

# A SUMMARY OF THE ICRI GUIDANCE FOR INTEGRATING CORAL REEFS AND ASSOCIATED ECOSYSTEMS INTO **NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS**

The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

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**The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) has released a guidance document to coral reef countries on how to integrate coral reefs and associated ecosystems into their revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans (NBSAPs) to support the alignment of plans and actions, at the national level, with respect to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).**

This summary of the guidance presents key steps for countries to integrate coral reefs and associated ecosystems in NBSAPs, example actions that could be undertaken by countries in relation to the goals and targets of the GBF, and a range of resources that are further developed in Annex 8 of the Guidance Document. Countries and readers are encouraged to consider the international context of the guidance in this summary, and the full Guidance Document, and utilise the information to support their respective national-level context and processes for developing and preparing NBSAPs concerning coral reefs and associated ecosystems.

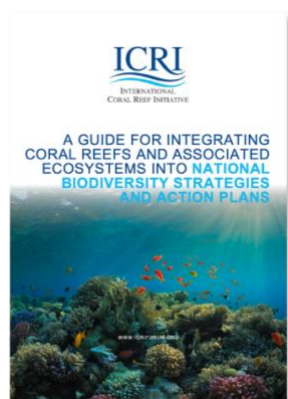
The key steps for countries to integrate coral reefs and associated ecosystems into NBSAPs have been summarised below with references provided to the most appropriate sections contained within the main Guidance Document:

1. Develop a timeline for the NBSAP revision process and, if possible, submit the revised NBSAP to the [United Nation's Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#) prior to the next Sixteenth Conference of Parties to the CBD (COP16). If it is not possible for a country to submit a fully revised NBSAP by COP16, then countries can submit the reporting template in advance of the submission of the NBSAP via the online reporting tool.
2. Establish an inclusive national working group, where feasible, with representatives from all actors involved directly or indirectly with coral reefs and associated ecosystems to contribute to the NBSAP revision process.
3. Assess the existing NBSAP according to the criteria in paragraph 7 of the CBD guidance for revising or updating NBSAPs ([CBD Decision 15/6, Annex 1](#)), through the lens of coral reefs and associated ecosystems (**Section 2.2**, Guidance Document). Consider the ICRI guidance provided to integrate coral reefs and associated ecosystems into NBSAPs for each paragraph / point of the CBD guidance (**Annex 3**, Guidance Document).
4. Identify the main stressors for coral reefs and associated ecosystems and the key drivers of biodiversity loss for these ecosystems at the national or sub-national level (**Section 2.1**, Guidance Document).
5. Develop actions to address the key pressures and drivers (**Annex 4**, Guidance Document), with associated national targets that are closely aligned with GBF goals and targets, using the guidance provided on the relevance of GBF targets to coral reefs and associated ecosystems (**Annex 1, Section 2.3**, Guidance Document).
6. Explore the integration, or mainstreaming, of the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs and their associated ecosystems into NBSAPs, focusing on enhancing engagement an awareness across multiple sectors. This involves collaboration with stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples, and local coastal communities, as outlined in (**Section 2.4**, Guidance Document).
7. Incorporate proposed GBF indicators into the NBSAP monitoring framework that are relevant to coral reefs and associated ecosystems (**Section 2.3**, Table 1, Guidance Document) and existing indicators for coral reefs such as those recommended by ICRI (**Section 2.5**, Table 4, Guidance Document).
8. When using the CBD online template for national targets, consider the example completed for a coral reef and associated ecosystems focussed target (**Annex 6**, Guidance Document).

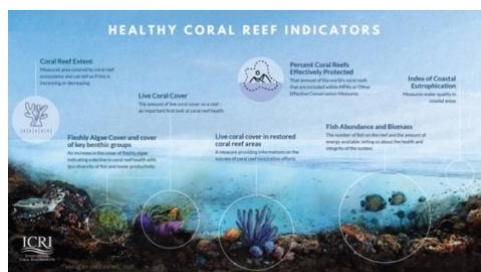
9. Consider the different approaches used to successfully integrate coral reefs and associated ecosystems into existing NBSAPs using the national case studies (**Section 3**, Guidance Document).
10. Make use of the existing initiatives and resources available to countries to support the revision and update of NBSAPS such as the NBSAP Forum (**Section 4**, Guidance Document).

### Associated Resources

The associated resources to support this Summary, including the full Guidance Document, are provided below. Readers are encouraged to read the full Guidance Document for further context around the supplied resources. Further NBSAP support and resources are listed below and further developed in **Annex 8** of the [Guidance Document](#).



[Download the full Guidance Document](#) – A Guide for Integrating Coral Reefs and Associated Ecosystems into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans 2024 (.pdf)



[Download ICRI's "Recommended Healthy Coral Reefs Indicators for inclusion in the GBF" infographic here](#) (.pdf)

Access all the products developed by the [ICRI Post-2020 ad hoc committee for the inclusion of coral reefs in the GBF](#) (Webpage)

### Three country case studies for the integration of coral reefs into NBSAPs:



- Case Study 1: [French Overseas Territories](#) (.pdf)
- Case Study 2: [The Republic of Palau](#) (.pdf)
- Case Study 3: [The Republic of the Philippines](#) (.pdf)

**Further NBSAP support and resources:**

- CBD/COP/DEC/15/4 (19 December 2022): The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>
- CBD/COP/DEC/15/5 (19 December 2022): Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-05-en.pdf>
- CBD/COP/DEC/15/6 (19 December 2022): Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review, including the template for submission of national targets as part of national biodiversity strategies and action plans towards the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-06-en.pdf>
- The National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) Portal: <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/>
- The updated Online Reporting Tool for the submission of national targets and NBSAPs to the CBD: <https://ort.cbd.int/>
- Steps to review and update NBSAPs (National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans): [https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/TNC\\_NBSAP\\_14April\\_final.pdf](https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/TNC_NBSAP_14April_final.pdf)
- NBSAP Forum: The NBSAP Forum is a global partnership aiming to support countries in implementing the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its strategic plans, including global biodiversity targets: <https://www.learningfornature.org/en/nbsap-forum/>

Please see **Annex 8** of the Guidance Document for further, and expanded, resources.



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