

CORAL REEFS AND PEOPLE: HONOURING CULTURE AND ADVANCING CONSERVATION ACTION FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Time: 07:00 – 09:30

Date: Wednesday 11th June 2025

Venue: Hyatt Regency Nice Palais de la Méditerranée, 13 Prom. des Anglais, 06000 Nice, France

Room: Azur 2 (entrance via the "Spectacles" entrance - see photos)

Hosted by:

International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and The Pacific Community (SPC)

<https://icriforum.org/events/unoc-pacific-breakfast-2025/>

AGENDA

Moderator: **Coral Pasisi**, Director of Climate Change and Sustainability, The Pacific Community (SPC)

Session

Arrival and breakfast available

Honouring coral reefs and their importance for Pacific people

- Ambassador Peter Thomson, *United Nations Secretary-General Special Envoy for the Ocean*

Welcome from the Moderator

Opening from Representatives of Rapa Nui

- Ludovic Burns Tuki Te Mau o Te Vaikava o Rapa Nui, *Rapa Nui Delegation*

High-level Remarks – the importance of coral reefs, for people, the Pacific and the Ocean

- Inger Andersen, *Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (3')*

The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network – the best available science on the world's coral reefs

- Selina Stead, *Chief Executive Officer, Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)*

Launch of the GCRMN Pacific 2024 Report

- Dr Serge Planes, *Research Director, French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)* / *Jérémy Wicquart, Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) Consultant*

The Status of National Coral Reefs: Statements from Pacific Leaders – translating results into national action and policies

- **Niue**
Honorable Mona Ainu'u, Minister of Natural Resources, Niue Island
- **Republic of the Marshall Islands**
Minister Anthony M. Muller, *Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce, Republic of the Marshall Islands*

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- **The Republic of Palau**
Minister Steven Victor, *Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment, Palau*

The Global Fund for Coral Reefs: Driving solutions in the Pacific

- Pradeep Kurukulasuriya, *Executive Secretary, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)*

Showcase: GFCR Solutions in Action

- **Investing in Coral Reefs and the Blue Economy – Fiji**
Michael Sivendra, *Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Fiji Government*
- **The Pacific Island Tuna – Micronesia**
Keobel Sakuma, *Interim Deputy Director for Micronesia and Polynesia, The Nature Conservancy*
- **Blue Economy Enterprise Incubation Facility (BE-EIF) - Papua New Guinea**
Yvonne Tio, *Executive Manager of the Marine Environment Division in the PNG Conservation and Environment Protection Authority*

Announcing the “Pacific Ocean Initiative” - Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

- Marie-Cécile Thirion, *Deputy Director of the Department for Agriculture, Rural Development and Biodiversity Agence Française de Développement (AFD)*

Final remarks

- Coral Pasisi, *Director of Climate Change and Sustainability, The Pacific Community (SPC)*

The Kumulipo: A Hawaiian Creation Chant

- Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala (Uncle Sol), *seventh-generation indigenous native Hawaiian descendant, kupa'āina, from Lānaʻi*

Informal Networking Over Breakfast

Guests are invited to continue informal discussions over light breakfast and coffee

Event close

The GCRMN is an operational network of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and is hosted at the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS). The 10 regional networks of the GCRMN operate through regional coordinators with respective regional governance.