



## International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

### Member's Report | 38<sup>th</sup> General Meeting

9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024 Jeddah, – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

### Reporting Period: 2023 & 2024

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#### A. Member Information:

- Name of ICRI member: Myanmar
- Name of person(s) completing member's report: Cherry Aung
- Position/Title: Professor
- Email: [missaungmarine@gmail.com](mailto:missaungmarine@gmail.com)
- Are you a designated ICRI Focal Point:  Yes  No
  - If no, please indicate who you are completing the form on behalf of:
- Which was the last General Meeting you attended: 34<sup>th</sup> General Meeting in 2019
- Will you be attending the 38<sup>th</sup> ICRI General Meeting in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:  Yes  No
- Member social media: Facebook
  - Twitter/X: @
  - LinkedIn:

**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*

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

Answer:

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

**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 (km<sup>2</sup>) 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: 3.69 km<sup>2</sup>
  - Total area considered to be restored in 2023: 67.8 km<sup>2</sup>
- (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:

We initiated an area (3.69 km<sup>2</sup>) to be a protected area for coral reef which is named “Locally Management Coral reef conservation Area’ and it is located at the Rakhine Coast, Northern Myanmar. The process is going on including engaging and giving awareness to the local community, establishing artificial reefs, coral replantation, define no take zone for corals and planning for management. The local community are actively participated in the restoration.

Some patchy coral reefs area (67.8 km<sup>2</sup>) around the Thayawthadangi Island groups, Tenintharyi Region, Myanmar is considered to be restored.

- (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:*

*People participation in restoration, development, innovation and conservation*

*Restored:*

*Protected area in which coral reefs are already protected. (eg. Lampi Marine National Park)*

[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:*

Coral reefs are protected under the Marine Fishery Law (1990)

Protection of Wildlife and Wild Plants and Conservation of Natural Areas Law (1994)

Myanmar Environmental Policy (1994)

Environmental Conservation Law (2012)

Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Area Law (2018)

National Wetland Policy of Myanmar (2019)

## 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.

*Please add further contacts as needed.*

Answer:

*Contact Name: Dr.Cherry Aung  
Organisation: Marine Science Department, Myanmar  
Email Address: missaungmarine@gmail.com*

*Contact Name:Dr.Aung Aung Aye  
Organisation: Marine Science Department, Myanmar  
Email Address: aungaungaye2009@gmail.com*

*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:*

*I could not attend any of the series webinars. The reasons included bad Wi-Fi internet connection, electricity availability and time different.  
For next time, I will try my best to catch up the webinars to attend.*

- (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:*

*Not yet.*

**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, it is very useful for us. We can get updated information.  
I have no special suggestion regarding improving ICRI's communications.*

## **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:*

*Yes, we are using.*

- (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:*

*Ministry of Natural Resources and Conservation, Myanmar revised the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) to include coral reefs. I am participating in the advisory group.*

- (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:*

TARGET 1, 2, 6, 20, 21, 22, 23

## **G. Upcoming events**

*Please tick the most any events that you will be, or are planning to attend:*

- September 10<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>: 79th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 79)
- September 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>: GEF International Waters Conference
- October 13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>: 7<sup>th</sup> International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC7)
- October 21<sup>st</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup>: CBD COP16

- November 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>: 77<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI77)
- December 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>: The International Mangrove Conservation and Restoration Conference
- December 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>: Reef Futures
- June 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> 2025: United Nations Ocean Conference
- October 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> 2025: IUCN World Conservation Congress
- Other

Please list any upcoming regional / international events relevant to ICRI that your organisation plans to attend:

Answer:

*Coral Reef conservation awareness program in Rakhine Coast (September, 2024) (regional)*  
*Meeting on Integrated Coastal Management (February, 2025) (regional)*

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

Publication	URL
Checklist and Distribution of Hard Corals of the Genus Acropora Oken, 1815 (Scleractinia: Acroporidae) in Myeik Archipelago, Myanmar.	Myeik University Research Journal, 2022.
An Assemblage of Intertidal Scleractinian Corals of the Pearl Island, Myeik Archipelago, Myanmar	Myeik University Research Journal, 2023
An Intrathermocline Eddy Observed in the Northeastern Bay of Bengal	Geophysical Research Letters, 2022
Pathways for sediment transport and retention in a vegetated, mid-channel island: Connecting sediment dynamics to morphology in Meinmahla Island, Ayeyarwady Delta, Myanmar	The Journal of the International Association of Sedimentologists
Three-Dimensional Climatological Structures of the Arabian Sea Eddies and Eddy-Induced Flux	Journal of Ocean University of China

**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, getting networking, up to date global events and information are valuable.*

**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):*

<b>Focal Point 1:</b>	
Name:	Dr. Cherry Aung
Title/Organisation:	Professor, Marine Science Department, Myeik University, Tanintharyi Region, Myanmar
Email:	<a href="mailto:missaungmarine@gmail.com">missaungmarine@gmail.com</a>
<b>Focal Point 2:</b>	
Name:	Dr. Toe Aung
Title/Organisation:	Assistant Director Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
Email:	<a href="mailto:Toeaung02@gmail.com">Toeaung02@gmail.com</a>
<b>Focal Point 3:</b>	
Name:	Mr Soe Win
Title/Organisation:	Officer Department of Fishery, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
Email:	<a href="mailto:soewinn1967@gmail.com">soewinn1967@gmail.com</a>
<b>Member page updates:</b>	
Section	Update

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/37th-icri-general-meeting/>