



ICRI Member's Report

United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)

Reporting period December 2017 – November 2018

1. Reporting on the ICRI Plan of Action 2016-2018. *Your responses will help inform the Secretariat about members' contributions toward the previous Plan of Action.*

a. Please list any relevant examples from your organisation/country of investment/projects to protect and restore the natural infrastructure of reefs and mangroves. (See Goal (1) 2 [ICRI Recommendation for supporting investments in the natural infrastructure of reefs and mangroves to increase climate resilience](#)).

- An analysis of the international funding landscape for coral reefs was launched this year prepared by UN Environment in collaboration with the International Coral Reef Initiative and UNEP-WCMC. The report identifies gaps in current funding of coral reef management through overseas development assistance and philanthropy: https://www.icriforum.org/sites/default/files/ICRI_Funding_landscape_coral_reef.pdf

- UN Environment supported a workshop to explore options for enhancing and diversifying funding for coral reefs, convened by Vulcan Inc. and Monaco in Monaco in September 2018. Following on from the workshop, a high level side event on coral reefs with a focus on financing was held at the Our Ocean Conference in Bali, Indonesia, October 2018, and at the CBD CoP14 in November 2018.

- A report, called the 'Coral Reef Economy', analyzing the business case for managing coral reefs, was launched at the 2018 Our Oceans Conference by UN Environment in collaboration with the International Sustainability Unit and the International Coral Reef Initiative. The report analyzes how investing in specific measures to improve reef health can yield significant return on investment both in the public and private sector, with positive impacts on communities and society more broadly. The report can be found here: <https://www.icriforum.org/icri-documents/icri-publications-reports-and-posters/coral-reef-economy>

- Through the International Coral Reef Initiative/UN Environment Small Grants Programme (<https://www.icriforum.org/SGP2017/>) and through the GEF Blue Forests Project, a project on mangroves is being supported in Kenya based on the Voluntary Carbon Market. The activities are expanding an existing community project called Mikoko Pamoja to increase the area of mangroves protected to include new communities and the number of carbon credits being sold. The revenues from carbon credits are invested in community projects in the villages that support education, access to clean water and small-scale businesses. The project is called Vanga Blue Forests. <http://www.gefblueforests.org/upscaling-mikoko-pamoja-a-small-scale-mangrove-carbon-offset-project-in-kenya/>

- UN Environment is currently implementing the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Blue Forests Project, which is being executed by GRID-Arendal (<http://www.gefblueforests.org>). The project focuses on incorporating the value of ecosystem services into sustainable management of coastal ecosystems (especially mangroves and seagrass) and decision-making, including through targeted interventions in various countries. Countries where interventions are taking place include Ecuador, Mozambique, Madagascar, Kenya, United Arab Emirates and Indonesia. There are various innovative approaches being implemented in each country, with a focus on coastal carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation.

b. **Has your organisation/country made any progress in the following areas to target anthropogenic pressures?** Please give detail below. Note: If no change since your last ICRI member report, please write 'no change'.

Encourage ban of plastic microbeads in cosmetic products. (See Goal (3) 2 & [See ICRI Recommendation to reduce plastic microbeads pollution in marine environment](#)):

UN Environment's global work on marine litter including through the Clean Seas campaign (cleanseas.org) has addressed plastic microbeads in cosmetic products and leveraged commitments to phase them out.

Improve regulation and enforcement to reduce direct anthropogenic damage due to dredging and physical alteration of reef structures. (See Goal (3) 3 & [ICRI Recommendation to reduce damage due to dredging and dumping on coral reefs](#)):

UN Environment supported preparation of guidance on coral reef Environmental Impact Assessment and coral reef compensation and mitigation, adapted from guidance originally prepared through IFRECOR. These guidance documents have been finalized:
A guide to Environmental Impact Assessment of Coral Reef Ecosystems
Methodology for Scaling Mitigation and Compensatory Measures in Tropical Marine Ecosystems: MERCI-Cor.
Authors: Pioch S., Pinault M., Brathwaite A., Méchin A. and Pascal N.

Deployment of mooring devices limiting the mechanical destruction of coral reefs and seagrasses. (See Goal (3) 4).

Avoiding anchoring in coral reef areas and use of mooring devices is a core element of the Green Fins code of conduct. This is being promoted through Green Fins implementation including assessment as well as outreach and training.

c. **Did your organisation/country celebrate International Year of the Reef?** Please give details below. (See Goal (5) 1 & [ICRI Recommendation designating 2018 as the third International Year of the Reef](#)):

- The Executive Director of UN Environment visited Fiji in January 2018 to launch the International Year of the Reef with Fiji Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama and the UN Special Envoy on Oceans, Peter Thomson. The Executive Director of UN Environment

then visited Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Media coverage of the trip included [Al Jazeera](#), [The Guardian](#) and [The Sydney Morning Herald](#).

- An international collaboration on coral reef outreach has been developed with International Coral Reef Initiative, the World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, The Ocean Agency, Vulcan Inc., the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the CBD Secretariat. The collaboration was unveiled at the 14th Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of Parties in Egypt, with a High Level reception as well as side-events and outreach events on coral reefs. A public awareness campaign on the importance and fragility of coral reefs is being launched early 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/fate-coral-reefs-stake-key-un-talks-begin-egypt-new-coalition-urges>
- Throughout the International Year of the Reef, UN Environment's social media coverage has included the #IYOR2018 hashtag in coral related news and stories to its followers (Facebook 733k, Instagram 515k, Twitter 802k)
- IYOR 2018 has been highlighted through speeches, presentations as well as branding of UN Environment products released during 2018.

2. Contribution to the ICRI Plan of Action 2018-2020 and upcoming ICRI general meetings. *Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the draft ICRI Plan of Action 2018-2020.*

Theme 1 – Promote effective and adaptable solutions to improve the protection of coral reefs

UN Environment is working with partners on catalysing investment in coral reef protection through consultation on the development of a global fund for coral reefs, as well as impact investment in coral reefs. Impact investment projects ('Blue Finance') have been initiated in the Caribbean and scoping is being initiated in South East Asia. A report on the business case for investing in coral reefs has been launched (see above). These efforts are supported technically by the UN Environment Finance Initiative.

Please list any examples of leading practices, techniques and strategies for building reef resilience that your organisation/country is involved in. Include their limits, conditions of implementation, financing and an assessment of their results and links for more information if possible.

- The report 'Coral Bleaching Futures - Downscaled projections of bleaching conditions for the world's coral reefs, implications of climate policy and management responses', presents downscaled projections of coral bleaching conditions (i.e. exposure to the primary climate threat to coral reefs) at a spatial scale that enables use of the data in management planning, conservation planning and in support of other decisions influencing coral reefs and reef use. It also evaluates the implications of the Paris Agreement as well as failure to achieve its goal, by comparing the projected timing of annual severe bleaching between emission scenarios RCP4.5 and 8.5; and it provides public access to data as well as main findings in order to enable their application in management planning, policy formulation, and as education and outreach tools. <http://web.unep.org/ourplanet/december-2017/unep-publications/coral-bleaching-futures-downscaled-projections-bleaching-conditions>
<https://www.nature.com/articles/srep39666>

A Guide to Assessing Coral Reef Resilience for Decision Support, which supports environmental planners and managers assess, map and monitor coral reef resilience, and use the results to identify and prioritize management actions that support resilience in the face of climate change is available at https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22046/Guide_Coral_Reef_Resilience.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

- Through the International Coral Reef Initiative/UN Environment Small Grants Programme <https://www.icriforum.org/SGP2017/> (funded by France and Monaco) UN Environment is supporting 5 projects in diverse regions of the world (Kenya, Mesoamerican Reef, Malaysia, Seychelles, New Caledonia) to showcase innovative management approaches that enhance the resilience of coral reefs and associated ecosystems in the face of climate change. Project implementation started this year, and will conclude by the end of 2019. These projects apply available datasets and planning tools including those developed by UN Environment and partners on downscaled climate model projections for future bleaching conditions and guidance on resilience assessment for decision support.

A science-to-policy brief on wastewater and coral reefs was launched in 2018 <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/managing-wastewater-support-coral-reef-health-resilience>

Theme 3 – Support communities reliant on coral reefs

- UN Environment continues to support and develop the Green Fins initiative to promote environmentally sustainable practices in SCUBA and snorkeling tourism around the world. Green Fins is well established and expanding in Asia, and this year Green Fins was also introduced in the Dominican Republic. A new partnership between Reef World Foundation and PADI will support further uptake and application of the Green Fins code of conduct. <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/global-venture-make-green-fins-standards-sustainable-diving-social>

Theme 4 – Help to reduce anthropogenic threats to coral reefs, particularly those that occur at a global or regional scale

a. **What activities is your organisation involved in to elevate awareness of the global nature of the threat of climate change to coral reefs?** Please include details below

As above; see also [unenvironment.org](https://www.unenvironment.org) news, stories and social media coverage

b. **Has your organisation made any progress in dealing with destructive fishing and trade?** Please include details below.

c. **Has your organisation made any progress in dealing with marine debris?** Please include details below.

UN Environment carries out extensive work on marine litter, responding to resolutions adopted at UN Environment Assembly, as well as in the context of Regional Marine Litter Action Plans adopted through Regional Seas programmes.

A report specifically on marine litter and coral reefs is at an advanced stage and will be published shortly.

3. Would you like to report on your activities during the ICRI GM? Please give details below.

Updates on work in response to UNEA resolution 2/12 including policy analysis, GCRMN, outreach and efforts through the Global Coral Reef Partnership

4. International events. Please list any upcoming international events relevant to ICRI which someone from your organisation plans to attend in 2018-2019.

ICRI GM, Monaco, 5-7 Dec 2018

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 3-14 Dec 2018

Reef Futures 2018: A Coral Restoration and Intervention-Science Symposium, Florida, 10-14 Dec 2018

Global World Heritage Marine Managers meeting, Alaska, US, 26-31 May 2019

Other:

5. Publications. Please list relevant publications and reports you have released during this reporting period.

GCRMN Pacific report:

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/26824/status-coral-reefs-pacific.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Wastewater and coral reefs

<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/managing-wastewater-support-coral-reef-health-resilience>

The business case for coral reefs

<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/billions-be-gained-coral-reef-investment-new-analysis-shows>

Analysis of donor funding for coral reefs

<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/coral-reefs-we-continue-take-more-we-give>

6. ICRI Member Feedback. What do you find most valuable about the ICRI member reports? If you have any ideas for improvement please list below:

The member report format needs to be further streamlined in terms of format and content so as to be more user friendly. It may be useful to identify what the specific purpose of the MR is and what analytical outputs are desirable, and revise/redesign the process on that basis. One important aspect is ensuring that information presented in MRs is accessible in a

meaningful format. It is currently difficult to get an overview of information presented in MRs and to put this to use. An interface for finding information presented in MRs (activities, info on projects, publications etc.) could be useful, e.g. a searchable inventory.

7. **General Information.** (Note that this information will be posted on the ICRI website on your member page: <http://www.icriforum.org/about-icri/members-networks>.)

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