



**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**  
**Ministry of Planning, Economic Affairs and Development**  
**Office of the Minister**

September 26, 2025

**Mr. Francis Staub**  
ICRI Global Coordinator  
The ICRI Secretariat,  
Lower Richmond Road  
London, England  
Great Britain

Dear Mr. Staub,

**Trinidad and Tobago Membership Request to join the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)**

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to formally express this country's interest in becoming a member of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).

Trinidad and Tobago possesses a myriad of marine ecosystems, including coral reefs, which play a vital role in supporting this country's biodiversity, coastal protection, and the livelihoods of coastal communities. As a Small Island Developing State, Trinidad and Tobago is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, ocean acidification, and pollution, all of which threaten coral reef health.

Given this, Trinidad and Tobago strongly supports the objectives of the ICRI, in particular the encouragement of the adoption of best practice in sustainable management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems; the building of capacity and the raising of awareness at all levels on the plight of coral reefs around the world. Membership in the ICRI would provide this country with access to a global platform for knowledge sharing, technical expertise, and collaborative action to conserve and restore reefs. It would strengthen Trinidad and Tobago's capacity in coral reef monitoring methods and data analysis, and allow for this country to contribute to the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network reports and the Global Socioeconomic Monitoring of World's Tropical Ecosystems (SocMon) Network, contributing to assessing the global status of coral reefs.

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Further, it would drive effective marine protection and sustainable blue economy strategies, as well as ensure that international commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are met.

Should Trinidad and Tobago be selected to become a member of the ICRI, the joint national focal points will be the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) and the Department of Marine Resources and Fisheries (DMRF) of the Tobago House of Assembly.

The specific Focal Point representatives will be:

**Dr Anjani Ganase**

Senior Research Officer

Coral Reef Ecosystems

Institute of Marine Affairs

Email: [anjani.ganase@ima.gov.tt](mailto:anjani.ganase@ima.gov.tt)

**Mr Garth Ottley**

Director

Department of Marine Resources and Fisheries

Tobago House of Assembly

Email: [garthottley1@gmail.com](mailto:garthottley1@gmail.com)

I look forward to the positive consideration of the application of Trinidad and Tobago for membership to the ICRI.

Sincerely,



Senator Dr. the Honourable Kennedy Swaratsingh,  
Minister