



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: **The Reef-World Foundation**
- Name of person(s) completing member's report: Chloe Harvey
- Email: chloe@reef-world.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: 2023 Online Meeting
- Will you be attending the 37th ICRI General Meeting: Yes No
- Member social media:
 - Twitter: @Reef_World
 - LinkedIn: thereef-worldfoundation

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: Reef-World manages the Green Fins initiative globally. Green Fins implementation results in measurable reduction to local direct threats to reefs associated with marine tourism activities. We work with governments to build their capacity to manage sustainable marine tourism, and strengthen relevant environmental policy, with Green Fins.

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: Reef-World supports the government and environmental management authorities in sustainable marine tourism development in Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, the Maldives, Palau, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. There are currently 194 marine tourism businesses actively and measurably reducing their local direct threats to coral reefs through Green Fins certified membership, 154 of whom are meeting a minimum environmental performance threshold. A further 150 businesses across an additional 50 countries are using the Green Fins Hub digital tool to reduce their local direct threats to coral reefs.

The Green Fins code of conduct provides a baseline for benchmarking operators' environmental performance using a 330-point system. To enable certified membership, Reef-World trains in country Green Fins assessors to conduct in person environmental assessments of participating businesses. The Green Fins Hub mirrors the process of the in-person assessment digitally and has enabled global scaling of the approach. Businesses are subsequently supported through practical guidance and training, developing action plans, and annual assessments.

Green Fins is financed largely through grants, national environmental funds and private sector financing.

Green Fins assessment data indicates consistent and ongoing improvement to environmental performance among participating businesses. Therefore, Green Fins is actively reducing local direct threats to coral reefs in the destinations it has been implemented and adopted.

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

Answer: Reef-World has developed comprehensive and extensive guidance and tools for solutions to sustainable marine tourism practices. They are all freely available on the [Green Fins downloads](#) page, many of them are available in 14 different languages.

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: Many of Green Fins marine tourism operators are participating in reef restoration, mainly small coral nurseries. There is an urgent call for practical and globally relevant guidance to reef restoration for small marine tourism businesses.

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: Green Fins Hub houses a community forum with over 500 active users from the marine tourism industry. Recent posts regarding the anticipated bleaching as a result of El Nino gathered a lot of interest and reporting from the Green Fins Community. As a result, the NOAA Coral Reef Watch team have recently joined the Community Forum to be able to communicate directly with this global audience of dive operators, receive water temperature and bleaching reports directly and disseminate monitoring tools and resources. Green Fins Hub could be used in a similar way by other parties interested in accessing more coral reef data / health information from the diving industry.

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: The report has been extremely useful in our ongoing efforts to raise awareness to the degrading health of coral reefs. Reef-World reference the GCRMN report data in the Green Fins awareness raising presentations (delivered in person to more than 1,000 marine tourism staff a year) and is also included in the Green Fins Dive Guide and the Green Fins Diver e-Courses (completed by over 700 divers in the past year). I have no recommendations for improvements.

- (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:

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.

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: Reef-World's strategy includes a major global communication campaign to drive consumer awareness to sustainability among coral reef tourists. This campaign will be delivered in partnership with UNEP and PADI. We are currently in the fundraising phase of this project.

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

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?
- (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: Green Fins offers a tool for governments to deliver on the Kunming-Montreal Global biodiversity framework. Green Fins operators' impacts to biodiversity are tracked over time. Data is stored in Green Fins Hub, which is an open-source system. This data can easily be extracted and used by governments to demonstrate how marine tourism businesses are measurably reducing their impacts to coral reefs and the associated ecosystem. Reef-World would be very happy to explore how to make this data easily available in line with the overall monitoring systems of the framework.

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:

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: Staying connected with coral reef policy and science, and ensuring our practical coral reef conservation programmes remain aligned to, and responsive, to this. It also provides a great opportunity for networking and understanding the current funding landscape.

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:	
<i>Name:</i>	
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	
<i>Email:</i>	
Focal Point 2:	
<i>Name:</i>	
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	
<i>Email:</i>	
Focal Point 3:	
<i>Name:</i>	
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	
<i>Email:</i>	
Member page updates:	
<i>Section</i>	<i>Update</i>
Do you have new resources (reports, guidelines etc.) that you would like to display?	
<i>Resource description</i>	<i>URL</i>

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/>