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: National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA)
- Name of person(s) completing member's report: Ms. Chanel Raynor
- Email: chanel.raynor@nepa.gov.jm
- Are you a Focal Point: ☐ Yes ☒ No
  - If no, who are you completing the form on behalf of: Ms. Monique Curtis
- Which was the last General Meeting you attended: N/A
- Will you be attending the 37th ICRI General Meeting: ☒ Yes ☐ No
- Member social media:
  - Twitter: @nepajamaica
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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:

Jamaica has embedded resilience-based management into policies in the following ways:

- The National Environment and Planning Agency completed its ten year Strategic Action Plan (SAP) which will inform the Agency's strategic direction for 2021 – 2031. The SAP will equip the Agency in its continued commitment to fulfil its mandate in alignment with national and global priorities towards Jamaica achieving sustainable development. Pursuant to the strategic objective 1 'Increase protection of Jamaica's biodiversity (coastal and marine, terrestrial and inland water ecosystems)', the Agency continues the tracking and the implementation of the Action Plan for Corals and Reefs 2018-2023 (APCAR), the implementation a coral reef health index monitoring programme and a sea-surface temperature monitoring programme. The APCAR builds on previous efforts such as the Draft Jamaica Coral Reef Action Plan, the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Call to Action and Framework for Action and the Tropical Americas' Agenda for Action which were intended to mobilize governments and other stakeholders whose coordinated, vigorous and effective actions are required to sustain fragile coastal resources, and the communities which depend on them. The APCAR is intended to be revisited, evaluated and updated regularly as conditions change and the relevant adaptive management strategies incorporated. To align with the SAP, coral reef health index monitoring is conducted every 3 years at 20 sites across the island, prior to 2023 this was conducted annually. Jamaica's sea surface temperature monitoring (2015 to present) serves several critical objective such as assessing the impact of climate change on coral reefs, identifying temperature tolerant clusters which can inform the selection of coral species for restoration projects and the use of trends to improve the island's adaptive management for coral reefs.

- Resilience-based management is also observed in the country's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. As the chief regulatory agency for environment and planning issues the Agency is responsible for screening development applications to identify the potential impacts to the environment, cultural and historical sites, human health and livelihoods and determine if same are adequately mitigated. As a policy, all applications received are screened to determine if additional investigation by way of an EIA is necessary. The EIA process evaluates the cumulative impacts and interactions of human activities on the whole ecosystem. This will provide the necessary information to enable the Agency's decision-making process for the proposed development.

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:

Jamaica has engaged the following strategies geared towards building reef resilience:

- **Implementation of the Action Plan for Corals and Reefs 2018-2023 in Jamaica (APCAR).** The APCAR builds on previous efforts such as the Draft Jamaica Coral Reef Action Plan, the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Call to Action and Framework for Action and the Tropical Americas' Agenda for Action which were intended to mobilize governments and other stakeholders whose coordinated, vigorous and effective actions are required to sustain fragile coastal resources, and the communities which depend on them. The APCAR is intended to be revisited, evaluated and updated regularly as conditions change and the relevant adaptive management strategies incorporated. As an integral part of this iterative process, memoranda of understanding between the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), universities, research institutions and other relevant stakeholders are formulated to execute specific portions of the plan. One of the fundamental themes of the APCAR is the reduction of anthropogenic impacts and taking immediate action to quickly reduce the adverse impacts of human activities on coral reefs and associated ecosystems. For example, the Agency is currently conducting coral reef restoration within two marine protected areas (the Montego Bay Marine Park and the Port Royal-Palisadoes Protected Area also a RAMSAR site) which sustained damage to coral reef as a result of ship grounding incidents.

- **Ecosystem Based Management approach (EBM)** is another strategy used to increase reef resilience. By implementing holistic ecosystem-based management approaches that consider the interconnectedness of marine and coastal systems stakeholders are able to address land-based sources of pollution, coastal development [is it all coastal development that is an issue or unplanned coastal development], and other stressors that impact reef health. The ecosystem based management approach is reflected in the conservation efforts undertaken within a watershed as this has a direct bearing on the vitality of the coastal and marine ecosystem, primarily through the reduction of terrestrial pollutant including sediment inflow into coastal areas. The Agency's implementation of the Watershed Area Management Mechanism (WAMM) which is ongoing, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)/Global Environment Facility (GEF) Integrated Management of the Yallahs River and Hope River Watersheds Project are an example of how Jamaica can use EBM to build reef resilience. The WAMM seeks to achieve watershed protection through sound land husbandry through a bottom up approach that will influence change in attitude with the primary outcome being increased soil conservation, vegetative cover and water yields and improved water quality. The premise is that proper management of upland areas, the watershed, through a community–based approach, will reduce the threats to freshwater and marine water quality.

  As a small island developing state (SID) the need to maximise return on conservation investments through targeted interventions at all spatial scales is critical for Jamaica. Decision-making tools such as rapid ecological assessments (REAs) allows for the derivation [is this the correct word to use] of conservation priorities which offer a guide for maximizing returns beyond the scale of intervention. Recommendations coming out recently completed REAs serve as guides for the implementation of sustainable land management practices within areas of ecological priority, which are anticipated to have a positive impact on downstream resources such as coral reefs. Seagrass meadows can be found in Jamaica, but like mangroves, they are declining due to development and pollution, as well as facing additional risks from boat anchors. The Coastal Atlas of Jamaica[1] published in 1997 documented seagrass meadows that were far more extensive than anecdotal and isolated evidence which show a decline in their spread over the past 26 years. There is however a need for quantitative data on the health and valuation per km2 of the remaining seagrass meadows that would enable the NEPA to focus resources on conserving and restoring the areas that could present the best opportunities for carbon sequestration. The Jamaica's Blue Economy Baseline Assessment highlighted importance of seagrass and the need for systematic monitoring of seagrass and mangrove forest habitats. The current implementation of the European Union (EU)/Government of Jamaica (GOJ) A Jamaican Path from Hills to Ocean project has a number of activities to build climate resilient. One component focuses on the seagrass resources within the Ocho Rios Marine Park Protected Area (ORMPPA) and the Portland Bight Protected Area. The project will provide a means for quantifying extent and value of the resource which will provide a much needed bassline. This baseline will allow for comparative analysis geared towards quantifying the impact of upstream interventions on seagrass ecosystems.

  [1] Natural Resources Conservation Authority, Jamaica and UPSALA University, Sweden. (1997). A Coastal Atlas of Jamaica. Jamaican Coastal Project.
  2 CBD (2019) 6th National Report for the Convention on Biological Diversity, Jamaica. Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, Canada, 112pp.

- **Community engagement and education and capacity building and training** is a recurring theme in all projects and activities embarked by the Agency. For example, the training of community members in coral nursery maintenance and the maintenance and monitoring of out-planted corals. This involves local communities in reef management activities and educates them about the importance of reef conservation as the Agency has recognised that local buy-in and understanding is essential. This approach also alleviates strain on resources and capacity as protected area managers routinely participate in the Agency's island-wide coral reef health assessments.

- **Through collaboration and partnerships,** the Agency supports the work of other entities carrying out activities which are gear towards building coral reef resilience. For example; the Kingston Harbour Cleanup Project[3] focused on reducing pollution within the Kingston Harbour. Studies[4] have shown that eutrophic waters from the Kingston Harbour have contributed to the high nutrient level affecting corals along the Hellshire coastline west of the harbour. The project is being implemented by The Ocean Cleanup in collaboration with private entities, The GraceKennedy Foundation (GKF), and Clean Harbours Jamaica (CHJ) Limited.

  [3]https://www.cleankingstonharbour.org/about#:~:text=In%20February%202022%2C%20The%20Ocean,from%20flowing%20into%20Kingston%20Harbour.
  [4]Webber, Mona & Webber, Dale & Ford, Gale. (2018). Plankton Ecology and Productivity in Jamaican Waters with New and Unique Applications. 10.5772/intechopen.70663.

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

Answer: **The following are materials developed by third Parties that are used by the Agency:**

- Shaver E C, et. al. 2020. A Manager's Guide to Coral Reef Restoration Planning and Design. NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program. NOAA Technical Memorandum CRCP 36, 128 pp.
- Coral Disease Identification cards by Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA) https://www.agrra.org/coral-disease-identification/
- NOAA Strategy for Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease Response and Prevention. https://coast.noaa.gov/data/coralreef_noaa_gov/media/docs/NOAA_SCTLD_Strategy_2020.pdf
- Strategy for Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease Prevention and Response at Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. https://agrra.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/FGB-2021-07-strategy-for-stony-coral-tissue-loss-desease-prevention-repsonse-at-fgbnms-FGB.pdf

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:

1. Jamaica is one of the participating countries in the Coralcarib Project being implemented by The Nature Conservancy and the Alligator Head Foundation (a local implementing partner). The project site, the East Portland Special Fishery Conservation Area, was identified as a 'Climate Resilient Refugia[5]'. With funding from the German government the overall project aims to improve marine biodiversity in 1,871 hectares of priority coral reef ecosystems in Jamaica, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti, and regionally through scaling. The Agency provides technical support to the project.
   Links: https://jis.gov.jm/jamaica-to-benefit-from-six-year-project-to-protect-coral-reefs/
   https://kingston.diplo.de/jm-en/-/2584828

   [5] ***Chollett, I., Escovar-Fadul, X., Schill, S. R., Croquer, A., Dixon, A. M., Beger, M., . . . Wolff, N. H. (2022). Planning for resilience: Incorporating scenario and model uncertainty and trade-offs when prioritizing management of climate refugia. doi:10.1111/gcb.16167***

2. The Agency is in the infancy stages of implementing coral reef restoration in two marine protected areas (MPAs). These projects are being funded by the Government of Jamaica. The projects aims to increase coral cover on reefs damaged by ship grounding incidents via asexual *in-situ* propagation.

3. Ongoing work conducted by the Alligator Head Foundation (AHF), a conservation/scientific research institute and managers of the East Portland Special Fishery Conservation Area (SFCA). With the support of the Agency, AHF has successfully propagated and out-planted over 6000 coral fragments to reefs within the SFCA. Their conservation mechanisms consist of asexual *in-situ* propagation via line and tree nurseries; asexual *ex-situ* propagation via temperature and developing protocols for sexual *ex-situ* propagation via light controlled troughs and sexual *ex-situ* propagation via temperature and light controlled troughs. Work done by AHF is funded/supported by donations, various grants and technical support from the Agency. In addition to their work with coral reefs, the AHF have planted over 3000 mangrove saplings and proudly highlight having achieved a 200% increase in fish biomass of commercially and ecologically important fish species within the SCFA.

   https://www.alligatorheadfoundation.org/

4. Outreach and education activities are carried out by all marine protected area (MPA) managers, NEPA as well as the University of the West Indies, Mona marine labs. The programmes administered by all entities share common themes which aim to raise awareness to the threats affecting the marine environment on various scales; sensitize the public about the value of various ecosystems and where possible, interactive programmes provide visitors with an opportunity to have hand-on experiences with various marine species.

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: Not applicable

- (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:
Jamaica's execution of the Coralcarib Project being implemented by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will include capacity building which will involve the training of local implementing partners in the use of 'Structure for Motion' technology currently used by FUNDEMAR and Grupo Puntacana Foundation. Additionally, the Agency continues to build local capacity through the training of protected area managers in coral reef monitoring protocols such as 'Reefcheck[6]'.

[6] **https://www.reefcheck.org/**

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:
Overall, the Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020 report was well produced and provided valuable information for the global context. The report influenced the Agency's new strategic framework for monitoring and reporting on the island's coral reef index. NEPA Strategic Action Plan 2021-2031 will guide the Agency in the achievement of its goal of the "sustainable management of Jamaica's natural environment whilst ensuring effective urban and rural development." The plan articulates the broad strategic programme including strategic objectives, outcomes and outputs to be achieved over the next 10 years. One Key Performance Target is "Coral reef health index improved to 'fair' rating". This target is to be reported on every three years. The assessments are usually done using the Coral Reef Health Index, which is determined by reviewing four indicators, namely coral cover, macro-algal cover, herbivorous fish abundance and commercially important fish abundance.

It was observed that data acquired was not comparable across regions. It is suggested that contributors are sensitized on the data set relevant to the publication for a comprehensive world report. This will be critical in the monitoring of coral reef targets associated with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

- (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 is 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:
At this time, Jamaica will continue to contribute to this process as members of the Steering Committee for GCRMN Caribbean Node.

Jamaica is also positioned to continue its contribution of data on coral reef health to regional and global reports.

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:
Dedicated plans for the threats listed above have not been developed by the Agency. Notwithstanding there is the use of existing regional protocols and response plans that have been adopted for use across the island by NEPA, researchers and protected area managers. For example:

Vessel groundings- The Agency's response involves the use of the 'ICRI Coral Reef CSI Toolkit'[7] to assess impacts to coral reefs and the economic value of ecological services lost; this has been used to pursue legal action for financial compensation to finance restoration activities at impact sites.

Coral disease & bleaching- The Agency's response incorporates recommendations from the Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA) Program, Coral Restoration Consortium, regional universities and publications. For example, the Agency maintains discourse with MPA managers and research facilities to track the spread of coral bleaching and diseases. In light of the current bleaching event, the Agency has recommended that coral nurseries are relocated to deeper, cooler water where possible and species with limited genetic diversity are duplicated via *ex-situ* and *in-situ* methods.

Invasive alien species outbreaks (lionfish): Jamaica continues to implement the lionfish activities which commenced the MTIASIC Project[8]. The National Lionfish Project, was led by the University of the West Indies- Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory (UWI-DBML) and NEPA. Activities included training in culling and handling the species as well as a major public education programme geared at encouraging local consumption of the invasive alien species. Owing to the success of the project, consumption was widespread along with the culling of the species especially in MPA, and is now a routine occurrence practiced by fishers, recreational skin divers, scuba divers and MPA managers.

[7] ***Gulko et al. (2008) ICRI Coral Reef CSI Toolkit***
[8] ***Under the regional project Mitigating the Threats of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean (MTIASIC) Jamaica implemented a Lionfish*** *component*

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:
In response to the regional bleaching event outreach materials will be disseminated to MPA managers, research facilities and consultants conducting works within the marine environment. The materials will detail a localized version of the recommendations made by entities such as the Coral Restoration Consortium. The Agency has commenced the development of a questionnaire to track the local spread of bleaching events and will continue to provide support to MPA's that have active coral restoration projects. Keys messages will encourage reef practitioner's to pivot to protect, rescue and monitor mode.

Since the onset of the Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) Jamaica's approach has focused on sensitization, surveillance and, implementing best practices to reduce the anthropogenic spread of the disease. Aided by recommendations provided by regional entities, outreach information regarding best practices for the prevention of spread was circulated to MPA mangers, target universities and reef practitioners. MPA mangers were asked to submit reports to the Agency regarding the species affected and the spatial extent and encouraged to use regional tracking tools such as those developed by AGRRA. The general public was also sensitized of the outbreak through social media campaigns. The Government of Jamaica provided funding to facilitate the collection of diseased and healthy tissue samples to facilitate testing and stands ready to assist in the event of a resurgence.

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:
Local knowledge is captured in the Agency's policies primarily through processes which require stakeholder consultation. For example:
Preparation of a Development Order. A Development Order is a legal instrument that regulates land use and development within specific areas. It designates different zones or areas for various types of land uses, such as residential, commercial, agricultural, industrial, and conservation areas. It outlines the permissible land uses, building regulations, and other development controls that developers and property owners must adhere to within the designated zone. Development Orders play a crucial role in guiding sustainable and organized development while protecting natural resources and the environment. A key step in preparation of the document is extensive stakeholder consultation. The information gained can range from historical land use practices, local fishing sites to the location of coral reef which may not have been previously assessed by the Agency. This is used to ensure that development activities align with the country's planning policies, localized priorities of citizens and responsible management of natural resources to promote balanced growth.

This approach is also used for other policies such as MPA management and zoning plans and the preparation of recommendations for the boundaries of protected areas.

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

Answer: Engaging local communities when developing and implementing policies and management frameworks is crucial for effective coral reef conservation. This is conducted via formal and informal consultation with the community via town hall meetings, forums and surveys. In Jamaica this process considers the socio-economic background, education level, geo-politics and the priorities of the targeted group. What's paramount is fostering interest in the goals and objectives of the intervention and tailoring communication to the target audience their cultural differences. As a best practice the follow themes are considered when soliciting local community knowledge from stakeholders:

- Cultural Sensitivity: Approaching the community with respect for their culture, traditions, and values.
- Community Participation: Involving community members in every stage of coral-related initiatives, from planning and decision-making to implementation and evaluation. As encouraging active participation to help ensure ownership of conservation efforts.
- Local Language and Communication: Communicating based on socio-economic backgrounds and education levels to ensure clear understanding of concepts. Visual aids, storytelling, and community gatherings are also used to effectively convey information about corals and their significance.
- Educational Workshops: Organizing workshops that offer accessible and engaging information about coral reefs and build capacity has proved to be beneficial in the implementation of conservation frameworks. Collaboration with local educators, scientists, and environmental experts to provide accurate and relevant content is also encouraged.
- Hands-On Activities: Facilitating hands-on activities like snorkelling, these activities provide a tangible connection to the reefs and promote a sense of responsibility.
- Long-Term Engagement: Building sustained relationships with the community by holding regular meetings, workshops, and updates on coral reef health. This helps maintain interest and commitment over time.
- Feedback and Adaptation: Listening to community feedback and adapt conservation strategies based on their insights. This demonstrates that their input is valued and can lead to more effective initiatives.

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:
Jamaica's previous NBSAP incorporated coral reefs and it envisioned that the new iteration of the document will do the same. The local outcome of the Kunming-Montreal negotiations is the basis for the implementation of the GEF 7 "Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support" (GBF-EAS) Project. The objective of this global project is to fast-track readiness and early actions to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by providing financial and technical support to GEF-eligible Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in their work to align their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), including national biodiversity targets, monitoring, policy, and finance frameworks with the Global Biodiversity Framework of the CBD. Each of the participating countries, based on their current priorities, are using the grant to undertake activities that accelerate progress on achieving the Global Biodiversity Framework.

- (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:
The initial step towards the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework will involve the completion of the GEF 7 GBF-EAS project.
The focus of the project is on identifying gaps and focus on the readiness of national teams, across four components:

- Component 1: Conduct a rapid review of the NBSAP and national targets to identify gaps required to align the national targets, goals, objectives and action plans within the existing NBSAP to the new GBF;
- Component 2: Assess existing monitoring systems to identify gaps and promote alignment between the NBSAP-related monitoring system and the GBF;
- Component 3: Review policy alignment and coherence, including gaps and inconsistencies, against the GBF; and
- Component 4: Conduct biodiversity finance activities to accelerate preparedness for developing and/or implementing a finance plan for implementing a GBF-aligned NBSAP.

The GEF7 GBF-EAS project will also develop a communication plan to building awareness of the Jamaica population about the Kunming-Montreal GBF.

Ongoing activities which directly support national targets on ecosystem conservation, restoration, and management set forth by the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework include:

1. NEPA has initiated steps towards the preparation of a National Ecosystems Restoration Plan (NERP) which will serve as a road map for restoration works in terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems.

2. "A Jamaican Path from Hills to Ocean (H20)" project implemented by the Planning Institute of Jamaica, with the participation of the National Environment and Planning Agency and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining-Public Gardens Division and the Rural Agricultural Development Authority.

3. "CoralCarib: Pioneering a new strategic approach for conserving and restoring Caribbean coral reef ecosystems that targets Climate Resilient Refugia" project implemented by The Nature Conservancy and locally by the Alligator Head Foundation;

4. NEPA will be reviewing and updating the Action Plan for Corals and Reefs (APCAR) in 2024.

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:

- Third meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (3–6 October 2023)
- Twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (13–17 May 2024)

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: Not applicable

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):

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Do you have new resources (reports, guidelines etc.) that you would like to display?	
Resource description	*URL*

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