



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: **Palau**
- Name of person(s) completing member's report: Yimnang Golbuu
- Email: yimnang.golbuu@tnc.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: 2018 ICRI GM 33
- Will you be attending the 37th ICRI General Meeting: Yes No
- 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:

- *Establishment of the Protected Areas Network (PAN) and the PAN fund to support management efforts.*
- *Regular ecological and social monitoring to support management.*
- *Develop alternative livelihood activities*

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:

- *Mapping areas of heat tolerant corals*
- *Establishing nurseries of heat tolerant corals*
- *Pilot project on coral restoration*

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

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:

- *Testing of different attachment methods for corals*
- *Pilot project on reef restoration using the spider method*
- *Breeding of heat tolerant corals*

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:

- *Using reef cloud to analyze benthic photos*
- (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:

- *Working with Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) on reef cloud*

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:

- *Read sections of the report*
- *Used the information for proposals and reports*
- (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: Yes*
2. *Data to contribute (GCRMN Region Country, Data description) Benthic and fish data from Palau International Coral Reef Report*
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:

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?

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?

Answer: It currently includes coral reefs

- (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:

Relevance – We will develop projects and programs that would address the different targets that are most relevant to us. The Targets more relevant are Targets 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 19

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)

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|--|--|---|
| Palau reefs after 19 years of monitoring show steady recovery from typhoon | PICRC Technical Report 23-08 | https://picrc.org/work/technicalreports/ |
| Surveys of Ngelukes Conservation Area over the last 10 years indicate effective protection of sea cucumbers | PICRC Technical Report 23-07 | |
| Branching corals were the most affected by the 2020 bleaching in Palau | | |
| Ngermasech Conservation Area protects macroinvertebrates over time | PICRC Technical Report 23-06 | |
| The Ngerumekaol MPA shows its effectiveness in protecting macroinvertebrates over the years | PICRC Technical Report 25-05 | |
| Third assessment of Medal Ngediull MPA reveals a decrease in coral recruitment and an increase in macroalgal cover | PICRC Technical Report 23-04 | |
| Reef fish stock assessment in 2021 indicates recovery over time | PICRC Technical Report 23-03 | |
| Investigating The Suitability of a New Method To Survey <i>Plectropomus areolatus</i> Spawning Aggregations in Palau | PICRC Technical Report 23-02 | |
| Baseline survey of Olterukl Marine Protected Area highlights sedimentation impacts on coral and seagrass | PICRC Technical Report 23-01 | |
| First records of the Pacific Sleeper shark <i>Somniosus cf. pacificus</i> in the western tropical Pacific | Journal of Fish Biology Volume 102, Issue 6 | https://picrc.org/work/journalarticles |
| No apparent trade-offs associated with heat tolerance in a reef-building coral | Communications Biology 6, 400 | |
| Assessing and managing charismatic marine megafauna in Palau: Bumphead parrotfish (<i>Bolbometopon muricatum</i>) and Napoleon wrasse (<i>Cheilinus undulatus</i>) | Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems, 33(4), 349– 365. | |
| Small-scale genetic structure of coral populations in Palau based on whole mitochondrial genomes: Implications for future coral resilience | Evolutionary Applications 16:518– 529 | |
| Coral bleaching resistance variation is linked to differential mortality and skeletal growth during recovery | Evolutionary Applications 16:504– 517 | |



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:
To gather and review progress of work

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: | |
| Name: | Yimnang Golbuu |
| Title/Organisation | Coral Resilience Director/ Palau |
| Email: | yimnang.golbuu@tnc.org |
| Focal Point 2: | |
| Name: | E. Ikelau Otto |
| Title/Organisation: | Chief Researcher/Palau International Coral Reef Center |
| Email: | |
| Member page updates: | |
| Section | Update |
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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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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/>