

An underwater photograph of a vibrant coral reef. In the foreground, there is a dense field of branching coral. In the middle ground, a large, rounded coral structure is prominent. To the right, a grey reef shark with a black dorsal fin swims horizontally. The water is clear and blue, with sunlight filtering through from the surface, creating a shimmering effect. Numerous small, colorful fish are scattered throughout the scene.

ICRI

INTERNATIONAL  
CORAL REEF INITIATIVE

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# IMPACT REPORT 2024

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# IMPACT REPORT 2024

## FOREWORD



The year 2024 marked the 30th anniversary of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), a significant milestone that reflects the enduring commitment and dedication to coral reefs since its inception by eight nations at the inaugural Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP1) in 1994. Over the past three decades, ICRI has evolved into a global network comprising over 100 members, including 45 countries that represent 75% of the world's coral reefs. I was delighted to participate in the ICRI 30 celebrations, which reflected on past and present achievements and highlighted the essential work that remains.

A stark reminder of the urgency of ICRI's mission came in April 2024, with the announcement of the Fourth Global Bleaching Event (4GBE), by ICRI and NOAA. As the most widespread and severe bleaching event to date, it served as a warning of the accelerating threats facing coral reefs. The ongoing event highlights the rapidly closing window to protect these vital ecosystems and reinforced the need for coordinated decisive action – now more than ever – #ForCoral.

Looking back on 2024, ICRI's efforts reinforced the importance of global partnerships, capacity building, and advocacy in coral reef conservation. The #ForCoral Pavilion at CBD COP16 in Colombia was a powerful moment where we raised the

alarm for coral reefs, ensuring their protection remained at the forefront of the global agenda, whilst the establishment of the first ICRI Youth Ad Hoc Committee marked a new chapter in engaging future generations in the mission of coral reef conservation. ICRI also held its first General Meeting in the Middle East region.

2024 also saw the data collation process for the upcoming seventh Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) Global Report commence. While data collection will continue into 2025, the GCRMN has already seen an 85% increase in the number of represented sites compared to the previous report, 23,862 sites and 51,655 surveys. This significant increase highlights both the growing trust of data contributors and the increasing demand for such reports, ensuring a thorough and comprehensive overview of the global status of coral reefs.

I would also like to take a moment to thank the 2021 - 2024 co-chairs, US Department of State and NOAA, for their exemplary leadership. Their efforts have ensured that coral reefs continue to be a priority on the global agenda, cementing ICRI's role as a leading global partnership #ForCoral. We look forward to continuing this momentum and welcoming the in-coming 2025 – 2027 chair the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia represented by the General Organization for the Conservation of Coral Reefs and Turtles in the Red Sea (SHAMS).

Noting these accomplishments would not have been possible without the dedication and collaboration of ICRI's members, partners, and supporters, we look to 2025—the midpoint of the 2030 agenda. ICRI's role remains vital in bridging the science-policy gap and ensuring the timely delivery of credible, relevant scientific information to inform policy and action at the local, regional, and global levels.

I look forward to further driving ICRI's efforts in engagement and advocacy, working to align global coral reef messaging and asks at the policy level to ensure a future with healthy, resilient, and vibrant coral reef ecosystems.



*Margaux Monfared*

International Policy and Advocacy Manager  
International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

# 2024 IN NUMBERS

ICRI fosters partnerships and collaboration among governments, non-governmental organisations, international governmental organisations, research institutions, and other stakeholders to build capacity and bridge existing knowledge gaps surrounding coral reef conservation and sustainable management practices.

Ensuring a future for coral reefs requires global collaboration, and strong implementation at both regional and national levels. ICRI's 102-strong membership is critical to driving collective action.

ICRI's advocacy and communication efforts are crucial to raising awareness and driving action for coral reef conservation. Through strategic partnerships, campaigns, and outreach initiatives, ICRI aims to ensure coral reefs are prioritised in international policies and decisions.

On the right you will find some key numbers that reflect the impact of our advocacy and communication work in 2024.

## 102 ICRI members

**45** **+1** New member : Rare  
Countries



**75%**  
Coral reefs represented



**47**   
News articles

**13**  Newsletters  
Newsflashes

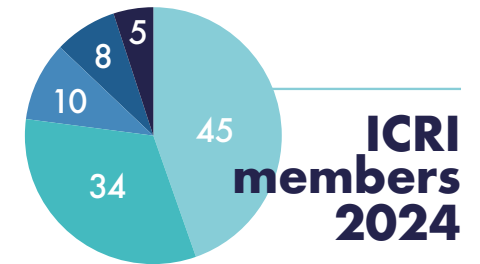
**9**  #ForCoral  
Webinars  
#ForCoral Webinar Recordings

  
**+1100**  
attendees  
to the #ForCoral Pavilion

  
**+10,000**  
followers

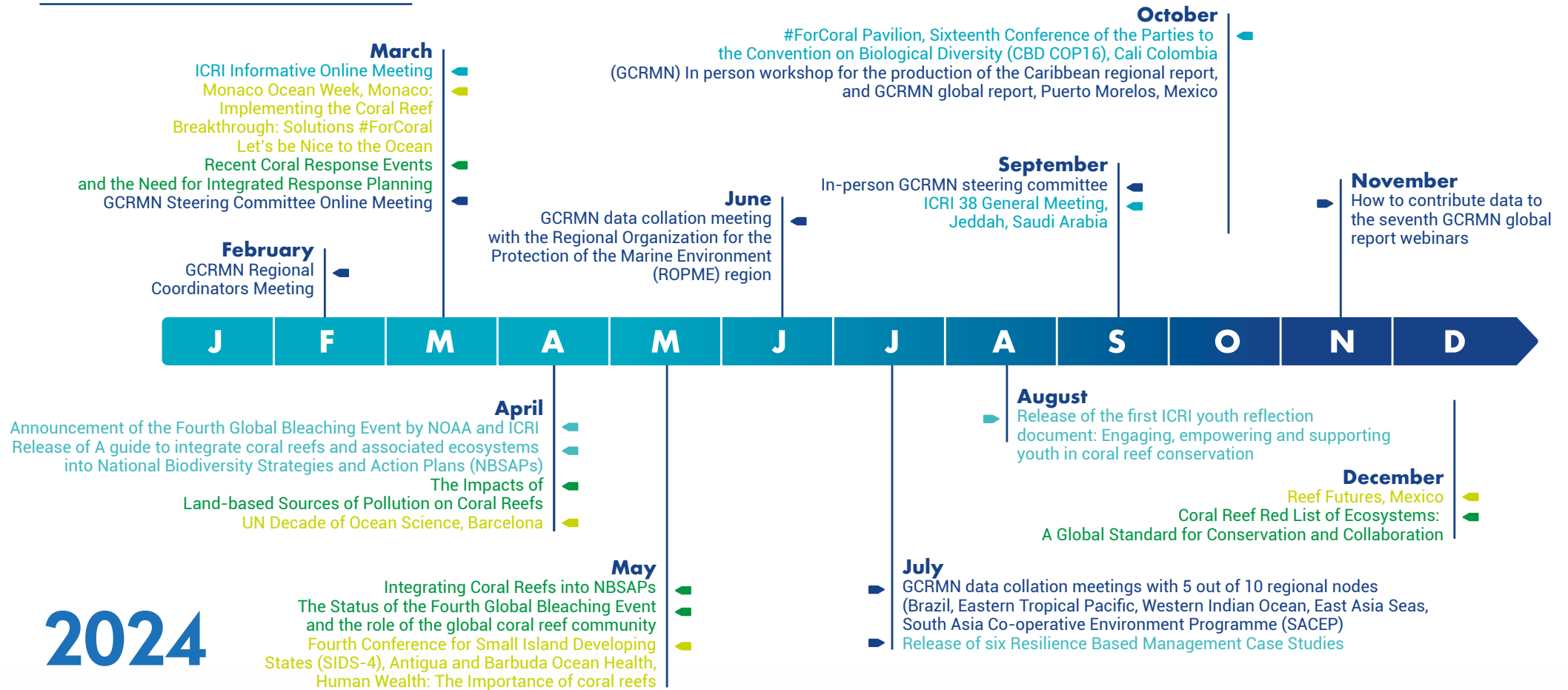
**20**   
International  
events attended and supported

**1**  New  
partnership  
Global Ocean Accounts Platform (GOAP)



Country 45 Members custodians to 75% of worlds coral reefs	<b>45</b>
Non-governmental organisation	<b>34</b>
Regional intergovernmental organisation or regional sea	<b>10</b>
Global inter governmental organisation or multilateral environment agreement	<b>8</b>
Private industry, compangny or foundation	<b>5</b>

# TIMELINE OF EVENTS



# CELEBRATING THREE DECADES OF ICRI



Founded in 1994 by eight governments: Australia, France, Japan, Jamaica, the Philippines, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and

the United States of America, 2024 marked three decades of dedication and collaboration of ICRI. Our 30 Years in Partnership #ForCoral celebrations – #ICRI30 – highlighted the significant milestones, conservation efforts, and successes that have shaped ICRI’s journey. This campaign aimed to raise awareness about the critical importance of coral reefs, celebrate ICRI’s collective achievements, and inspire continued action to protect coral reef ecosystems around the world.

Over the course of the campaign, we created several key items that played a vital role in spreading our message and engaging the global community:

- **ICRI 30 Website:** A central hub for all campaign-related content, providing resources, stories, and updates on the progress made in coral reef conservation over the past three decades. This included a [timeline](#) of ICRI key milestones.



- **ICRI 30 Logo:** A visual symbol that represented our long-standing commitment and partnership to coral reef conservation, serving as a constant reminder of the collective effort behind ICRI’s success.
- **ICRI 30 Video:** A compelling video that captured the essence of our journey, showcasing the global impact of ICRI’s work and highlighting the key milestones that have shaped the initiative over the years.

Thank you to all ICRI members, and partners, both past and present for joining us in commemorating 30 years, spreading awareness, and driving action #ForCoral.



“I had the great privilege of welcoming delegates from around the world to Australia during the 34th ICRI General Meeting in 2019, celebrating 25 years of ICRI. Now approaching 30 years, it is wonderful to see ICRI continuing its critical work, sharing science and solutions for coral reefs as they face a range of unprecedented pressures. ICRI is a real source of inspiration for scientists, marine managers and policymakers grappling with how best to protect our iconic coral reef environments for the future.”

Josh Thomas,  
Chief Executive  
Officer, The Reef  
Authority.



# ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FOURTH GLOBAL BLEACHING EVENT

On Monday 15th April 2024, ICRI and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced that the world was experiencing its fourth global coral bleaching event, the second in a decade. To date over 70% of coral reefs have been affected by bleaching level heat stress in over 70+ countries, territories and local economies.

Bleaching-level heat stress, caused by prolonged increases in anomalous ocean temperatures, as remotely monitored and predicted by NOAA's Coral Reef Watch (CRW), was – and remained – extensive across the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans.

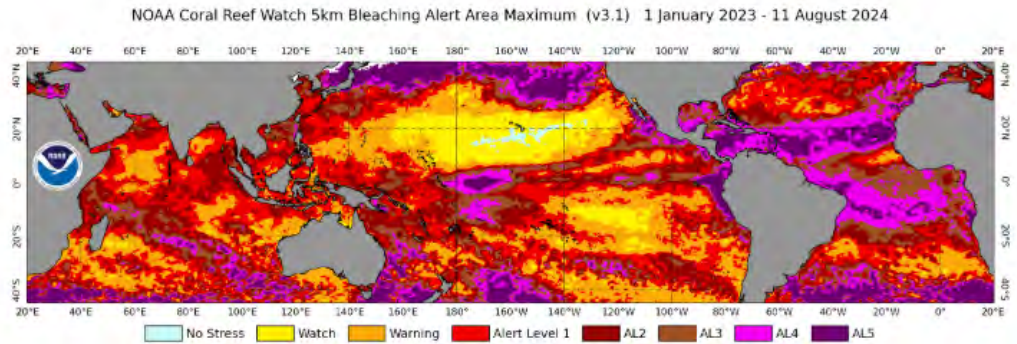


Bleaching had to be confirmed within each ocean basin to make a final determination of a global bleaching event.

Where coral bleaching results in mortality, especially on a widespread scale, it impacts economies, livelihoods, food security, and more. However, it is important to remember that coral bleaching does not always lead to coral death. Rather, if the stress driving the bleaching diminishes, corals can recover, with reefs maintaining their biodiversity and continuing to provide the ecosystem services that we rely on.

Global bleaching events do not affect all coral reefs equally and requires a suite of global, regional, and local interventions. This emphasises the importance of regularly monitoring coral reef ecosystems and not just during bleaching events. Networks such as the [Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network](#), and the US Coral Reef Task Force, provide mechanisms for reporting on the impact of bleaching on the World's coral reefs, alongside regional bleaching observation networks.

[> Read the full press release here.](#)



## Coral Bleaching Hub

[> Visit the bleaching hub](#)

ICRI created the Coral Bleaching Hub to support managers, practitioners, policy makers, and nations to better understand coral bleaching, the recommended actions to be taken, before, during and post-bleaching events, share valuable resources and tools to develop capacity, and support a global network of practitioners to build the resilience of coral reefs to better withstand the impacts of climate change in the future.

© The Ocean Agency



# GLOBAL OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

## CBD COP16, Colombia



© Kogia Zoe Lower

*The ICRI Secretariat played a pivotal role in the successful organisation and execution of the #ForCoral Pavilion at the Sixteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP16), Cali, Colombia from 21st October – 1st November 2024. It marked a historic moment as the first biodiversity COP since the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in 2022, with a strong focus on accelerating actions to protect both people and nature.*

### Key asks #ForCoral

The GBF provides a crucial roadmap for safeguarding the planet's biodiversity. Coral reefs are not explicitly mentioned in the Framework's 23 Targets, yet 16 out of 23 targets are considered to be highly relevant. Prior to COP16, the ICRI Secretariat released an information note highlighting the Key asks for coral reefs at CBD COP16 with a call for both coral reef and non-coral reef states to: strengthen management frameworks; ensure effective restoration; integrate effective pollution management and regulations; build capacity and share knowledge; establish robust monitoring systems; and scale finances from both public and private sectors.



### Press Conference and Emergency Special Session for Coral Reefs



Preceding the Emergency Special Session on Coral Reefs, the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) and the ICRI Secretariat conducted a press conference alongside H.E. Ambassador Peter Thomson, UN Secretary's Special Envoy for the Ocean, to detail the urgency of increased funding to ensure a future for coral reefs. The clear messaging of the urgent need for pace, financing and effective solutions was underlined by the conditions in the Caribbean with corals facing the risk of severe bleaching for the second year running as part of the record-setting Fourth Global Coral Bleaching Event (4GBE).

[> Watch the Press Conference](#)


# #ForCoral Pavilion




Throughout COP16, the #ForCoral Pavilion was a vibrant and dynamic space, hosting over 40 events. The turnout was remarkable, with many sessions so well attended that we often reached and exceeded the Pavilion's capacity! Overall, we welcomed over 1,100 visitors, establishing the Pavilion as a true hub for collaboration and knowledge-sharing among participants from across the world. The strong engagement highlighted just how deeply stakeholders and communities value the urgent and coordinated action needed to protect coral ecosystems. From policy dialogues to community-driven solutions, the #ForCoral Pavilion fostered meaningful discussions, sparked new partnerships, and reinforced a shared commitment to coral reef conservation in line with the GBF.

> A full summary report of the events which took place can be found [here](#).


The #ForCoral Pavilion was made possible thanks to the generous support of our sponsors.




**1**  
Website created  
[cop16forcoral.org](http://cop16forcoral.org)




**+1100**  
attendees




Call for events shared across  
**40+**  
platforms




**40+**  
events



**1**  
detailed agenda flyer




Reaching over  
**157,000+**  
subscribers



**217**  
speakers

from  
**44**  
Countries




(46 % female and 55% male), including 31 youth and 17 Indigenous Local Knowledge holders, from 44 countries including 25 ODA Countries, with 8 events driven by 100% ODA Country speakers and Livestreamed across 10 days!



“

The #ForCoral Pavilion provided a much-needed rallying point at COP 16 to galvanise attention and energy for coral reefs. The many events hosted at the Pavilion reflected the strong engagement of ICRI and the coral reef community at COP 16, which carried over into positive momentum in the negotiating halls.” Joseph Appiott, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Joe Appiott, CBD Secretariat







# #ForCoral Webinar Series

To bolster understanding and raise awareness on the importance of coral reefs to both marine biodiversity and human well-being, ICRI launched the #ForCoral Webinar series, in collaboration with the Reef Resilience Network (RRN), as a proactive measure to raise awareness, share knowledge, and foster collaboration among stakeholders worldwide. By bringing together experts, scientists, policymakers, conservationists, and the public, these webinars served as a platform for dialogue, exchange of ideas, and dissemination of best practices in coral reef conservation and management.

All webinars were recorded, and the presentations were uploaded to their respective dedicated event pages. These pages also included additional resources related to each topic, enhancing accessibility and engagement. Where feasible, webinars also hosted interpretation into both French and Spanish.

> [The full series can be found here](#)

Webinar topics included:

- [Recent Coral Response Events and the Need for Integrated Response Planning](#)
- [How to Apply Coral Reef Connectivity Models to Reef Management](#) (led by RRN)
- [The Impacts of Land-based Sources of Pollution on Coral Reefs](#)
- [Integrating Coral Reefs into NBSAPs](#)
- [The Status of the Fourth Global Bleaching Event and the role of the global coral reef community](#)
- [Supporting Sustainable Livelihoods: Steps for Conservation Practitioners Webinar](#) (led by RRN)
- [MPA Finance: First Steps for Marine Managers](#) (led by RRN)
- [MPA Enforcement: Practical Strategies for Marine Managers](#) (led by RRN)
- [Coral Reef Red List of Ecosystems: A Global Standard for Conservation and Collaboration](#)

Map of the countries and territories that joined the #ForCoral Webinar series.



## 9 webinars

In collaboration with RRN, a total of nine webinars were held, including five led by ICRI and four organised by RRN. The five ICRI led webinars included:

- **1,423 registrants**
- from over **130+ countries** and territories worldwide
- with **549 attendees** joining live sessions

# Engaging, empowering and supporting youth in coral reef conservation, towards a healthy, productive and resilient future #ForCoral

ICRI was pleased to announce the release of its inaugural youth report showcasing the reflections developed by ICRI's Youth Working Group at the Occasion of the 37th ICRI General Meeting in Hawaii.



## ENGAGING, EMPOWERING & SUPPORTING YOUTH IN CORAL REEF CONSERVATION

Towards a Healthy, Productive & Resilient Future #ForCoral

Reflections developed by ICRI's Youth Working Group at the Occasion of the 37th General Meeting

August 2024



ICRI recognises the importance of incorporating youth perspectives into conservation efforts, as outlined in the 2021 – 2024 Plan of Action: Turning the Tide for Coral Reefs. This commitment is specifically emphasised under Theme 4 which seeks to expand the coral reef community by fostering diversity and inclusion. As coral reefs and their related ecosystems continue to face mounting drivers of loss from climate change and other threats, threatening their services and all those that depend on them, ICRI is committed to empowering Youth; to integrating their unique perspectives, ideas, and solutions to drive the conservation, protection, and restoration of coral reefs.

The report, "Engaging, empowering and supporting youth in coral reef conservation, towards a healthy, productive and resilient future #ForCoral", outlines the objectives and outcomes of the youth working group and presents reflections on ICRI's future strategies on youth inclusion, for the preservation and conservation of coral reefs and associated ecosystems. Furthermore, it serves as a comprehensive overview of the imperative need to engage youth in conservation efforts to secure a sustainable future.

[> Read the full document here.](#)



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Thank you to the contributions from the youth working group Diwigdi Valiente (Panama – ICRI Youth delegation), Esther Maina (Kenyan Youth Biodiversity Network-ICRI Youth delegation), Alexis Sturm (NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Programme), Haley Williams (Wildlife Conservation Society), Christophe Blazy (UNEP-CAR/RCU - SPAW-RAC), Karin Moejes, (CORDIO East Africa), Risla Ibrahim (Maldives Marine Research Institute), Margaux Monfared (ICRI Secretariat), and Tom Dallison (ICRI Secretariat).

# 38 ICRI GENERAL MEETING

In September 2024, the 38th ICRI General Meeting (GM) was hosted in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, by the General Organization for Conservation of Coral Reefs and Turtles in the Red Sea (SHAMS). It was the first General Meeting to be held in the Middle East region. Nearly 80 participants, from 36 ICRI Members, including 16 member countries attended the meeting in-person (who were joined by 10 online participants) from governments, conservation organisations and leading experts, for rich discussion on the implementation of the *"2021 - 2024 Plan of Action: Turning the Tide for Coral Reefs"*, the achievements of the Initiative and its membership, and the future direction of ICRI in striving for the conservation, restoration and protection of the world's coral reefs.

The GM resulted in significant outcomes, including:

- A *resolution for the Red Sea Region* was adopted developed from the conclusions of "The Red Sea Region – A climate refuge for coral reefs" forum.

- Two new ad hoc committees (AHC) were established:
  - An ICRI *Youth AHC* for the development of an ICRI Youth strategy.
  - An *AHC for the development of a motion to the IUCN World Conservation Congress*.
- The welcoming of ICRI's 102nd member – *Rare*. Rare is a global non-profit environmental organisation whose mission is to inspire change, so people and nature thrive.
- The ICRI membership welcomed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the *2025 - 2027 chair* of the Initiative, with the Initiative being hosted by the General Organisation for the Conservation of Coral Reefs and Sea Turtles in the Red Sea (SHAMS).
- The GM was coupled with the convening of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network's (GCRMN) *Steering Committee meeting* (8th September 2024), and *"The Red Sea Region – A climate refuge for coral reefs"* forum (9th September 2024).



## GCRMN Steering Committee meeting

The GCRMN Steering Committee meeting focused on the production of the *"Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2025"* report alongside updates from four of the GCRMN's regions: Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, Regional Organisation for Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), the Caribbean and the Pacific. The Steering Committee meeting was attended by 29 participants, including four online participants.

## The Red Sea Forum

"The Red Sea Region – A climate refuge for coral reefs" forum preceded the 38th ICRI GM and highlighted the importance of the Red Sea's coral reefs for global coral reef conservation efforts, showcasing the efforts being undertaken to understand and build future coral reef resilience to a rapidly changing ocean. The forum welcomed over 150 participants and emphasised the unique biogeography of the Red Sea, which has resulted in high endemism and heat-tolerant coral species, subsequently positioning the region as a potential refugia. The day was an open forum for the exchange of views and experiences to sustainably manage coral reefs with a central focus on the coral reefs of the Saudi Arabian Red Sea.

> [Read the ICRI GM38 Summary here.](#)

# STRENGTHENING CORAL REEF RESILIENCE

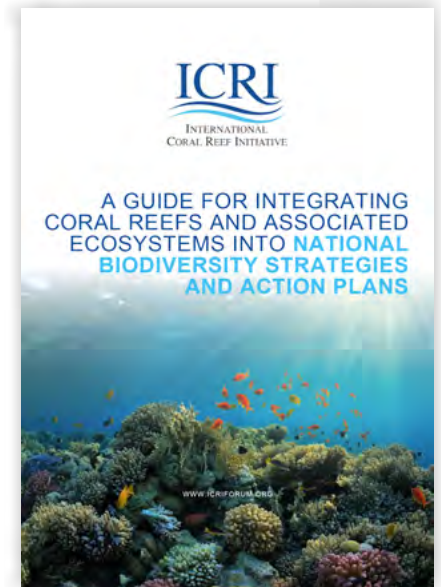
## A Guide for integrating coral reefs and associated ecosystems into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

This document serves to provide guidance to coral reef countries on how to integrate coral reefs and associated ecosystems into their revised NBSAPs to support the alignment of plans and actions, at the national level, with respect to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The guidance presents a range of resources and example actions that could be undertaken by countries in relation to the goals and targets of the GBF. Countries and readers are encouraged to consider the international context of the guidance in this document and utilise the information to support their respective national-level context and processes for developing and preparing NBSAPs concerning coral reefs and associated ecosystems.

A summary document and three case studies (French Overseas Territories, the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Philippines) have been produced and are available alongside the full guidance document.

- *A Summary of the ICRI Guidance for Integrating Coral Reefs and Associated Ecosystems into National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans*

- *A Guide for Integrating Coral Reefs and Associated Ecosystems into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans*
- *Case Study 1 – French Overseas Territories*
- *Case Study 2 – The Republic of Palau*
- *Case Study 3 – The Republic of the Philippines*



# Resilience-Based Management Case Studies



ICRI's ad hoc Committee on Resilience-Based Management (RBM) conducted a survey to understand the needs of ICRI members regarding RBM. A key finding was that 69 % of participants identified a lack of understanding of RBM as a significant barrier to its implementation. Put simply, RBM aims **to identify and prioritise management actions that build the reef's capacity** to withstand and recover from disturbances.

To address this knowledge gap, the Committee developed a [Policy Brief](#) and an [animation](#) to guide decision-makers on supporting RBM from a policy perspective. To support this work, ICRI in collaboration with the Reef Authority, released six RBM case studies in 2024, highlighting practical examples of resilience-building initiatives:

- [Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation Planning Tool](#) - A tool to help build resilience and adaptive capacity into marine protected area management in the face of a changing climate.
- [Using citizen science to monitor ecosystem health](#) - Integrating citizen science and education to fill knowledge gaps and enable better management.
- [Crown-of-Thorns Starfish \(COTS\) Control Program](#) - A COTS Control Program on the Great Barrier Reef, working towards greater reef resilience.
- [Kahekili Herbivore Fisheries Management Area](#) - An area based management tool protecting herbivores to enhance reef resilience.

- [Master Reef Guides Program](#) - An education program on the Great Barrier Reef, combining the interests of tourism and management to work towards greater reef resilience.
- [Co-management of a small-scale Caribbean fishery](#) - Working towards sustainable livelihoods and healthy reefs through collaborative area based management.

To learn more about RBM head to ICRI's [Resilience Hub](#).



© Tracey Jennings

# GLOBAL CORAL REEF MONITORING NETWORK (GCRMN)



The GCRMN is an operational network of ICRI, currently hosted by the Australian Institute of Marine Sciences (AIMS), that aims to provide the best available scientific information on the status and trends of coral reef ecosystems for their conservation and management. The GCRMN is a global network of scientists, managers, and organisations that monitor the condition of coral reefs throughout the world. The GCRMN operates through 10 regional nodes, which are the “engines” of the network; they drive data collection enabling the production of global and regional reports.

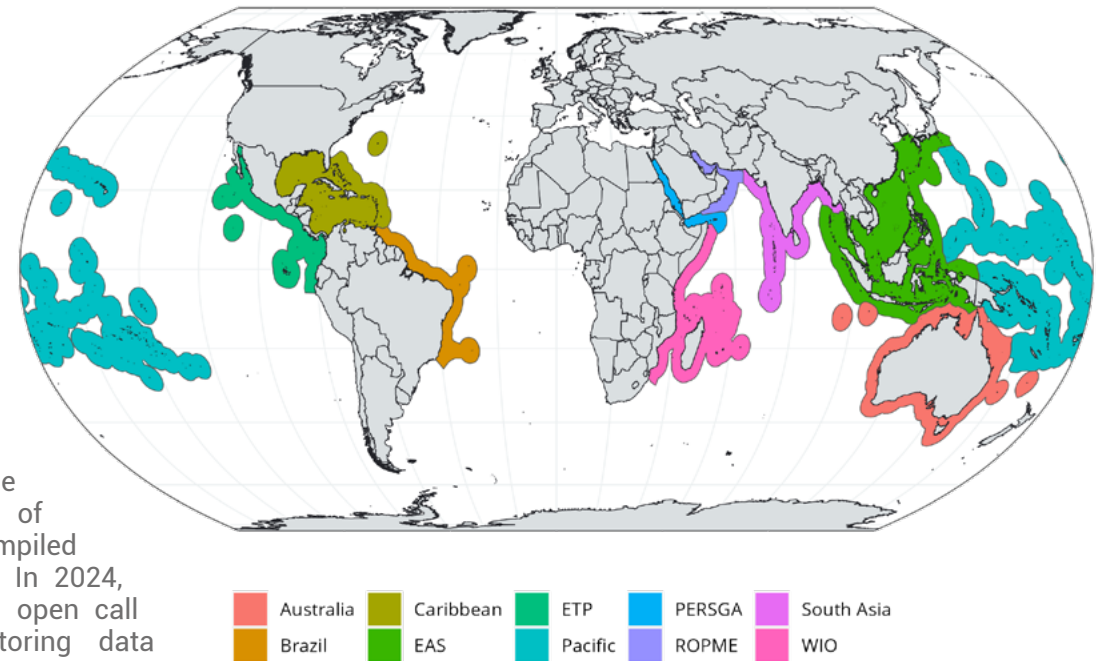
The flagship products of the GCRMN are the “**Status of Coral Reefs of the World**” reports. Since 1995, six global reports have been published by the network,

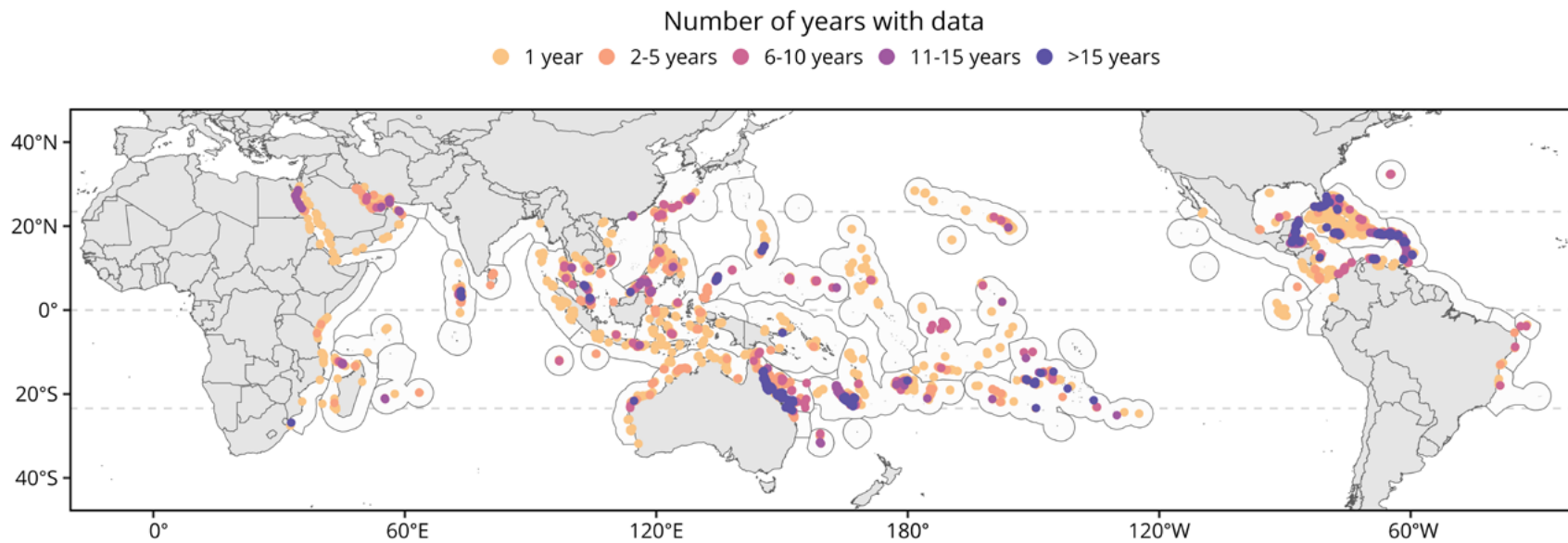
with the sixth edition of the GCRMN “*Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020*” report released in 2021, the first based on the quantitative analysis of a global dataset compiled from monitoring data. In 2024, the GCRMN began an open call for coral reef monitoring data contributions for the development of its seventh global report, “*Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2025*” to be released in 2026. The report will describe the temporal trends of hard coral and algal cover (ideally at the resolution of macro algae, turf algae, and coralline algae) at the global level.

As of 31 December 2024, the Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2025 global synthetic database contained observations representing 23,862 sites and 51,655 surveys - an 85% increase from the previous monitoring efforts from 1973 to 2024. Coral reefs from all 10 GCRMN regions are represented,

and these data were contributed from over 140 individual datasets and represent monitoring efforts from 1973 to 2024. However, collaboration with the Regional Coordinators continues to ensure further coral reef sites are represented in the final global database.

The 10 regions of the GCRMN





*Depiction of collated data into the global synthetic dataset (gcrmdb\_benthos) in both space and time. An overview of the global database is available at the [GCRMN's GitHub page](#), where you can also review the current sites represented in the global database.*

In October 2024, the GCRMN Caribbean Regional Workshop (Puerto Morelos, Mexico), hosted by the Regional Activity Centre for the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife for the Wider Caribbean Region (SPA-W-RAC) and funded by the Global Fund for Coral Reefs and the UN Environment Programme, gathered experts to advance coral reef monitoring in the region. Key discussions focused on data collation, analytical methods, and reporting structure for the upcoming Status of Caribbean Coral Reefs Report and its integration into the 2025 Global Report. A regional workshop was also hosted for the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) region in June 2024 to support data collation for the 2025 Global Report.



*The presentation of maps in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the International Coral Reef Initiative Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.*

# GCRMN in numbers

**10**  
GCRMN regions



Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2025 global synthetic database (as of December 2024). The data collection and compilation are ongoing and will continue into 2025. Therefore, the figures presented represent the 2024 data collation only and are therefore subject to updates.



**1**  
guide  
for data contributors  
translated into 4 languages



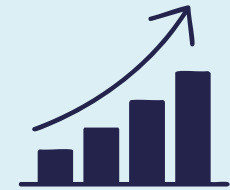
Representing  
**23,862**  
sites



From  
**51,655**  
surveys



**83%**  
increase  
from the previous report





# ICRI SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

*ICRI fosters partnerships and collaboration among governments, non-governmental organisations, international governmental organisations, research institutions, and other stakeholders to enhance knowledge generation and bridge existing knowledge gaps surrounding coral reef conservation and sustainable management practices. Safeguarding coral reefs can only be achieved through collective action.*

**ICRI continued to work with its partners:**

- Community of Ocean Action
- Earthshot Prize Nominator
- Global Fund for Coral Reefs
- Global Ocean Accounts Platform (GOAP)
- NBSAP Forum
- Ocean and Climate Platform
- Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA)
- UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration
- UN Decade of Ocean Science



# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

With several major ocean events on the horizon, including the UN Ocean Conference, 2025 is set to be another pivotal 'Blue Year.' This year will also mark the halfway point in our journey toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), presenting a critical opportunity to accelerate action for ocean sustainability. Coral reefs, as vital ecosystems that underpin marine biodiversity, coastal protection, and livelihoods, must remain a central focus in these efforts to secure a sustainable future for the ocean. ICRI will continue to incorporate science into action, build capacity, and support its members to ensure a future #ForCoral.

ICRI would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2021 - 2024 co-chairs, US Department of State and NOAA, for their exemplary leadership over the past three years. An incredible effort to ensure coral reefs are represented in the global agenda has continued to position ICRI as a leading partnership for coral reefs and associated ecosystems. ICRI looks forward to welcoming the in-coming **2025 – 2027 chair the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** represented by the General Organization for the Conservation of Coral Reefs and Turtles in the Red Sea (SHAMS).

## About the 2025 – 2027 ICRI Chair

The *General Organization for the Conservation of Coral Reefs and Turtles in the Red Sea (SHAMS)* was founded by the Saudi government under the Council of Ministers Resolution No. (250) on 04/25/1443 AH. The name 'SHAMS' is inspired by the Arabic words for reefs ('sho'ab'), corals ('murjanian'), and turtles ('salahef'), reflecting the deep connection to the marine life they strive to safeguard.

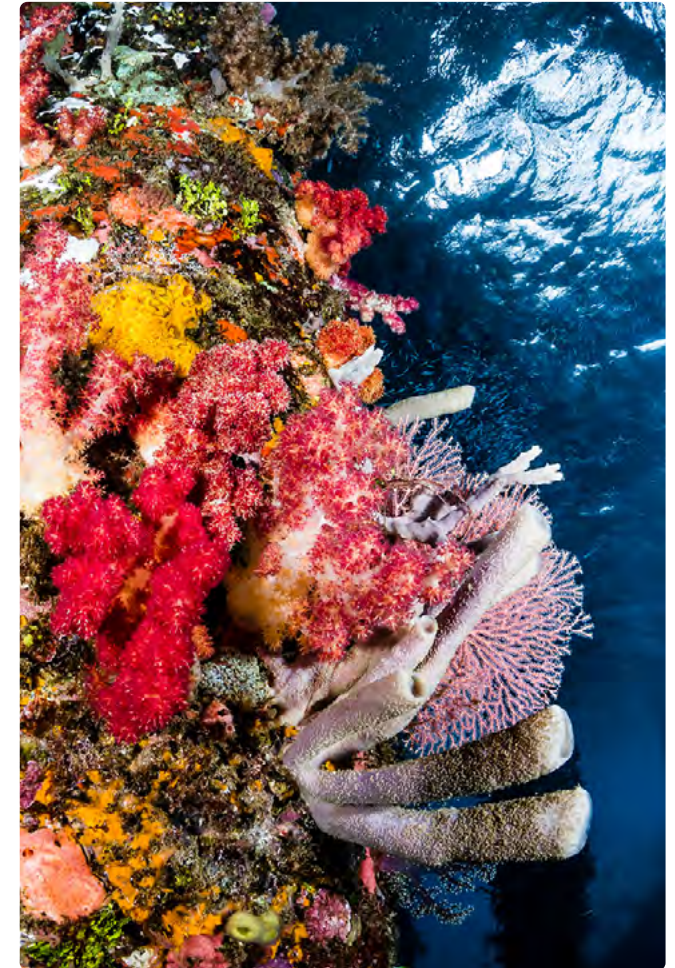
**SHAMS'**  
mandate is to  
protect, manage,



شمس  
shams

and sustain the vibrant coral reefs, and the diverse marine turtle populations and their nesting sites along the Red Sea. By drawing on both local wisdom and global expertise, they employ innovative strategies to monitor, rehabilitate, and restore these precious natural habitats.

© Erik Lukas



Learn more about ICRI:  
[www.icriforum.org](http://www.icriforum.org)



Follow us on LinkedIn:  
*International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)*



Youtube channel:  
*@ICRI\_Coral\_Reef*

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INTERNATIONAL  
CORAL REEF INITIATIVE

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# IMPACT REPORT 2024

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