



International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

Member's Report | 38th General Meeting

9th – 13th September 2024 Jeddah, – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Reporting Period: 2023 & 2024

A. Member Information:

- Name of ICRI member: [Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme \(SPREP\)](#)
- Name of person(s) completing member's report: [Nicolas Rocle, Juney Ward](#)
- Position/Title:
 - Coastal and Marine Management Specialist
 - Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Advisor
- Email: nicolasr.ext@sprep.org ; juneyw@sprep.org
- Are you a designated ICRI Focal Point: Yes No
 - If no, please indicate who you are completing the form on behalf of:
- Which was the last General Meeting you attended: [37th General Meeting in Hawaii](#)
- Will you be attending the 38th ICRI General Meeting in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Yes No
- Member social media:
 - Twitter/X: [@SprepChannel](#)
 - LinkedIn: [@sprep](#) ; <https://www.linkedin.com/company/sprep/>

B. Reporting on the implementation of the ICRI Plan of Action 2021-2024: turning the tide for coral reefs. *Your responses will help inform the Secretariat about members' contributions toward the current Plan of Action. You can download the ICRI Plan of Action here: <https://icriforum.org/documents/plan-of-action-2021-2024/>*

What are the main contributions you, as an ICRI member, have made to the ICRI Plan of Action?

Theme 1 - Preparing for the Future: Promoting Resilient Coral Reefs

Theme 2 - Coral Reef Science and Oceanography: Advancing and Utilizing the Latest Science and Technology

Theme 3 - Local Threat Reduction: Integrating Response Planning Frameworks

Theme 4 - Diversity and Inclusion: Expanding the Coral Reef Community

Answer:

Promoting resilient coral reefs and best practices in RBM is embedded within SPREP mandate as the regional environmental organisation in the Pacific Island region (Regional Goal 2 of SPREP's Strategic Plan 2017 -2026 emphasizes the importance of Pacific coral reefs and the need to ensure healthy and resilient ecosystems that benefit people and communities). SPREP supports and carries out several projects and initiatives to develop, mainstream, and sustain ecosystem-based management and ecosystem-based adaptation approaches at different scales, providing technical advice, policy analysis, capacity building and regional cooperation on ecosystem-based and resilience-based management policies.

The vision for the Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan 2021-2030 is that "By 2030, the resilience and health of reef ecosystems in the Pacific islands are improved". The Plan identifies 8 key areas of action and four thematic priorities, namely conservation of habitats and biodiversity, sustainable fisheries and food security, resilience and adaptation to climate change, sustainable tourism (www.sprep.org/corals). SPREP has promoted the Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan and advocated for corals at global and regional scales. To name a few this includes the [1st Pacific Island Conference on Ocean Science and Ocean Management](#), as well as a webinar organised in November 2023 with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation and the Pacific Community (SPC) titled: "Preparing for a hot summer for Pacific corals: Pacific Management Tools and Support, Lessons Learned from the North in 2023". The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority also partnered with SPREP to convey the Pacific Coral Reef Collective in July 2023 in Cairns, Australia. More information and a summary report from the weeklong workshop is available here: [Pacific Coral Reef Collective | gbrmpa](#). Partnerships for side-events during international events have been set with the ICRI Secretariat and SPREP high-level representation and contribution, especially during the UNFCCC COP28, 23rd Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Programme, and the SISD4 Conference. Other regional events include the Pacific Ocean Pacific Climate Change Conference where SPREP highlighted the key role of coral reefs in adapting to sea level rise in Pacific atoll nations.

During 2023-2024, SPREP has been partnering with AIMS, the Samoan Ministry for Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), and Conservation International, to implement the pilot phase of the Pacific Coral Monitoring Project. Aimed at strengthening monitoring capacities using the best available science and tools, the project has trialled the implementation of the ReefCloud platform in Samoa, both with national authorities and local communities, along with cultural learning exchanges between Samoan communities, Australian traditional owners' groups, and the Sea Women of Melanesia. Beyond strengthened capacities of Samoan Ministries in terms of coral identification and monitoring, one of the main outcomes is a draft national framework for coral monitoring in Samoa, which will be further refined with national authorities and key partners. More information: [Samoa steps up coral reef monitoring / Pacific Environment \(sprep.org\)](http://www.sprep.org).

A second phase of the ReefCloud project has now started and SPREP is committed to play a key role in facilitating and coordinating a regional community of practice for coral monitoring in the Pacific, along with many stakeholders involved in the region and beyond. As part of this regional dynamics, SPREP will be procuring a comprehensive assessment of coral monitoring initiatives and capacities within the Pacific region, through the EU-funded Pacific BioScapes programme. This assessment will provide the baseline and recommendations to further developing monitoring capabilities in a few countries and regionally, with a strong focus on improving national frameworks and coordination, community involvement, and better access and availability of standardised data for decision-making and reporting purposes.

SPREP is fully engaged in this preparation of the GCRMN Pacific report (2024) along with CRILOBE. We facilitated data collection from member countries and territories, and participated in the GCRMN Pacific workshop that was held in Auckland in November 2023.

SPREP also partnered with the government of Samoa (MNRE and MAF) to support reef restoration (coral nurseries and tables, working with communities around Upolu and Savaii islands in growing and planting young corals), through the PACRES project and Marine Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change project (Monaco funding support). Key aspects are now in monitoring and keeping the momentum with communities, especially on securing a healthy environment for juvenile corals (water quality, parrot fish protection, etc.).

The Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan deeply values and promotes traditional ecological knowledge as a key component in understanding and sustainably managing coral reefs in the Pacific. To further promote the role of LITK and their incorporation in coral reef management policies and frameworks, the "Pacific Coral Reef Action Science" has been endorsed under the UN Decade for Ocean Science. This action is part of the UN Decade for Ocean Science regional programme "Integrated Ocean Management" coordinated by SPC and emphasising LITK as one of the three pillars of the programme. SPREP's communication on the Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan also emphasises and focus on the critical need to ensure that scientific and traditional ecological knowledge are integrated, as well as the recognition of traditional knowledge, know-how and custodianship of coastal communities. The role of local NGOs, women and youth groups is particularly emphasised to ensure that collective and inter-generational efforts are well promoted throughout communication.

- (ICRI) What are your upcoming priorities for coral reefs?

Answer:

- Continue engagement with ICRI and its working groups to further promote the Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan and advocate for healthy and resilient Pacific corals at regional and international events (e.g. in partnering for side-events at CBD COP16, UNOC3, etc.), as well as to tap into existing resources and expertise to ensure forthcoming projects and initiatives are guided by best practices and lessons learned elsewhere.

- GCRMN:

- As part of the Pacific node and in close collaboration with CRIOBE, SPREP will ensure smooth finalisation and release of the GCRMN Pacific report on status and trends of coral reefs in the region. SPREP and CRIOBE will also discuss some plans to promote and ensure a wide circulation and knowledge of the GCRMN Pacific report once released.

- As stated above SPREP is now stepping up to strengthen coral monitoring capabilities in the Pacific, specifically building on the momentum built through the ReefCloud project across the region. The main objective is to further consolidate a community of practice on coral reef monitoring in the Pacific to strengthen monitoring capacities, ensure coordination and avoid duplication in terms of monitoring tools and platforms, and support our members in getting best available data to inform decision making and policies.

- SPREP is also committed to support and facilitate regional work in view of the GCRMN global report over the next two years.

- Continuing efforts on coral conservation by tackling diverse threats and challenges: beyond many projects coordinated by SPREP that include reef positive outcomes (such as ecosystem-based adaptation and blue carbon ecosystems projects), a partnership is being developed with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation under the Resilient Reefs Initiative 2.0, currently in the inception phase, where SPREP will be a strategic partner. A concept is also in development for a GEF8 and Global Fund for Coral Reefs project, in partnership with UNDP as the executing agency and SPREP as the implementing agency. This concept covers the 5 Pacific countries from the Polynesian region and will include many activities with a focus on blended finance for reef positive initiatives.

- Increasing engagement with partners on coral restoration initiatives and projects (Great Barrier Reef Foundation, Coral Restoration Consortium, Ad hoc committee...).

C. Reporting on the Restoration of Coral Reefs (*Target 2 GBF/Action Point 3 Coral Reef Breakthrough*)

- (ICRI) Are you able to estimate the total area (km²) of coral reef under active restoration and the total area you consider to be 'restored', as a result of your organisation/country's in 2023?

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- Total area under active restoration in 2023: [redacted] km²
- Total area considered to be restored in 2023: [redacted] km²
- (ICRI) If available, please provide further information on the total area considered to be restored, and under active restoration for the total period of the restoration programme, including the timeframe:

Answer:

Not aware of available data at the regional scale for the Pacific.

- (ICRI) For the purpose of the above, please provide definitions for how your programme/organisation/country considers coral reefs to be:
 - A) Under active restoration
 - B) Restored

Answer:

Under active Restoration:

Pacific countries continue to carry out coral restoration activities in their selected community conservation sites and/or marine protected areas.

Restored:

Does your country have any restoration policies or regulations?

Many locations have outdated and insufficient regulations for coral reef restoration, resulting in inadequate oversight of restoration efforts. In addition, the absence, limitations, or differences among regulations between countries prevents the development and implementation of effective regional coral reef conservation strategies.

- (ICRI) Please describe the restoration policies or regulations (if any) that are in place in your country.

Answer:

Not aware of any restoration policies and regulations for coral reefs within the region.

SPREP regularly attends the ICRI Ad Hoc Restoration Committee and has expressed its interest to contribute to some strategic and practical guidelines and provide support to Pacific countries and territories in setting up such restoration policies or regulations.

D. The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)

The production of future GCRMN reports, both at the regional and global level, relies on the ongoing support of data contributors who are willing to share their coral reef monitoring data for this purpose. As such, from 2024 to 2026, the GCRMN will undertake the rigorous process of developing the **Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2025** global report, including an extensive data collation process.

Do you have data to contribute to the upcoming GCRMN global report?

- Please provide the contact information for the data providers to allow for the GCRMN data collation team to request data and discuss the process of data contribution.

Please add further contacts as needed.

Answer:

Contact Name: Nicolas Rocle
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Contact Name: Juney Ward
Organisation: SPREP
Email Address: juneyw@sprep.org

Contact Name:
Organisation:
Email Address:

E. Capacity Building & Communications

Have you found the ICRI #ForCoral Webinar Series useful?

Through 2024, ICRI has hosted multiple webinars that aim to share knowledge and foster collaboration across critical topics concerning the conservation, protection, and restoration of coral reefs. These webinars form the #ForCoral webinar series, and topics include the 4th Global Bleaching Event, impacts of land-based sources of pollution and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

The full list of webinars and recordings can be found here: <https://icriforum.org/forcoral-webinar-series/>

- (ICRI) Did you attend any of the series' webinars, and if so which topics have you found the most useful and engaging? If you did not attend the webinars, please explain why, and how what we could have done better.

Answer:

Registered but couldn't attend any of them due to time zone or other commitments, however webinar recordings are available and provide a great resource. The two forthcoming webinars will definitely be of great interest for SPREP and its members.

- (ICRI) Do you have any suggestions or request for topics that you wish for ICRI to host as part of this series? If you have a specific topic in mind, and would like to host a webinar, please indicate below.

Answer:

Have you found the ICRI communications useful?

- (ICRI) Do you find the ICRI Monthly Round of News Useful? If yes, what do you like about it and how would you suggest improving ICRI's communications?

Answer:

Yes - definitely useful to be aware of key events and progress made in relation to coral reefs. An item related to key resources as they are developed and released would be great.

F. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

ICRI has continually supported the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Post-2020 process, developing a recommendation for coral reef indicators to be included in the Global Biodiversity Framework and supporting Parties during the negotiation process. Following the Framework's adoption in 2022, ICRI's support now aims to support parties in implementing the framework, especially through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPS) and the Marine and Coastal Work Programme.

In 2024, ICRI released [A Guide for Integrating Coral Reefs and Associated Ecosystems into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans](#) to support coral reef countries to integrate coral reefs and associated ecosystems into their NBSAPs.

- (ICRI) Did you use read, use, and/or apply the Guide on integrating coral reefs and associated ecosystems into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) useful? *Where possible, indicate specific elements that were useful or alternatively provide information if you did not find the guide useful.*

Answer:

SPREP has been promoting the ICRI Guide for Integrating Coral Reefs and Associated Ecosystems into NBSAPs during a regional workshop co-organised with the CBD Secretariat in March 2024 about the KMGBF and its declination in the Pacific region. This resource was also made available on the CBD website for the Pacific regional dialogue meeting.

- (ICRI) Did you revise your current National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) to include coral reefs? **N.B.** *if you are not a country representative, are you working with national focal points to help update their NBSAPs? Please provide further details.*

Answer:

SPREP is committed to support its member countries and territories to review and update their NBSAPs and other relevant national frameworks to include coral reefs and associated ecosystems. There is no specific work in progress currently, but offer has been made to members if they were to require assistance.

- (ICRI) How are you planning to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework? Please list the target(s) and decisions that your work attributes to.

Answer:

SPREP is working on the promotion, understanding and implementation support for the KMGBF for its membership, along with key partners and stakeholders. As part of this effort, SPREP has recently been recognised as the Oceania Regional Centre for Technical and Scientific Cooperation for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal GBF. [SPREP recognised as Oceania Regional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre for Global Biodiversity Framework | Pacific Environment](#). As such SPREP will execute a set of core functions, including promoting and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer among Parties, including through joint research programmes and joint technology development ventures.

G. Upcoming events

Please tick the most any events that you will be, or are planning to attend:

- September 10th – 24th: 79th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 79)

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- September 23rd – 26th: GEF International Waters Conference
- October 13th – 18th: 7th International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC7)
- October 21st – November 1st: CBD COP16
- November 4th – 8th: 77th Annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI77)
- December 10th – 12th: The International Mangrove Conservation and Restoration Conference
- December 9th – 13th: Reef Futures
- June 9th – 13th 2025: United Nations Ocean Conference
- October 9th – 15th 2025: IUCN World Conservation Congress
- Other

Please list any upcoming regional / international events relevant to ICRI that your organisation plans to attend:

Answer:

Pacific preparatory meeting for CBD COP16 – Samoa, September 2024
Global Nature Positive Summit, Australia, October 2024
Meeting of the Regional Seas Programmes, Greece, October 2024

H. Publications. Please list relevant publications / reports you have released recently (+ add a link if possible)

Publication	URL
Pacific Coral Monitoring Project – ReefCloud Samoa	Samoa steps up coral reef monitoring / Pacific Environment (sprep.org)

I. ICRI Member Feedback. What do you find most valuable about being a member of ICRI as well as completing the ICRI member reports? If you have any ideas to improve the Member Reports, please list below:

Answer:

Member Reports are a good way to share information and updates with other ICRI members and being aware of activities developed as part of the networking and coordination mechanism. Being a member of ICRI, and participating in ICRI working groups, is incredibly valuable for SPREP as it gathers a good network of experts and initiatives worldwide that is very useful for SPREP as a regional organisation.

J. Contact information & member information. (Note that this information will be posted on the ICRI website on your member page: <https://icriforum.org/members/>).

Please use the table below to provide us updates to your member's focal points as well as the blank cells to indicate changes to information (please add more rows, as needed):

Focal Point 1:	
Name:	Ms. Juney Ward
Title/Organisation:	Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Advisor – SPREP
Email:	junevw@sprep.org
Focal Point 2:	
Name:	Dr. Nicolas Rocle
Title/Organisation:	Coastal and Marine Management Specialist – SPREP
Email:	nicolasr.ext@sprep.org
Focal Point 3:	
Name:	
Title/Organisation:	
Email:	
Member page updates:	
Section	Update
Presentation	SPREP is based in Apia, Samoa, with over 140 staff.

Thank you very much for sharing your valuable experiences and information with ICRI. Members reports, meeting outputs and resources will be uploaded to: <https://icriforum.org/events/38th-icri-general-meeting/>