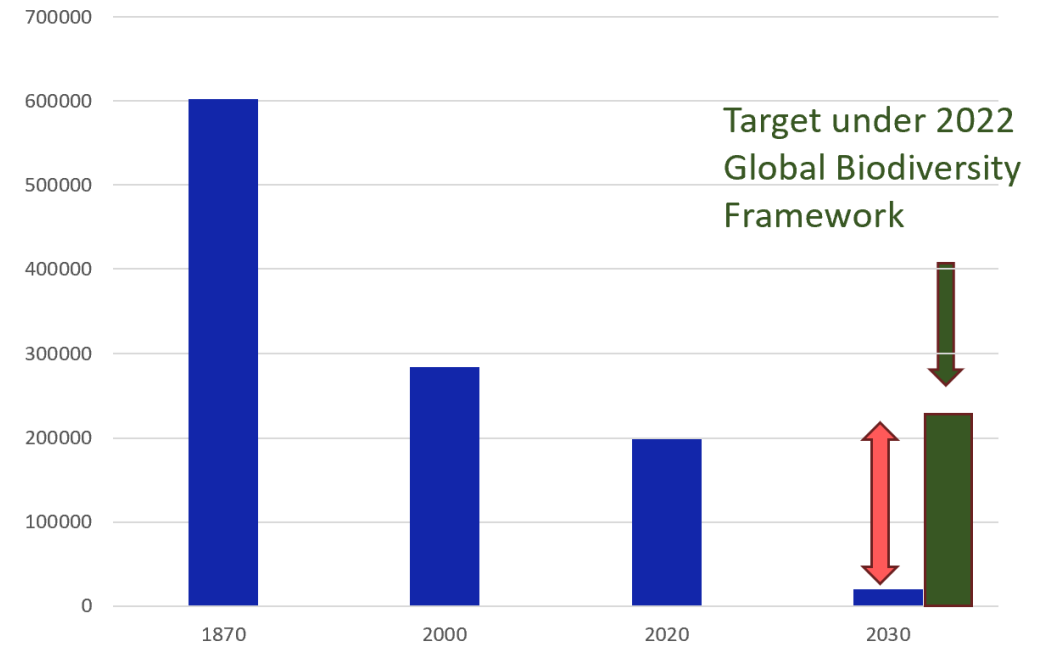
Coral Research
& Development
Accelerator
Platform

ICRI General Meeting
Sep 2023

We have 15 decisive years to shift the course to achieve partial recovery instead of the catastrophic loss expected under the current trajectory.



Global Coral Trajectories (Km²)



Closing the gap between predicted losses and biodiversity targets may seem impossible

Coral restoration and conservation growing at pace, however the cost of restoration, scale of the problem, the need to assist corals ability to adapt and survive- we have to rapidly enhance our capacity to conserve and restore corals at scale

CORDAP – an initiative to push the boundaries of the possible, through science and technology, to save corals

cordap



Focused on R&D

We are the only international organization fully dedicated to funding international collaborative R&D on coral conservation and restoration.



Fostering Global Collaboration

Integrate the abilities of the world's best scientific minds, from all nations, along with users and communities to develop effective solutions for coral conservation.



Committed to Scalability

CORDAP-funded projects will deliver innovative coral restoration solutions fit for large-scale intervention.



Accessible to Everyone, Everywhere

Our solution are open access, will allow any organization to advance and use its technologies. Developed technologies must be made affordable and accessible

Global R&D spending was forecast to reach over USD 2.47 trillion in 2022; however, ocean, coral, and reef research remains incredibly underfunded.

Goals and Objectives

Fund and deliver the best novel scientific and technological solutions to conserve and restore corals and reefs

a

Connect existing national, regional, and international R&D programs

b

Develop and share novel scientific tools

g

Support a gender-balanced, transdisciplinary global community of scientists, technologists and innovators to achieve the goals

c

Facilitate access to information & research facilities

f

Engage the R&D capacity of the private sector with the goals

d

Provide advanced R&D training to scientists from developing and least developed countries

e



It is a platform whose main activity will be the funding, management, and execution of coordinated, collaborative, and targeted global R&D programs for coral conservation and restoration.



Current Members and Partners



Argentina
Australia
Canada
European Union
France
Germany
India



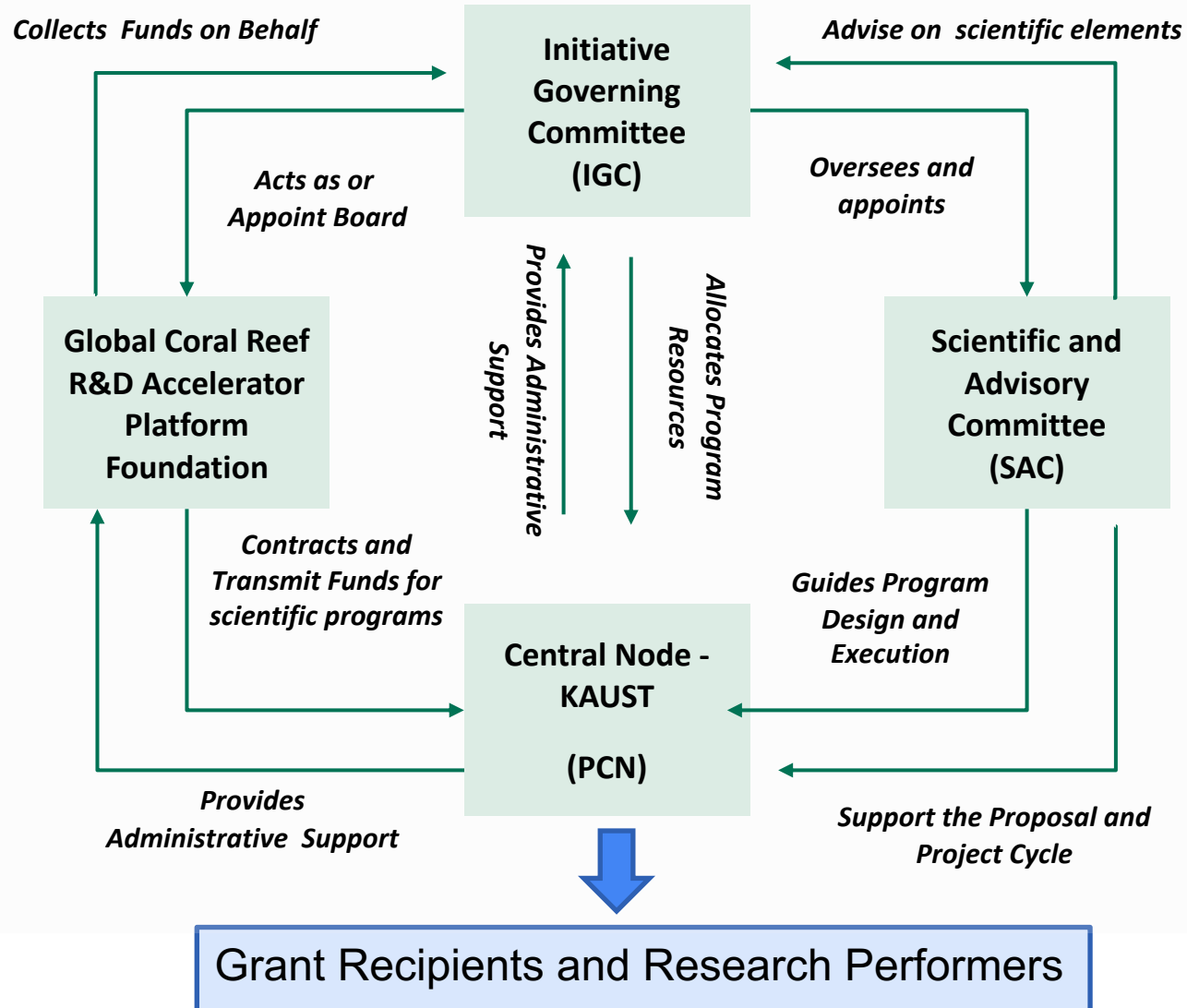
Indonesia
Japan
Mexico
Saudi Arabia (Chair)
South Africa
Turkey
United Kingdom
United States of America (Vice Chair)



CORDAP is an open Global effort, we welcome applications from non-G20 Nations who are committed to coral reef conservation and restoration to join CORDAP.



CORDAP Operating Model



The Foundation:

- Facilitates receipt of donations and contributions.
- Transfers these contributions to CORDAP Central Node to support projects recommended by the SAC and approved by the IGC.

KAUST: Support includes finance and grant management audit, facilities management, and administrative support.



CORDAP – Governance and Leadership

Platform Initiative Governing Committee



Chair – Dr. Osama Faqeeha, Deputy Minister of Environment, MEWA, Saudi Arabia



Vice-Chair – Ms. Jennifer Koss, Director, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, USA, Chair of International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

Also Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of the CORDAP Foundation

Scientific and Advisory Committee



Chair - David Mead, Executive Director Strategic Development at the Australian Institute of Marine Science, Australia



Vice-Chair – Prof. Anastazia Banaszak, Research Professor Institute of Ocean Sciences & Limnology at the National Autonomous University, Mexico



Executive Director– Prof. Carlos M. Duarte, KAUST, Saudi Arabia

CORDAP Team, Initiative Governing and Scientific and Advisory Committee's membership available on cordap.org



Implementation Timeline to date

Jun 30, 2021

September 2022

Now

June 2023

First funding Program launched CAP 2022

CORDAP Foundation Established

First CORDAP Roadmap Published

Mobilize resources

Add new programs

Strategic Plan Published

4 Scoping Studies Launched

14 CORDAP R&D Projects selected for funding – US \$18M

CAP 2023 Call Opened

Grow Capacity Building Activities

Scientific and Advisory Committee (SAC) formed

Partnership Signed With GFCR

Strategic plan updated – priorities set for the next funding call

Governance Committee (IGC) Inauguration

CORDAP – Strategic Plan 2022-2025

The strategic plan

- Identifies how CORDAP will deliver on its goals and objectives
- Describes the approaches and types of projects it will fund
- Focuses on the most pressing investment needs for directing the program
- Identifies areas where coral R&D roadmaps should be developed before significant investment is made

Available at cordap.org



Current Activities and Plans

R&D Funding Programs

- Coral Accelerator Program (CAP) 2022 – \$18M awarded to 14 Projects
- CAP 2023 – Now Open- Deadline 10th November



CORDAP R&D Scoping Studies and Roadmaps

- Areas where it is felt that further study and planning is required before investment/funding can be most effective.
- Will deliver actionable roadmaps to guide future funding and align activities.

Assisted Evolution, Innovative Aquaculture Technology, Cold Water Corals, Ecological Risk



Capacity Building – Developing Countries

- Raising Coral R&D Leadership in the Global South - workshop planned for early 2024
- Design and development of a global school of coral restoration and conservation

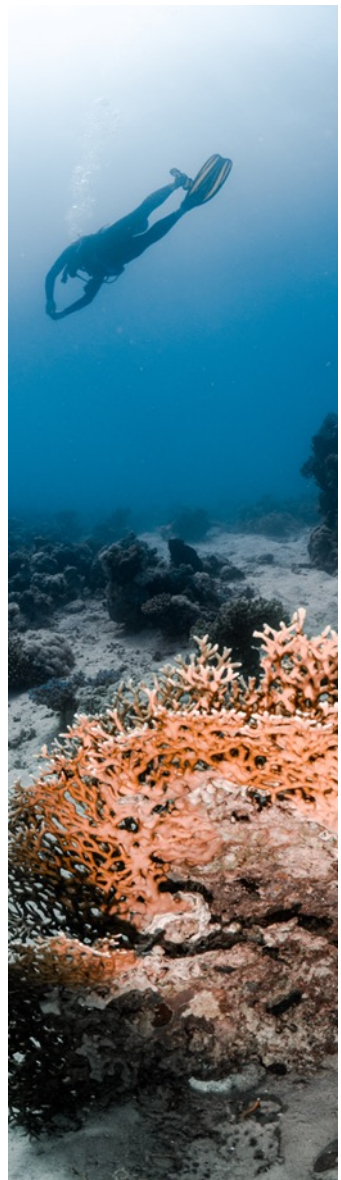
Resourcing the Programs – Fundraising

- Raising awareness of the value of corals and reefs to the public, decision makers and budget holders.
- Seeking multi-annual commitments for the sustainable effort required at scale.



Coral Accelerator Program (CAP)

- Funds international collaborative research teams with impactful ideas to transform coral conservation and restoration.
- Teams must include at least one low - middle income ([OECD](#)) country partner.
- Full range of novel early-phase research projects through to final proof-of-concept development and testing.
- USD 1.5 million per project – projects can run between 1 and 3 years in length.
- Minimum 3 Applicants on a team from 2 countries (1 country must be a low-middle income country as designated by the OECD)
- 2 stage review process
- Policies: IP developed made freely available for coral use, outputs open access, developments affordable!



Coral Accelerator Program (CAP) 2022



- Opened in Sep 2022 – July 2023
- CORDAPs inaugural call received 89 proposals with a total request of over US \$112M (36 led by LMIC)
- 28 invited to submit a Full Proposal – close to US \$40M requested
- A total of US \$18M awarded to 14 proposals



Since 2021 ...

CORDAP has collaborated with

103

**INSTITUTIONS
WORLDWIDE**

From **31** countries

44%

of which are
**LOW AND
MIDDLE-INCOME
COUNTRIES.**

LMIC

We launched our first
Coral Accelerator Program (CAP) in 2022

with awards worth a total of **USD \$18 million** committed
to multinational collaborative teams.

89 PROPOSALS received in total

40% led by **LMIC**
21 Low- or Middle-Income
Countries.

We received an initial
USD \$112 million
in funding requests from projects.

489 applicants

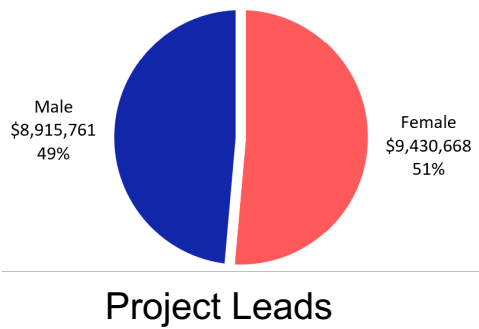
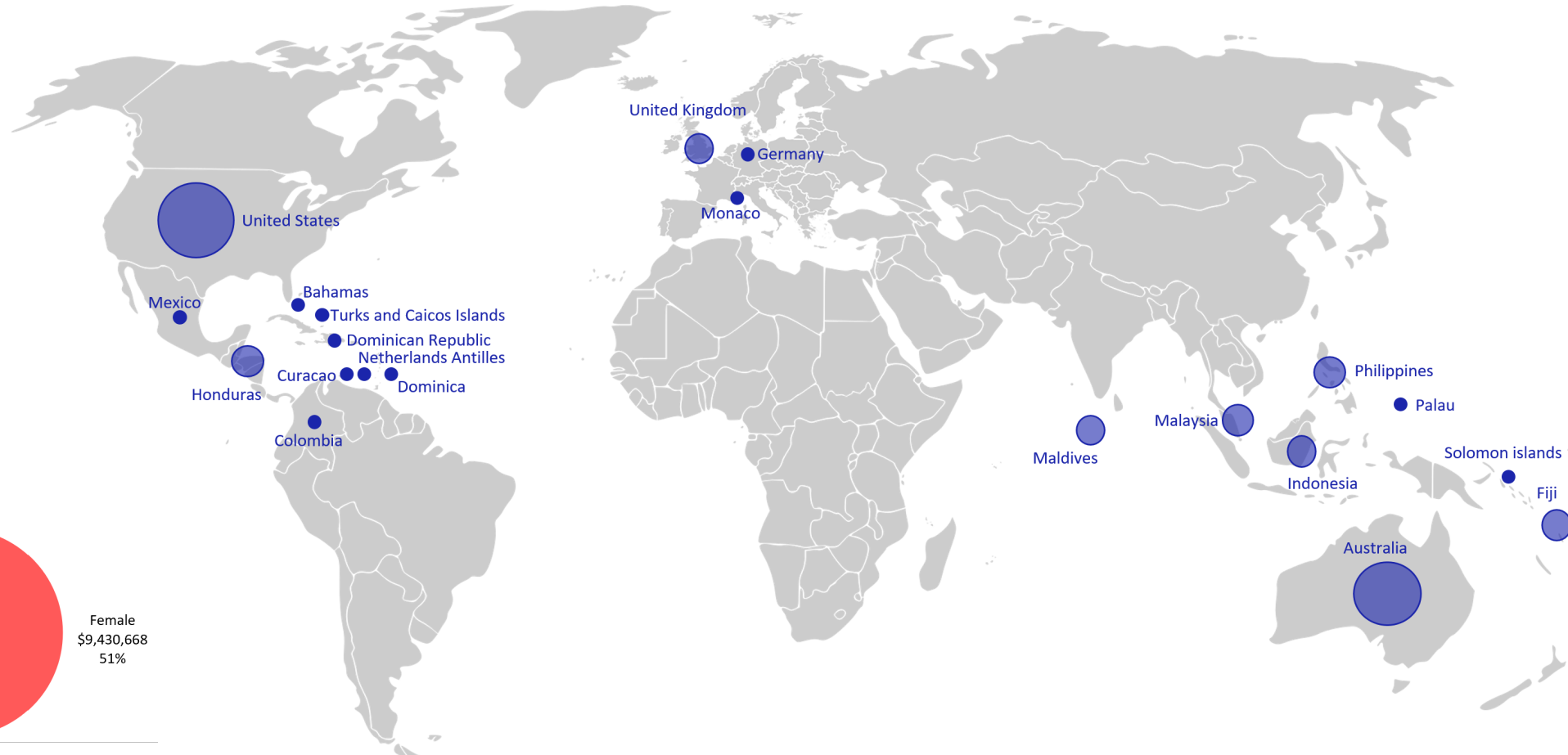
51% led applicants were female



**14 proposals
awarded**

Following a panel review, twenty-eight
concept notes were invited to submit
a Full Proposal. Each full proposal
underwent international expert peer
review by two to three proposal topic
experts, followed by a panel review.

Coral Accelerator Program (CAP) 2022 – Funded Awards



Coral Accelerator Program 2022 Projects

- **Boosting** coral resilience through nutritional subsidies
- **Upscaling** and optimizing coral sexual propagation technologies
- **Community-led** coral reef restoration and prioritization
- **Probiotics** take on SCTLD
 - **Adaptation** assessment of heat tolerance
- **Dynamic** pollution mapping and risk assessment tool
- **Preserve** coral genetic diversity through cryopreservation
 - **Build** local-level restoration capacity against SCTLD
- **Improve** production of large polyp stony corals
- **Investigating** transgenic corals
- **Understanding** the thermal stress tolerance of symbiont algae inside the coral host
- **Improving** the health, growth, and survival of larvae and settlers
- **Low-cost** smart-decision framework for restoration
- **Scaled up** rapid coral production and deployment via portable aquaculture system



Coral Accelerator Program 2023 – *Now Open* - Key Dates



- Launched on September 11th with a deadline for submission on **Nov 10th**
- Anticipated notification/ Invitation to Submit Full Proposal – late December
- Funding notifications – July/Aug 2024
- \$18M also committed to this call
- Same applicant eligibility as 2022
- Updated priority areas –
 - Assisted Evolution, Aquaculture / Automation, Cold-Water Corals (CWC), Preserve and conserve existing corals, Limit early life mortality, Intervention planning and monitoring, Blended artificial and natural reefs, R&D Capacity building, and Developing country R&D methods.
- All call information on ***cordap.org***



For Coral Accelerator Program queries, please contact funding@cordap.org



Summary

Next Steps -

- Work with our inaugural R&D projects, get more in the pipeline
- Seeking all countries and coral relevant organizations who are most welcome and encouraged to apply to join us
- Publish Roadmaps – and action to guide and align plans and activities
- Knowledge sharing – partnerships for an aligned and accessible solutions
- Capacity building focus in developing and least developed countries
- Looking further out - develop range of targeted programs to maximize impact of available funding.
- **Fundraising** – absolutely critical need to increase resources to achieve the objectives.
Build to \$30M a year going on essential innovation projects

CORDAP is excited to become a member of the ICRI family



