



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: CORDIO East Africa
- Name of person(s) completing member's report: Karin Moejes,
- Position/Title: Senior Scientist and Manager
- Email: kmoejes@cordiea.net
- Are you a designated ICRI Focal Point: Yes No
 - If no, please indicate who you are completing the form on behalf of:
David Obura
- Which was the last General Meeting you attended: 37th GM in Hawai'i, United States of America, 19th to 23rd September 2023
- Will you be attending the 38th ICRI General Meeting in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Yes No
- Member social media:
 - Twitter/X: [@cordioea](https://twitter.com/cordioea)
 - LinkedIn: CORDIO East Africa

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:

Theme 1: Preparing for the Future: Promoting Resilient Coral Reefs

CORDIO led the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) assessment, identifying resilient coral reefs and informing conservation strategies. In collaboration with IUCN and funded by the MSC Foundation, CORDIO is now supporting RLE assessments globally for GCRMN regions (preparations are underway with ROPME, East Tropical Pacific and potentially South Asia and the Pacific), contributing to a broader understanding of coral reef health.

Following the WIO assessment, CORDIO has conducted National Coral Reef Assessments (NCRA) in Kenya and Tanzania, and will expand this to Mozambique, Madagascar, and Comoros, focusing on Criterion D of the RLE framework. These assessments help each country understand the status of their reefs, identify threats, and develop response strategies. They also support national RLEs and help meet Global Biodiversity Framework reporting obligations.

Theme 2: Coral Reef Science and Oceanography: Advancing and Utilizing the Latest Science and Technology

Through direct work and a PhD at the University of Melbourne (Mishal Gudka, with Emily Nicholson) CORDIO is innovating applications of the indicator framework of the Global Biodiversity Framework to support countries to not only report on Headline indicator A.1 (Red List of Ecosystems), but to also use the underlying data to support management and local/national decision-making to conserve, protect and restore reefs.

Theme 3: Local Threat Reduction: Integrating Response Planning Frameworks

CORDIO has been working on national coral reef assessments (NCRA) in several WIO countries to understand the status of the reefs. These assessments can support national agencies and other organisations in developing response planning frameworks that address specific local threats such as overfishing or pollution.

Theme 4: Diversity and Inclusion: Expanding the Coral Reef Community

As part of a Commonwealth Blue Charter project, CORDIO has been involved in training youth in conservation tools such as SeaSketch for participatory mapping. Additionally, CORDIO works closely with women's groups that are part of Beach Management Units (BMUs), supporting alternative livelihoods and sharing the findings from our monitoring efforts to inform them about the status of their reefs. CORDIO also trains coastal communities in monitoring methods so they can actively participate in surveying the reefs themselves.

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

Answer:

Expanding National Coral Reef Assessments (NCRA): We will continue to expand our work on National Coral Reef Assessments (NCRA) in additional Western Indian Ocean (WIO) countries including Mozambique, Madagascar, and Comoros. These assessments are critical for understanding the status of coral reefs, identifying threats, and informing conservation strategies at the national level.

Supporting Implementation of Protected Areas: We will continue to support the establishment and effective management of protected areas by providing data and insights from our assessments. This includes helping Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) gain recognition and inclusion as Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) to ensure their long-term protection and sustainability. Additionally, we are working on supporting the establishment of a transboundary conservation area between Northern Tanzania and Southern Kenya, aimed at enhancing the conservation of coral reefs and associated ecosystems.

Community Engagement and Capacity Building: Engaging local communities remains a priority, particularly through training programs that empower them to monitor and manage their own coral reef resources.

Integrating Coral Reefs into National Policies: We will continue to work closely with national focal points and government agencies to ensure that coral reefs are effectively integrated into national biodiversity strategies and policies.

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:

Kenya has established the National Coral Reef Restoration Protocol, developed by the Coast Development Authority (CDA) in collaboration with key stakeholders. The protocol provides guidelines for conducting coral reef restoration activities in the country. It draws on successful pilot projects, such as the Wasini BMU demonstration led by KMFRI, and the REEFolution coral restoration efforts.

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.

Note - CORDIO is the regional GCRMN node for the WIO, so as in past years, and meeting the objectives of the GCRMN since the beginning and the Implementation and Governance Plan, we are acting as the intermediate aggregator for data for this region.

Answer:

Contact Name: Swaleh Aboud
Organisation: CORDIO East Africa
Email Address: saboud@cordioea.net

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:

We had the opportunity to present at "The Status of the Fourth Global Bleaching Event and the Role of the Global Coral Reef Community" webinar, which was particularly valuable in sharing insights and engaging with the broader coral reef community on this critical issue. Additionally, we are planning to collaborate with IUCN to present a "Coral Reef Red List of Ecosystems" webinar, which we believe will contribute further to the global conversation on coral reef conservation.

However, we did not attend other webinars in the series as we were not aware of when they were scheduled.

- (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:

We plan to host a webinar with IUCN on the "Coral Reef Red List of Ecosystems"

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:

Yes, the ICRI Monthly Round of News is helpful. Seeing what other members are doing helps foster a sense of community and collaboration.

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:

We have not directly used the Guide on integrating coral reefs and associated ecosystems into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) as our organization does not directly revise NBSAPs. However, we work to support national agencies by providing data, assessments, and recommendations that can inform their integration of coral reefs into these plans. Our work on the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems and National Coral Reef Assessments is targeted at assisting uptake of countries to report on Headline Indicator A.1 of the GBF.

- (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:

As a non-governmental organisation, we do not directly revise National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). However, the Kenya Action Plan recognizes the impact of discharged pollutants into aquatic systems on coral reefs and emphasises the importance of public awareness for the sustainable utilisation of aquatic resources. This framework can be further strengthened by integrating the national RLE status of coral reefs, identifying associated threats, developing mitigation strategies, and incorporating economic valuation and policy recommendations.

- (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:

The national Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) will assist Western Indian Ocean (WIO) countries in reporting their contributions to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The RLE serves as a headline indicator for Goal A and Target 1, and also supports other targets such as 3, 5, 9, and 10, assessing and reporting on the health and resilience of coral reefs. It plays a critical role in identifying and mitigating threats (Targets 1, 3, 5), ensuring sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing (Targets 9, 10), and mainstreaming

biodiversity considerations across sectors (Target 21, including participation for OECMS). Additionally, CORDIO's Director contributed to the monitoring framework of the GBF through the AHTEG.

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:

Co-hosting and co-organizing a Western Indian Ocean regional workshop planned for Q1 2025 with the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP), as part of our coordination of the regional GCRMN-WIO node.

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

	URL
Nicholson, E., Andrade, A., Brooks, T.M. <i>et</i>	https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-

<i>al.</i> (2024) Roles of the Red List of Ecosystems in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. <i>Nature Ecology and Evolution</i> 8, 614–621.	023-02320-5
Gudka, M., Samoilyls, M., Musembi, P. <i>et al.</i> (2024) Complex coral reefs offer hope for management in a Marine Protected Area in Zanzibar. <i>Regional Studies in Marine Science</i> 77.	https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352485524003001
Gudka, M., Obura, D., Treml, E. A., and Nicholson, E. (2024). Strengthening resilience potential assessments for coral reef management. <i>Methods in Ecology and Evolution</i> , 15, 612–627.	https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/2041-210X.14303
Gudka, M., Obura, D., Treml, E. A. <i>et al.</i> (2024) Leveraging the Red List of Ecosystems for national action on coral reefs through the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. <i>BioRxiv</i>	https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2024.02.18.580850v1.abstract

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:

Being a member of ICRI provides a platform for global collaboration and knowledge-sharing among organisations to connect with a diverse network of experts and practitioners, stay updated on global initiatives, and contribute to collective efforts is highly beneficial. Completing the ICRI member reports is a valuable process as it allows us to reflect on our achievements, share our progress, and align our efforts with global objectives. To improve the Member Reports, incorporating more opportunities for qualitative feedback and fostering collaborative initiatives between members could further enhance their usefulness.

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>	David Obura
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	Director, CORDIO East Africa
<i>Email:</i>	dobura@cordioea.net



Focal Point 2:	
<i>Name:</i>	Karin Moejes
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	Senior Scientist and Manager, CORDIO East Africa
<i>Email:</i>	kmoejes@cordioea.net
Focal Point 3:	
<i>Name:</i>	Swaleh Aboud
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	Scientist, CORDIO East Africa
<i>Email:</i>	saboud@cordioea.net
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/icrigm38/>