



The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) 38th General Meeting

Hosted by the General Organization for Conservation of Coral Reefs and Turtles in the Red Sea (SHAMS) under the ICRI chairmanship of the United States of America

Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi of Arabia
Crowne Plaza Jeddah Al Salam

9th – 13th September 2024

Agenda 09/09/2024

Sunday 8th September

GCRMN Steering Committee Meeting – All day <i>By invitation only</i>			
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Registration			
17:00	90	Registration will be available in the Foyer of the Diamond Ballroom, of Crowne Plaza Jeddah Al Salam	Crowne Plaza Jeddah Al Salam

Monday 9th September

Red Sea Coral Reef Forum – All day			
09:00 – 17:30		Red Sea Coral Reef Forum (see annex 1)	Crowne Plaza Jeddah Al Salam
19:15		Welcoming Reception <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ballroom, Crowne Plaza Jeddah Al Salam</i> 	Crowne Plaza Jeddah Al Salam

Tuesday 10th September – Day 1

Time (KSA)	Day 1
Session 1 - Welcome & Openings	
09:00	General Meeting Opening and Official remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Khaled Asfahani, General Organization for Conservation of Coral Reefs and Turtles in the Red Sea (SHAMS)</i> • <i>Christine Dawson, United States of America, Department of State and ICRI co-chair</i>
09:15	Housekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Margaux Monfared, ICRI Secretariat</i>
09:20	Presentation & Adoption of the Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Christine Dawson, United States of America, Department of State and ICRI co-chair</i>
09:25	Review and summary of the Red Sea Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Simon Reeves, General Organization for Conservation of Coral Reefs and Turtles in the Red Sea (SHAMS)</i>
09:40	ICRI 30 and History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Margaux Monfared and Tom Dallison, ICRI Secretariat</i>
10:10	ICRI Membership Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Margaux Monfared and Tom Dallison, ICRI Secretariat</i>
10:20	New Member application presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rare - Embracing the ICRI Call to Action through Community-led Conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Anthony Chatwin, Rare</i>
10:30	Coffee Break
10:50	Review of ICRI Membership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ICRI Secretariat</i>
11:05	ICRI Member discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ICRI Co-chairs</i>
11:15	ICRI Secretariat Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Margaux Monfared and Tom Dallison, ICRI Secretariat</i>
11:45	Resilient Coral Reefs: WCS global coral reef strategy 2025-2030 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Diwigdi Valiente, Wildlife Conservation Society</i>
11:55	Presentation of Motions received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Red Sea Day • Youth ad hoc committee • Ad hoc committee to support the IUCN WCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ICRI Co-chairs</i>
12:05	Motion to create an ICRI youth ad hoc committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Margaux Monfared and Tom Dallison, ICRI Secretariat</i>
12:15	Lunch
Session 2 - Financing #ForCoral	
13:15	Opening of Session 2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ICRI co-chair</i>
13:20	<p>Keynote Speech: Indonesia Coral Bond: Innovative Blue Financing for MPA and Coral Reefs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>H.E. Sakti Wahyu Trenggono, Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia</i>
13:35	Q & A
13:45	<p>Presentations on the latest financing mechanisms #ForCoral highlighting approaches such as debt-for-nature swaps and how they are driving efforts to protect, restore and safeguard coral reef ecosystems and those who depend on them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Fund for Coral Reefs: Blended & Innovative Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Gabriel Grimsditch and Nicole Trudeau, Global Fund for Coral Reefs</i> • U.S. Funding Approaches to Turn the Tide for Coral Reefs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Christine Dawson, United States of America, Department of State and ICRI co-chair</i> • Belize Blue Bonds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Alicia Eck-Nunez, Belize</i>
14:15	<p>Q&A / All discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Moderator, TBC</i>
14:45	Coffee Break / GROUP PHOTO
Session 3 – Promote and build Capacity for the Restoration of Resilient Coral Reefs	
15:05	<p>Opening of Session 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ICRI co-chair</i>
15:20	<p>Presentation of Countries current restoration policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indonesia Current Restoration Policies on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Hendra Yusran Siry, Indonesia</i> • Coral Restoration in Jamaica: The Policy Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Chanel Raynor, Jamaica</i> • Maldives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Shaifya Naeem, Maldives</i> • All member discussion
16:20	<p>G20 Coral Research & Development Accelerator Platform (CORDAP) third funding call under the Coral Accelerator Program (CAP) 2024 <i>Anderson Mayfield, G20 Coral Research & Development Accelerator Platform (CORDAP)</i></p>
16:30	Closing
DAY 1 CLOSE	

Wednesday 11th September –Day 2

Time (KSA)	Day 2
Session 4 – The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)	

09:00	Reflection from Day 1 and opening of Session 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ICRI co-chair</i>
09:15	Report from the GCRMN Steering Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Britta Schaffelke, GCRMN Global co-ordinator / Australian Institute of Marine Science</i>
09:30	The Global Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tom Dallison, ICRI Secretariat</i>
10:00	GCRMN Regional Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlook Report, Coral Reefs in the Red Sea, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Mohammed Ismail, General Organization for Conservation of Coral Reefs and Turtles in the Red Sea (SHAMS)</i> • Updates from the Caribbean node of the GCRMN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Susana Perera Valderrama, UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme</i> • <i>Pacific GCRMN Regional Update</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Nicolas Rocle, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)</i>
10:30	Coffee Break
11:00	Red Alert on Corals (Video) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Introduction from Karin Moejes/Swaleh Aboud, CORDIO East Africa</i> <p>Monitoring updates from ICRI Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malaysia's coral reef long-term monitoring and management programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Izarenah MD Repin, Malaysia</i> • Building Capacity for Coral Reef Monitoring: Updates on MERMAID as a global platform - including, putting the 'AI' into MERMAID <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Alexandra Kler Lago, Wildlife Conservation Society</i> • Coral Reefs and the AI Summit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Carol Phua, WWF International</i>
12:00	Lunch
Session 5 – The Fourth Global Bleaching Event: Monitoring and Management Response	
13:00	Opening of Session 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jennifer Koss, United States of America, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and ICRI co-chair</i>
13:05	Introduction to the Fourth Global Bleaching Event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Derek Manzello</i>
13:20	Panel Session: Response planning, Monitoring, Messaging <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Moderator, Jennifer Koss, United States of America, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and ICRI co-chair</i> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Caribbean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Susana Perera Valderrama, UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme</i> • The Western Indian Ocean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Swaleh Aboud, Coastal Oceans Research and Development in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO)</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maldives <i>Shaifya Naeem, Maldives</i> • Australia <i>Britta Schaffelke, Australia</i> • Thailand <i>Thamasak Yeemin, Thailand</i> • Saudi Arabia <i>Chico Birrell, General Organization for Conservation of Coral Reefs and Turtles in the Red Sea (SHAMS)</i>
14:55	<p>The Marine tourism industry's involvement in monitoring coral reefs during the 4th Global Bleaching event, and efforts to support reef recovery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chloe Harvey, The Reef-World Foundation</i>
15:05	Coffee Break
15:25	<p>Presentation of the Motion to create an ad hoc committee to support the development of a motion to the IUCN World Conservation Congress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ICRI Secretariat</i> <p>All member discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Moderator TBC</i>
16:55	Closing
DAY 2 CLOSE	

Thursday 12th September – Day 3

Time (KSA)	Day 3
Session 6 - Driving Further Impact and Longevity #ForCoral: Strengthening the Initiative	
09:00	<p>Reflection from Day 2 and opening of Session 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ICRI co-chair</i>
09:15	<p>Strengthening the Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Francis Staub, ICRI Global Co-ordinator</i>
09:45	All member discussion
10:15	Coffee Break
Session 7 – Upcoming Events	
10:35	<p>Opening of Session 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ICRI co-chair</i>
10:40	<p>Upcoming Events and Joint Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ICRI Secretariat</i>
11:40	<p>Adoption of the motions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Sea Region Recommendation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICRI Youth ad hoc committee • Ad hoc committee to support the IUCN WCC motion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>ICRI co-chairs</i>
12:10	Lunch
13:10	<p>Proposal to host the 2025-2027 ICRI Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Khaled Asfahani / Dr. Abdulaziz Alsuwailem, General Organization for Conservation of Coral Reefs and Turtles in the Red Sea (SHAMS)</i>
Session 8 – Engaging, Empowering & Supporting Youth in Coral Reef Conservation: Towards a Healthy, Productive and Resilient Future #ForCoral	
13:25	<p>Opening of Session 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ICRI co-chair</i>
13:30	<p>Opening and Welcoming Remarks (<i>to include summary of youth reflection from ICRI 37 GM</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Esther Maina, Youth Delegation</i>
13:45	The Reef Guardian Schools Program Video
13:50	<p>Summary presentation of the youth strategies available from various ICRI member organisations and countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>TBC, Youth delegation</i>
14:00	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Moderator: Esther Maina, Youth Delegation</i> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tom Dallison / Margaux Monfared, ICRI Secretariat</i> • <i>Ghaida Ali Hadaidi, General Organization for Conservation of Coral Reefs and Turtles in the Red Sea (SHAMS)</i> • <i>Anna Rothstein, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)</i> • <i>Morgan Short / Igor Pessoa, International Coral Reef Society (ICRS)</i> • <i>Karin Moejes, Coastal Oceans Research and Development in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO)</i> • <i>Diwigdi Valiente, Wildlife Conservation Society</i> • <i>Hatim Salloum, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST)</i>
14:45	Q&A / All discussion
Meeting Summary and Closing	
15:15	<p>Meeting Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ICRI Co-chairs</i> <p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Francis Staub, ICRI Global Co-ordinator</i> • <i>ICRI Co-chairs</i>
DAY 3 CLOSE	

Al Balad Visit			
17:30	15	Meet in Crowne Plaza Jeddah Al Salam Lobby	Meet Lobby of Crowne Plaza Jeddah Al Salam
17:45	30	Depart Crowne Plaza and travel to Al Balad	
18:15	135	Arrival to Al Balad	
20:30	15	Assemble at drop off point	
20:45	30	Depart Al Balad	
21:15		Arrival at Crowne Plaza and travel to Al Balad	

Friday 13th September 2023 –Day 4

Time (KSA)		Field Trip	
06:30	30	Meet in Crowne Plaza Jeddah Al Salam Lobby	Meet Lobby of Crowne Plaza Jeddah Al Salam
07:00	30	Departure from the hotel to the marina	
07:30	30	Arrival at the marina	
08:00	15	Boarding the boat at the marina	
08:15	45	Departure of the boat to the Coast Guard station. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity: The Coast Guard checks permits and identities against a passport list. Activity: During this time, participants choose the appropriate diving equipment set provided by the contractor. 	
09:00	45	Departure from the Coast Guard station to Al Marjan Park	
09:45	15	Arrive at Abu Tair for snorkelling. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity: Briefing on safety, emergency procedures, diving procedures and marine life protection. 	
10:00	90	First snorkelling session	
11:30	30	Return to the boat	
12:00	60	Lunch	
13:00	30	Prepare for second snorkelling session	
13:30	90	Second snorkelling session	
15:00	30	Return to the boat	
15:30	90	Departure from the diving site to the marina.	
17:00	30	Arrival to the marina and group disembarkation.	
17:30	-	Arrive at Crowne Plaza Jeddah Al Salam Lobby	

Annex 1: Red Sea Forum Agenda



The General Organization For Conservation
of Coral Reefs and Turtles In The Red Sea



Red Sea Coral Reefs Forum:
The Red Sea region – a climate refuge for coral reefs

9th September 2023 - 09:00 - 17:30
Crowne Plaza Jeddah Al Salam
Jeddah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Organised by the General Organization for Conservation of Coral Reefs and Turtles in the Red Sea (SHAMS) and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

The predicted loss of the world's coral reefs threatens the health and socio-economic well-being of hundreds of millions of people and could substantially disrupt multiple marine ecosystems. Yet, biodiversity hotspots continue to be prevalent throughout the world's reef systems. A critical example of one of these hotspots is the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. The Red Sea contains the most biologically diverse coral reef communities outside of Southeast Asia's coral triangle and is one of the longest continuous living reefs in the world. Approximately 6% of coral species within the Red Sea are endemic, with other coral reef species, such as fishes, being much higher, making this region one of the most valuable repositories for marine biodiversity.

Coral reefs within the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region cover 13,605 km², approximately 5.3% of the total global area of coral reefs. The coral reefs of the Red Sea provide food and a source of livelihood to a rapidly growing population of over 28 million people living along its coastline. Fisheries landed value is approximately US \$230 million per year for the region, while annual revenues from tourism are over US \$12 billion. The Red Sea extends to its most northern portion, into the Gulf of Aqaba, which has the potential to be one of the planet's largest marine refuges from climate change due to the unique high thermal resilience of coral species.

In response to the recognition of the value of the region for the world's coral reefs, there has been an increase in attention on the region, with multiple organizations, initiatives, and projects being established. These conservation actions seek to conserve, protect, and restore the region's coral reefs.

Shams is at the forefront of this vital mission. With a mandate encompassing regulation, protection, and restoration, Shams is dedicated to ensuring the sustainability of the Red Sea's coral reefs. By collaborating with local and international experts, Shams spearheads innovative



initiatives to monitor, restore, and rehabilitate these essential marine habitats. These efforts not only safeguard biodiversity but also position Saudi Arabia as a global leader in coral reef and sea turtle conservation, setting a benchmark for marine conservation efforts worldwide.

The Forum, preceding the 38th ICRI General Meeting, will highlight the importance of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden's coral reefs for global coral reef conservation efforts, showcasing the efforts being undertaken to understand and build future coral reef resilience to a rapidly changing ocean. It will emphasize the unique biogeography of the Red Sea, which has resulted in high endemism and heat-tolerant coral species, positioning the region as a potential refugia. It will also present an open forum for the exchange of views and experiences to sustainably manage coral reefs with a central focus on the coral reefs of the Saudi Arabian Red Sea.

At the end of the Forum, the key messages will be presented. These messages will be integrated to the Motion on the Red Region to be table during the 38th ICRI General Meeting.

Agenda

08:00 – 09:00 - Registration

(09:00) Morning Session: Opening and Welcoming Remarks

Moderators:

1. *Dr Jennifer Koss, United States America, Director, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program and ICRI Co-Chair*
2. *Dr Ian McLeod, SHAMS, Executive Director Strategy, Science & Partnerships; Adjunct Professor, James Cook University*
3. *Dr Chico Birrell, Deputy General Director of Coral Reef Monitoring and Assessment, SHAMS*
4. *Dr Paul Marshall, Head of Nature Region, NEOM; Adjunct Professor, James Cook University*

(09:00) Introduction of the day

Dr Jennifer Koss, United States America, Director, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program and ICRI Co-Chair

(09:05) Welcoming remarks – Saudi Arabia's Commitment to Coral Reefs

Dr Khaled Asfahani, CEO, SHAMS

(09:10) Keynote speech - SHAMS Strategy- Holistic Blueprint for Red Sea Conservation Through Collaborative Stewardship

Dr Abdulaziz Alsuwailem, Chief Conservation & Strategy Officer, SHAMS



(09:30) The SHAMS' Outlook Report: Coral Reefs in the Red Sea, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Dr Mohammed Ismail, General Director of Coral Reef Monitoring and Assessment, SHAMS

(09:45) Keynote speech - Deep Blue and the Red Sea – the exciting new conservation frontier of NEOM's Nature Reserve
Dr Paul Marshall, Head of Nature Region, NEOM; Adjunct Professor, James Cook University

(10:00) Coffee Break (40')

(10:40) SHAMS – A leading organisation to oversee the regulation, protection, development, and sustainability of coral reefs in the Red Sea.

Moderator: *Dr Ian McLeod, SHAMS, Executive Director Strategy, Science & Partnerships; Adjunct Professor, James Cook University*

(10:45) Reef resilience reimagined
Dr David Feary, General Director, Coral Reef Conservation, SHAMS

(10:55) Monitoring and assessment in the modern world: aligning SHAMS' red sea coral reef vision with the global coral reef monitoring network
Dr Chico Birrell, Deputy General Director of Coral Reef Monitoring and Assessment, SHAMS

(11:05) SHAMS' vision to transform the red sea into a national icon through eco-tourism and citizen science
Vincent Kneefel, Program Director, Citizen Science, Communication & Outreach, SHAMS

(11:15) Meeting 30% of degraded ecosystems under effective restoration by 2030 challenge: SHAMS road map using best-practice, innovative technologies, and stakeholder engagement
Dr Simon Reeves, Associate Director of Reef Restoration, SHAMS

(11:25) Moderated questions & answers

(11:45) Group Photo
(12:00) Lunch

Panel Sessions

(13:15) Panel Session 1: Monitoring efforts in the Red Sea in response to climate change

Moderator: Dr Chico Birrel, Deputy General Director of Coral Reef Monitoring and Assessment, SHAMS

Panellist Speakers:

(13:20) PERSGA's mission and regional initiatives in regard to conservation of coral reefs of the Red Sea & Gulf of Aden

Dr Maher A Amer, Regional coordinator of Biodiversity, the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea & Gulf of Aden (PERSGA)

(13:30) Assessment of Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coral reefs: coral bleaching and recovery

Dr Emily Fobert, Senior Conservation and Communications Specialist, SHAMS

(13:40) How does the past shape the future of coral thermal resistance in the northern Red Sea?

Dr Eslam Osman, Marine Science, Biological and Environmental Science and Engineering Division, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST)

(13:50) Carrying capacity as a tool for sustainable coral reef-based ecotourism

Dr Mark Ziembicki, Senior Conservation and Data Specialist, SHAMS

(14:00) Moderated questions & answers

(14:20) Panel Session 2: Safeguarding Red Sea coral reefs: conservation strategies and the importance for regional collaboration

Moderator: Dr Jennifer Koss, United States America, Director, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program and ICRI Co-Chair

Panellist Speakers:

(14:25) Conserving the Gulf of Aqaba: An area of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of coral reefs in the Red Sea (recorded presentation)

Dr Fanny Douvère, Head, World Heritage Programme, UNESCO

(14:35) Understanding Red Sea reef connectivity: a cornerstone for conservation planning

Professor Ibrahim Hoteit, Professor of Earth Sciences and Engineering, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST)

(14:45) Reef fish diversity and small-scale fisheries of the Red Sea status and outlook

Dr Peter Mous, General Director of Fisheries, SHAMS

(14:55) Moderated questions & answers

(15:15) Coffee Break

(15:45) Panel Session 3: Citizen science, sustainable tourism, and blue natural capital: elevating, and investing in, the Red Sea as a coral refugia and national treasure

Moderator: Dr Paul Marshall, Head of Nature Region, NEOM; Adjunct Professor, James Cook University

Panellist Speakers:

(15:50) Bringing marine tourism into the conservation journey through Green Fins

Chloe Harvey, Executive Director, The Reef-World Foundation

(16:00) The evolution of Saudi Arabia's Red Sea tourism and its role in Red Sea sustainability

Mohammed Al Naser, Chief Executive Officer, Saudi Red Sea Authority

(16:10) The Red Sea: Investing in blue natural capital to secure a future for the Red Sea ecosystems

Dr Simon Reeves, Associate Director of Reef Restoration, SHAMS

(16:20) Questions & answers

(16:40) Short break

(16:50) Key messages from each panel session

Moderator: Dr Ian McLeod, SHAMS, Executive Director Strategy, Science & Partnerships, Adjunct Professor, James Cook University

(17:20) Closing Remarks

- Christine Dawson, Director, United States of America, Department of State and ICRI Co-Chair
- Dr Abdulaziz Alsuwailam, Chief Conservation & Strategy Officer, SHAMS

(17:30) End of the day