

GOVERNMENT
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES,
OCEANS AND MARITIME
AFFAIRS

Private Mail Bag 9043
PORT VILA
Tel : (678) 23561
Fax : (678) 23766



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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL/ BUREAU DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL

Ref:MFOMA/ODG/12/26/SVF/SL

**Government of the Republic of Vanuatu
Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs
Port Vila, Vanuatu**

Date: 23 March 2026

To: Carol PHUA
The Secretary General
International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
General organization for Conservation of Coral reefs and Turtles in the Red Sea (shams)

Dear Executive Director/Secretary General ICRI,

Subject: Confirmation of Vanuatu's Readiness to Become a Member of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

I have the honour to convey, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu, our formal expression of interest and readiness to become a Member of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).

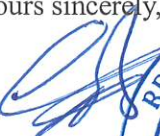
As a Small Island Developing State with extensive coral reef ecosystems that underpin national food security, livelihoods, cultural heritage, and climate resilience, Vanuatu strongly aligns with the objectives and guiding principles of ICRI. Coral reefs are central to our sustainable fisheries, tourism sector, coastal protection, and community-based resource management systems, and their conservation is a national priority.

The Government of Vanuatu is committed to strengthening regional and global cooperation to protect coral reef ecosystems, particularly in the face of climate change, ocean acidification, biodiversity loss, and increasing anthropogenic pressures. In this regard, membership in ICRI will provide an important platform for knowledge exchange, policy alignment, scientific collaboration, and coordinated action to support effective coral reef governance at national and regional levels. Refer to annex attached to support Vanuatu's formal process of accession to the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).

I am pleased to confirm that Vanuatu is ready to proceed with the formal process required to join ICRI. We respectfully request the support of the ICRI Secretariat in facilitating the necessary steps, including guidance on membership requirements, documentation, and any procedural matters to enable our accession in a timely manner.

The Government of Vanuatu looks forward to actively contributing to ICRI's work programme, sharing Pacific perspectives and community-based approaches, and collaborating with Members and partners to advance global coral reef conservation and sustainable use. Please accept, Secretary General, the assurances of my highest consideration. We look forward to your guidance and continued engagement on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Samson Vilvil Fare
Director General
Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs

Cc: - Minister, Cabinet, MFOMA
- Mr. Jimmy Rantes, DG, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Corporation and External Trade
- File