



VALERIE HICKEY  
Director  
Environment Department

March 9, 2026

Dr. Khaled Asfahani  
Chair  
International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

**Re: World Bank's Membership in ICRI and Invitation to the 39th General Meeting**

Dear Dr. Khaled Asfahani,

Thank you for your letter dated February 9, 2026. The conservation of coral reef ecosystems and the sustainable use of reef-associated services for socioeconomic development are important priorities for the World Bank Group. I am pleased to confirm our continued participation as a member of ICRI and to nominate Ms. Andrea Kutter, Senior Natural Resources Management Specialist, as our focal point for this engagement. Ms. Kutter will be able to participate in the 39<sup>th</sup> ICRI General Meeting in Jeddah from April 20-22, 2026.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the *General Organization for the Conservation of Coral Reefs and Turtles in the Red Sea* (SHAMS) for their leadership in advancing the global coral reef conservation agenda. Coral reef ecosystems provide fundamental services through coastal protection, tourism, and fisheries. Investing in reef health is of critical importance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie Hickey", written in a cursive style.

Valerie Hickey  
Director  
Environment Department