



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: Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Name of person(s) completing member's report: Margarita Victoria Caballa
- Position/Title: COBSEA Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Lead
- Email: margarita.caballa@un.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:
- Will you be attending the 38th ICRI General Meeting in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Yes No
- Member social media:
 - Twitter/X: @ UNEP_COBSEA
 - LinkedIn: UNEP_COBSEA

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:

COBSEA's main contributions to the ICRI Plan of Action have been conducted through the establishment of the new COBSEA Strategic Directions 2023-2027, Marine and Coastal Ecosystems (MCE) Framework, Working Group on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems (WGMCE), and through the ongoing projects of Blue Natural Capital Financing Facility (BNCFF) on Green Fins.

New [COBSEA Strategic Directions 2023-2027](#) was adopted in December 2023. To protect and sustainably develop the marine and coastal environment of the East Asian Seas region, the Strategic Directions 2023-2027 are underpinned by three thematic programmes: 1) Marine pollution prevention, reduction and control; 2) Marine and coastal biodiversity, ecosystem conservation and management; and 3) Climate action.

[COBSEA Marine and Coastal Ecosystems \(MCE\) Framework](#) has been endorsed at intergovernmental level in April 2023, and adopted in September 2023 during first meeting of the Working Group on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems. The MCE Framework support strengthening COBSEA's efforts on planning and management of the marine and coastal environment, including promoting resilient coral reefs. Anchored on the overarching concept of Blue Economy, the MCE Framework has three thematic areas: 1) Marine and Coastal Spatial Planning; 2) Marine Protected Areas and Network (MPAs, MCSP, and Other-Effective Area-based Conservation Measures); and 3) Marine and Coastal Habitat Conservation and Restoration (coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass, and coastal wetlands).

The MCE Framework established the Working Group on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems (WGMCE), composed of 2-3 experts from all COBSEA participating countries. The WGMCE was established for the implementation of the MCE Framework, by providing long-term and strategic guidance on marine and coastal ecosystems management in the East Asia Seas region. [First meeting of the Working Group on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems \(WGMCE-1\)](#) happened on 13 September 2023 in Bali, Indonesia.

COBSEA, together with Reef World Foundation and the Coral Triangle Centre, are implementing a project in Bali financed through the Blue Natural Capital Financing Facility (BNCFF) with IUCN. This project is aimed at investigating the private sector role marine protected area and coral reef conservation by investing in sustainable marine ecotourism practices.

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

Answer:

Sustainable Blue Economy approach is COBSEA's upcoming priorities for coral reefs. Blue Economy is the overarching theme for the COBSEA's work on marine and coastal ecosystems and protecting coral reefs. COBSEA aims to ensure an equitable and inclusive benefit sharing in coral reef community when conducting work on the marine and coastal ecosystems.

Expanding and strengthening the [Green Fins](#), sustainable marine ecotourism efforts in coral reef marine protected areas are COBSEA's upcoming priorities for coral reefs in East Asia Seas region. This will be achieved by investing and building the evidence basis of its environmental, social, and economic returns for coral reef health and local communities.

Regional coral reef monitoring standards and training in partnership with the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN).

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?
 - Total area under active restoration in 2023: km²
 - Total area considered to be restored in 2023: 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:

- (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:

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:

Cambodia

- [Cambodia NBSAP \(v.2\) 2015-2020](#)
- [World Bank. 2023. Building a Blue Economy Roadmap for Cambodia © World Bank.](#)
- [Cambodia National Profile – Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the SCS SAP Project. 2021](#)
- *Code on Environment and Natural Resources (Legislation, 30 May 2023)*

China

- [China NBSAP \(v.3\) 2023-2030](#)
- *Marine Environment Protection Law (1982, amended 2017)*
- *Wildlife Protection Law (1989, amended 2016)*

Indonesia

- [Indonesia Blue Economy Roadmap 2023-2045](#) by the Ministry of National Development Planning/ National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) of the Republic of Indonesia.
- *Regulation on Marine Protected Area by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries*
- *Law No. 27 of 2007 j.o. Law No. 1 of 2014 concerning Management of Coastal Zone and Small Islands*
- *Government Regulation No. 32 of 2019 concerning Marine Spatial Plans (RTRL)*
- *Government Regulation No. 21 of 2021 concerning Implementation of Spatial Planning*

Republic of Korea

- [Republic of Korea NBSAP \(v.4\)\(2019-2023\)](#)
- [Marine Ecosystem Comprehensive Restoration Plan \(2021-2030\)](#)
- *Conservation and Management of Marine Ecosystems Act. (Act No. 16516, Aug. 20, 2019)*
- *Marine Spatial Planning and Management Act (Act No. 15607, Apr. 17, 2018)*
- *Nature Environment Conservation Act. (Act No. 15100, Nov. 28, 2017)*

Malaysia

- [Malaysia NBSAP \(v.s\) 2016-2025](#)
- [National Plan of Action for Coral Reef Management](#)
- *Wildlife Conservation Act. (Act No. 716, 2010)*

Philippines

- [Philippines NBSAP \(v.3\) 2015-2028](#)
- [Philippines Biodiversity and Strategic Action Plan \(PBSAP\) 2015-2028](#): Coral reefs are mentioned in multiple targets to achieve the direct program intervention of “restoration of ecosystem functions” to address habitat loss.
- *Draft Executive Order/Policy for the National Program for Coral Reef Management aimed to be passed in 2024.*
- *DENR Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP) DAO 2016-26 (2016-2028)*
- [Philippine Development Plan \(PDP\) 2023-2028](#)
- *DENR BMB Technical Bulletin 2019-03 or “General Considerations for Coral Reef Ecosystems and Rehabilitation*
- *National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) (Republic Act No. 11038)*
- *Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act. (Republic Act No. 9147)*
- [Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape Management Plan 2020-2024](#)

Thailand

- [Thailand NBSAP \(v.4\)\(2015-2021\)](#)
- [The 5-year Thailand Coral Reef Management Action Plan 2022-2026](#)
- [Thailand’s National Adaptation Plan, 2023, Coral Bleaching](#)
- [Coral Reef Restoration Plan of Thailand, 2013](#)
- *Marine and Coastal Resources Management Promotion Act. (B.E. 2558, 2015)*
- *Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act. (B.E. 2562, 2019)*
- *Notification of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation regarding Ban on Sunscreens Containing Chemicals Harmful to Coral at All Marine National Parks. (2021)*

Singapore

- [Singapore NBSAP \(v.4\)\(2011-2020\)](#)
- [Singapore Blue Plan 2018](#)
- *Wildlife Act. 1965, amended 2020*

- *National Parks Act. (Chapter 198a) revised version 1996. Amended 2001*

Viet Nam

- [Viet Nam NBSAP \(v.3\)\(2015-2020\)](#),
- *Viet Nam’s new NBSAP(to 2030 with a vision to 2050) was issued ([No. 149/QD-TTg](#))*
- [Viet Nam National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\) \(2021-2030\)](#)
- [Viet Nam National Action Plan](#)
- *Law on Environmental Protection. (Law No.72/ 2020/ QH14, amended 2020)*
- *Law on Biodiversity. (Law No.32/ VBHN-VPQH (2008, amended 2018)*
- [Vietnam marine economy strategy until 2030, with a vision until 2045: an analysis](#)
- [Community-based Conservation of Coral Reef Ecosystems and Sustainable Ecotourism Development 2015-2017](#)

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:
Organisation:
Email Address:

Contact Name:
Organisation:
Email Address:

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:

- (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:

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:

- (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:

- (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:

COBEA is planning to achieve and implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through the new COBSEA Strategic Directions 2023-2027, COBSEA Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Framework, and efforts – Targets 1,2,3,14,20,22, and 23.

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)
- 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:

- *September 16th - 20th: BBNJ Agreement Capacity Building Workshop*
- *October 21th – 22th: COBSEA 2nd Meeting of Working Group on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems (WGMCE-2)*
- *October 23th - 25th: 26th Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA (IGM-26)*
- *November 6th – 8th: The East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress*

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

Publication	URL
COBSEA Strategic Directions 2023-2027	COBSEA Strategic Directions 2023-2027 (unep.org)
COBSEA Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Framework	Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Framework (unep.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:

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:	
<i>Name:</i>	Mahesh Pradhan
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Focal Point 2:	
<i>Name:</i>	Margarita Victoria Caballa
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	COBSEA Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Lead
<i>Email:</i>	margarita.caballa@un.org
Focal Point 3:	
<i>Name:</i>	
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	
<i>Email:</i>	
Member page updates:	
<i>Section</i>	<i>Update</i>

Thank you very much for sharing your valuable experiences and information with ICRI. Members reports, meeting outputs and resources will be uploaded to: <https://icriforum.org/events/37th-icri-general-meeting/>