



Geneva, 9 January 2025

**International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Secretariat
London, United Kingdom
Via email: admin@icriforum.org**

Dear ICRI Secretariat Representatives,

On behalf of the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR), I am pleased to submit our application for membership to the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). Our decision is grounded in a shared vision and commitment to the protection and sustainable management of coral reef ecosystems, aligning to ICRI's objectives.

With ICRI's support, the GFCR was established as a transformative public-private coalition dedicated to accelerating investments and actions that enhance the resilience of coastal ecosystems, economies, and communities. By deploying catalytic grants and investments, the GFCR's resilience-focused portfolio comprises market-based solutions addressing drivers of ecosystem degradation spanning more than 20 developing states. Supported solutions include sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and agriculture, ecotourism, coral reef insurance, wastewater treatment and recycling, and initiatives enabling sustainable finance for marine protected areas (MPAs).

Operating across key coral reef regions—including Latin America, the Caribbean, eastern Africa, and the Asia-Pacific, with a significant focus on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)—GFCR supports solutions spanning sustainable ocean production, coastal development, circular economy, and pollution management, aligning with ICRI's commitment to advancing best practices and enhancing reef resilience.

As part of our commitment to advancing coral reef conservation, GFCR's strategic path forward closely aligns to the ICRI Call to Action, which aims to mobilize governments and a wide range of stakeholders to confront the pressing threats facing coral reefs. GFCR also operates in line with the key strategic areas defined in the Framework for Action, including integrated management, capacity building, research, and monitoring; thus ensuring a holistic approach to reef protection and sustainability.

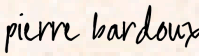
With capitalisation underway, by 2030, GFCR aims to support over 400 reef-positive businesses and sustainable financial mechanisms; the resilience of over 20 million community members and 3 million hectares of coral reefs (representing 25% of the Coral Reef Breakthrough target and 12.5% of remaining coral reefs on Earth); and sustainable financing flows for 7.5 million hectares of MPAs. GFCR's investments will aim to leverage \$2-3 billion USD in public and private finance for the benefit of marine ecosystems and coastal communities.

As a prospective member of ICRI, GFCR is eager to accelerate collaboration with fellow stakeholders to advance integrated management practices, enhance scientific research, and strengthen global capacity for coral reef conservation.

In conclusion, the GFCR Secretariat is confident that our strategic initiatives, particularly scaling of resilience-based conservation strategies, align to ICRI objectives and enhance global impact.

Thank you for considering our application. We look forward to the opportunity to contribute to and work with ICRI in safeguarding coral reefs for future generations.

Regards,

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Pierre Bardoux

Director, Global Fund for Coral Reefs

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)