



## 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: Germany
- Name of person(s) completing member's report:
  - Division W II 2
  - Marine Nature Conservation
  - Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection
- Email: [WII2@bmu.bund.de](mailto:WII2@bmu.bund.de)
- 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: 36. General Meeting (virtually)
- Will you be attending the 37<sup>th</sup> 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/>)

*As Germany does not have any coral reefs, this question can only be answered comprehensively and briefly. In Germany, marine protection is a joint priority of the federal government. For the first time: Ocean Commissioner; plus establish cross-ministerial ocean coordination and ocean strategy for Germany. This includes the support of reef resilience-based management frameworks into our international policies and awareness raising. The Ocean Commissioner also gave a speech on the ICRI United #ForCoral event at the CBD COP15.*

*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: Germany is not a coral reef region but promotes projects that also benefit coral reefs, in emerging and developing countries. An example is the project “CoralCarib: Pioneering a new strategic approach for conserving and restoring Caribbean coral reef ecosystems that targets Climate Resilient Refuges“ implemented by The Nature Conservancy, as part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). More information available here: <https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/iki-media/news/conserving-coral-reefs-in-the-caribbean/>*

- (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: see answer 1.B.*

## 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: Germany is not a coral reef region but has some excellent research facilities dedicated to research and new technologies around coral reefs. Please refer to these organisations e.g. the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) and the University of Bremen.*

- (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)?

### 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? *Yes, summary*
  - Did you utilise the report and/or use the results and contents? *Key messages are used in policy communication etc.*
  - 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:

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: Germany is committed to Coral Reef Protection by hosting including financial contribution of a policy event by BMUV as part of the International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS) in July 2022 in Bremen that contributed to expand the coral reef community. More information: <https://www.icrs2022.de/scientific-program/science-to-policy-dialogue>*

*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: Germany is not a coral reef region; therefore, NBSAPs does not include 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: Germany is currently developing a National Biodiversity Strategy and an Ocean Strategy. Both will contribute to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global biodiversity framework.*

*By 2030, at least 30 percent of the ocean’s surface must be effectively protected, restored and equitably governed around the world, and this must include coral reefs as special features (target 2 and 3). Furthermore, target 8 “Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solution and/or ecosystem-based approaches” is important to coral reefs. Innovative instruments in order to mobilize sustainable funding for coral reef conservation and multi-stakeholder involvement can reduce the lack of capacities and equipment for many of the less developed countries, where coral reefs are essential (target 19).*

### **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:

**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: ICRI Member Reports could also be tailored to states that do not have coral reefs but are engaged in international cooperation for reef conservation and make financial contributions. There is also a difference at which level the report is completed (depending on the member e.g. ministry, research institution, protected area administration, NGO).*

**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>	Division W II 2 Marine Nature Conservation
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection
<i>Email:</i>	<b>WII2@bmu.v.bund.de</b>
<b>Do you have new resources (reports, guidelines etc.) that you would like to display?</b>	
<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/>