

The Secretariat
H.E. Bernard Fautrier
Minister Plenipotentiary
Principality of Monaco
International Coral Reef Initiative
Via email : fstaub@icriforum.org

Dear Secretariat,

I am writing you to consider our request for making Encounter Edu an ICRI member. Our eligibility for membership falls under ICRI's Capacity Building cornerstone listed as one of four in the Framework for Action 2013¹, "Continue to encourage and support public awareness and education programs, and run global awareness raising campaigns on the values and threats to coral..." (2013, pg3)

We are an education and advocacy agency innovating STEM and Global Citizenship programmes to build student knowledge and empathy for critical issues. Among these is Coral Oceans, an integrated free programme offering teachers' resources and interactive live lessons originally designed around the XL Catlin Seaview Survey expeditions. The expeditions' science and findings were adapted for student learning.

Over the last eight years, Coral Oceans has reached over 1.24 million students and has evolved to become a legacy programme, through the AXA Coral Live education events. Coral Live combines the Coral Oceans resources and live lessons with experts broadcasting from marine research stations. The events have reached 28,800 students, and have run out of Timor-Leste in 2015, Bermuda in 2017 and Curaçao in 2018². The outcomes include:

- 1) Building knowledge and creating appreciation of the ecological importance of corals;
- 2) Developing skills to work scientifically, through the live investigations and interviews with researchers;
- 3) Inspiring a generation of global citizens and environmental stewards to safeguard the future of corals habitats.

With over 25% of the world's population under 14 years of age, building youth literacy about and empathy for coral habitats and the threats to them achieves public awareness and sustainable development. In fact, Coral Live 2018 which brought coral research to over 15,500 students with researchers out of CARMABI in Curacao, received support from the IYOR 2018 campaign. IYOR 2018 promoted the event as well as listed our resources on the campaign site. This collaboration achieves the UN Global Goals and is echoed in the work of the ICRI, IYOR2018, and the UNEA 2 May 2016 resolution goals³.

¹ https://www.icriforum.org/sites/default/files/ICRI_BOOKLET_2014_UPRIGHT.pdf

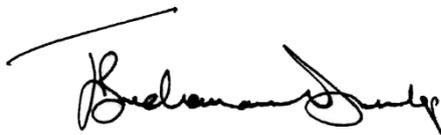
² See for example <https://encounteredu.com/live/coral-live-2018>

³ <https://www.icriforum.org/sites/default/files/ICRIGM33-Summary-Record.pdf>

Both education for sustainable development and developing youth empathy for the environment are embedded in international and national education strategies. They feature in the UN Global Goals 4.7⁴, 13.3⁵ and 14.a⁶; the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Learning Framework for 2030⁷; in the UK's Ocean Literacy Coalition⁸ advocacy resulting in new legislation for ocean education in schools in 2014.

So far, Encounter Edu's work has delivered AXA Oceans Education and similar programs to over 5.88 million⁹ children worldwide. If granted, our membership would continue to grow public visibility for coral commiserate with teachers' interest in introducing the oceans in the classroom. In addition to aligning with current education and advocacy trends, building student knowledge and empathy for coral are instruments for conservation, sustainable management and STEM careers.

Sincerely,



Jamie Buchanan-Dunlop
Founder, Executive director
Encounter Edu
(Formerly Digital Explorer)

⁴ SDG 4.7 on education states that "all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to ...promote sustainable development..." ([indicators.report/targets/4-7/](#)).

⁵ SDG 13 on climate action states the goal to "improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation..." in the "primary, secondary and tertiary curricula"⁵. ([sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg13](#))

⁶ SDG 14.A states the need to "increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity... to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development ... [of] small island developed States"⁶, among other country criteria listed in the goal. ([sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg14](#))

⁷ [https://www.oecd.org/education/2030/E2030%20Position%20Paper%20\(05.04.2018\).pdf](https://www.oecd.org/education/2030/E2030%20Position%20Paper%20(05.04.2018).pdf) (2018, p3)

⁸ Director of Encounter Edu, Jamie Buchanan-Dunlop, was among the founders and coordinator for the ocean education coalition.

⁹ <https://encounteredu.com/partners/axa-oceans-education/our-impact>

encounteredu.com | info@encounteredu.com | +44 203 940 7101