



March 12, 2024

ICRI Secretariat

Dear ICRI Secretariat,

I am writing on behalf of Rare to apply for membership in the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). As an organization with a program dedicated to marine conservation, we strongly support the mission and objectives of ICRI.

Coral reefs are invaluable ecosystems that support tremendous biodiversity and provide essential services to coastal communities around the world. However, reefs face severe threats from climate change, pollution, overfishing and other human activities. ICRI plays a critical role in bringing together governments, NGOs, scientists, and stakeholders to collaborate on research, education, and management strategies to protect and restore coral reefs.

As an ICRI member, our organization would contribute actively to furthering ICRI's goals. We have extensive experience in coral reef science, policy, and community outreach. Our scientists lead research projects on coral health, small scale fisheries production, and the wellbeing of coastal communities, providing important data to inform management. Our community engagement work raises awareness in local communities about reef conservation. And our policy experts advise governments on strategies to better monitor and protect reef habitats.

Further, our approach aligns with the objectives that all ICRI members commit to:

1. Manage coral reefs and related ecosystems in a manner that recognizes the connectivity of land and sea and the cumulative impacts of anthropogenic pressures, and seeks to build resilience of natural systems to withstand the long-term effects of a changing climate (Integrated Management);
2. Build capacity in all facets of marine conservation and sustainable use, to disseminate and apply best practices and engage communities in the sustainable management of coral reefs and related ecosystems (Capacity Building);
3. Support research including citizen science approaches to afford the widest possible ability for countries and communities to assess and report on the status, health and threats to their coral reefs in a coordinated, comparable and accessible manner (Science and Monitoring); and
4. Review impact of actions taken, assess management effectiveness and apply adaptive responses (Review).



In summary, our organization is deeply invested in the health of global coral reefs. We would bring this passion and expertise to ICRI if approved for membership. We eagerly support the call to action embodied in ICRI's Framework for Action and look forward to collaborating with other members to meet these goals.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Caleb McClennen, Ph.D.
President | Rare