The Status and Trends of Coral Reefs in the Pacific: 2024 – A Call to Action for Pacific Islands and People

Official Blue Zone Side Event

Thursday 12th June 2025 | 08:45 – 10:00
Room 1, Blue Zone

More information: https://icriforum.org/events/pacific-unoc-2025/

Third United Nations Ocean Conference – UNOC-3
Nice, France

The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), an operational network of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) is launching its latest regional report – The Status and Trends of Coral Reefs in the Pacific: 1980 - 2023. Building upon the regional assessment, released in 2018, the 2024 report will highlight the condition of the Pacific's coral reefs, presenting both regional and national trends from 1980 to 2024, to guide ambitious policy and effective management solutions.

Coral reefs in the Pacific, host almost 27% of the world's coral reefs and are ecologically and socially important for the islands and their people, biodiversity and economies. They nourish and stabilise shorelines, provide income through tourism and fishing, are a vital source of protein for many people, and are part of cultural identity.

As 2025 marks the critical midpoint of the 2030 global agenda, this report emphasises the urgency of continued action. In collaboration with key leaders and actors from the Pacific region, including the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Country representatives and important financial contributors, this event will convene critical voices to present status of the region's reefs, and discuss the needed steps to achieve international and regional targets, including SDG14.

Safeguarding the survival of coral reefs for current, and future generations, is essential – and the GCRMN provides the best available scientific information to drive necessary action.

The GCRMN Pacific report, "**Status of Coral Reefs in the Pacific: 1980 – 2023**", was made possible with the support from:

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.

Agenda

Moderator: Stacy Jupiter, Executive Director of the Global Marine Program, Wildlife Conservation Society

Session	Speaker
Remarks from the host: Strengthening knowledge to enhance policymaking through the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network	**Dr Khaled Asfahani** *Co-Chair, International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) & CEO of the General Organisation for the Conservation of Coral Reefs and Turtles in the Red Sea (SHAMS)*
The importance of healthy coral reefs for people, the Pacific and the Ocean	**Ambassador Peter Thomson** *United Nations Secretary-General Special Envoy for the Ocean*
Presentation of the Status and Trends of Coral Reefs in the Pacific	**Dr Serge Planes** *Research Director, French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)*
The Status of National Coral Reefs: Statements from Pacific Leaders – translating results into national action and policies	
• Independent State of Samoa (5')	**Hon. Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster** *Caretaker Minister for Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Independent State of Samoa*
• Niue (5')	**Honorable Mona Ainu'u** *Minister of Natural Resources, Niue Island*
• Republic of Kiribati (5')	**Minister Ribanataake Tiwau** *Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development, Republic of Kiribati*
• French Polynesia (5')	**Minister Taivini Teai** *Minister for Agriculture, Marine Resources & Environment, French Polynesia*
The importance of collaboration to protect coral reefs: a vulnerable ecosystem critical to Pacific Nations	**Mr. Jope Davetanivalu** *Director of the Environmental Governance Programme, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)*
Closing Segment - Translating results into action to implement international targets, including SDG14, and in the Pacific	**Emily Small** *Bloomberg Ocean Fund, Bloomberg Philanthropies*