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ICRI Secretariat Report

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

Chaired by the United States of America
International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Secretariat



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#FORCORAL



Resilience-Based Management Case Studies



#ForCoral Webinar Series

- ICRI Partnered with the Reef Resilience Network (RRN) for the release of the #ForCoral Series
- The Network is a partnership led by [The Nature Conservancy](#) that is comprised of more than 5,200 active members, and supported by dozens of partners and TNC staff, as well as 100s of global experts in coral reefs, fisheries, climate change, and communication who serve as trainers, advisors, and content reviewers.



#ForCoral Webinar Series

- We were pleased to also collaborate with several ICRI members and partners to host some of the webinars including, UNESCO, NOAA and the NBSAP Forum



#FORCORAL WEBINAR SERIES

THE STATUS OF THE FOURTH GLOBAL BLEACHING EVENT AND THE ROLE OF THE GLOBAL CORAL REEF COMMUNITY

Following the recent announcement by NOAA and ICRI on April 15th regarding the **4th Global Coral Bleaching Event** – the second in a decade – this webinar aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the current state of coral bleaching on local and global scales. This global event requires global action and ICRI and its members continue to advance coral interventions and restoration in the face of climate change.

During this 2 hour webinar hear about the current status of coral bleaching from coral reef regions and countries (USA, Australia, the Red Sea, the Western Indian Ocean, the Caribbean, Brazil, and France) and the role of the global coral reef community to secure a future for coral reefs.

DATE: Tuesday 14th May 2024
TIME: 08:00 GMT-4 | 13:00 GMT+1
LANGUAGES: English | French | Spanish

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#FORCORAL WEBINAR SERIES

RECENT CORAL RESPONSE EVENTS AND THE NEED FOR INTEGRATED RESPONSE PLANNING

Recent coral response events have highlighted the urgent need for integrated response planning to address the threats facing coral reefs. With coral bleaching, disease outbreaks, and other stressors on the rise due to climate change and human activities, coordinated efforts among scientists, policymakers, conservationists, and local communities are essential to mitigate the impacts and ensure the long-term survival of these vital ecosystems. Integrated response planning aims to synergise research, conservation actions, and policy measures to enhance coral resilience and facilitate adaptive management strategies in the face of ongoing environmental challenges. During this one-hour webinar you will hear about response efforts including coral bleaching and Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD), with experts sharing overviews of their coordination efforts and lessons learned.


DATE: Tuesday 5 March 2024
TIME: 15:00 GMT | 10:00 EST
LANGUAGES: English, Spanish

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#FORCORAL WEBINAR SERIES

THE IMPACTS OF LAND-BASED SOURCES OF POLLUTION ON CORAL REEFS

The impacts of land-based sources of pollution on coral reefs are profound and multifaceted, contributing significantly to their degradation worldwide. These pollutants disrupt the delicate balance of coral reef ecosystems, and land-based pollution can exacerbate the effects of climate change and ocean acidification. Addressing these sources of pollution through improved land-use practices, wastewater management, and policy interventions is crucial for the preservation and restoration of coral reef ecosystems. During this one hour webinar learn more about an Integrated Ridge-to-Reef Monitoring Framework, Sediment and nutrient reduction efforts, monitoring water quality and its impacts, as well as an introduction to the new Guide for Pollution Assessment & Monitoring in Coastal Ecosystems.


DATE: Thursday 4 April 2024
TIME: 21:00 BST | 16:00 EDT
LANGUAGES: English

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#FORCORAL WEBINAR SERIES

INTEGRATING CORAL REEFS INTO NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

ICRI recently released a **"Guide for integrating coral reefs and associated ecosystems into NBSAPs"**, accompanied by 3 case studies from the Philippines, Palau and France. Integrating coral reefs into NBSAPs is crucial for their conservation, protection, and restoration, especially in light of the recent announcement by NOAA and ICRI regarding the fourth global coral bleaching event. The webinar aims to support the implementation of the guidelines – equipping coral reef countries with the knowledge and tools necessary to effectively integrate coral reefs into their NBSAPs, in turn supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Over the 90 minutes, speakers will showcase the guidance and its contents, including the 3 case studies, as well as financial support for the implementation of NBSAPs and the NBSAP Forum.

DATE: Tuesday 7th May 2024
TIME: 08:00 GMT-4 | 13:00 GMT+1
LANGUAGES: English | French | Spanish

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#ForCoral Webinar Series

1390

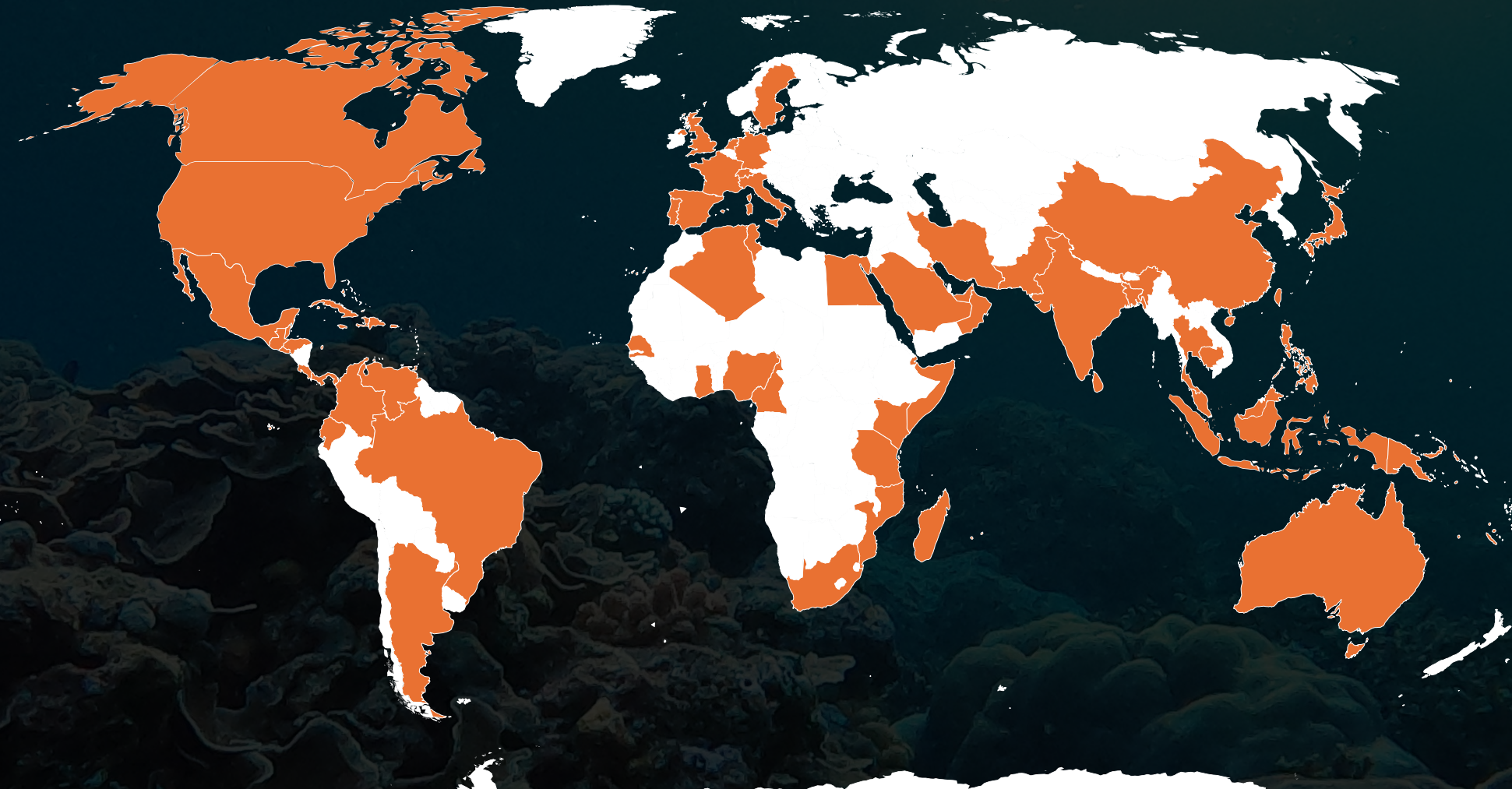
Registered
participants from
around the world

130+

Countries,
territories and
economies

494

participants from
around the world



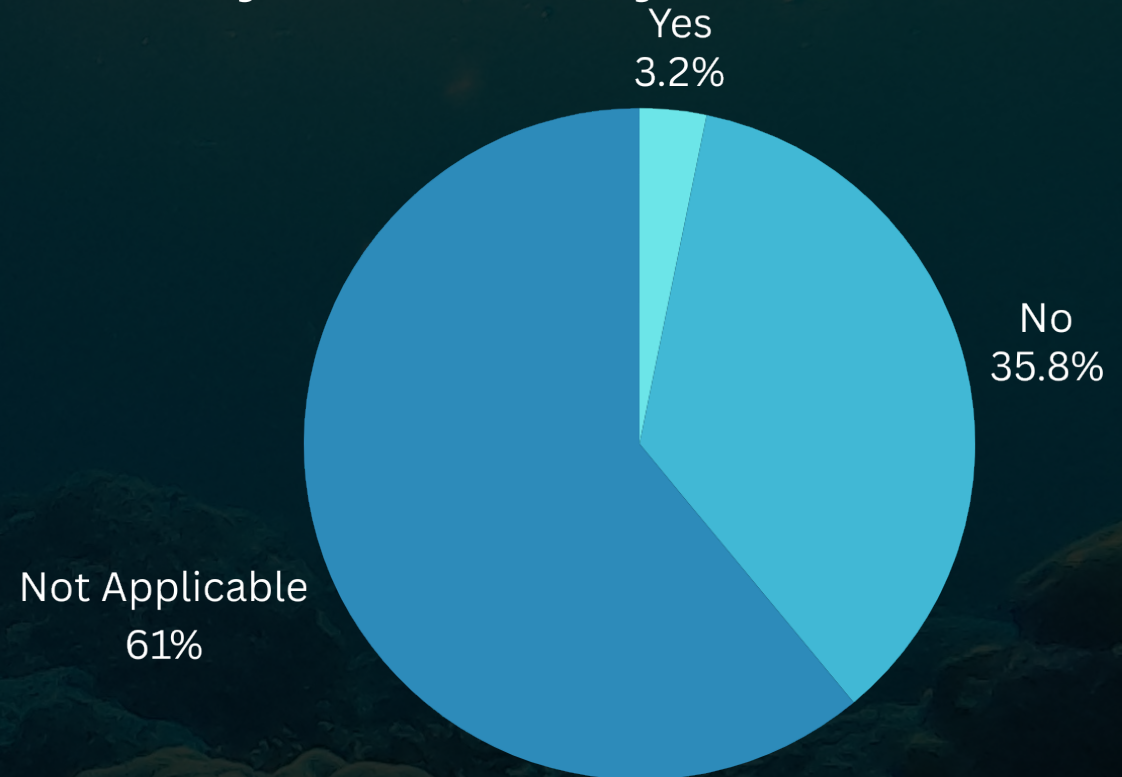
#ForCoral Webinar Series

- Recent Coral Response Events and the Need for Integrated Response Planning
 - 64 participants | 155 registrants (61% female, 35% male, 4% prefer not to say)
- How to Apply Coral Reef Connectivity Models to Reef Management
 - Run by RRN
- The Impacts of Land-based Sources of Pollution on Coral Reefs
 - 120 participants | 369 registrants (50% female, 48% male, 2% prefer not to say)
- Integrating Coral Reefs into NBSAPs
 - 60 participants | 218 registrants (58% female, 40% male, 2% prefer not to say)
- The Status of the Fourth Global Bleaching Event and the role of the global coral reef community
 - 250 participants | 648 registrants (58% female, 39% male, 3% prefer not to say)
- MPA Finance: First Steps for Marine Managers
 - Run by RRN

#ForCoral Webinar Series

- A critical source of information
- Integrating Coral Reefs into NBSAPs
 - 19 Country representatives from 16 different countries (Pakistan, Belize, Brazil, Comoros, Cuba, France, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Philippines, Somalia, UAE)
 - 52 participants stated they are planning to integrate coral reefs and associated ecosystems into revised NBSAPs.

Have you submitted your revised NBSAP?



#ForCoral Webinar Series

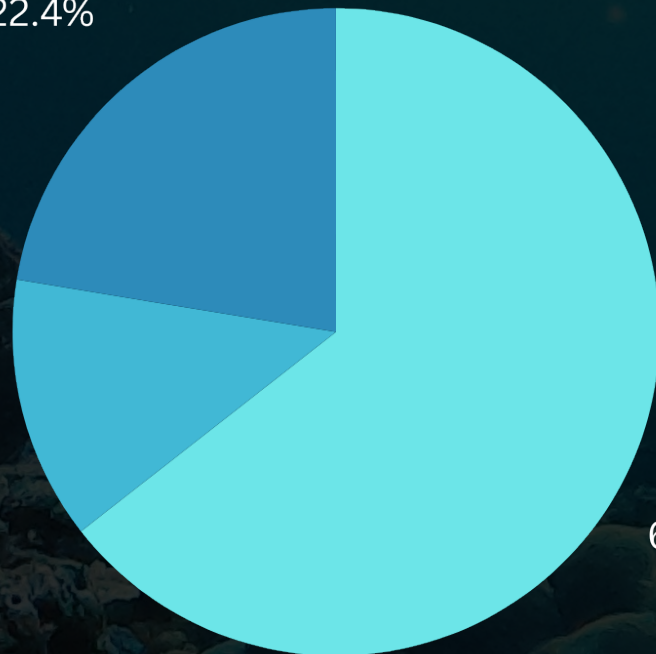
- The Status of the Fourth Global Bleaching Event and the role of the global coral reef community

Have you witnessed coral bleaching on your coral reefs, or have there been reports of bleaching in your country?

Not Applicable
22.4%

No
13.1%

Yes
64.5%



#ForCoral Webinar Series

- All of the webinars have been **recorded** and are available online to view
- ICRI hosted webinars include a list of supporting materials on the dedicated events pages
- To ensure diversity some of the webinars also had **French** and **Spanish** Interpretation
- The next topic will be in collaboration with ICRI Member **CORDIO** on Coral Reefs Red List of Ecosystems
- Please reach out to the ICRI Secretariat share additional ideas for topics



CHECK OUT
The #ForCoral
Webinar Series



Collaboration

- In addition to the **three** new partnerships in 2023 (ORRAA, Ocean & Climate Platform and Technical partnership for the NBSAP Forum), ICRI has now partnered with:
- The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP)
- www.oceanaccounts.org



Global Ocean
Accounts
Partnership



Collaboration

- ICRI also collaborates with:
 - Global Fund for Coral Reefs
 - Communities of Ocean Action
 - UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration
 - UN Decade of Ocean Science
 - The Earthshot Prize



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030

Support to the CBD

- Contribution to CBD notifications (i.e. Webinars) and strengthen existing partnership
- Submission of views on restoration (T2) including case studies
- Information note for SBSTTA-26
- #ForCoral Pavilion



International Coral Reef Initiative

10 May 2024

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International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI): Information Note on Coral Reefs for SBSTTA-26

ICRI has compiled key points on coral reefs to ensure the retention and visibility of coral reef indicators in the Monitoring Framework of the GBF as well as the inclusion of coral reefs in the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity revised programme of work ahead of the 26th Meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 26) from 13th – 19th May 2024. The views presented in this information do not necessarily reflect the views of the ICRI Chairs, ICRI Secretariat, ICRI members and funding entities.



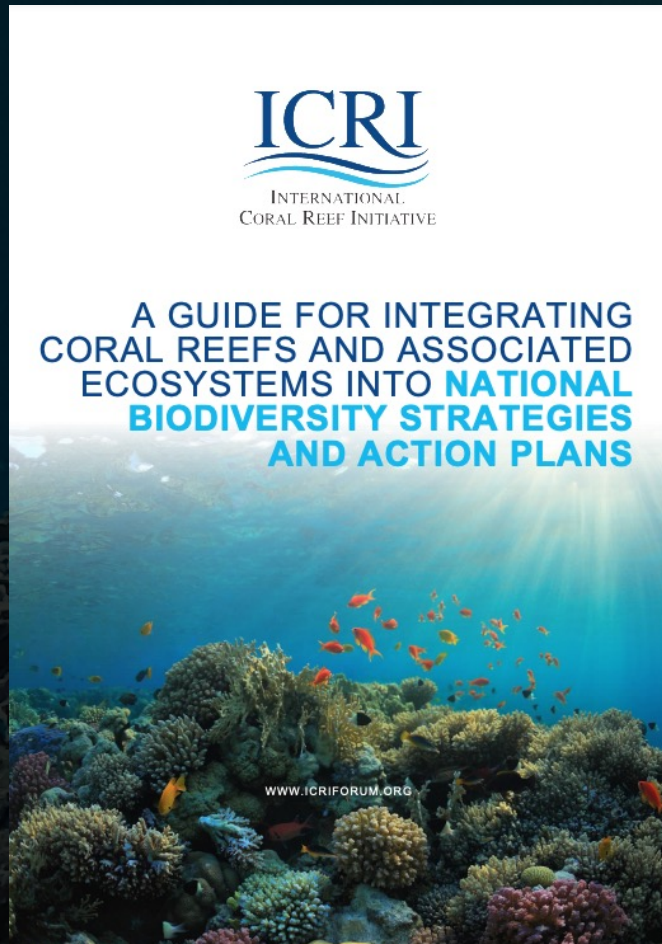
International Coral Reef Initiative

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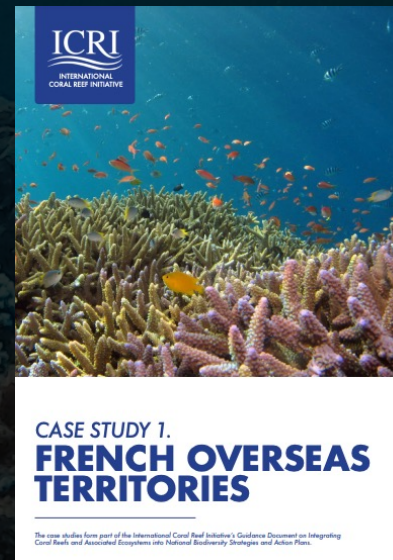
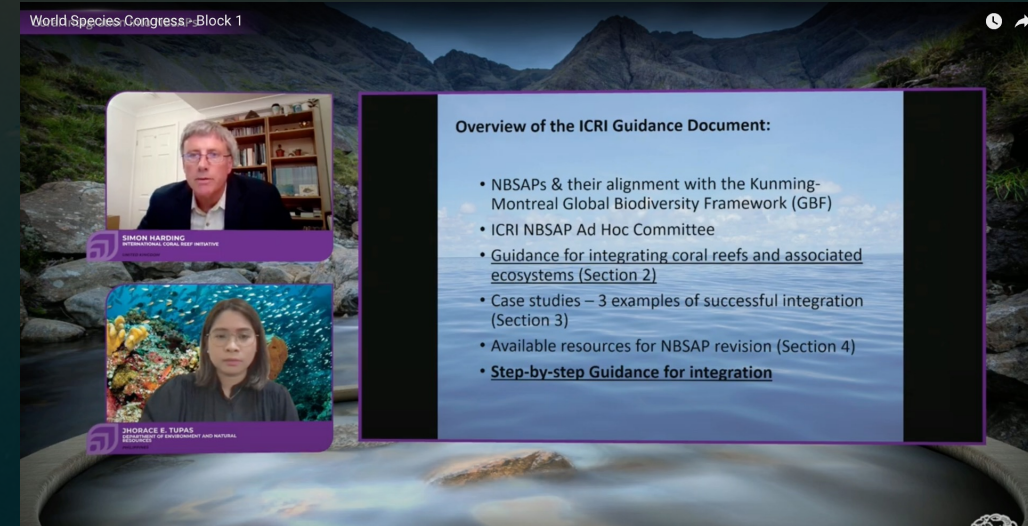
Contributions on the draft manual “Delivering Restoration Outcomes for Biodiversity and Human Well-being: Resource Guide to Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework”

NBSAP Guide

- Full Document, Summary and Case Studies

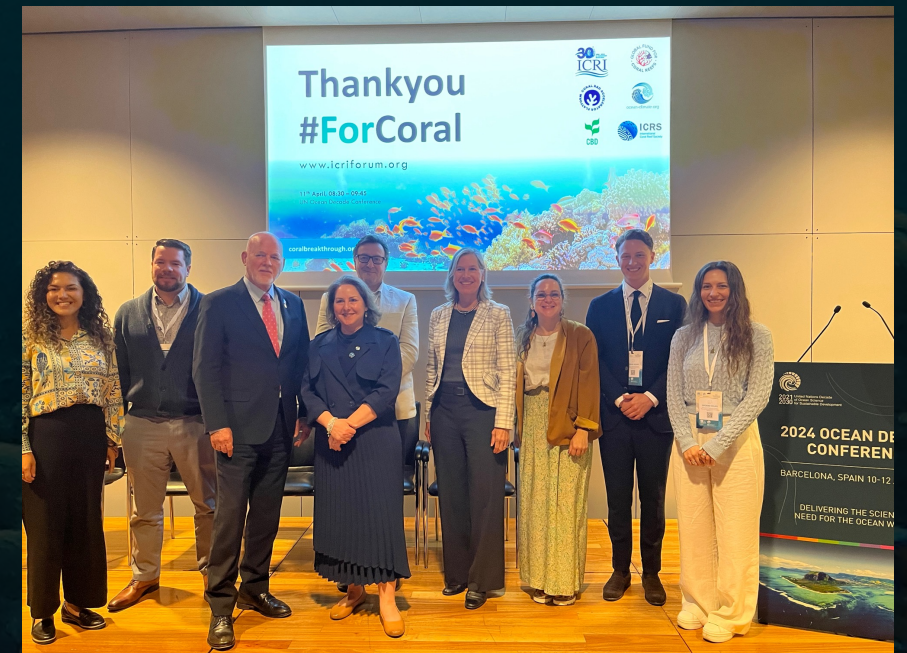


Read Me!



Side Events

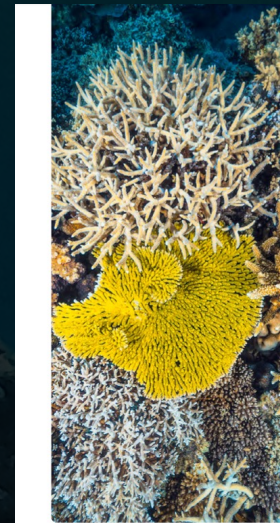
- Monaco Ocean Week, Monaco
 - Implementing the Coral Reef Breakthrough: Solutions #ForCoral
 - Lets be Nice to the Ocean
- UN Ocean Decade Conference, Barcelona
 - The Coral Reef Breakthrough
 - Implementing the Coral Reef Breakthrough: Solutions #ForCoral
- Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, Antigua and Barbuda
 - Ocean Health, Human Wealth: The Importance of coral reefs
 - Nature Based Solutions



2023 Impact Report



Download
the report



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IMPACT REPORT 2023

FOREWORD



Having been part of ICRl for over 20 years, it is with great pleasure and a sense of accomplishment that I present to you the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) 2023 Impact Report, a testament to our collective efforts in the preservation and sustainable management of coral reefs worldwide. Over the past year, ICRl has undertaken significant initiatives to address the challenges facing coral reefs globally, most notably hosting ICRl's first face-to-face General Meeting since 2019 in Kona, Hawai'i, under the chairmanship of the United States of America, building upon achievements in 2022. In 2023, ICRl's membership grew to 101, including 45 countries who host over 75% of the World's coral reefs.

This year also saw the launch of the Coral Reef Breakthrough, a global vision grounded in science-based, measurable, and achievable goals for state and non-state actors to collectively conserve, protect, and restore coral reefs at the scale that is needed to secure the future of these vital ecosystems and the highly valuable contributions they provide to people.

ICRI continue to work closely with partners such as with the Global Coral Research & Development Accelerator Platform (CORDAP), the Global Fund

for Coral Reefs (GFCR), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to mobilise action and resources to protect and restore coral reef ecosystems.

This Impact Report serves as an overview of the main accomplishments of ICRl's collaborative efforts. The commitment and dedication of ICRl members, partners and supporters have been instrumental in achieving positive outcomes and safeguarding coral reefs and their associated ecosystems.

Whilst ICRl continues to be steadfast in its efforts to conserve, protect and restore coral reefs, it is without doubt that coral reefs face an existential threat and a coupling of immediate and long-term management strategies, alongside sustainable financing, are needed.

I look forward to the continued successes in the collective effort to safeguard coral reefs throughout 2024, and on the road to 2030.

Francis Staub
ICRI Global Coordinator



PLAN OF ACTION 2021-2023 ICRI – USA TURNING THE TIDE FOR CORAL REEFS

The twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss have brought into stark relief the need for greater collaboration and action at the international level to conserve, manage, and restore coral reefs.

It is in this context that the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Secretariat launched its Plan of Action for 2021-2024, Turning the Tide for Coral Reefs, from its current Chair, the United States of America. The ICRI Secretariat maintains progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 13 (take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) and Goal 14 (conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources), while serving as a vital platform to support coral reef countries in the implementation of their national commitments and international agreements including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Throughout 2023, ICRl's members, its Chairs and the Secretariat have worked to better incorporate science into action, strengthen leadership and emerging technologies, whilst promoting collaboration and communication among stakeholders. Efforts have been taken to incorporate the knowledge and intrinsic values of Indigenous Peoples and local communities regarding coral reefs and their associated ecosystems into ICRl's actions, evidenced through the hosting of ICRl's first ever Indigenous Local Knowledge (ILK) listening

sessions and Youth Delegation at the occasion of the 37th ICRl general meeting.

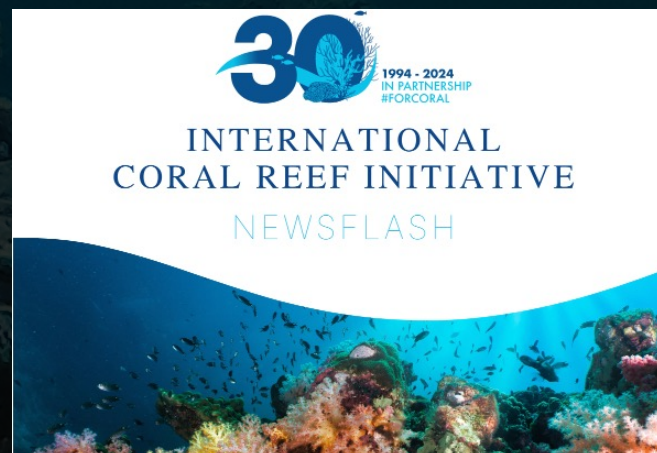
Every opportunity has been taken, and will continue to be taken, to raise the plight of coral reefs with the broader international community and the actions that can be taken at local, regional, and global levels to secure their protection and recovery. Through 2023 this included the representation of the initiative at 24 international events, including the organisation of side events at international meetings. In early 2023, at Our Ocean conference in Panama, ICRl held a side event in partnership with the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, UK DEFRA, Bloomberg Philanthropies, United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, Race to Resilience and United Nations Environment Programme, entitled 'Future of Reefs: Innovative Solutions and Commitments to Increase the Resilience of Coral Reefs and their Guardian Communities'. Moreover, at the Twenty-third Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, ICRl held a side event that emphasised the strong collaboration between ICRl and the UNEP regional seas programme. This highlighted the pivotal role the regions hold for the preservation of coral reefs on a global scale, from supporting

monitoring activities at the national scale, to shaping policies and influencing decision makers within international process. In addition, ICRl partnered with the MIRPURI Foundation to launch the 2023 Ocean Award, focusing on raising awareness and finding solutions for coral reefs across the globe.



ICRI Communication

- Newsletters (4400)
 - ICRI sends out a regular newsletter roughly 6 weeks apart to highlight the important work of its members.
- Newsflash
 - In between ICRI Newsletters, we send out important news as “Newsflashes”
- Social Media
 - LinkedIn (8431)
 - X/Twitter (5808)



ICRI Communication

- **Round of News**
 - This is shared each month (since November 2022) to update ICRI Members and partners on key information from the ICRI Secretariat, it's members and the coral reef community
- Of the 25 member reports submitted all members noted the use of the Round of News
 - *Barbados* - I like that it collates all of the most recent and relevant information with regards to marine management in one location.
 - *Jamaica* - The timely updates on global coral reef conservation efforts, along with the highlights of key initiatives and success stories from various regions, are particularly appreciated.
 - *Mote Marine Laboratory* - Yes, the monthly round of news is very useful. Much of Mote effort is focused on Florida reefs and actions within our local/regional communities. The ICRI news allows us to learn about some of what is happening in other regions of the world on a near-real time basis.

The ICRI Forum



Resilience Hub



Restoration Hub



Coral Bleaching Hub

News

[View All News](#)



[Coral Conservation in the UK Overseas Territories Working Group \(C-COT\) Roadmap 2024](#)



[Bahasa Indonesia translation of online edX course Now Available!](#)

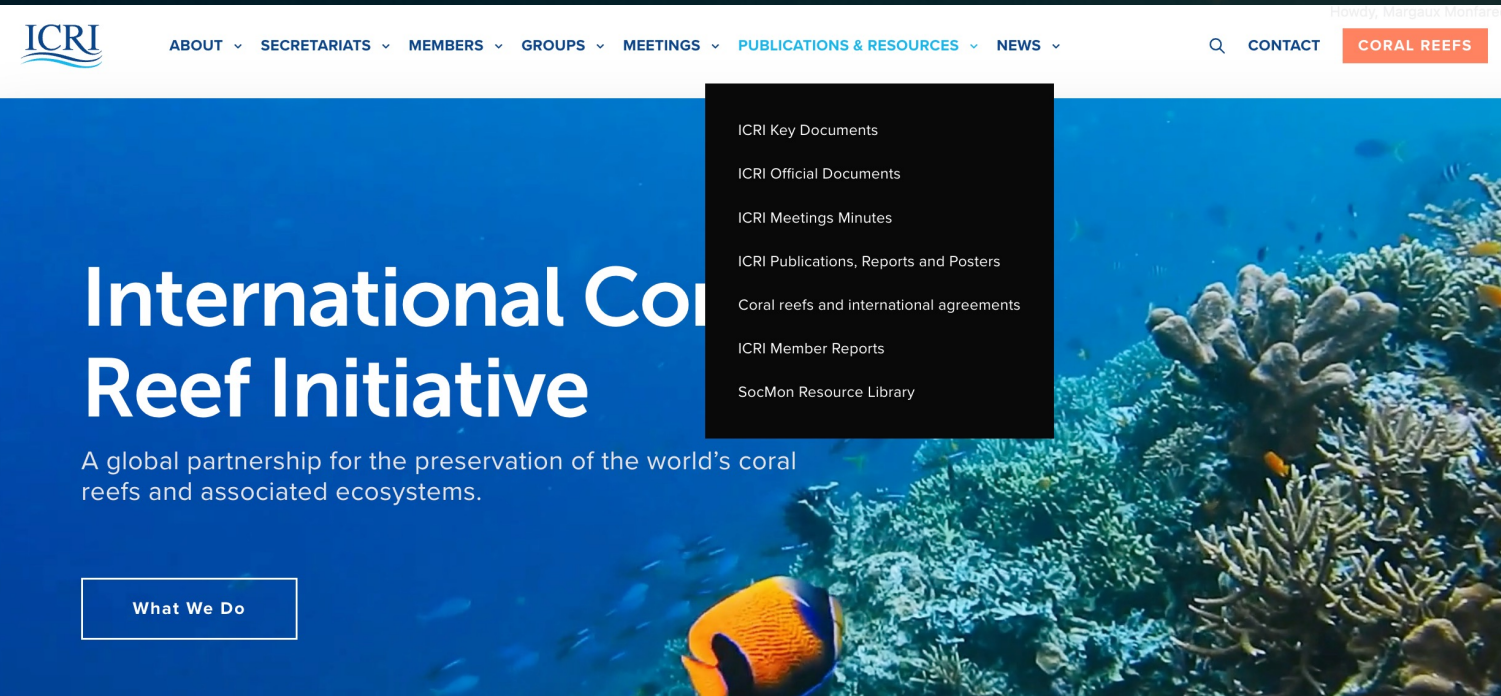


[Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2024: An ecosystem under pressure](#)



[Call for applications for CaMPAM Training of Trainers Course on MPA Management](#)

The ICRI Forum



- ICRI Key Documents
- ICRI Official Documents
- ICRI Meetings Minutes
- ICRI Publications, Reports and Posters
- Coral reefs and international agreements
- ICRI Member Reports

The ICRI Website Family

COP16FORCORAL.org

ICRI30.org

www.icriforum.org

CORALBREAKTHROUGH.org

GCRMN.NET

ICRIFORUM.ORG/SOCMON