

Report by the Post-2020 *ad hoc* Committee to the 34th General Meeting

Action requested of the 34th ICRI GM: The ICRI General Meeting is invited to review the outputs of the *ad hoc* committee and:

1. Note progress of the work of the *ad hoc* committee;
2. Consider and if appropriate continue ICRI's engagement in the post-2020 process, including via revision of the terms of reference for the continuation of an *ad hoc* committee as per the proposed motion and recommendations for next steps in §§13a-d of this document.

Background

1. The 33rd ICRI General meeting (December 2018, Monaco) concluded that there is an urgent and continued need for action to address coral reef issues in the post-2020 framework. Any future target should be quantifiable and have an ambitious but realistic timeframe with a holistic view of coral reefs within the broader marine system as well as relate to the broader sustainable development agenda, with clear cross-reference to other global and regional policy instruments and commitments relevant to coral reefs. The reduction in anthropogenic pressures continues to be necessary to give coral reefs a chance of surviving by supporting their health and resilience. The 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted Decision 14/34, setting out the process for development of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, to be considered by CoP15 in Beijing, October 2020. ICRI has a unique opportunity to coordinate a consistent view across its member countries and organizations on the need for and substance of a coral reef target.

2. An *ad hoc* committee was established and requested to report back to the 34th General Meeting. The objectives of the *ad hoc* committee were to:

1. Coordinate ICRI's contribution to a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including preparing a timeline, according to the ICRI Rules of Procedure;
2. Develop a draft recommendation for a coral reef target and an appropriate alternative that aligns with and builds on other relevant processes.

3. This report presents the progress made by the *ad hoc* committee and provides a proposal for next steps. Additional information and supporting evidence is presented in the annexes. The report is structured as follows:

Section	Title	Supporting documentation
1	Composition and functioning of the <i>ad hoc</i> committee	
2	Report against ToR 1: coordination of ICRI's Contribution to the Post-2020 process	Annex 1A: timeline of ahc from December 2018-19
3	Report against ToR 2: Developing a draft recommendation for a coral related target	Narrative/ Justification for a coral reef target Proposed approach for a coral related target/ current text proposals Supporting evidence
4	Recommendations and proposed next steps	Annex 1B: timeline up to COP 15 Annex 3: proposed resolution including draft ToR

The composition and functioning of the *ad hoc* committee

4. The *ad hoc* Committee has been co-chaired by Monaco, Vulcan Inc. and the ICRI Secretariat. The membership includes: Australia, Cordio, France, ICRS, Indonesia, Japan, New Caledonia, Seychelles, SPREP, UN Environment, UNEP-WCMC, UK, US, WCS and WWF International. A coordinator (Emily Corcoran) was recruited in February 2019, thanks to the financial support from Vulcan Inc. A web page with information on the work of the *ad hoc* committee and providing access to its outputs and other relevant material was set up on the ICRI Forum: <https://www.icriforum.org/groups/our-committees/post-2020-coral-reef-target>.

5. The need for close linkages with the work of the GCRMN was recognized - in particular in providing guidance on metrics (indicators, monitoring and data) that would be needed to support any target. In May, David Obura was nominated by the GCRMN Steering Group a focal point to sit within the *ad hoc* committee.

6. The *ad hoc* committee has for the most part worked virtually. A virtual collaborative working space (Sharepoint) was provided by the UK to help facilitate online engagement. Four (4) virtual online meetings were held of the full *ad hoc* committee. To cope with the range of time zones each meeting was held twice, with the same agenda to maximise opportunities to contribute. These were well participated. The notes from each of the meetings were made available via the *ad hoc* committee share point. Opportunistic face-to-face meetings took place in Nairobi sidelines of the 1st OEWG meeting 27-30 August 2019 and in Montreal in the sidelines of the CBD Post-2020 marine and coastal consultation workshop, 12-15 November 2019.

7. There has been an increasing level engagement of *ad hoc* committee members through the process, it now feels as though the committee has developed a good way of working together. Timing has been an important factor. The CBD Post-2020 process has been one of evolution. There has been a lot of uncertainty in what the Global Biodiversity Framework will look like and the type of content that will be appropriate – this in turn affecting the readiness of *ad hoc* committee members to engage in detailed discussions of content for a particular ecosystem.

8. It is noted that any outcomes of the *ad hoc* committee are advisory in nature and do not constitute any statement of policy, decision or position on behalf of any of the ICRI members, nor does it prejudice any future positions that may be taken by Parties to the CBD in the forth coming negotiations.

Report against TOR 1: Coordination of ICRI's contribution to a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

9. The evolving process for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework has been closely followed during the intersessional period. An overview of the timeline for the *ad hoc* committee process and engagement from ICRI GM 33 – ICRI GM 34 is set out in Annex 1A. Highlights are set out below:

- a. *ad hoc* committee members participated in the regional consultations between January and May 2019;
- b. The *ad hoc* committee coordinator participated in the Trondheim Biodiversity Conference (2-5 July 2019); 1st OEWG, Nairobi (27-30 August 2019); Post-2020 Marine and Coastal Consultation (13-15 November, 2019). Gave a presentation on the status of coral reefs during the Montreal consultations.
- c. Link to interim outputs produced by the *ad hoc* committee:
 - the Information note that was produced is available here: Considerations of coral reefs in the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
https://www.icriforum.org/sites/default/files/20190523_ICRI_Information%20note_%20post-2020.pdf
 - the contribution to the second written consultation: Views on the Initial Discussion Paper on a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
https://www.icriforum.org/sites/default/files/ICRI_SCBD-reply_110419.pdf
 - The *ad hoc* committee contributed to the a proposed motion on coral reefs submitted for consideration at the 2020 IUCN WCC
 - Informal briefing note produced to inform representatives of the ICRI ad hoc committee participating at the marine and coastal consultation, Montreal 13-15 November 2019 .

Report against TOR 2: Developing a draft recommendation for a coral related target

10. The discussions within the *ad hoc* committee are set in a context of high uncertainty as to what it is that the post-2020 framework will look like. The CBD Post-2020 process is Party led, although highly participatory with the focus of 2019 being on consultation with as many actors as possible. First sight of the structure of the Post-2020 framework will be shared as a zero draft by the Co-Chairs on the 13 January 2020 and the negotiations not yet begun.

11. The ad hoc committee have followed and been guided by the Post-2020 discussions. It is necessary to remain flexible and responsive to the evolving process in order to best support and inform the discussions on future targets, the importance of coral reefs and how this could be taken up in the context of the CBD. Given that there is still no agreed structure for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework the ad hoc committee felt it was premature to recommend a text for a coral reef related target. However, the ad hoc Committee have:

1. **A proposed text for the justification/ narrative for a coral reef related target** based on recent scientific evidence and with links to other important global frameworks and policy areas, including sustainable development and climate change;
2. **a proposal of a framework/ guidelines within which discussions around a coral related target can progress.** The idea is that such advice could provide focus to future negotiations within the post-2020 process. The substance of these guidelines is under discussion, with some consensus emerging, but helps to provide some framing to the questions such as:
 - a. What should the scope of such a target be?
 - b. Where could a coral related target fit into the post-2020 GBF;
3. **Developed thinking on what the objective and scope of such a target should be;**
4. **Started to develop options for possible language for expressing a coral related target.** The discussion to date is helping to answer the question: What such a (sub) target could look like;
5. **Started thinking on how SMART the proposals are?** What tools are available to measure progress against such a target? How sufficient are these and what is already in the pipeline to fill these gaps.

12. The full report of work to date on the second ToR are presented as Annex 2 to this report. There are a number of outstanding questions that will need further discussion, as well as a need to remain responsive to the decision by Parties on how the Framework will be structured.

Next steps in the Post-2020 Process:

13. The co-chair of the Post-2020 process and CBD Secretariat provided the following information on next steps:

- a. SBSTTA 23 will discuss the key structural elements of the GBF
- b. The co-chairs will use any material from consultations up to Christmas to inform their Zero Draft
- c. Stakeholders to the process are invited to submit any contributions via the Secretariat.
- d. The co-chairs' Zero Draft of the GBF will be shared 13/1/2020 and form the basis of discussions at OEWG 2, 24-28 Feb 2020 in Kunming
- e. Nominations for OEWG are open, deadline 31 January 2020.
- f. Iterations of the draft GBF are expected between OEWG 2 and 3 (March – July), with opportunities for further input then.
- g. A number of other Ocean events are being considered stepping stones for the Post-2020 process, including WCC, Ocean Conference and others.

Recommendations and proposed next steps

14. The *ad hoc* committee recommends that:

- a. ICRI continues to engage in the post-2020 process to support those like-minded countries develop proposals for the inclusion in the future Global Biodiversity Framework. Annex 1B shows the timetable for the post-2020 process up to COP 15 and also includes other meetings/ events of relevance including the IUCN WCC, UN Oceans, 14th ICRS, ITMEMS 6.

- b. The scope of those consulted on the developing approach for a coral reef related target is broadened to engage with the wider coral reef community including from other ICRI members, non ICRI member countries, indigenous peoples, local communities, the scientific community, youth. There are opportunities to access many of these communities via ICRI's existing networks. It is proposed that the ad hoc committee is requested to include this action in their work.
- c. The General Meeting considers the motion for extension of the ad hoc committee with updated Terms of Reference.
- d. Consider how and when best to contribute to the on going process, especially in preparation for the Open Ended Working Group meetings – noting the invitation of the CBD Secretariat that written contributions to the process are welcome at any time – in addition to any specific requests.

Annex 1:

A: Timetable Overview of AHC process and engagement from GM33 through GM34

		Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19
ICRI Process	ICRI GM 33 established the ad hoc committee													
	ICRI members invited to join ahc (remains open)													
	ICRI GM 34 – Agree position? Extension of AHC?													*
Ach process	Ad hoc committee coordinator appointed													
	ahc page established on ICRI forum to share progress													
	Ahc web meetings													
	Opportunistic Face to face meetings													
	Information note on the work of the ahc													
	Contribution to a Coral Reef motion on coral reefs submitted to IUCN WCC													
	Submit contribution to ICRI GM 34													*
Engagement with Post-2020	Written contributions to CBD post-2020 process													
	Participation regional consultations by ahc members													
	Participation at Trondheim Biodiv Conf													
	OEWG 1													
	Marine consultation for Post-2020 GBF													*

B: Timetable from GM 34 up to Kunming 2020

		Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20
ICRI Process	ICRI GM 34											

	Agree Mechanism/ Mandate for further contribution to the post-2020 process											
	Launch of Status of Coral Reefs 2020											
ahc process	Engaging in Post-2020 process											
	Development of the inclusion of Coral reefs + related ecosystems in the draft framework											
	Developing broader engagement											
	Web meetings		?		?	?				?	?	
	Face to face meetings			?				?	?			
Engagement with Post-2020 process	OEWG 2 Kunming											
	SBSTTA 24											
	OEWG 3 Cali, Colombia											
	COP 15 Kunming											
Other relevant processes/ meetings	ITMEMS 6											
	UN Oceans Portugal											
	IUCN WCC Marseille											
	14 th ICRS											
	Publication of WOA 2											

