



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: UN Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
- Name of person(s) completing member's report: Rowana Walton
- Email: Rowana.walton@unep-wcmc.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: 2022 (Sara Pruckner)
- Will you be attending the 37th ICRI General Meeting: Yes No
- Member social media:
 - Twitter: [@unepwcmc](https://twitter.com/unepwcmc)
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/unepwcmc/mycompany/>

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: N/A

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: N/A

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

Answer: N/A

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:

Endangered Seascapes project - In order to support the targeting of funds for seascape restoration, we identified and synthesized information on restoration projects (all marine ecosystems) active between 2015 and 2022. The results of this project can be accessed here - <https://www.restorationfunders.com/marine-restoration> and can be filtered for coral reef restoration projects.

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: N/A

- (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: UNEP-WCMC are a partner to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, engaging in a number of Task Forces, including the Task Force on Monitoring. Within this capacity, UNEP-WCMC have collaborated with FAO and UNEP, alongside associated experts, in the identification of global-level indicators to be utilised in the reporting of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. In particular, co-lead for the Aquatic and Transitional Water Sub-Task Force. See report [here](#).

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: We have read the report and the results guide our work as we support national governments in their reporting requirements for MEA's, as well as guiding the outcomes of coastal zone and marine spatial plans.

- (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:

1. *Taskforces:* Yes to joining Data Task Force
2. *Data to contribute (GCRMN Region Country, Data description):* UNEP-WCMC, WorldFish Centre, WRI, TNC (2021). Global distribution of warm-water coral reefs, compiled from multiple sources including the Millennium Coral Reef Mapping Project. Version 4.1. Includes contributions from IMaRS-USF and IRD (2005), IMaRS-USF (2005) and Spalding et al. (2001). Cambridge (UK): UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre. Data DOI: <https://doi.org/10.34892/t2wk-5t34>
3. *Upcoming capacity building activities:* N/A

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: N/A

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: N/A

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:

At UNEP-WCMC, we manage the ICCA Registry, which is a database where custodian communities themselves provide data, case studies, maps, photos and stories, providing a much-needed evidence base to promote the recognition and support of ICCAs worldwide. The registry is part of The ICCA Global Support Initiative (ICCA-GSI), implemented by UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme and partners.

The ICCA Registry is linked to the Protected Planet Initiative. This initiative provides the authoritative platform for global data on protected and conserved areas, tracks progress towards the implementation of area-based conservation targets and provides support for the achievement of these targets. As part of the Protected Planet Initiative, we're working to increase the recognition of protected and conserved areas governed by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, by actively supporting them to self-report data to the databases. Submitting data to these databases can provide increased global visibility of the contribution of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to biodiversity conservation.

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

Answer: N/A

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: N/A

- (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: N/A

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: Reef conservation UK conference 8th December 2023 (Newcastle, UK)

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

Publication	URL
Endangered Seascapes: Progress, needs and opportunities for seascape restoration	https://www.unep-wcmc.org/en/news/global-review-of-marine-restoration-projects-and-funding-sources

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: Membership of ICRI is incredibly valuable in the community of practice it creates for coral reefs, and the opportunities to synergise efforts in conservation and restoration across the world. It provides access to a network of experts that can be drawn on to ensure that our work on coral reefs is to the highest standard and following globally recognised standards.

It would be beneficial to have more time in advance of the deadline to complete these member reports. It would also be very helpful if these reports could be submitted through an online form, rather than a word document.

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>	Rowana Walton
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	Programme Officer
<i>Email:</i>	Rowana.walton@unep-wcmc.org
Focal Point 2:	
<i>Name:</i>	Hannah Grice
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	Programme Officer
<i>Email:</i>	Hannah.grice@unep-wcmc.org
Focal Point 3:	
<i>Name:</i>	Chris McOwen
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	Principal Marine Technical Specialist
<i>Email:</i>	Chris.mcowen@unep-wcmc.org
Member page updates:	
<i>Section</i>	<i>Update</i>
4 th paragraph	We support the delivery of ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals, the UN Decades on Ecosystem Restoration and on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and the implementation of various Multilateral Environmental Agreements including the Ramsar Convention, Regional Seas Conventions and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
Do you have new resources (reports, guidelines etc.) that you would like to display?	
<i>Resource description</i>	<i>URL</i>
UNEP-WCMC (add description)	https://www.unep-wcmc.org/
Ocean+ (add description)	https://www.oceanplus.org
Protected Planet Marine Protected Areas - This website presents the most recent official coverage statistics for marine protected areas.	https://www.protectedplanet.net/marine



Global Marine Restoration -	https://restorationfunders.com/marine-restoration
Governing Coastal Resources - Implications for a Sustainable Blue Economy	https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/governing-coastal-resources-implications-sustainable-blue-economy

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/>