



## 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:  
JAPAN
- Name of person(s) completing member's report:  
SATOSHI KICHISE
- Position/Title:  
Assistant Director
- Email:  
satoshi\_kichise@env.go.jp
- 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:  
37<sup>th</sup>
- Will you be attending the 38<sup>th</sup> ICRI General Meeting in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:  Yes  No
  
- Member social media:
  - 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:

4 - Diversity and Inclusion: Expanding the Coral Reef Community

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

Answer:

*Ministry of the Environment Japan is in the process of setting indicators on the basis of “the Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reef Ecosystems in Japan 2022-2030” (Ministry of the Environment Japan, 2022). We will promote and follow up on the actions of coral reefs conservation by means of these indicators in cooperation with local governments and relevant organizations.*

**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: 3,353km<sup>2</sup>
  - Total area considered to be restored in 2023: 120m<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:

*From 2004 to 2016, approximately 54,000 coral-attached substrates were planted on the ocean floor. However, large-scale bleaching in 2016 wiped out most of the species.*

*Starting in 2020, we are developing a coral larval supply base as a new restoration project as a part of implementation of “Coral reef restoration project implementation plan (2020-2024)” (Ministry of the Environment Japan, 2020).*

*Currently, tests are being conducted to establish a larval supply base in “Sekisei Lagoon” in Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park. On a trial basis, about 30 frames (1 frame is 1 m<sup>2</sup>) have been installed each year. This was carried out for four years. The total area of the larval supply base has been approximately 120 m<sup>2</sup>.*

- (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:*

*“Overall plan for natural restoration of Sekisei Lagoon” sets a long-term goal, which is to achieve a healthy relationship between people and nature, and restore the rich coral reefs to the state they were in when they were designated as a national park in 1972. Short-term goal of the plan is to see signs of recovery of the coral reef ecosystem and to actively reduce environmental impact.*

<http://www.sekiseisyouko.com/szn/kousou.html#top>

*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:*

*The "Guide to Coral Propagation by Sexual Reproduction" published by the Fisheries Agency of Japan in 2019 introduces survey methods, planning methods, and technologies for coral propagation by Sexual Reproduction.*

*In addition, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan published "The Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reef Ecosystems in Japan" in 2022. Based on this, we annually follow up and grasp the status of actions and efforts being implemented by local governments and relevant organizations to conserve coral reefs.*

## **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:* The contact person is as follows. *GCRMN East Asia Region is still in the process of collecting and analyzing relevant data, and not ready for providing it yet.*

*Contact Name: Tadashi KIMURA  
Organisation: GCRMN East Asia Region  
Email Address: BXQ02107@nifty.ne.jp*

## **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 have attended “The Status of the Fourth Global Bleaching Event and the role of the global coral reef community” (Date: 14th May 2024), which was very much impressive. It was good to learn about the up-to-date situation regarding bleaching around the world.*

- (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 have yet to come up with a specific topic in mind, but sharing experiences of coral reef recovery project would be one of our interests.*

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:*

*We find it quite useful especially to have reports of initiatives and news of each country through the Monthly Round of News.*

## **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:*

*The Guide was not used or referenced, since our revised NBSAP was published in 2023, before the release of the Guide.*

*However, we plan to use the coral indicators shown in the Guide as a reference when developing the indicators of the Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reef Ecosystems in Japan.*

- (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:*

*Coral reefs are included in the latest NBSAP revised in 2023 as well as the previous NBSAPs.*

- (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 coral reefs, monitoring is carried out every year in various locations. In addition, we plan to hold meetings with experts at least once a year to review and provide advice on the efforts of relevant local governments and other organizations.*

*The targets and decisions are published on the following website: [Online Reporting Tool \(cbd.int\)](https://www.cbd.int/online-reporting-tool)*

## **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:

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

Publication	URL
Status and Trend of East Asian Coral Reefs	<a href="https://www.env.go.jp/nature/biodic/coralreefs/pdf/international/gcrmn/GCRMN_East_Asia_Regional_Report_2020.pdf">https://www.env.go.jp/nature/biodic/coralreefs/pdf/international/gcrmn/GCRMN_East_Asia_Regional_Report_2020.pdf</a>
The Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reef Ecosystems in Japan 2022-2030 (Japanese only)	<a href="https://www.env.go.jp/nature/biodic/coralreefs/project/index.html">https://www.env.go.jp/nature/biodic/coralreefs/project/index.html</a>

**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:

*Currently, member reports from member states are only published in text format, which is not well appealing to the general public. It could generate greater public interest to illustrate and present national efforts in PowerPoint presentations with more photos and less text.*

**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>
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<i>Name:</i>	<b>Kohei Sasabuchi</b>
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	<b>Senior Coordinator/ Biodiversity Policy Division Nature Conservation Bureau Ministry of the Environment, JAPAN</b>
<i>Email:</i>	<b>ICRIJP@env.go.jp</b>
<b>Focal Point 2:</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	<b>Naomi Inoue</b>
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	<b>Assistant Director/ Biodiversity Policy Division Nature Conservation Bureau Ministry of the Environment, JAPAN</b>
<i>Email:</i>	<b>ICRIJP@env.go.jp</b>
<b>Focal Point 3:</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	<b>Satoshi Kichise</b>
<i>Title/Organisation:</i>	<b>Assistant Director/ Biodiversity Policy Division Nature Conservation Bureau Ministry of the Environment, JAPAN</b>
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<b>Member page updates:</b>	
<i>Section</i>	<i>No updates</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/37th-icri-general-meeting/>*