



Ministry of Environment

Ref.No 13-4-6291

Date 21-6-2018

**H.E Dr. Francis Staub
Coordinator,
International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)**

Subject: Jordan`s Expression of Interest to join the ICRI

Dear Dr. Staub,

I would like to reiterate my appreciation for your great efforts that have been made in the field of protection of coral reefs globally. Jordan is keen to participate in the ICRI, and we do believe that the ICRI`s objectives & actions in conservation of coral reef ecosystems throughout the world do align with our own mandate.

Kindly allow me to provide you with a brief background on Jordan`s marine and coastal ecosystems. These reefs represent one of the most important ecosystems in Jordan, due to their unique nature and important biodiversity, where there are more than (120) types of coral reefs classified as solid, and more than (150) soft species. These reefs have an environmental importance as they contribute to the provision of shelter, habitat and protection of many species, including fish, invertebrates and others.

The importance of the coral reefs in Jordan is not limited to environmental importance, but also has significance for the community & the economy, especially for the fishermen, boat owners and diving centers that are ultimately dependent on the availability of coral reefs for their livelihoods.

We genuinely believe that through membership in the ICRI, we can attain knowledge, technology and information on sustainable management of coral reef ecosystems, in addition to sharing management experience and information on coral reef ecosystems of Jordan with member countries of the ICRI.

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In this context, we seek your kind approval of our request to join as a member of the ICRI. We look forward to continuous cooperation to ensure successful implementation of the ICRI action plan.

Accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Best Regards,

Minister of Environment

Nayef Hmeidi Al-Fayez