



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: [France](#)
- Name of person(s) completing member's report: [Antoine PEBAYLE](#)
- Position/Title: [Marine biodiversity and coral reefs policy officer \(Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion\)](#)
- Email: antoine.pebayle@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
- 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: [37th ICRI General Meeting \(18-23/09/2023 – Hawai'i, USA\)](#)
- Will you be attending the 38th ICRI General Meeting in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Yes No
- Member social media:
 - Twitter/X:
 - [Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion: @Ecologie_Gouv](#)
 - [Ministry of the Overseas: @outremer_gouv](#)
 - [Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs: @francediplo_EN](#)
 - [French coral reef initiative: @Ifrecor](#)
 - LinkedIn:

- Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion: Ministère Écologie Territoires
- Ministry of the Overseas: Ministère de l'Intérieur et des Outre-mer
- Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs: Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères
- French coral reef initiative: Initiative française pour les récifs coralliens (Ifrecor)

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

Reef resilience is a cross-cutting issue for the coral reef conservation policies implemented by France. Our strategy is to protect the coral reefs ecosystems, and reduce or eliminate the various pressures (both land-based and at sea) to foster the ecosystems resilience to the effects of ongoing climate change. This vision is core to the national Coral Reefs Action Plan that aims to protect 100% of French coral reefs.

Some overseas territories are more advanced in applying resilience-based management. It is the case of New-Caledonia. After being part of the Resilient Reefs Initiative through its biodiversity agency, New Caledonia launched its first [Strategic guidance document for the resilience of New Caledonia's coral reefs and associated ecosystems](#). The Strategic guidance applies to the UNESCO marine World Heritage Site "Lagoons of New Caledonia".

The French Coral Reef Initiative (Ifrecor) is working to share this first experience of a strategy focused on resilience to the other overseas territories.

In addition, the 2023 and 2024 bleaching monitoring campaigns provided useful data on the coral reefs that were less affected by the bleaching event and/or recovering faster. This information will be of value in order to reinforce the implementation of resilience-based management.

Theme 2

Mobilisation of the latest science and technology is viewed as very important to manage and monitor the coral reefs of the French overseas territories. Ifrecor 5th Action Plan (2022-2026) integrates such a need and plans to develop a guide on the use of new technologies to monitor coral reefs health status. The guide will be developed with the support of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands and is expected to be released in 2025-2026.

Theme 3

Local threats reduction is the most developed aspect of French policies dedicated to the preservation of coral reefs ecosystems. Yet the integration of the various responses into a unified response framework is an ongoing process. France has made significant progresses toward the integration of response to pressures coming from both land and sea in implementing the National Coral Reefs Action Plan, Ifrecor 5th Action Plan (2022-2026), and the National Protected Areas Strategy.

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

Answer:

National priorities for the near future are to keep expending and reinforcing the protection of coral reefs through the development of the MPA network; and to better deal with pressures coming from the watershed through a better implementation of water management policies overseas. These priorities are also settled in the National Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

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?

France do not have a centralized/State lead restoration program. Restoration operations are done by NGO's or other various actors of the coral reef preservation but we do not have a central database that gather information on these different projects. Given this situation, we are not able to estimate the total area of coral reefs under active restoration in the French overseas territories.

Ifrecor 5th Action Plan (2022-2026) aims to develop guidelines to better implement restoration projects, and will open a database to gather information on past and current restoration projects.

- 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:

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- (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

France is aligned with the international definitions of restoration given by the United Nations, and with the definitions given by the European Union.

Answer:

Under active Restoration:

‘Restoration’ means the process of actively or passively assisting the recovery of an ecosystem in order to improve its structure and functions, with the aim of conserving or enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, through improving an area of a habitat type to good condition, re-establishing favourable reference area, and improving a habitat of a species to sufficient quality and quantity (Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration).

Active restoration goes beyond passive restoration and implies direct onsite interventions to foster the recovery. To be successful, active restoration must come with a preliminary reduction of pressures.

Restored:

A restored ecosystem has recovered its structure and ecological functions. If properly managed, it will no longer require direct human intervention to grow.

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:

France is committed to reach the international restoration goals set by the Kunming-Montreal biodiversity framework.

As a member State of the European Union, France will also implement the EU Regulation on Nature Restoration that came into effect on the 18th of August of 2024.

The EU Regulation on Nature Restoration is non-binding for the overseas territories yet France has voluntarily committed to apply its targets in every territory (while adapting them to the local contexts through dedicated roadmaps).

The National Biodiversity Strategy is France's national roadmap to meet these targets.

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.

French experts are well involved in the production of the GCRMN global report and will make the link between national data managers and the global team gathered to make the report.

Please add further contacts as needed.

Answer:

Contact Name: *Reef database assistance unit*
Organisation: *Ifremer*
Email Address: assistance.bdrecif@ifremer.fr

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:

I attended two webinars of this series (Integrating coral reefs into NBSAPs; The Status of the Fourth Global Bleaching Event and the role of the global coral reef community). Both were very informative and useful.

In my opinion, the webinar on the Fourth Global Bleaching Event was the most engaging. It helped to share experience between the different territories affected by this global event and to build a global overview of this phenomenon.

- (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:

It would be interesting for ICRI to keep organising webinars on ongoing/current events. It is very useful to take advantage of ICRI's global community to share experience, focus on possible solutions and go beyond national perspectives on global events.

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 a useful source of information that we can share within our network.

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:

I read and shared ICRI's guide on integrating coral reefs and associated ecosystems into NBSAPs, but France's National Biodiversity Strategy was already written. Hopefully it was already in line with the guide's recommendations.

It can also be mentioned that France provided a case study that is now part of the guide.

- (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:

No. Coral reefs were already taken into account into the National Biodiversity Strategy adopted in November 2023.

- (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:

Regarding the conservation and sustainable management of coral reefs, we are mainly working on implementing targets 1 (spatial planning), 2 (restoration of ecosystems), 3 (conservation), 4 (halt species extinction), 6 (reduce invasive alien species), 7 (reduce pollution), 8 (minimize the impacts of climate change).

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:

Except for ICRI GM and UN Ocean Conference, ICRI national focal points will not be attending the listed events, yet France will be represented and will actively participate to all of them.

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

Publication	URL
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<p>Ifrecor's 5th Action Plan for coral reefs and associated ecosystems (2022-2026) – communication leaflet</p>	<p>English version: http://www.ifrecor-doc.fr/files/original/bc864646a0f832a34d831583e3a1ea4.pdf</p> <p>Spanish version: http://www.ifrecor-doc.fr/files/original/c365f1490714d76ecd4c003dccb89cf5.pdf</p>
<p>Response in Coral Reefs: dealing with oil pollution in tropical coral reefs environments</p>	<p>English version: https://wwz.cedre.fr/en/Resources/Publications/Operational-Guides/Coral-Reefs</p>

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:

The most valuable about being a member of ICRI is probably to receive regular and comprehensive information on initiatives and projects around the world. ICRI is an active community that foster cooperation and sharing of experiences among its members.

The current format of the member report (focused on the implementation of the ongoing action plan) seems adapted.

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>	Antoine Pebayle
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	Marine biodiversity and coral reefs policy officer / Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion
<i>Email:</i>	antoine.pebayle@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
Focal Point 2:	



<i>Name:</i>	Nabil Medaghri Alaoui
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	Global Ocean Protection / Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs
<i>Email:</i>	nabil.medaghri-alaoui@diplomatie.gouv.fr
Focal Point 3:	
<i>Name:</i>	Marianna Monneau
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	Biodiversity officer / Ministry of the Overseas
<i>Email:</i>	marianna.monneau@outre-mer.gouv.fr
Member page updates:	
<i>Section</i>	<i>Update</i>
	None at this point, we will reach ICRI secretariat coordination team if we need changes to be made.

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/>