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INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE

# ICRI ONLINE MEETING – SESSION 1

ACCELERATING ACTION #FORCORAL

14<sup>th</sup> April 2025

09:00 EDT | 14:00 BST | 16:00 AST



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# INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES

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A vibrant underwater scene featuring a large school of orange and yellow fish swimming over a diverse coral reef. The water is clear blue, and sunlight filters down from the surface, creating a bright and lively atmosphere. The coral structures are varied in shape and color, ranging from light tan to deep orange.

# INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES



**Margaux Monfared**

*ICRI Secretariat*

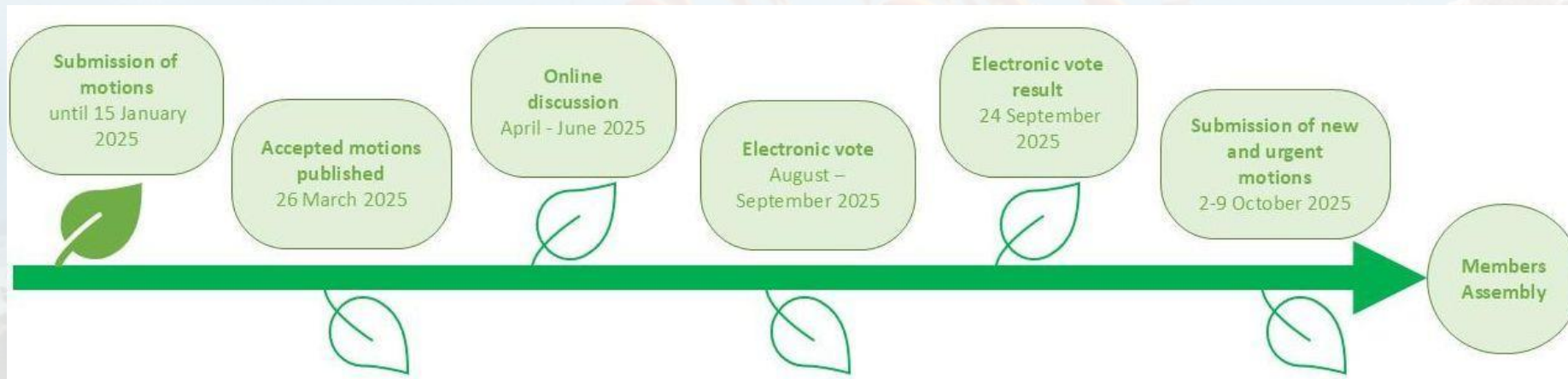


# IUCN MOTION

- The motion developed by the ICRI *ad hoc* committee has been **accepted!**
- Of the **200** motions submitted, only **134** have been approved, highlighting the significance of this achievement.

**037:** *Fourth global coral bleaching event: urgent action to reduce the risk of catastrophic loss of the world's coral reefs.*

- All accepted motions can be viewed online.
- A special thank you to the co-sponsors of the motion and the *ahc* members for their support and commitment.





# IUCN MOTION

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:

1. **CALLS ON** IUCN Members, governments, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples' Organisations, and international and regional intergovernmental organisations, to:
  - a. **strengthen cooperation** in research, conservation and integrated management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, particularly their overall integrity and resilience in response to the fourth global coral bleaching event;
  - b. prioritise coral reefs in **national biodiversity and climate mitigation plans** and enhance financial support for coral reef monitoring, protection, adaptation and restoration;
  - c. invest in **long-term monitoring** and sharing of data for regular assessments of the status of coral reefs, using the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network and recommended data platforms;
  - d. invest in, and **promote, best practices** to conserve and restore the ecological integrity of coral reef systems to promote post-bleaching recovery, including identifying resilient coral reef systems, minimising cumulative pressures, implementing rapid-response actions and monitoring in affected areas, and the use of innovative approaches and technologies; and
  - e. **enhance cooperation and develop capacity** for integrated management, monitoring and resilience planning among stakeholders and rightsholders, including through engagement, training and knowledge exchange; and
2. **CALLS ON** the IUCN Director General, Commissions and the Council to promote the elements of paragraph 1, in its programmatic work, advocacy positions, fundraising and advice to Members during the period 2026–2030.

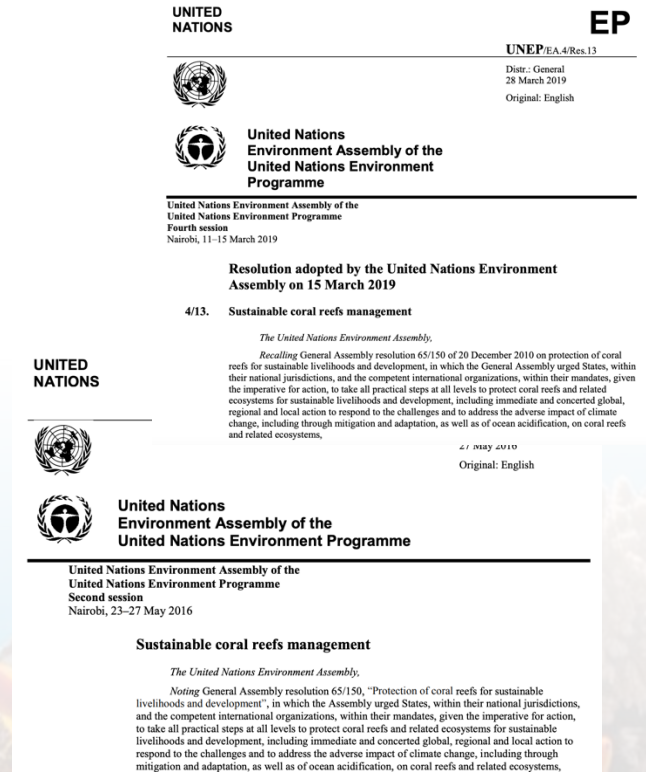
# UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (UNEA-7)

- **Dates:** 8 – 12 December 2025
- **Location:** Nairobi, Kenya
- In 2016 and 2019 United Nations Environment Assembly adopted resolution related to sustainable management of coral reefs. Acknowledging the importance of ICRI and GCRMN
  - UNEA Resolution 2/12 Sustainable coral reefs management
  - UNEA Resolution 4/13 Sustainable coral reefs management

One year on from the Fourth Global Bleaching Event, bleaching-level heat stress has impacted 84% of the world's reefs, with 82 countries, territories and economies suffering damage.

A new resolution on coral reefs is urgently needed to build upon the progress made by previous UNEA resolutions and to strengthen international cooperation on coral reef conservation and sustainable management.

The ICRI Secretariat would be pleased to work with ICRI members to support the submission process of a new UNEA Resolution for coral reefs. Any ICRI member countries interested to contribute to the process are encouraged to reach out to the ICRI Secretariat.



# UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (UNEA-7)

The guidelines for submissions of draft resolutions/decisions to UNEA-7 are **being developed and** yet to be endorsed by the UNEA and CPR Bureaux at their joint retreat in July 2025.

Announce intention to submit draft proposals at the **annual subcommittee of the CPR** scheduled for **1-5 September**.

Delegations can continue to announce their **intention to submit draft proposals until 15 September**.

The deadline for submission of draft resolutions is **29 September**.

# KEY POLICY ASKS FOR CORAL REEFS - 2025: ACCELERATING THE DECADE OF ACTION #FORCORAL

2025 is a defining year for the future of the ocean with several major ocean events, such as the 10th Our Ocean Conference and the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3). It also marks the halfway point in our journey toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), presenting a critical opportunity to accelerate action for ocean sustainability.

## Prioritising Coral Reefs in Global Ocean Policy

With 16 of 23 GBF Targets considered highly relevant to coral reefs, it is imperative that the global community places coral reefs at the centre of ocean policy discussions and decision-making. This must be done under consistent and aligned messaging, to ensure impact at scale.

## A Collaborative Effort for Unified Advocacy

Recognising the urgency, ICRI worked with key stakeholders to develop the Key Policy Asks for Coral Reefs. All activities outlined in the policy asks will take into consideration Target 22 of the GBF.

## Next Step

The formatted Key Policy Asks will be released at the upcoming Our Ocean Conference.

# KEY POLICY ASKS FOR CORAL REEFS - 2025: ACCELERATING THE DECADE OF ACTION #FORCORAL

The main focus areas include:

- Address Localised Anthropogenic Threats
- Increase and Strengthen Protection and Conservation
- Restoration
- Developing Capacity
- Strengthening Scientific Monitoring
- Addressing the Climate-Biodiversity Nexus and Triple Planetary Crisis
- Equitable and Collaborative Governance
- Scaling Finance

