



## International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

### Member's Report | 37<sup>th</sup> General Meeting

19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023 Hawai'i, – United States of America

**Reporting Period: 2021 – 2023**

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#### A. Member Information:

- Name of ICRI member: Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
- Name of person(s) completing member's report: Robert Glazer
- Email: [bob.glazer@gcfi.org](mailto:bob.glazer@gcfi.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: This is the first
- Will you be attending the 37<sup>th</sup> ICRI General Meeting:  Yes  No Fadilah Alis representing GCFI
- Member social media:
  - Twitter: @
  - LinkedIn:

#### 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: GCFI continues to address coral resilience through the implementation of the MPA Connect members. GCFI has been promoting responses to SCTL D by providing resources to coral managers to mitigate the impacts throughout the Caribbean. We have also been conducting workshops to build capacity among the MPA managers. We are currently conducting assessments of our 35 members to understand the changes to their capacity to effectively manage their MPAs.*

*GCFI is also working closely with the artisanal fishing community to develop effective methods to reduce the lost of fishing gear in coral communities.*

*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: GCFI, through the MPA Connect network of MPAs in the Caribbean, is involved in the capacity-building activities of the network. MPA Connect, with partners NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program, is all about capacity building. MPA Connect is conducting workshops on MPA sustainable financing and enforcement. MPA Connect continuously runs trainings, exchanges, peer-to-peer programs, a small grants program, and mentorship programs within the community of 35 MPAs.*

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

*Answer: Materials can be found on the GCFI website and are free to any users. We refer users to [www.gcfi.org](http://www.gcfi.org) and also to [www.mpaconnect.oirg](http://www.mpaconnect.oirg).*

*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: Providing materials for MPAs to address SCTL D.*

## 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.
- (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: Yes, GCFI is working with AGGRA to build capacity among our MPA members by providing training related to coral reef ecosystem monitoring.*

### 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)?
- (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: Sargassum, marine litter

If yes, please provide us with more information.

*Answer: GCFI, under contract from NOAA, developed a SCTL D white paper. GCFI has also produced educational materials for managing the Sargassum influx. GCFI has hosted the NOAA lionfish webpage although there have been no resources to support the maintenance of the page. GCFI serves as the co-host for the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and Plastics Caribbean Node and supported the development of a harmonized monitoring approach.*

### 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: GCFI has helped to support activities of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network and will continue to support them going forward.*

*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: GCFI, through its Fisheries for Fishers program, engages the local fishing communities in developing solutions that focus on sustainable practices.*

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

*Answer: GCFI holds a Fishers' Forum at our annual conference in which fishers present information about their resources.*

### 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: Not known*

- (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: Not known*

### D. Upcoming events

*Please tick the most appropriate box/boxes:*

- September 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023: 37<sup>th</sup> ICRI GM, USA, Hawaii
- 30<sup>th</sup> November – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023: 28<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- 26<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024: 6<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
- 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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: 76<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute. Cartagena Convention SPAW and LBS protocols STACs.*

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

Publication	URL

**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: Networking. BTW, we would welcome being a member of a climate change working group.*

**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):*

<b>Focal Point 1:</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	<b>Robert Glazer</b>
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	<b>Executive Director, Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)</b>
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<b>Focal Point 2:</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	<b>Emma Doyle</b>
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<b>Focal Point 3:</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	<b>Fadilah Ali</b>
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	<b>Asst Executive Director, GCFI</b>
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<b>Focal Point 4:</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	<b>Martin Russell</b>
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	<b>Chair, Board of Directors, GCFI</b>
<i>Email:</i>	
<b>Member page updates:</b>	
<i>Section</i>	<i>Update</i>



<b>Do you have new resources (reports, guidelines etc.) that you would like to display?</b>	
<i>Resource description</i>	<i>URL</i>
<i>Research Priorities Document for the Wider Caribbean completed for CLME+</i>	<b><a href="https://www.gcfi.org/download/74/clme/8166/gcfi-oceangovernancereport.pdf">https://www.gcfi.org/download/74/clme/8166/gcfi-oceangovernancereport.pdf</a></b>

*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/>*