

The 37th International Coral Reef Initiative General Meeting

Summary

September 2023

Version 1 (18/10/2023)

#FORCORAL



37th International Coral Reef Initiative General Meeting

Summary Record

September 2023

Note – Documents and presentations are available to be downloaded on the ICRI 37 GM Event page: <u>https://icriforum.org/events/37th-icri-general-meeting/</u>



The 37^{th} General Meeting (GM), the second of the United States of America's third tenure chairing the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), brought together ICRI members from around the world face-to-face for the first time since the 34th General Meeting in Townsville (Australia) in 2019 to discuss the achievements of ICRI and its members, share knowledge and experiences, and drive the implementation of the <u>2021 – 2024 Plan of Action: Turning the Tide for Coral Reefs</u>.

The meeting was opened by Kumu Keala, a Native Hawaiian cultural educator, composer, song writer and spiritual advisor, with a traditional oli and ceremony, followed by the co-chairs Christine Dawson (US Department of State) and Jennifer Koss (NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program), and lastly by welcome videos from Jennifer R. Littlejohn, (Acting Assistant Secretary Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, DoS) and Nicole LeBoeuf, (Assistant Administrator for NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS).

Apologies were received from the following ICRI Members who were unable to attend: The Commonwealth Secretariat, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), Egypt, Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA), MARS, Monaco and South Africa.







Over 80 participants (*see annex 1*) from 40 ICRI members gathered over four full days to take part in 12 productive sessions. The GM was centred around Theme 4 of the ICRI Plan of Action (2021 - 2024) and called for expanding diversity and inclusion within the coral reef community. Under this theme ICRI organised a field trip to the Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park, which preserves, interprets, and perpetuates Hawaiian cultural heritage providing the Hawaiian people and visitors to Hawai'i Island a chance to connect with the mana (magic or spirit) of traditional Native Hawaiian culture. The park is significant because it preserves nearly intact sites associated with traditional Native Hawaiians dating from prehistoric times to historic times.

In addition to the cultural exchange, a field trip to the new state-of-the-art coral research and propagation facility known as the Ridge to Reef Restoration Center in Kailua-Kona took place. The new 'Āko'ako'a Reef Restoration Program fuses cultural knowledge, advanced scientific tools, multi-modal education, and government service for communities of corals and people of Hawai'i Island. With 120 miles (190 km) of reef, the west coast of Hawai'i Island is the largest contiguous coral reef in the Hawaiian Archipelago, yet it also harbours a diversity of people, from Native Hawaiians to new communities to tourist destinations. A key component of Āko'ako'a is a state-of-the-art coral research and propagation facility, located at the midpoint of West Hawai'i's 120 mile coral reef. The coral facility is still under construction but will eventually house 72 state-of-the-art instrumented raceways to support large-scale research into West Hawai'i coral thermal and pollution tolerance, reproduction, and resilience. The Ridge to Reef Restoration Center will also be home to the global Allen Coral Atlas, Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources Kona Reef Restoration Program, and Terraformation Vegetation Restoration Program. Āko'ako'a is a shared stage for the integration of cultural practice, management, and science, seeding a deeper connection between coastal and coral communities in an era of climate change.







Listening Session

In line with Theme 4 of the ICRI Plan of Action (2021 - 2024), on the afternoon of the first day, a listening session was organised, where ICRI worked to involve Indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) participants and learn from their wisdom, where there is interest and consent to be involved. By listening to the diverse experiences and perspectives of the participants ICRI can ensure the incorporation of ILK into current and future policies and management plans. The session was chaired by 'Aulani Wilhelm and Kyle Whyte. Speakers included participants from Australia, Hawai'i, New Zealand, and Panama where they shared their unique perspectives, values and traditions (*see annex 2* for participant biography).



Speakers of the listening session

"We are representing intergenerational knowledge and whatever we take back to the people that we represent is a proactive movement. We know what hasn't worked in the past so what can we do to move forward positively. We need to understand each other's values, where we come from and then start to strategise how we can do things better'. – Troy Johnson, *Wulgurukaba Traditional Owner from the Townsville and Yunbenun (Magnetic Island) region*

"It is about finding balance for us whilst utilising traditional values and principles". – Maru Samuels, *Director to the Board of Te Ohu Kaimoana*.

"I think we should use ILK to bridge the gap between our ancestors' knowledge and the science". – Diwigdi Valiente, *Indigenous leader from the Guna peoples of Panama*.





New members

Acceptance of six new ICRI members.

- 1. Arizona State University (ASU)
 - a. Centre for Global Discovery and Conservation Science
 - b. Approach ASU integrates science, intergenerational knowledge, and global technology in community partnerships to drive tangible impact at scale.
- 2. The Coral Research & Development Accelerator Platform (CORDAP)
 - a. An initiative to push the boundaries of the possible, through science and technology, to save corals.
- 3. Coral Restoration Foundation (CRF)
 - a. Enhancing coral reefs through active and scalable restoration efforts
- 4. MSC Foundation
 - a. To utilise MSC's global reach and unique knowledge of the sea to take immediate action that contributes to protecting and nurturing the blue planet and all its people.
- 5. SECORE International
 - a. Scaling coral reef restoration through coral seeding and a transregional training and implementation program
 - b. To create and share the tools and technologies to sustainably restore coral reefs worldwide.
- 6. Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute's (SDMRI)
 - a. Established in 1998, it is the first institution in the non-governmental sector in India to offer Research and Higher Education in the discipline of Marine Science.

ICRI now counts 101 members accounting for over 75% of the world's coral reefs from 45 countries, 8 global intergovernmental organisations or multilateral environmental agreements, 33 non-governmental organisations, 5 private industry, company or foundation, and 10 regional intergovernmental organisations or regional seas.

Hosted with the support of



environment



Launch of the Coral Reef Breakthrough

The <u>International Coral Reef Initiative</u> (ICRI) has launched the <u>Coral Reef Breakthrough</u> in partnership with the <u>Global Fund for Coral Reefs</u> (GFCR) and the <u>High-Level Climate</u> <u>Champions</u> (HLCC). The Coral Reef Breakthrough aims to secure the future of at least 125,000 km² of shallow-water tropical coral reefs with investments of at least \$12 billion USD to support the resilience of more than half a billion people globally by 2030. In addition to broadbased climate action, the Coral Reef Breakthrough will be achieved through:

- Action point 1: Stop drivers of loss: Mitigate local drivers of loss including landbased sources of pollution, destructive coastal development, and overfishing.
- Action point 2: Double the area of coral reefs under effective protection: Bolster resilience-based coral reef conservation efforts by aligning with and transcending global coastal protection targets including 30x30.
- Action point 3: Accelerate Restoration: Assist the development and implementation of innovative solutions at scale and climate smart designs that support coral adaptation to impact 30% of degraded reefs by 2030.
- Action point 4: Secure investments of at least USD 12 billion by 2030 from public and private sources to conserve and restore these crucial ecosystems.

The Coral Reef Breakthrough is grounded in science-based, measurable, and achievable goals for state and non-state actors to collectively conserve, protect, and restore coral reefs at the scale that is needed to secure the future of these vital ecosystems and their critical contributions to humanity. Setting the first global targets for coral reefs, the Breakthrough will be realised by catalysing public and private financial flows and supporting sustainable conservation investments. These will activate and enhance proven solutions and mobilise aligned actions to achieve the Sharm-El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda's Ocean and Coastal Impact System targets and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

Achieving the Coral Reef Breakthrough means preventing the functional extinction of one of the world's most threatened, yet most valuable, and most biodiverse ecosystems.

More information at https://coralbreakthrough.org/

Full Breakthrough Text (see Annex 3).







Documents Adopted

1. In addition to the launch of the Coral Reef Breakthrough, ICRI members adopted a resolution encouraging ICRI Members to contribute to the Coral Reef Breakthrough.

Download the Resolution - (see Annex 4)

2. ICRI members adopted the Terms of Reference for an ad hoc committee on integrating coral reefs into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

The objectives of the ad hoc committee will be to:

- 1. Prepare a timeline for the implementation of the Terms of Reference, according to the ICRI Rules of Procedure.
- 2. Develop a guidance document for revising, updating and implementing NBSAPs to integrate coral reef ecosystems, including guidance on reporting and coral reef indicators, populated with the national case studies, and appropriate alternative resources that align with, and build upon, the GBF Monitoring Framework and previous ICRI ad hoc committees.
- 3. Engage with ongoing discussions, as appropriate.
- 4. Develop national case studies for interested and volunteering countries.
- 5. Organisation of an event at the COP16.

The committee will be chaired by the ICRI Secretariat and members include Australia, France, Maldives, United States of America, and Wildlife Conservation Society. If you are interested in joining the Ad Hoc Committee, please contact the ICRI Secretariat.

Download the Terms of Reference - (see Annex 5)

Ad Hoc Committees

The **post-2020 Ad-Hoc Committee** was closed, however, the information will remain online and can be found via this link: <u>https://icriforum.org/terms-of-reference-for-the-ad-hoc-committee-on-developing-a-recommendation-for-a-post-2020-coral-reef-target/</u>

Some of the documents produced by the committee include:

- The three asks #ForCoral:
 - Prioritise the vulnerable ecosystems we depend on, particularly coral reefs
 - o Retain the integrity of existing coral reef ecosystems and restore around them







- Adopt global coral reef indicators
- ICRI Recommendations:
 - May 2020: Adoption of the ICRI Recommendation on the inclusion of coral reefs and related ecosystems within the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
 - December 2021: Adoption of an Addendum to the ICRI Recommendation on the inclusion of coral reefs and related ecosystems within the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Frameworks
- ICRI developed and implemented a communications strategy to promote the ICRI Recommendation at important international meetings and events in preparation and including the 15th COP of the CBD.

Thank you to the members of the committee and to Vulcan for its financial support. The collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) will continue with the NBSAP committee.

The **Resilience-Based Management** (RBM) ad hoc committee was also closed and there will be between four to six case studies produced and shared shortly. The information will remain online and can be found via this link: <u>https://icriforum.org/resilience-based-management/</u>

With the increased awareness of the vulnerability of coral reefs and the vital role that they play in supporting nature and people, there is an urgent need to build coral reef resilience into marine conservation efforts globally, including in global policy frameworks.

In 2019, the ad hoc Committee on RBM conducted a survey seeking information about ICRI members' needs around RBM. A key survey result was that 69% of participants identified that a lack of understanding of RBM was a barrier to implementation. Recognising the need to address this knowledge gap, the Committee developed a Policy Brief and animation to provide guidance for decision makers on what they could do to support RBM from a policy perspective.

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HcWTGvsFyUU

Policy Brief: <u>https://icriforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/J002546_GBRMPA_RBM-Policy_NOV21.pdf</u>

The **ad hoc committee on restoration and adaptation** was extended with new terms of reference adopted. The committee will continue to promote best practices in reef restoration and will transition away from being chaired by Australian representatives and will now be cochaired by the Coral Restoration Consortium, and UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, in collaboration with the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute.

Download the resolution to extend the ICRI ad hoc committee for coral reef restoration and adaptation here *(see Annex 6):*

https://icriforum.org/documents/resolution-to-extend-the-icri-ad-hoc-committee-on-restoration-and-adaptation/







The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)



GCRMN Steering Committee Meeting participants

The GCRMN aims to provide the best available scientific information on the status and trends of coral reef ecosystems for their conservation and management. The GCRMN is a global network of scientists, managers and organisations that monitor the condition of coral reefs worldwide, operating through ten regional nodes.

Prior to the commencement of the 37th ICRI General Meeting, the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) convened its steering committee from 18 – 19th September 2023. The steering committee was opened with a traditional 'Oli' or welcoming ceremony. Overall, a total of 24 Steering Committee members were present (*see annex 7*), including the addition of SocMon coordinators as the GCRMN seeks to integrate socio-economic data into upcoming reports.

Across the two days of rich discussion, members delved into the necessary mechanisms for developing the next global report alongside the short-term focus of GCRMN over the next few years. During the General Meeting, Global Coordinator of the GCRMN, Britta Schafelke, provided the outcomes of the Steering Committee meeting to ICRI members with the following key outputs:

The focus of the meeting were discussions around:

- Continuing the reinvigoration of the Network
- Looking forward: our niche, our focus
- Production of the next Status of Coral Reefs of the World report.

As part of these discussions, the existing GCRMN 2030 vision statement was slightly updated (to be confirmed by the SC members):







- [Draft] The GCRMN is established as the core framework for collaborative measuring and reporting of coral reef status and trends, responding to national, regional and international priorities.
- [Draft] The outputs of the GCRMN motivate successful global action for the long-term sustainability of coral reefs and associated ecosystems for nature and people.

Short-term focus of the Network (next two-three years)

- 1. Data Taskforce progressing towards recommendations for good data management practices and improved data integration and analyses.
- 2. Improved communication within the GCRMN community.
- 3. Improved external visibility of the Network.
- 4. Production of Regional Reports in many of the ten GCRMN Regions.
- 5. Production of the next Status of Coral Reefs of the World report.

The production of the next *Status of Coral Reefs of the World* report was workshopped with the SC members, which will inform a detailed work concept and business plan, including fundraising activities. Please reach out to the ICRI Secretariat for how to support the fundraising for the next global report.

Member Reports

A total of 35 member reports were received including 19 countries. Some additional presentations from members reports were presented during the meeting including the following and are available to be downloaded on the ICRI 37 GM Event page: <u>https://icriforum.org/events/37th-icri-general-meeting/</u>

- The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF), its importance in ICRI and the Development of the Coral Triangle Conservation Fund *Mohd Kushairi Bin Mohd Rajuddin, The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF)*
- Allen Coral Atlas: The Allen Coral Atlas, a Highly Detailed and Globally Consistent Coral Reef Monitoring Platform *Greg Asner*, *GDCS/ASU*
- Sustainable marine tourism businesses an unlocked resource for coral reef conservation *Chloe Harvey, The Reef World Foundation*
- New challenge on mangrove monitoring and coastal management in Palau *Tadashi Kimura, Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC)*
- International Coral Reef Society: update on activities 2021 2023 *Simon Harding, International Coral Reef Society (ICRS)*







Response Plans

"We are all connected by the problem, but hopefully connected by the solution" – Ana Paula Prates, Director of Ecosystem Conservation, Brazilian Ministry of the Environment (MMA)



Response plan panel session speakers

Theme three of <u>ICRI's Plan of Action (2021-2024)</u> calls for local threat reduction: integrating response planning frameworks. For more than a decade, a common strategy for coral managers has been to develop response plans for various threats plaguing corals. With the advent of coral bleaching response plans ten-plus years ago, many managers have also developed response plans for other threats including unsustainable and destructive fishing, land-based pollution, disease, storm damage, invasive or nuisance species outbreaks, and vessel groundings. Typically, each of these plans is a standalone document even though response efforts are often led by the same agency or supported by the same groups of people.

A series of presentations were given addressing existing response plans from the following participants:

- Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease Lessons Learned and Pacific Preparedness *Caroline McLaughlin, FL Sea Grant*
- Tackling Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) in the Caribbean UKOTs Argel Horton, British Virgin Islands United Kingdom Overseas Territory & Jane Hawkridge, JNCC

Hosted with the support of





vww.icriforum.org



- Invasive Species: Lionfish Management Ana Paula Prates, Brazil
- Lionfish Response Plan *Alicia Eck-Nunez, Belize*
- El Niño forecasting and response to marine heatwave events *Erica Towle, NOAA*
- Coral Bleaching Toolkit and Comprehensive Plan Andrea Rivera Sosa, Coral Reef Alliance
- Maui Super Reefs Emily Fielding, TNC Hawaii Marine Conservation Director

This was then followed by an all-female panel session to discuss resilient, comprehensive, and collaborative coral reef response plans that address the multifaceted threats facing coral reef ecosystems including lessons learned from different strategies adopted by various countries/organisations. Discussions included:

- 1. How can existing coral reef response plans can be adapted and improved to better address evolving challenges?
- 2. What can be done to foster long-term sustainability?
- 3. How to ensure existing coral reef response plans are equitable, inclusive and consider the needs and rights of local communities?
- 4. Begun the discussion on preparing for El Nino

Two of the main outcomes of the discussions included the proposal of a series of webinars to be produced on response planning and secondly how can we make the data already available into an accessible manner to be used across countries, regions and globally.



environment



12



Youth Delegation

Under Theme 4 of the Plan of Action, expanding the coral reef community, ICRI aims to broaden the coral reef community to include underrepresented voices, including the Indigenous, local, and youth communities. The General Meeting strongly focused on Theme 4 with cultural exchanges, listening sessions and strong Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) representation, especially from the Pacific, with a reflection produced and presented to ICRI members for the inclusion of Indigenous and Local Knowledge into coral reef conservation. This was then replicated for a Youth panel. As such, a small youth delegation led by Esther Maina, *Kenya* and Diwigdi Valiente, *Panama* formed an informal working group *(see annex 8)* throughout the duration of the general meeting to develop reflections for the inclusion of Youth in future ICRI actions and global efforts.

A two-page summary of the discussions will be produced in due course and shared with ICRI members. Some of the proposed activities that were discussed include the following:

- Creation of a catalogue or digital interactive platform for resource and knowledge sharing
- Creation of a Youth Ambassador Program
- Capacity building to increase opportunities for youth across developing coral reef regions
- Community engagement activities to increase urban youth's connection to coral reef ecosystems



Youth Delegation





National Coral Reef Task Forces

US Coral Reef Task Force

The United States Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) was established in 1998 by Presidential Executive Order (EO) 13089 to lead U.S. efforts to preserve and protect coral reef ecosystems. The EO was recently superseded by the Reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, which codified the USCRTF. The USCRTF members include representatives of 14 Federal agencies, seven U.S. States, territories, commonwealths, four Fishery Management Councils, and the three Freely Associated States of Micronesia (FAS). The USCRTF helps build partnerships, strategies, and support for on-the-ground action to conserve coral reefs but does not receive direct funding.

The USCRTF coordinates, in cooperation with partners identified in the Reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, activities regarding the mapping, monitoring, research, conservation, mitigation, and restoration of coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems. It also monitors and advises regarding the implementation of the policy and Federal agency responsibilities set forth in Executive Order 13089. Additionally, the USCRTF works in coordination with the other members of the Task Force to assess the United States role in international trade and protection of coral species; to encourage the implementation of appropriate strategies and actions to promote the conservation and sustainable use of coral reef resources worldwide; and to collaborate with international communities successful in managing coral reefs; to provide technical assistance for the development and implementation, as appropriate, of the National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy which will replace NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program Strategic Plan.

The All Islands Committee (AIC) was formed in 1996, and worked collaboratively with the USCRTF through partnerships with federal agencies, and promotes sharing among jurisdictions to improve management and protection of coral reef ecosystems. The AIC includes Governor and Presidential-appointed representatives in the seven U.S. States, territories, and commonwealths, including Florida, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Hawai'i, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands, and the Freely Associated States of Micronesia- Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands.

USCRTF and AIC members meet in person biannually to discuss key issues, propose new actions, present progress reports, and update the coral community on past accomplishments and future plans. In addition, the USCRTF Steering Committee - made up of representatives from each of the participating Federal agencies, states, territories, and FAS - meets monthly to discuss progress on current USCRTF initiatives and plan new areas for collaboration. The Steering Committee also has working groups focusing on watershed management, enforcement, communications, climate change, fisheries management, coral disease, coral restoration, and an unofficial working group on coral reefs as national natural infrastructure. Working groups provide an opportunity for federal and jurisdictional USCRTF members to collaborate on specific topics, secure additional federal funding, and implement projects. The next USCRTF Meeting is in the US Virgin Islands, October 21-28, 20 23. In 2024, there will be a USCRTF Meeting in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands. The

Hosted with the support of

ent Offices of Sweden







USCRTF would welcome any ICRI member interested in attending as an observer and should contact Jennifer Koss.

IFRECOR

IFRECOR, is the French initiative for coral reefs. Created in 1999, by decision of the Prime Minister, IFRECOR works for the protection and sustainable management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems (mangroves, seagrass) in French overseas communities. The French initiative for coral reefs is placed under the co-chairmanship of the ministers responsible for the environment and overseas territories respectively.

IFRECOR is made up of a national committee and a network of 10 local committees representing French communities sheltering coral reefs: <u>Guadeloupe</u>, <u>Martinique</u>, <u>Saint</u> <u>Barthélemy</u>, <u>Saint-Martin</u>, <u>Réunion</u>, <u>Mayotte</u>, <u>the</u> <u>Scattered Islands</u> (TAAF), <u>New Caledonia</u>, <u>Wallis and Futuna</u> and <u>French Polynesia</u>. Each of the local committees and the national committee bring together, at their level, all the stakeholders concerned with the protection and sustainable management of coral reefs: parliamentarians, representatives of local committees, representatives of interested ministerial departments, researchers, socio-professionals and representatives of NGO.

The IFRECOR national committee meets in plenary session every two years, in an overseas community, alternating with a meeting of the permanent committee (reduced formation of the national committee), which is held every 2 years in Paris.

The Nairobi Convention Coral Reef Task Force

The Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse is a 'data reference centre' in the Western Indian Ocean region, providing accurate and relevant data and information for improved management and protection of the coastal and marine environment in the Western Indian Ocean region.

The Nairobi Convention Coral Reef Task Force (CRTF) was established by The Third meeting of Conference of Parties of the Convention for the Protection, Management, and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region (COP3) decision CP.3/2 Protection of coral reefs and associated ecosystems. The COP3 decision urged all parties to the Nairobi Convention to: establish national bodies to coordinate coral reef activities within each country and to develop national coral reef action plans or strategies where appropriate. The COP decision further requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to establish a Coral Reef Task Force to coordinate work on coral reefs throughout the region, including the development of a regional action plan, with reference to the work program of the Nairobi Convention, initiatives and projects being implemented within the region.

Hosted with the support of



environment



Upcoming events

The following events were identified by the ICRI Secretariat as of interest to continue to raise awareness on the plight of coral reefs. ICRI members willing to work with the Secretariat on side events, including educational activities are encouraged to contact the ICRI Secretariat. In addition, should there be additional events that members are attending or would like to highlight as of importance please do not hesitate to contact us and submit the event information.

• 6 / 10 November 2023 - Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute 76 (GCFI76), The Bahamas

A GCRMN Caribbean Steering Committee meeting will be held.

• 20 / 23 November 2023 - Twenty-Third Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Programme, Barbados

The ICRI Secretariat is planning to organise a side event, 'Turning the Tide for Coral Reefs: the importance of regional activities. With the international agenda setting global targets for 2030, coupled with increasing threats to coral reefs, their associated ecosystems and those that depend on them, the opportunity for decisive action is rapidly closing. A critical tool for ensuring global alignment and concerted efforts for coral reefs is strong regional collaboration. The UNEP Regional Seas Programme offers a vital mechanism for this coordination and the ICRI secretariat aims to engage its members, and other regional seas organisations and networks to build capacity and expand the coral reef community.

• 26 February / 1 March 2024 - Sixth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), Nairobi

Should countries wish to submit a resolution on the coral reef breakthrough please contact the ICRI Secretariat.

• 10 / 12 April 2024 - Ocean Decade Conference, Barcelona (Spain)

A booth/ satellite event is currently being developed.

- 2 / 5 July 2024 European Coral Reef Symposium, Naples (Italy)
- October / November 2024 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- June 2025 UN Ocean Conference, Nice (France)





Overall Meeting Outcomes

- Six new Members welcomed to ICRI •
- Launch of the Coral Reef Breakthrough
- Adoption of the resolution on the Coral Reef Breakthrough
- Adoption of the Resolution on integrating coral reefs into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
- Extension of the ad-hoc committee on reef restoration and adaptation including adoption of a new terms of reference
- Inclusion of Indigenous peoples, traditional owners and youth, and launch of efforts • to expand Indigenous and Local Knowledge in ICRI efforts.





Annexes

Annex 1:

Table 1: Participants list for the ICRI 37 General Meeting

First Name	Last Name	Organisation	
Greg	Asner	Arizona State University	
Thea	Waters	The Reef Authority, Australia	
Alicia	Eck-Nunez	Belize Fisheries Department	
Ana Paula	Prates	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Brazil	
Jennifer	Koss	Co-Chair, NOAA	
Christine	Dawson	Co-Chair, U.S. Department of State	
Margarita Victoria	Caballa	Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)	
Andrea	Rivera- Sosa	Coral Reef Alliance	
Rory	Jordan	The Coral Research & Development Accelerator Platform (CORDAP)	
Tali	Vardi	Coral Restoration Consortium	
Phanor	Montoya-Maya	Coral Restoration Foundation	
Karin	Moejes	CORDIO East Africa	
Mauricio	Mendez Venegas	Environment and Energy Ministry, Costa Rica	
Mohd Kushairi Bin	Mohd Rajuddin	CTI-CFF, Coral Triangle Initiative	
Antoine	Pebayle	Ministry of ecological Transition and territorial Cohesion, France	
Britta	Schaffelke	GCRMN / AIMS	
Theresa	Fyffe	Great Barrier Reef Foundation	
Fadilah	Ali	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute	
Ryan	Okano	Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources	
Tom	Dallison	ICRI Secretariat	
Simon	Harding	International Coral Reef Society (ICRS)	
Chanel	Raynor	National Environment and Planning Agency, Jamaica	
Takuya	Ishikawa	Ministry of the Environment, Japan	
Izarenah	Binti Md Repin	Department of Fisheries, Malaysia	
Riyaz	Jauharee	Maldives Marine Research Institute	
M.P.	Crosby	Mote Marine Laboratory	
Timothy	Andrew	Nairobi Convention	
Tadashi	Kimura	Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC)	
Danna	Moore	PADI AWARE Foundation	
Yimnang	Golbuu	Palau	

Hosted with the support of

Gouvernement Princier PRINCIPAUTÉ DE MONACO

ment Offices of Sweden





International Coral Reef Initiative

vww.icriforum.org

Lissette	Trejos-Lasso	Ministerio de Ambiente, Panamá	
Chloe	Harvey	Reef World Foundation	
Khalid	Al-Shaikh	National Center for Wildlife, Saudi Arabia	
Dirk	Petersen	SECORE International	
Rodney	Quatre	Department of Environment, Seychelles	
Edward JK	Patterson	Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute	
Rose Sallema	Mtui	National Environment Management Council, Tanzania	
Mary	Allen	NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program	
Lizze	McLeod	The Nature Conservancy	
Margaret	Johnson	The Reef Authority, Australia	
Nicolas	Rocle	The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)	
Christophe	Blazy	UNEP-CĂR/RCU - SPAŴ-RAC	
Jack	Collier	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, U.K.	
Sinikinesh Beyene	Jimma	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	
Mike	Lameier	NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program	
Case	Prager	U.S. Department of State	
Aulani	Wilhelm	SVP, Center for Oceans at Conservation International	
Haley	Williams	Wildlife Conservation Society	
Carol	Phua	WWF International	
Esther	Maina	Youth Delegate, Kenya	
Yabanex	Batista	Global Fund For Coral Reefs	
Brian	Beck	NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program	
Amanda	Brigdale	GCRMN / AIMS	
Nicole	Crane	One People One Reef	
Sarah	Del Ben	Icebreaker Entertainment Studios	
Caroline	Donovan	NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program	
Beatrice Padovani	Ferreira	Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil	
Emily	Fielding	The Nature Conservancy	
Alika	Garcia	Kuleana Coral Restoration, Hawai'i	
Gabriel	Grimsditch	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	
Jane	Hawkridge	Joint Nature Conservation Committee, U.K.	
Margaux	Hein	ICRI Consultant	
Vineeta	Hoon	SOCMON, Regional Coordinator South Asia	
Argel	Horton	British Virgin Islands	
Risla	Ibrahim	Maldives Marine Research Institute	
Liza	Johnson	U.S. Department of Interior	
Troy	Johnson	The Reef Authority, Australia	





International Coral Reef Initiative

vww.icriforum.org

Yuko	Kitano	Japan Wildlife Research Center	
Jessica	Levy	Coral Restoration Foundation	
Kristen	Maize	The Nature Conservancy	
Paulo	Maurin	NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program	
Melanie	McField	GCRMN Caribbean Network	
Caroline	McLaughlin	NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program / Florida Sea Grant	
Margaret	Miller	SECORE International	
Margaux	Monfared	ICRI Secretariat	
Winfred	Mudong	SOCMON, Regional Coordinator Pacific Islands	
Kailey	Pascoe	Arizona State University	
Serge	Planes	GCRMN Pacific	
Maru	Samuels	Te Ohu Kaimoana, New Zealand	
Arie	Sanders	SOCMON, Regional Coordinator Central America	
Francis	Staub	ICRI Secretariat	
Alexis	Sturm	NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program	
Faridah	Tayib	National Center for Wildlife, Saudi Arabia	
Ann	Tihansky	U.S. Department of Interior	
Erica	Towle	NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program	
Diwigdi	Valiente	Youth Delegate, Panamá	
Kyle	Whyte	US	
Supin	Wongbusarakum	SOCMON	









Annex 2:

Listening Session Moderators

Aulani Wilhelm

'Aulani Wilhelm will soon join the leadership team at Nia Tero as Chief Strategy and External Affairs Officer, after serving as the Assistant Director for Ocean Conservation, Climate and Equity at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Previously she served as the Senior Vice President for Oceans at Conservation International where she co-led the Blue Nature Alliance, a global partnership to catalyse the conservation of 18 million km² of ocean. Her work bridges culture, community, and science to drive innovations in ocean policy and conservation. 'Aulani

has played a pivotal role in shaping the emerging field of large-scale ocean conservation, leading the establishment of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and World Heritage Site in Hawai'i. Ms. Wilhelm is also the founder of Big Ocean, a network of the world's largest marine managed areas. Prior, she was director of ocean initiatives for NOAA's Office of Marine Sanctuaries, and a social innovation fellow at Stanford University. 'Aulani is Mellon Distinguished Scholar at Arizona State University's Center for Imagination. She holds a MS degree from Stanford University and a BA degree from the University of Southern California.



Kyle Whyte

Kyle Whyte is a Science Envoy for Indigenous and Local Knowledge, U.S. Department of State and George Willis Pack Professor, School for Environment and Sustainability, University of Michigan, teaching in the SEAS environmental justice specialisation. He is founding Faculty Director of the Tishman Center for Social Justice and the Environment, Principal Investigator of the Energy Equity Project, and Affiliate Professor of Native American Studies and Philosophy at the University of Michigan. Kyle is currently a U.S. Science Envoy and

serves on the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council and the National Academies' Resilient America Roundtable. He is President of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition and the Pesticide Action Network North America. He is an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Listening Session Participants







International Coral Reef Initiative

Alexander 'Alika' Garcia

Alika is the Co-founder and Executive Director of <u>Kuleana Coral</u> <u>Restoration</u>. Born and raised on the island of Oahu, Alika is a Native Hawaiian and multi-generational subsistence fisherman. He attended the University of Hawaii, Manoa where he studied marine biology and aquaculture. While at university, Alika joined the Scientific Diving group and conducted various coral reef surveys around the Hawaiian islands. Alika has served

vww.icriforum.org

as a Firefighter/EMT with the Honolulu Fire Department for 15 years. He has over 15 years in Hawaiian commercial fishing and has led teams of SCUBA divers and boaters on various missions. Alika is passionate about marine conservation, specifically by combining the knowledge and experience of local fishermen with modern scientific practices. He believes this approach, guided by traditional Hawaiian values, will be the most effective in solving our marine resource problems.



Troy Johnson

Troy is a proud Wulgurukaba Traditional Owner from the Townsville and Yunbenun (Magnetic Island) region, and a Gugu-Badhun Traditional Owner of the Burdekin River. Troy has over 17 years' experience working in Natural Resource Management, Conservation, and Land Management, including working as a Marine Parks Ranger and Director of both the Wulgurukaba Yunbenun Aboriginal Corporation and the GuguBadhun Aboriginal Corporation. Troy now owns his own Indigenous consultancy business. Troy is passionate about providing

opportunities for Indigenous First Nations people of Australia to work positively with nonindigenous Australians to address inequality and build resilient communities. Troy has brought this knowledge to the Reef Authority's Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee (IRAC), particularly in his current role as IRAC Chair.



International Coral Reef Initiative



Winfred Mudong

Winfred began his position at the Micronesia Conservation Trust (Pohnpei, Micronesia) on January 22, 2018 where he coordinates socioeconomic monitoring (SEM) activities for the Micronesia Challenge and the Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Area Community (PIMPAC). SEM provides insight into human wellbeing and is important to capture alongside biological indicators in order to ensure effective conservation that benefits communities throughout Micronesia.Winfred was born and raised on the island of Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. He is very

vww.icriforum.org

passionate about serving his community and is a member of many local and internationally recognized non-profit organizations where he continues his support through volunteer work and other contributions.



Ryan Okano

Ryan Okano is the Program Manager for the Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources. Ryan grew up fishing the coastal waters near Pepe'ekeo on Hawai'i and still frequently spearfishes with his brother and nephews. Fishing is interwoven into his community's social practices, and when the catch is good, Ryan and his neighbours share fish with one another. One of Ryan's overarching goals in his work is to manage and protect Hawaii's aquatic resources, including fisheries, for future generations to

benefit from and enjoy.



Maru Samuels

Maru Samuels is a Director to the Board of Te Ohu Kaimoana. Maru brings with him a wealth of fisheries management experience and policy knowledge currently serving as a Director for Ngāti Maru (Taranaki) Fishing Company Limited, DeepWater Group, Trident Systems, Inshore JV, and the Iwi Collective Partnership commercial collaboration of 19 iwi tribes. The establishment of a transformative system of commercial fisheries that is consistent with Māori values and traditions is one of Maru's passions. Tribal affiliations include Ngāi

environment

Te Rangi, Ngāti Hauā, Te Rarawa, Ngaitakoto and Te Aupouri.







Diwigdi 'Diwi' Valiente

Diwigdi is an indigenous leader from the Guna peoples of Panama, a community who live in a transnational area known as Guna Yala. This is the first Indigenous territory in Latin America to be displaced by climate change and Diwigdi's core focus is to draw the attention of national and international authorities on this issue. As such he is the Founder of the Burwigan project, an art collective that creates awareness, informs, and inspires actions against climate change and plastic pollution within the Panamanian population and Indigenous peoples. Alongside this, he

leads on sustainability affairs at the Ministry of Tourism in Panama. With over 10 years of experience in the government sector, he has also been a consultant of hotel chains and NGOs on issues related to sustainable tourism, Indigenous peoples, and the blue economy.







Annex 3:

The Coral Reef Breakthrough

An urgent call to action for 25% of life in our ocean

Coral reefs exist in more than 100 countries and territories and, whilst they cover less than 1% of the seafloor, coral reefs support at least 25% of marine species; integral to sustaining Earth's vast and interconnected web of marine biodiversity and provide ecosystem services valued up to \$9.9 trillion annually¹. For more than one billion people, including vulnerable coastal communities, whose daily lives are inextricably linked with life below water, healthy coral reefs are sources of sustainable food, livelihoods and income generation, protection from storm surge, medicinal properties, and significant cultural heritage. Coral reefs are essential to the security, resilience, and climate adaptation of many of the most climate-vulnerable nations on Earth, including low-lying island states. Yet the functional existence of these critical ecosystems is at stake due to the climate crisis and a myriad of other anthropogenic stressors. The window for protecting these ecosystems is closing rapidly, and scientists globally are calling on public and private actors to take action for the future of coral reefs.

The Coral Reef Breakthrough is grounded in science-based, measurable, and achievable goals for state and non-state actors to collectively conserve, protect, and restore coral reefs at the scale that is needed to secure the future of these vital ecosystems and the highly valuable contributions they provide to people. It is a global vision aiming to convene and catalyse actions from all stakeholders (Indigenous peoples, coastal local communities, governments, public and private financial institutions, science, philanthropies, the private sector) for scalable coral reef actions.

This will be achieved by catalysing public and private financial flows and supporting sustainable investments. These will activate and enhance proven solutions and mobilise actions to achieve the Sharm-El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda's Ocean and Coastal Impact System targets[A] and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework[B], adopted at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Specifically, the Coral Reef Breakthrough aims to secure the future of at least $125,000 \text{ km}^2$ of shallow-water tropical coral reefs with investments of at least USD 12 billion to support the resilience of more than half a billion people globally by 2030. This will be achieved through a suite of actions:

• Action point 1: **Stop drivers of loss**: Mitigate local drivers of loss including land-based sources of pollution, destructive coastal development, and overfishing.

 \cdot Action point 2: **Double the area of coral reefs under effective protection**: Bolster resilience-based coral reef conservation efforts by aligning with and transcending global coastal protection targets including 30x30.

 \cdot Action point 3: Accelerate Restoration: Assist the development and implementation of innovative solutions at scale and climate smart designs that support coral adaptation to impact 30% of degraded reefs by 2030.







• Action point 4: Secure investments of at least USD 12 billion by 2030 from public and private sources to conserve and restore these crucial ecosystems.

All actions contributing to reach the targets of the Breakthrough should be in line with the following, as appropriate:

• Conserve the integrity, functionality, and resilience of coral reef systems: Strengthen our collective and collaborative efforts to conserve the integrity and resilience of coral reef ecosystems, particularly those most resilient to climate change. Such efforts require tackling greenhouse gas emissions in parallel to addressing local drivers of coral reef decline with concrete actions such as improving wastewater treatment, designing more protected areas as no-fishing zones, and managing run-offs from agricultural practices.

• Employ best-practice, climate-smart guidelines for intervention: Engage in targeted, strategic efforts to address coral bleaching, and repair degraded coral reef ecosystems, supporting natural recovery with innovative new techniques where appropriate.

• **Monitor strategically**: Track the local, regional, and global impacts of these efforts with Global Biodiversity Framework indicators to show progress on the delivery of the Breakthrough targets.

• **Mobilise sustainable financing**: Ensure that efforts to close the biodiversity finance gap include diverse sources of funding for coral reefs, including through sustainable and long-term financing and investment vehicles, and consideration of natural capital accounting and development of nature positive economies.

• **Consider local context:** Design conservation efforts and interventions focused on locally led adaptation and resilience building, in partnership with reef-adjacent communities, considering specific drivers of declines, connectivity with associated ecosystems, and social-economic perspectives to.

• **Prioritise reefs that have the greatest value for nature and people:** Actions should target reefs that are potential refugia from thermal stress of climate change, and those that have high economic, social, and cultural values for people.

 \cdot **Empower people:** Undertake all conservation, restoration, monitoring, and finance activities with the explicit support, engagement, and leadership of local communities, including Indigenous peoples, that live alongside coral reefs and/or depend on them for their food or economic security.

• Equity and Inclusion: Mobilise financing and technical support for reef communities, ensuring equitable local access to, and benefit from, efforts to conserve, protect, and restore reefs.

Impact of the Breakthrough

Achieving the Coral Reef Breakthrough will mean preventing the functional extinction of one of the world's most threatened², yet most valuable, and most biodiverse ecosystems. The target of 125,000km² exceeds the 30% target set by the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to highlight the urgency and priority for the world to save coral reefs. Targets from the Coral Reef Breakthrough will be instrumental in meeting Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG14. Actions to conserve, protect, and restore 50% of the world's coral reefs could potentially generate over \$18 billion in tourism revenues annually³,







preserve important fishing grounds and spawning aggregations for commercially important fisheries, and safeguard \$5.5 billion of coastal economic value through shoreline protection⁴. Securing the future of reefs identified as climate refugia would also provide hope for lasting recovery and potential to resist climate threats in the decades to come.

Annex 1: Action points in detail

Action point 1: **Stop drivers of loss**: Mitigate local drivers of loss including land-based sources of pollution, destructive coastal development, and overfishing.

The climate and biodiversity crises, compounded by local anthropogenic stressors, such as land and marine pollution, unsustainable tourism, and coastal development, overfishing and other harmful extractive activities, continue to pose an existential threat to coral reefs. However, mitigating these drivers of loss can lead to the recovery of coral cover and associated biodiversity, functions and services. For example, local reef management in the Dominican Republic that integrates water quality treatment, restricts vessel traffic, and regulates fishing has led to improved reef health indicators⁵.

The Coral Reef Breakthrough will support efforts to mitigate and stop local anthropogenic stressors to coral reefs, particularly in coastal areas neighbouring active conservation measures of protection and restoration.

Action point 2: **Double the area of coral reefs under effective protection**: Bolster resiliencebased coral reef conservation efforts by aligning with and transcending global coastal protection targets including 30by30

Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework calls for at least 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas to be under effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected, and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. The UNEP-WCMC estimates that ~60,000 km² of coral reefs are under protection, and the Coral Reef Breakthrough aims to secure a further 65,000 km² of coral reefs under conservation measures.

Ensuring that the conservation measures in place are effective is of outmost importance. Existing and new initiatives should focus on resilience of reefs and associated communities, and bolster capacity for coral reef ecosystems to adapt to changing conditions while still delivering important ecosystem services. Sustainable management should always respect and protect Indigenous and local knowledge and traditional perspectives, and when application with appropriate protections for the knowledge holders, integrate such knowledge and perspectives into sustainable management strategies. Reef areas identified as refugia from pressures of climate change should also be prioritised.

Action point 3: Accelerate Restoration: Assist the development and implementation of innovative solutions at scale and climate smart designs that support coral to impact 30% of degraded reefs by 2030







Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework calls for the effective restoration of at least 30% of degraded terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas; and for the restoration efforts to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity, and connectivity. The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network estimates that ~ 35,000 km² of coral reefs have been lost since 2009 (GCRMN 2020). Meeting Target 2 would thus require the restoration of 10,500km². Under that target, the term "restoration" recognizes a broad range of interventions aimed at repairing degraded reef structure and function and boosting the potential for coral reefs to adapt to future conditions. This is an ambitious but necessary goal as the total area of restored coral reefs globally was still under 1km²as of 2020⁶.

Achieving the ambitious target of the Coral Reef Breakthrough requires simultaneously protecting what we have and rebuilding what we have lost. Effective restoration of coral reef ecosystems should prevent reefs from becoming dominated by algae, prevent loss of biodiversity, allow reefs to maintain structural rugosity, and keep pace with warming oceans and sea level rise. Restoration programs and projects should (a) be supported at multiple scales, (b) integrate local stress mitigation (e.g., fishing and pollution regulations), (c) boost corals' ability to adapt to a warming ocean, and (d) actively include and engage local stakeholders. Programs and projects in reef-rich, low-income nations should be prioritized. The exchange of knowledge and technical capacity between developed and developing reef nations should also be supported (e.g., via the Coral Restoration Consortium). The Coral Reef Breakthrough should support funding for research and development to increase the scale at which reefs can be restored with resilient and heat-adapted corals.

Action point 4: Secure investments of at least USD 12 billion by 2030 from public and private sources to conserve and restore these crucial ecosystems

The Coral Reef Breakthrough will work with existing financial mechanisms to secure up to at least USD 12 billion for at least 125,000km² of coral reefs by 2030. This investment will enable more effective coral reef management including water quality management, coastal management, and local and regional regulations. Unlocked investments should strive for capital flows at the scale needed and allow equitable distribution of funding. There should also be a diversification of funding opportunities, particularly private funding with the potential to scale up existing efforts in space and time.

Data gaps in coral reef conservation finance only allow for estimates of required investments to be drawn from global ocean studies of needs and funding gaps^{7,8}. The target of USD 12 billion by 2030 illustrates that radical commitments are necessary given the dire state of coral reef health worldwide, and ocean conservation at large is chronically underfunded⁸. This Coral Reef Breakthrough should help support the funding for studies to properly estimate the coral reef funding data gap and elucidate the cost of effective coral reef conservation in the face of climate change.

Hosted with the support of

Gouvernement Princier







Annex 2: Target Calculations

Spatial Target

The spatial target of 125,000km² was calculated based on the global dataset developed by the <u>World Resource Institute</u> (WRI) estimating a total global coral reef area of 249,713 km². This dataset has a resolution of 500m is widely used for other global products (e.g., <u>GCRMN</u>, <u>TNC</u> <u>Mapping Ocean Wealth explorer platform</u>).

The choice of securing 50% of the global coral reef area was based on Target 3 of the Kunning-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework that calls for the effective conservation and management of *at least* 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas. With coral reefs projected to the ecosystem most at risk of collapse in the face of climate change, and an estimate from the UNEP-WCMC that ~60,000 km² of coral reefs are under protection, experts agreed that this Coral Reef Breakthrough should make the ambitious statement to secure at least 50% of global coral reefs by 2030.

Funding Target

The funding target was calculated based on "*The cost of saving our oceans – estimating the*. *Funding gap of sustainable development goal 14*" study published by Johansen and Vestvik (2020) evaluating the costs of meeting SDG14 at USD 174.5 billion/year⁷, and widely used to describe the funding gap in ocean conservation⁸. The Coral Reef Breakthrough funding target of USD 12. billion was calculated as 1% of that target for 7 years (2023-2030) on the basis that coral reefs cover ~1% of oceans.

List of references:

- Costanza, R., de Groot, R., Sutton, P., van der Ploeg, S., Anderson, S.J., Kubiszewski, I., Fraber, S., Turner, R.K. (2014) Changes in the global value of ecosystem services. Global Environment Change, 26(1): 152-158
- 2. IPCC. 2022. Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge, and New NY, 3056 UK York, USA, pp., doi:10.1017/9781009325844.
- 3. Souter, D., Planes, S., Wicquart, J., Logan, M., Obura, D., Staub, F. (eds) (2021). Status of coral reefs of the world: 2020 report. Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) and International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). DOI: 10.59387/WOTJ9184
- 4. Burke, L., Spalding, M. (2022) Shoreline protection by the world's coral reefs: mapping the benefits to people, assets, and infrastructure. Marine Policy 146, 105311
- 5. Cortés-Useche, C., Hernandez-Delgado, E.A., Calle-Trivino, J., Blasco, R.S., Galvan, V., Arias-Gonzalez, J.E. (2021) Conservation actions and ecological context: optimising coral reef local management in the Dominican Republic
- 6. Boström-Einarsson, L., Babcock, R.C., Bayraktarov, E., Ceccarelli, D., Cook, N., Ferse, S.C.A., et al. 2020. Coral restoration–A systematic review of current methods,







directions. failures future PloS successes. and one https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0226631

- Johansen, D.F., Vestvik, R.A. (2020) The Cost of saving our oceans estimating the. 7. Funding gap of sustainable development goal 14. Marine Policy 112:103783
- Barber, M., Michell, W., von Hirsh, T., Vyas, T. (2021) A drop in the ocean-Closing 8. the gap in ocean climate finance. Deloitte LLP

[A] Sharm-El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda, 2022: The global transformations towards adaptive and resilient development: https://climatechampions.unfccc.int/wpcontent/uploads/2022/11/SeS-Adaptation-Agenda Complete-Report-COP27 FINAL-1.pdf

[B] Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: https://www.cbd.int/gbf/





International Coral Reef Initiative

vww.icriforum.org

Annex 4:

Resolution on the Coral Reef Breakthrough

Adopted at the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) 37th General Meeting (United States of America)

Welcomes the release of the "Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020" report by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) in October 2021, the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) AR6 Synthesis released in March 2023.

Recognising that, over one billion people, including vulnerable coastal communities, are dependent on the ecosystem goods and services provided by coral reefs, from food security, fisheries, revenue from tourism, medicinal properties, protection from storms and floods, and significant cultural heritage, with an estimated global value of USD \$9.9 trillion per year.

Highlighting that the world has lost 14 percent of the coral on its coral reefs since 2009, and despite being a cornerstone of marine health and climate resilience, current projections demonstrate the risk of 90 percent of the world's remaining coral reefs disappearing by 2050.

Acknowledging that coral reefs face unprecedented threats from a multitude of stressors and require proactive measures to be taken to stop local drivers of decline, scale restoration efforts focused on the integrity and resilience of coral reef ecosystems and close the coral reef finance gap, and reduce harmful economic incentives.

Understanding that the ecosystem services provided by coral reefs and related ecosystems are especially vital to deliver the nature-dependent United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 14 "life below water", and the wider international agenda.

Noting the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 27 Presidency launch of the Sharm-El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda in partnership with the High-Level Climate Champions and the launch of the Race to Resilience campaign by the UN Climate Action High-level Climate Champions in January 2021 at the Climate Adaptation Summit, alongside the State-Driven Adaptation Action Coalition.

Acknowledging the intention of the High-Level Climate Champions to catalyse a stepchange in global ambition for climate resilience by 2030, by non-state actors to build the resilience of 4 billion people from vulnerable groups and communities to climate risk, through the establishment of 'Breakthroughs' that mark significant transformation of an economic sector or natural system, converging actors on a common set of clear, simple goals.

The General Meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative:

Recognises the value of the 2030 Coral Reef Breakthrough (annex) to facilitate a global resilience lifeline for coral reefs and the one-billion people that depend on them to







collectively conserve, protect and restore coral reefs at the scale needed and catalyse public and private financial flows, and supporting sustainable business models.

Welcomes the establishment of two global 2030 targets to activate and mobilise actions to achieve the 2030 targets set by the High-Level Climate Champions Race to Resilience and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Acknowledges with deep appreciation the development of the science-based Breakthrough targets through the convening of over 30 coral reef experts.

Launches the Coral Reef Breakthrough.

Encourages ICRI Members to contribute to the Coral Reef Breakthrough.







Annex 5:

Terms of reference for the *ad hoc* committee on integrating coral reefs into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

Adopted at the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) 37th General Meeting (United States of America)

Background

Healthy and resilient marine and coastal ecosystems, including coral reefs and their associated ecosystems, are an essential part of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) 2030 and 2050 visions, providing multiple benefits and ecosystem services to address the drivers of biodiversity loss as well as climate change mitigation, adaptation, and community resilience. The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Secretariat has therefore recognised the urgent and continued need for action to address coral reef issues through the GBF, building on the advances made with respect to coral reefs by the *ad hoc* committee on "developing a recommendation for a post-2020 framework", supporting coral reef nations party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to implement the GBF.

Following the adoption of the GBF in December 2022 at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the CBD, coral reefs, and their associated ecosystems, are not explicitly referenced within the framework's 4 goals and 23 targets. However, the GBF remains highly applicable to coral reefs and their associated ecosystems. In this light, it is imperative that ICRI retains its valuable supportive role to CBD parties demonstrating how, and where, coral reefs and their associated ecosystems can be conserved, protected, and restored through the framework. A key mechanism for this is National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

NBSAPs are the main vehicle for implementation of the CBD at the national level and are expected to be a key component of the enhanced planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanism of the Convention for the GBF. In decision 15/6 (Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review), Parties are requested to submit revised or updated NBSAPs, including national targets, by CBD COP16, following the guidance provided in annex I of the decision, aligned with the goals and targets of the GBF. NBSAPs are an umbrella process under which all national targets and actions relevant to the GBF can be planned, implemented, monitored, reviewed, and enhanced. They are the main instrument through which Parties establish and communicate their national contribution towards the Framework and its goals and targets and should involve and facilitate the engagement of all government sectors at all levels of government, and all stakeholders, indigenous peoples and local communities, and youth across society.

ICRI has an important role to play in coordinating consistent views across its member countries, with support from its organisations, on the need for, and substance, of updates and revision to NBSAPs to include coral reefs and their associated ecosystems.

The objective of the *ad hoc* committee will be to:

Hosted with the support of

nent Offices of Sweden





- 1. Prepare a timeline for the implementation of the Terms of the Reference, according to the ICRI Rules of Procedure.
- 2. Develop a guidance document for revising, updating and implementing NBSAPs to integrate coral reef ecosystems, including guidance on reporting and coral reef indicators, populated with the national case studies, and appropriate alternative resources that align with, and build upon, the GBF Monitoring Framework and previous ICRI *ad hoc* committees.
- 3. Engage with ongoing discussions, as appropriate.
- 4. Develop national case studies for interested and volunteering countries.
- 5. Organisation of an event at the COP16.

Chair:

ICRI Secretariat

Members:

Australia, France, Maldives, United States of America, Wildlife Conservation Society.

Duration:

The ad hoc committee will work intersessionally through to the 38th ICRI General Meeting

Working procedures:

The *ad hoc* committee will work virtually and take advantage of any opportunities for faceto-face meetings in the side lines of other meetings.







Annex 6:

Resolution to extend the ICRI *ad hoc* committee for coral reef restoration and adaptation

Adopted at the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) 37th General Meeting (United States of America)

Background

In response to the acceleration in coral reef declines, there is growing recognition that traditional coral reef management approaches alone are not sufficient to counter the increasingly frequent stresses imposed by a changing climate and direct human pressure. This has led to a surge in interest in active interventions to conserve, protect, restore, and increase the resilience of coral reefs.

The ICRI Plan of Action 2018-2020 called for the promotion of leading reef restoration practices by facilitating partnerships, investment, and capacity-building among ICRI members. ICRI established an *ad hoc* Committee on Coral Reef Restoration at its General Meeting in Monaco in December 2018, and this ran for four years. Membership included representatives from 20 ICRI members. The Committee developed several products (i.e., reports, peerreviewed papers, best-practice guidelines), identified common interests, facilitated global and regional collaborations, and helped identify opportunities for co-investment in research and development on coral reef restoration and adaptation.

The current ICRI Plan of Action 2021-2024 includes Action 1.C:

Promote and build capacity for the restoration of resilient coral reefs.

Coral reefs are threatened by rapidly deteriorating environmental conditions including warmer ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, poor water quality, and pandemic-scale disease outbreaks. Coral intervention strategies have arisen with a goal of increasing the long-term persistence and resilience of tropical coral reefs and their ecological functions. These interventions include stress-hardening, translocation of non-native coral stocks or species, manipulation of symbiotic partnerships within the coral holobiont, managed selection, genetic modification, and engineering the local environment. Accelerating and sharing innovations to increase the scale and reduce the cost of interventions is paramount if impact is to be achieved within realistic timeframes.

Illustrative activities listed in the Plan for Action linked to Action 1.C:

- Maintain the ICRI Restoration Hub as a source of relevant information, key contacts, and initiatives.
- Update materials based on experiences thus far and conduct mentored trainings using the Manager's Guide to Coral Reef Restoration Planning and Design and the report Coral Reef Restoration as a Strategy to Improve Ecosystem Services.







- Continue to work on recommendations in the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's A Decision Framework for Interventions to Increase the Persistence and Resilience of Coral Reefs.
- Train facilitators to conduct mentored trainings using the Manager's Guide to Coral Reef Restoration Planning and Design.
- Develop closer linkages with the *ad hoc* Committee on Resilience-Based Management and the *ad hoc* Committee on developing a recommendation for a Post-2020 coral reef target if these continue.

Moreover, Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework states "Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity".

in this context, it is therefore proposed to extend the mandate of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Reef Restoration and Adaptation for a further year with the Terms of Reference described in Annex 1.

Annex 1: Proposed Terms of Reference for the *ad hoc* Committee on Reef Restoration and Adaptation

The *ad hoc* Committee will continue to promote best practices in reef restoration. The committee will transition away from being chaired by Australian representatives and will now be co-chaired by the Coral Restoration Consortium, and UNEP- World Conservation Monitoring Centre, in collaboration with the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute.

Working with ICRI members, countries committed to reef conservation and other relevant partners, the *ad hoc* committee will continue its mission to:

- Provide a coordinating mechanism for international collaboration on coral reef restoration research and development.
- Advocate for the use of best practice restoration techniques and identify and streamline examples of relevant policy, regulation, and legislation as part of a broader strategy that involves traditional management, mitigation policy and reducing carbon emissions in order to maintain coral reef function, structure and resilience.
- In close collaboration with the Coral Restoration Consortium, facilitate the transfer of new knowledge of restoration techniques to managers and restoration practitioners.
- Maintain the Restoration Hub on the ICRI website.
- Support the UN Decade of Ocean Science and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and the Global Biodiversity Framework to help prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of coral reef ecosystems worldwide by promoting knowledge-based restoration, upscaling, monitoring, and capacity building.







Possible deliverables:

If resources allow the *ad hoc* Committee would also:

- Develop targeted guidelines and long-term strategies on the topics of permitting, approvals, and regulations to help bridge the gap between permitting and the practice of coral reef restoration and adaptation.
- Enhance training and capacity building, with a focus on the tourism-sector, and based on training materials such as the *Manager's Guide to Coral Reef Restoration Planning and Design* and the report *Coral Reef Restoration as a strategy to improve ecosystem services.*
- Continue work to better define, monitor and report on the effectiveness of coral reef restoration.
- Update the Coral Reef Restoration Database hosted on the ICRI website.



nt Offices of Sw



Annex 7:

Table 2: List of participants for the GCRMN Steering Committee Meeting

Name	Representation	Organisation
Jennifer Koss	USA	NOAA
Erica Towle	USA	NOAA
Francis Staub	ICRI Secretariat	
Thomas Dallison	ICRI Secretariat	
Britta Schaffelke	GCRMN Coordinator	AIMS
Amanda Brigdale		AIMS
Gabriel Grimsditch	UNEP	UNEP
Rory Jordan	CORDAP	KAUST
Mary Allen	SocMon	NOAA
Antoine Pebayle	France	
Riyaz Jauharee	South-Asia	MRRI
Jane Hawkridge	UK	JNCC
Margaret Johnson	Australia	GBRMPA
Karin Moejes	Western Indian Ocean	CORDIO
Serge Planes	Pacific	
Nicolas Rocle	Pacific	SPREP
Tadashi Kimura	East Asia	
Christophe Blazy	Caribbean	CAR-SPAW
Haley Williams		WCS
Beatrice Padovani Ferreira	Brazil	Brazil
Ana Paula Prates	Brazil	Brazil
Melanie McField	Caribbean	CARIB Steering Committee
Bria Gasdsen		Facilitator
Jeremy Wicquart	Technical Coordinator	GCRMN
Risla Ibrahim	Maldives	Maldives Marine Research Institute (MMRI)
Argel Horton		British Virgin Islands (UKOT)
Thea Waters	Australia	GRBMPA
Vineeta Hoon	Socmon: South Asia Region	Centre for Action Research on Environment Science and Society (Chennai, India)
Winfred Mudong	Socmon: Pacific Islands Region	Micronesia Conservation Trust (Pohnpei, Micronesia)
Arie Sanders	Socmon: Central America Region	University of Zamorano (Zamorano, Honduras)
Supin Wongbusarakum	Socmon: Pacific Islands Region	FAO (Cambodia)

**

Gouvernement Princier PRINCIPAUTÉ DE MONACO

nent Offices of Sweden



Annex 8:

Youth Delegation Invitees



Diwigdi is an indigenous leader from the Guna peoples of Panama, a community who live in a transnational area known as Guna Yala. This is the first Indigenous territory in Latin America to be displaced by climate change and Diwigdi's core focus is to draw the attention of national and international authorities on this issue. As such he is the Founder of the Burwigan project, an art collective that creates awareness, informs, and inspires actions against climate change and plastic pollution within the Panamanian population and Indigenous peoples. Alongside this, he

vww.icriforum.org

leads on sustainability affairs at the Ministry of Tourism in Panama. With over 10 years of experience in the government sector, he has also been a consultant of hotel chains and NGOs on issues related to sustainable tourism, Indigenous peoples, and the blue economy.



Esther Maina, Kenya

Esther is an ocean advocate and an environmental expert by profession. She is an award-winning conservationist, has worked with various organisations, and is well-versed in environmental and marine conservation. Esther has served as a Youth Policy Advisor at the Sustainable Ocean Alliance; worked to help develop and amplify youth-led policies for the ocean. She is the Marine Action Coordinator for Kenyan Youth Biodiversity Network, actively working with the organisation to strengthen youth-led conservation efforts on marine life and coastal ecosystems.

Her work crosscuts biodiversity conservation, climate change, and plastic pollution. Esther's goal is to inspire collaborative action that galvanises integrated land-sea governance and coordinated protection of these ecosystems.

Esther Maina, *Kenya* and Diwigdi Valiente, *Panama*, led the working group with other attendees (<35 years old) invited to join. The session was a solution-based and pro-active reflection on the youth delegation's discussion and working group sessions with the larger meeting audience and the final youth delegation and panel session representatives were:

Other working group members

- 1. Karin Moejes, CORDIO East Africa
- 2. Risla Ibrahim, Maldives Marine Research Institute
- 3. Alexis Sturm, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Programme
- 4. Haley Williams, Wildlife Conservation Society
- 5. Christophe Blazy, SPAW-RAW



