



# ICRS

International  
Coral Reef Society

## Update on Activities: 2021 - 2023

Simon Harding

ICRS Conservation Committee  
[coralreefs.org](http://coralreefs.org)



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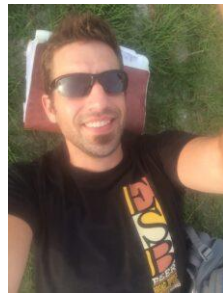
# ICRS Officers



President  
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Vice-President  
Tracy Ainsworth



Treasurer  
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Anastazia Banaszak



Editor-in-Chief  
*Coral Reefs*  
Morgan Pratchett



Corresponding Secretary  
C. Mark Eakin



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# Who we are

**983 members**

**72 countries**

researchers

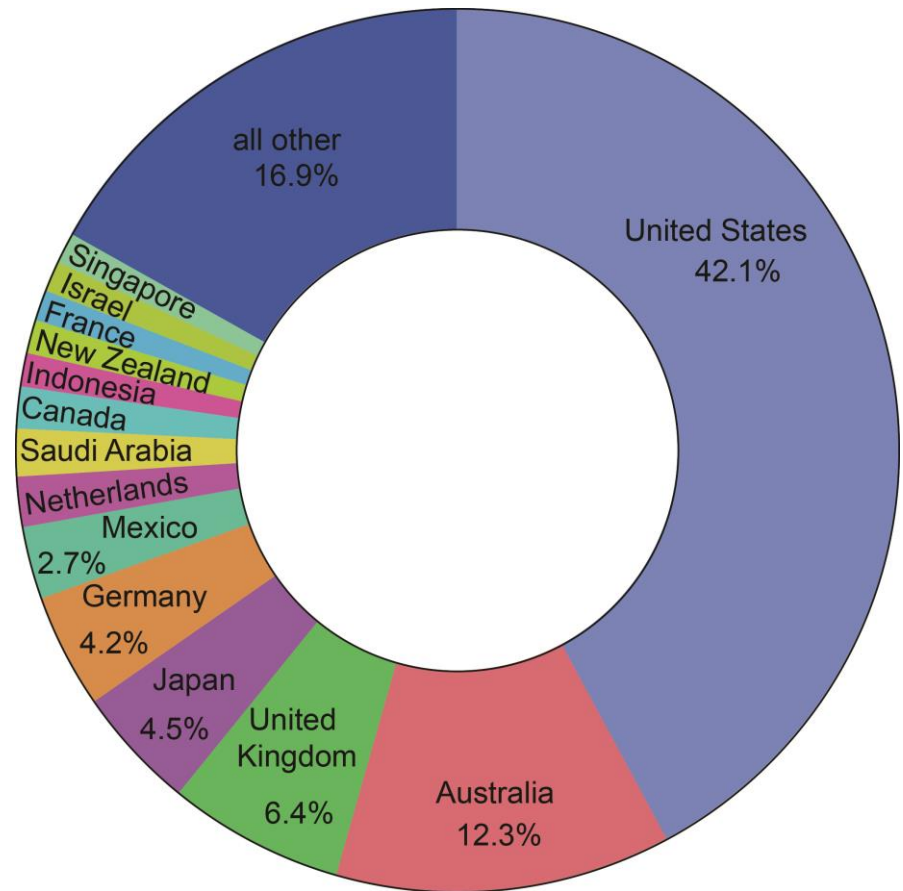
educators

managers

students

communicators

citizens





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# Building on Recent Accomplishments

## Implementation of ICRS Plan of Action

1. Promote science-based decision making
2. Reduce Carbon footprint
3. Partnerships with other coral groups to amplify our collective voice
4. Supported fellowships in science communication
5. Launched Pledge for Coral Reefs (#pledge4reefs)





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# 12 PLEDGES FOR CORAL REEFS

#pledge4reefs • #ICRS • coralreefs.org



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## SUPPORT policy for healthy reefs



**Vote** for conservation-based  
& reduced emission policies



**Advocate** for science-based  
decisions and reef protection



**Communicate**  
priorities with policy-makers

## REDUCE your carbon footprint



**Refuse** single-use plastics  
<https://www.5gyres.org/faq>



**Eat** sustainably and locally sourced  
<http://css.umich.edu/factsheets/carbon-footprint-factsheet>



**Limit** chemical and product use  
<http://www.oceanhealthindex.org/methodology/components/chemical-pollution>



**Cut** driving to reduce emissions  
<https://perma.cc/WYK8-RTJ4>



**Reduce** energy consumption  
at home and at work  
<https://www.green-e.org/certified-resources>



**Purchase** carbon off-set credits  
<https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CarbonOffset/Pages/default.aspx>

## PROMOTE education and awareness



**Educate** yourself and others  
<https://coralreefs.org/>; <https://www.noaa.gov/explainers/coral-reefs-essential-and-threatened>



**Participate** in coral reef stewardship  
<https://www.noaa.gov/education/resource-collections/ocean-coasts/ocean-pollution>



**Share** this pledge with educators  
and the public  
Share the #pledge4reefs

# Accomplishments in 2021

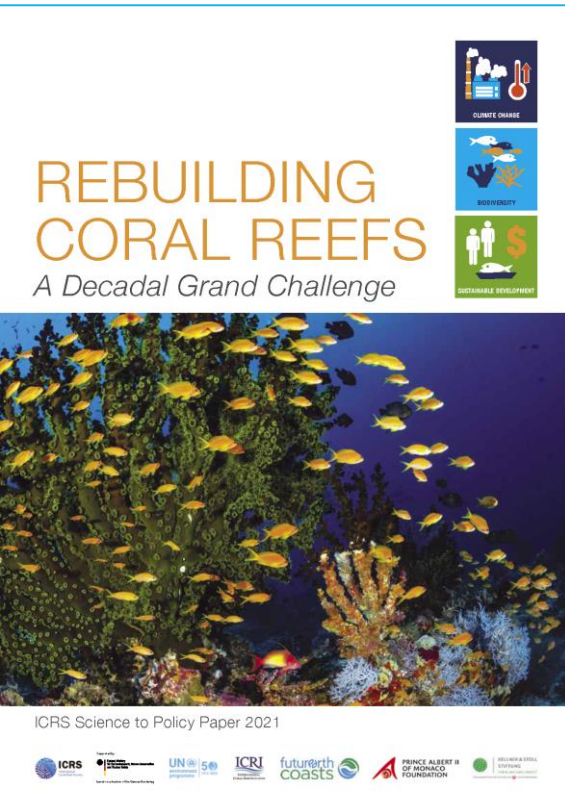
## Rebuilding Coral Reefs: A Decadal Grand Challenge (Knowlton et al., 2021)

- 3 Pillars for Action:
  - Reduce Global Climate Threats
  - Improve Local Conditions – Build Reef Resilience
  - Actively Restore - Invest in coral reef restoration

### Full Citation:

Knowlton N, Grottoli AG, Kleypas J, Obura D, Corcoran E, de Goeij J, Felis T, Harding S, Mayfield A, Miller M, Osuka K, Peixoto R, Randall CJ, Voolstra CR, Wells S, Wild C, Ferse S. 2021. Rebuilding Coral Reefs: A Decadal Grand Challenge. International Coral Reef Society and Future Earth Coasts, 56 pp.

<https://doi.org/10.53642/NRKY9386>

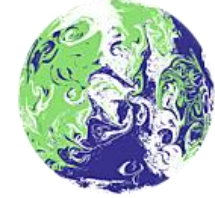


# Accomplishments in 2021

## 14th International Coral Reef Symposium VIRTUAL, July 2021:

- First ONLINE ICRS due to pandemic restrictions
- 1400 participants from more than 80 countries
- First ICRS organized by a European institution
- 700 oral and 400 poster presentations organised in 15 overarching themes





## ICRS Delegation to UNFCCC COP26, Glasgow, UK:

- 8 ICRS members attended COP26 over two weeks
- ICRS Flyer based on the Science to Policy paper
- ICRS-led side event in the EU Pavilion: *'Climate change mitigation and adaptation through coastal ecosystems conservation and restoration'*





## ICRS Delegation to UNFCCC COP26 (continued):

- Contributed to other side events e.g. *‘Corals and climate change; addressing threats through global, national, and local approaches’* (Commonwealth Secretariat and the UK Presidency)
- Met with delegates from over 30 countries as well as key international and regional organisations
- ICRS Booth on the Virtual Ocean Platform (Global Ocean Forum)



# Accomplishments in 2022

## 15<sup>th</sup> International Coral Reef Symposium, Bremen, July 2022:

- 1200 participants from more than 80 different countries
- 400 additional online participants via the virtual conference platform/app
- 800 oral and 300 poster presentations in 100 sessions
- Science to Policy Session: Coral Reefs and Climate
- 30% of all presentations by students



# Accomplishments in 2022

## 15<sup>th</sup> ICRS, Bremen, July 2022 (continued):

- First climate-neutral ICRS
- Largest marine science conference ever held in Germany
- More than 50 % of plenary speakers and chairs were female
- Free attendance for online participants from developing countries



## ICRS Delegation to UNFCCC COP27, Sharm el-Sheik, Eqypt:

- Three ICRS members over two weeks
- Met with delegates from coral reef countries and key international organisations
- Participated in workshops with GFCR and CORDAP
- Presentations on science-based solutions for minimizing coral reef decline

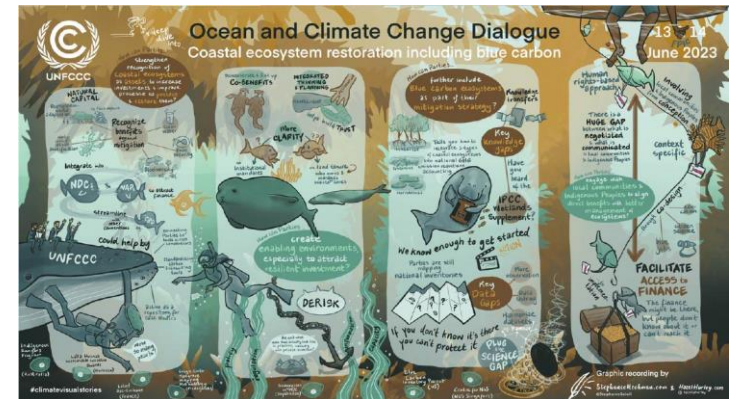


## UNFCCC – RINGO / Ocean Climate Dialogue

- Active member of UNFCCC's RINGO Groups (Research and Independent Non-Government Organisations)
- Contributed to the 2023 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue in Bonn (June)
- Submitted points for discussion at the Dialogue in relation to coral reefs and nature-based solutions



**OCEAN & CLIMATE  
PLATFORM**



## ICRS Delegation to UNFCCC COP28, Dubai, 2023

- Ongoing side event applications for multiple pavilions with CORDAP, Coral Restoration Consortium, The Commonwealth Secretariat and others
- Focus on action and implementation of tools to improve / restore coral reefs
- Reduced number of delegates from observer organisations





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# ICRS Chapters and Committees

## Chapters:

- Mexican Coral Reef Society
- Mid-East Coral Reef Society
- Coral Restoration Consortium
- European
- Student and Early Career

## Committees:

- Conservation
- Education
- **Mentorship and Belonging**
- **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**





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# Mentorship and Belonging Chapter

- Mentorship Program – September 2023
- Broad Goals:
  - Facilitate **mentorship** pairs between ICRS members
  - Encourage multidimensional mentorship – all aspects of life
  - Conduit for global partnerships that cross different career stages and institutions
  - Promote a sense of **belonging** for people who are under-represented
- 40 mentors from 12 countries
- 54 Mentees from 20 countries







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# Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee

- Sliding scale for membership fees based on Country Economic Status to encourage membership from the Global South, especially SIDS
- Free virtual attendance to ICRS Symposia for participants from developing countries
- Developing proposal for supporting the well-being of ICRS members in response to the coral reef crisis (Caribbean) e.g. sponsoring online workshops





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# ICRS Symposia

European  
Coral Reef  
Symposium –  
E CRS, July  
2024



**E CRS**  
**2024**  
NAPOLI  
2-5 JULY

<https://ecrs2024.eu/>

16<sup>th</sup> ICRS  
July 2026



**Auckland,**  
**New Zealand**



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# ICRS and ICRI

- Collaborate on the translation of science into policy – science-based decision making
- Contribute to ICRI Ad-Hoc Committees and working groups
- Amplify our collective voice to advocate for coral reef protection, restoration and sustainable management
- Explore potential to support capacity building initiatives





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# THANK YOU

[coralreefs.org](https://coralreefs.org)