

Terms of reference for the *ad hoc* committee to support the development of a motion to the IUCN World Conservation Congress

Adopted on September 12th 20204 at the 38th ICRI General Meeting, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Background

The IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC), held every four years, is a pivotal event that unites several thousand leaders and decision-makers from government, civil society, indigenous peoples, business, and academia. The Congress aims to enhance the management of the environment for human, social, and economic development. The IUCN WCC provides a platform to set aside differences and collaborate on creating effective environmental governance, engaging all sectors of society to share both the responsibilities and the benefits of conservation. The next IUCN WCC will take place from October 9-15, 2025, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (please refer to Annex 2 for key dates).

In April 2024, ICRI and NOAA announced the world's Fourth Global Bleaching Event. This event has surpassed the spatial extent of the Third Global Bleaching Event, impacting over 72.9% of coral reefs worldwide as of July 2024, with coral bleaching confirmed in at least 69 countries and territories. The severity and frequency of coral bleaching events have escalated, highlighting a pivotal moment for global intervention.

In this light, IUCN WCC presents a valuable opportunity in the international agenda to elevate coral bleaching. Historically, there has been no IUCN resolution on coral bleaching. This motion will build upon the previous IUCN Resolutions “**Conserving and protecting coral reefs through the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**” ([WCC-2020-Res-105-EN](#)) and “**Cooperation for the conservation and protection of coral reefs worldwide**” ([WCC-2016-Rec-106-EN](#)).

The motion will be developed further following the ICRI 38th General Meeting Session 5 – The Fourth Global Bleaching Event: Monitoring and Management Response which will discuss key messages to be included for the motion.

ICRI members have a unique opportunity to lead a coordinated effort to engage IUCN members (1,400, from over 70 countries) to advocate for strong action to conserve and protect coral reefs, building resilience to future coral bleaching.

The **objectives** of the *ad hoc* committee will be to:

1. Coordinate ICRI's contribution to the IUCN WCC 2025, including developing a timeline to according to the ICRI Rules of Procedures.
2. Develop a draft motion on coral reef bleaching to be submitted to IUCN WCC, aligning with, and building upon, other relevant processes where necessary.
3. Engage IUCN Members, including States and Governments, to support the motion; and
4. Disseminate information about the motion and the importance of addressing coral bleaching to a wide range of stakeholders including ICRI members, governments, NGOs, academia, indigenous communities, and youth.

Chairs:

ICRI Secretariat

Members:

United States of America, Australia, Wildlife Conservation Society, United Nations, Environment Programme

Duration: The *ad hoc* committee will work intersessionally until the end of the IUCN WCC congress in October 2025.

Annex 1: Proposed Terms of Reference for the ad hoc Committee to support the submission of a motion to the IUCN World Conservation Congress

The *ad hoc* committee will coordinate ICRI's contribution to write a comprehensive motion on coral bleaching to be submitted at the IUCN WCC 2025. The committee will be chaired by the ICRI Secretariat and supported by a possible co-chair(s) (TBC). The *ad hoc* committee will work virtually to discuss and draft the motion and will take advantage of any opportunities for face-to-face meetings on the side lines of other meetings. The text of the motion will be based on the conclusion of the session on the Fourth Global Bleaching Event: Monitoring and Management Response held during the ICRI 38 General Meeting.

Working with ICRI members and partners, the *ad hoc* committee will:

- Coordinate ICRI's contribution to the IUCN WCC 2025, including developing a timeline to according to the ICRI Rules of Procedures;
- Develop a draft motion on coral reef bleaching to be submitted to IUCN WCC, aligning with, and building upon, other relevant processes where necessary;
- Engage IUCN Members, including States and Governments, to support the motion; and
- Disseminate information about the motion and the importance of addressing coral bleaching to a wide range of stakeholders including ICRI members, governments, NGOs, academia, indigenous communities, and youth.

Possible deliverables:

- Draft motion on coral bleaching to be submitted to the IUCN WCC 2025.
- Gather the support IUCN Members (countries, organisations, and key stakeholders) including ICRI members for the motion and to encourage voting.
- Dissemination of the motion to raise global awareness.

Annex 2: IUCN WCC Motion Submission Key Dates

- **Submission on the motion platform**
 - Opens - November 1st 2024
 - Closes - January 15th 2025
- **Publication of Motions**
 - March 24th 2025
- **Online Discussion**
 - April 18th 2025 – June 15th 2025
- **Publication of Final Motions**
 - July 9th 2025
- **Electronic Voting**
 - August 27th – September 10th 2025
- **IUCN WCC**
 - October 9th – 15th 2025



International Coral Reef Initiative

www.icriforum.org
