

# Report by the Post-2020 *ad hoc* Committee to the 35<sup>th</sup> General Meeting

**Action requested of the 35<sup>th</sup> ICRI GM:** The ICRI General Meeting is invited to review the outputs of the ad hoc committee and:

1. Agree to the proposed updated ToR (Annex 2) for the ad hoc Committee should continue to work to deliver the two outstanding items on the Terms of Reference from the GM34 Resolution (ToR 1 and 3) in order to follow this process through to its conclusion at the CBD COP 15;
2. Provide guidance on the proposed strategy (section 4) and how the ad hoc committee can best support national delegations in the next phases of negotiation of the Post-2020 GBF;
3. Confirm interest in acting as champions and leaders of the ICRI Recommendation in the run up to CBD COP15; and
4. Consider the role for ICRI beyond adoption of a GBF;

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# 1. Background

The Post-2020 ad hoc committee was established by the 33rd General Meeting of ICRI in December 2018 to follow the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) development process established by Decision 14/34 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which set out the process for developing the Post-2020 GBF for consideration by CBD CoP15 and to contribute on matters relating to the critical status of coral reefs and how these can be sufficiently addressed within the post-2020 framework.

At its last General Meeting (Townsville, December 2019), ICRI members adopted a [Resolution for the Inclusion of a Coral Reef-Related Target in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#) and agreed on extending the mandate of the ICRI ad hoc committee on the inclusion of a coral reef-related target in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

The updated objectives of the ad hoc committee for 2020 were to:

1. Coordinate ICRI's contribution to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
2. Engage with relevant partners and stakeholders to develop, by 31 March 2020, a draft recommendation for a coral reef related target and an alternative; and
3. Develop and implement a communications strategy to promote the recommended coral reef target at important international meetings and events in 2020, including the 15th COP of the CBD in Kunming, China in October 2020.

This report provides an overview of the composition and functioning of the ad hoc committee, followed by review of progress against each of the three terms of reference, highlighting any key milestones or progress made. Actions requested of ICRI members are highlighted in boxes throughout.

## **Composition and working procedure:**

The ICRI Secretariat, Monaco, and Vulcan Inc continued as co-chairs of the ad hoc Committee. The current membership includes: Australia, France, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Maldives, New Caledonia, Seychelles, UK, USA, CORDIO, ICRS, Reef World Foundation, SPREP, UN Environment, UNEP-WCMC, Vulcan Inc., Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Resources Institute, WWF International. The ad hoc committee continues to be supported by Emily Corcoran, thanks to the ongoing funding for this role provided by Vulcan Inc. IUCN joined the ad hoc Committee in December 2020. The ad hoc committee remains open for interested members to join.

As of May 2020, a communication sub-group was established to deliver against the third item of the Terms of Reference, bringing together the design and communication expertise within the ICRI Community. Current members of the sub group are: ICRI Secretariat, Vulcan Inc, WCS, UNEP, Reef-World Foundation, WWF and IUCN. The sub group works virtually and has been meeting at least once per month and remains open for interested members to join.

**Working procedure:** The ad hoc committee has been working virtually and takes advantage of any opportunities for face to face meetings in the side lines of other meetings, although this has not been possible due to the current pandemic. An information page about the ad hoc Committee and its output is available on the ICRI Forum [here](#).

## 2. Report against ToR for 2020

### ToR 1 - Coordinate ICRI's contribution to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

The shifting timeline of the Post-2020 process has been a continuing challenge since March 2020. The ad hoc committee keeps the timeline under constant review. The ad hoc Committee members have continued to engage in the virtual webinars and events hosted by the CBD Secretariat and other relevant organisations (e.g. Regional Seas conventions and Action Plans). Contributions to consultations and key engagement since GM34 include:

- January 2020: Through notification [2020-001](#) ICRI provided additional views and suggestions regarding the draft proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: [view ICRI's response](#) (PDF File)
- February 2020: ICRI Responded to CBD [notification 2019-108](#) providing views on possible targets, indicators and baselines related to the drivers of biodiversity loss as well as on species conservation and the mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors; and [notification 2019-115](#) providing views on possible targets and indicators for linking biodiversity to climate change. The submission also provided reflections on the [Zero Draft of the Global Biodiversity Framework](#): [view ICRI's response](#) (PDF File)
- Participation at the [2nd Open Ended Working Group](#) (OEWG) in Rome, Italy 24-29 February 2020, engaging in side discussions with members of the negotiating teams from a number of ICRI members/ ad hoc Committee members, including the UK, France, EU and the Maldives. Members of the ad hoc Committee at the OEWG meeting included elements of the ICRI recommendations in their interventions.
- July 2020: [ICRI's response \(PDF\)](#) to [notification 2020-024](#) contributing to the peer review process relating to Agenda Item 3, the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. This work was being undertaken in preparation for SBSTTA 24, which was intended to be held in May 2020, but has been postponed until 1st quarter 2021. Information drawn from the ICRI response was also used by other ICRI members who are Parties to the CBD, including France, Mozambique, the UK and members of the Africa Group.
- July - October: The thematic consultation on the sustainable use of biological diversity for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which was run virtually and provided useful insight to ensure the narrative for the ICRI Recommendation could relate to the sustainable use and sustainable development dialogues. Members of the ad hoc Committee participated in the thematic consultation and included elements of the ICRI recommendations in their interventions and submissions.
- August 2020: the update of the [Zero Draft of the GBF](#) was published
- September 2020: participation in the [Special virtual Session of SBSTTA 24 and SBI 3](#), which included the release of the Global Biodiversity Outlook 5, critically for this work confirming that Aichi Target 10 had not been met.

Several ad hoc Committee members were instrumental in the submission, discussion and adoption (by consensus) of IUCN resolution 105 in November 2020 for "[Conserving and protecting coral reefs through the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#)". The online process ran from December 2019-

November 2020. IUCN have joined the ad hoc committee following the adoption of this resolution, in order to build on synergies to help in its implementation.

Throughout the year the consultant and the ICRI Secretariat supporting the ad hoc Committee have also participated in a number of contributing processes, bilateral meetings, webinars and virtual sessions to keep track of the process and surrounding discourse, with input from members of the ad hoc Committee, including:

- Liaison with the CBD Secretariat;
- Contribution via UNEP-WCMC to the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) compilation and analysis of possible indicators for a GBF monitoring framework;
- Support to the preparation and promotion of the now successfully adopted IUCN motion supporting prioritisation of coral reefs in the Post-2020 GBF;
- Engagement in major related events such as the Biodiversity Summit, the UNFCCC Ocean-climate dialogue.

The ad hoc Committee has been working to engage with countries through their ICRI and CBD focal points including via virtual dialogues and webinars. These outputs are reported under ToR 3.

## **ToR 2 - Engage with relevant partners and stakeholders to develop, by 31 March 2020, a draft recommendation for a coral reef related target and an alternative;**

In May 2020, ICRI members adopted the [Recommendation](#) for the inclusion of coral reefs within the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the result of 18 months of work by the ad hoc Committee.

The Recommendation focuses on three priorities:

1. Prominent recognition of coral reef ecosystems within the text of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
2. The need for immediate prioritisation of action and appropriate timescales for response in the goals and targets for the stabilisation and recovery of coral reef ecosystems.
3. Explicit inclusion of clear, specific and actionable coral reef indicators within any monitoring framework. The Recommendation identifies a set of six coral-related indicators for adoption and highlights a further five indicators for priority development, particularly helpful to provide improved information on ecosystem health, integrity, function, intactness and resilience.

Through the Recommendation, CBD Parties are strongly encouraged to prioritise coral reefs by including these indicators. By monitoring at the national level, countries can determine their progress towards meeting targets, learn which interventions are working or not working, and adapt their conservation and management efforts accordingly. These metrics will also enable an improved consistency of information available at global and regional scales contributing to a more informative overview of changes in coral reef systems. They will also focus governments and donors on the delivery of conservation outcomes for coral reefs.

The full-text recommendation, including the recommended indicators, is available via [www.coralpost2020.org](http://www.coralpost2020.org). To date, the full text is available in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Arabic](#). The two-page summary is available in English, French and Spanish, Arabic and Bahasa Indonesian.

### ToR 3: Develop and implement a communications strategy to promote the recommended coral reef target at important international meetings and events in 2020, including the 15th COP of the CBD in Kunming, China in October 2020.

As described under composition and working arrangements a communication sub group was established to deliver progress against this terms of reference. The table below shows a summary of the key elements of the communication strategy that is currently being implemented.

Time Frame	May 2020 - CBD COP 15 (end of 2021)
Elevator pitch:	The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and its 90 members, including 44 countries, strive to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around the world. ICRI has adopted a Recommendation that will drive coherent action to support the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) vision to be “living in harmony with nature by 2050.”
Purpose:	The purpose of the campaign is to advocate for an ambitious Post-2020 GBF to prominently feature coral reefs and lead to their conservation and restoration. The campaign can help demonstrate the importance of having clear, meaningful, available and actionable indicators that will promote accountability and transparency in making progress against the GBF goals and targets.
Objective:	Coral Reefs must be prioritized in the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) through specific and actionable indicators that will allow countries to measure progress towards sustaining this critically threatened ecosystem that yields significant benefits to humanity.
Target Audiences:	Three tiers of audiences were identified and prioritized. The first tier that benefits from direct outreach includes negotiators for the CBD Post-2020 GBF and other policy makers, including CBD focal points, ICRI focal points, and officials in national governments and regional bodies. The second tier are the influencers of tier one and include ICRI membership and other engaged groups. The third tier that is not a priority of ICRI but could be activated by various groups within the ad hoc committee including relevant industries and engaged citizens who could be swayed to advocate for the prioritization of coral reefs.
Metrics of progress:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To have coral reefs prominently featured in the GBF</li> <li>2. Inclusion of coral reef indicators in the GBF monitoring framework</li> <li>3. Number of countries agreeing to support coral reef ecosystems in</li> </ol>

	<p>the GBF negotiations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Actions by ICRI members</li> <li>5. Number of voices in support (quote cards from leaders)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Narrative</b></p>	<p>To benefit coral reefs and the people who depend on them, we must measure changes in coral reef health, function and integrity. These indicators will determine where interventions are working and where they need to be improved.</p> <p>Corals are sentinel species that provide an “early warning system” of ocean health decline and its impact on other marine species. As a highly critical and vulnerable ecosystem, taking measures to sustain coral reefs will have a positive ripple effect on people and the planet.</p> <p>The time for action is now -- we must work together to prioritize coral reefs to avoid ecosystem collapse and prevent dire consequences for the more than one billion people who rely on coral reefs for their livelihoods and food security.</p>
<p><b>Communication instruments:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Message construct that guides all outreach</li> <li>● Web presence: <a href="http://www.coralpost2020.org">www.coralpost2020.org</a></li> <li>● Agreed social media hashtag: #ForCoral</li> <li>● Media outreach (<a href="#">Op Eds and articles</a>)</li> <li>● Translation of key materials (<a href="#">Recommendation</a> and 2 page summary)</li> <li>● An <a href="#">FAQ</a></li> <li>● Communication assets developed by Vulcan Inc: <a href="#">Infographics</a> (translated), <a href="#">one minute film</a>, <a href="#">voices of support quote cards</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Technical analysis and Policy briefing notes</a></li> <li>● Regional webinars/ ICRI Post-2020 virtual dialogue sessions</li> <li>● Side events (e.g. <a href="#">side event and virtual booth at the 10th Pacific Nature Conference</a>)</li> <li>● Bilateral communications</li> </ul>

### 3. Key areas of Progress

The solution for achieving healthy coral reefs is multifaceted; success can only be achieved with global action by Parties, supported by other stakeholders. This section of the report aims to highlight some of the key areas of progress that have been achieved against our key metrics of progress over the past year.

Progress has been challenged by the unavoidable uncertainty in the Post-2020 negotiations timeline and process, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, making it difficult to plan, yet this has also provided us with an opportunity to develop the rationale and opportunity for deeper discussions, and to reach out in ways that might not have been possible with the previous, shorter timeline.

#### 1. To have coral reefs prominently featured in the GBF

The updated draft of the GBF continues to include text encouraging focus on conserving the marine environment at the ecosystem level, incorporating concepts such as extent, integrity, connectivity, which is in line with the ICRI Recommendation and recognize the critical role coral reefs play in providing ecosystem services. The focus elements of the framework in its current draft are Goal A, Target 1, Target 2 (area based conservation measures), Target 6 (pollution).

#### 2. Inclusion of coral reef indicators in the monitoring framework

In a proposal from the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on proposed indicators and monitoring approach for the Post-2020 GBF ([CBD/SBSTTA/24/3 Add.1](#)), dated 25 November 2020 five of ICRI's six recommended indicators have been incorporated into the technical document. The document proposes 3 groups of indicators, Headline (high level indicators to capture the overall scope of the Goals and Targets); Component indicators (for monitoring each component of the goals and targets to be used at a national level where relevant and appropriate); Complimentary indicators (for thematic or in-depth analysis primarily at a global or regional level). An overview of where the indicators have been taken up is presented in Annex 1, and shows:

- Coral reefs are specifically included within the proposed headline indicator A.0.1 "Extent of selected natural ecosystems (forest, savannahs and grasslands...coral reef, seagrass...);
- Coral reef extent also appears as a component indicator: A.1.1. Extent of natural ecosystem (A.0.1) by type and as a complementary indicator (A.1.1.15);
- The following proposed indicators are also listed as complementary indicators under Goal A: A.1.1.13 Liver coral cover; A.1.1.20 Cover of key benthic groups; A.1.1.21 Fleshy algae cover;
- Protected area coverage of coral reefs as a complementary indicator under Target 2 (2.1.1.4)
- The Index of Coastal Eutrophication is the only indicator that has not been included.
- Hard Coral Cover and composition was not included in the indicators recommended by ICRI but has been included in the proposed indicators for the monitoring framework as a complementary indicator under Goal A (A.1.1.14) and is used by GCRMN.

This is an encouraging position at the current stage of negotiation, but is however still subject to change and informs the onward strategy to ensure these indicators remain in the GBF monitoring framework. This is further elaborated under Section 4.

### **3. Number of countries that support coral reef ecosystems in the GBF negotiations**

The adoption of the ICRI Recommendation itself makes a strong statement regarding the support for the inclusion of coral reefs within the GBF. It represents a consensus between the 44 ICRI member countries, who are custodians of 75% of the world's coral reefs, and 43 member governments are Party to the CBD.

- As of December 2020, representatives of the following governments have demonstrated their leadership by adding their voices to champion the ICRI Recommendation by providing quotes, including from Australia, Fiji, Japan, Maldives, Monaco, Palau, Sweden, the UK and the European Commission on behalf of the EU. This is in addition to traditional leaders and prominent Ocean influencers from NGOs, academia and civil society.
- The ICRI Secretariat hosted two virtual dialogues in October and November 2020, engaging almost 80 participants (ICRI and CBD focal points) from 30 countries. These dialogues provided an opportunity to present the ICRI Recommendation and for countries to share experiences around how they have been using the Recommendation and supporting materials, and exploring how we can continue to support Parties in delivering a good outcome for coral reefs within the Post-2020 GBF.
- The adoption of a new IUCN Resolution in November 2020, calling on all IUCN members to [“work towards the prominent inclusion of coral reef ecosystems in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework”](#) and requesting that the IUCN Director General “urgently” advise all CBD parties of this decision. On the basis of this Resolution, IUCN have joined the ad hoc committee. The resolution was adopted by consensus of all IUCN members (governments and NGOs) that participated in the October 2020 online vote.

### **4. Examples of actions of ICRI members to promote the uptake of or implement the Recommendation**

- Australia, Germany, France, Indonesia Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Maldives, South Africa, Thailand, SPC, CCC, COBSEA and UNEP have communicated that they have made use of the recommendation since its adoption, including as a contribution to support national preparations for the CBD Post-2020 negotiations. In addition a number of countries have indicated that they are using the recommendation to inform monitoring work.
- Indonesia has used the discussions and documentation from the ad hoc Committee to inform national processes related to the CBD Post-2020 GBF. The ICRI recommendation has also informed and supported other meetings such as:
  - Preparation meeting for the High Level Panel on Sustainable Ocean (HLP-SOE)
  - Preparation meeting for the G20 meeting of Environment Ministers
  - Preparation meeting for the CTI-CFF discussion on regional plan of action.

In addition, almost all the proposed indicators are already incorporated within the national coral reef management of Indonesia.



- The ICRI recommendation was referenced by the submissions of Mozambique, France, the UK, the European Commission, when responding to the [SBSTTA 24 Peer review process](#) in July / August 2020.
- WCS has produced a document in support of the ICRI recommendation “[Recommendation: setting shared goals and targets for coral reefs](#)”, available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Indonesian, Portuguese and Spanish, along with a CBD post-2020 webpage in which coral reefs feature prominently.
- ICRS have shared information and materials about the recommendation across their membership, including through a guest article by the ad hoc Committee, a CBD COP15 webpage have been added to the ICRS website: [http://coralreefs.org/cbd\\_cop15/](http://coralreefs.org/cbd_cop15/) and Information about the recommendation is also being put on ICRS’s social media by the ICRS Student Chapter.

*Selection of articles published in 2020 highlighting the work of the ad hoc Committee*

- An article describing the ICRI Recommendation was published in the July 2020 newsletter ([Reef Encounter](#)) of the International Coral Reef Society (ICRS) reaching the 2200 members of ICRS
- A WCS Op-Ed entitled [We Can Save Earth’s Coral Reefs- Members of the International Coral Reef Initiative have agreed on the steps we must take. Now governments have to act](#) which details the work done by ICRI members for the inclusion of coral reefs in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework was published in Scientific American.
- WWF’s Coral Reef Rescue Initiative shared a blog post “[Achieving high ambitions from down below](#)” about the need to include ecosystem-specific indicators in the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
- The Reef-World Foundation shared blog posts “[A global challenge requiring global action](#)” and “[Our planet is at a critical turning point](#)” which draws together the views and voices of experts from around the world to discuss the Recommendation.
- An article, written by ICRI Coordinator Francis Staub, entitled “[How the world is coming together to save coral reefs](#)” was shared on the World Economic Forum website.
- The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI – CFF) released their October-December 2020 newsletter in which they included an article entitled “[CTI-CFF attends the virtual discussion on “Coral Reefs and the CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework”](#)”

**5. Number of voices in support (quotes from leaders)**

Political and traditional leaders have been lending their [voices](#) to amplify our key campaign messages including those listed below:

Ilka Wagner	Head of the Marine Nature Conservation Division of the German Federal Environment Ministry	Germany
Umiich Sengebau	Minister of Nature Resources, Environment and Tourism	Palau
Zac Goldsmith	UK International Environment Minister	UK
Abdulla Naseer, PhD	Minister of State of Environment	Republic of Maldives
Helen Ågren	Ambassador for the Ocean at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs	Sweden
Peter Thomson	UNSG's Special Envoy for the Ocean	
Torii Toshio	Director-General, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment	Japan
Thierry Santa	President	New Caledonia
Leticia Carvalho	Coordinator of the UNEP Marine and Freshwater Branch, Ecosystems Division	UNEP
Zaha Waheed	Minister of Fisheries, Marine Resources, and Agriculture	Republic of Maldives
Pagu Julius	Senior Marine Conservation Warden, Dar es Salaam Marine Reserve	Tanzania
Pawang Imran Abdullah	Panglima La'ôt/ marine custodian, Lhok Lampuuk marine reserve	Aceh Besar, Indonesia
Wiliame Katonivere	Traditional Head, Tui Macuata	Fiji
Collins Katana	Net Fisherman, Kanamai Beach	Kenya
Vilive Vuinasova	District Representative for Tavulomo Village, Dama District, Bua Province in Vanua Levu	Fiji
David Obura		CORDIO East Africa
Alain de Comarmond	Environment Department, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change	Seychelles
HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco		Monaco
Nurmini Sifati	Elementary School Teacher	Morotai Island, North Maluku, Indonesia
Hon Josaia V. Bainimarama	Prime Minister of Fiji	Fiji
Dr Satyendra Prasad	Fiji's Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the United Nations and Chair of the Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS)	Fiji/ PSIDS

Rindah Melsen	a mother of three and President of the Nusatuva Women's Savings Club, an initiative piloted and supported by WWF in the Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands
Kate Brown	Executive Director, Global Island Partnership	New Zealand/GLISPA
Yoann Richomme	Skipper	Mirpuri Foundation Racing Team
Dona Bertarelli	UNCTAD Special Adviser for the Blue Economy, Co-Chair Bertarelli Foundation	
Virginijus Sinkevičius	Commissioner (2019-2024), Environment, Oceans and Fisheries	European Commission
Dr Ian Poiner, Chairperson	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Australia
Nerolyn Ioni	WWF Community Facilitator, Saeraghi Community	Solomon Islands
Andrea Grottoli	President of the International Coral Reef Society	ICRS

## 4. Next steps: proposed strategy for 2021

There has been encouraging progress for realising a good outcome for coral reefs within the Post-2020 GBF. There is however still work to do in order to maintain and improve upon this position as the negotiations progress through to CBD COP15. It is proposed that the ad hoc Committee continues its work through to CBD COP15. A proposal for updating the Terms of Reference adopted by ICRI GM 34 has been presented as Annex 2, taking into account the delay in the Post-2020 process. The updated objectives of the ad hoc committee are to:

1. Coordinate ICRI's contribution to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; and
2. Develop and implement a communications strategy to promote the uptake of the ICR Recommendation important international meetings and events in preparation for and including the 15th COP of the CBD.

In order to support the continuation of this work, Vulcan has committed to continue their support for the work of the consultant to the ad hoc Committee, through to the CBD COP15.

The current indicative timeline for the key meetings leading to COP15 are presented below. Note: based on dates made available by the CBD as of 14 Jan 2021. Other key meetings that will be relevant include (but not limited to):

- World Ocean Summit (virtual) 1-5 March 2021
- 14th ICRS (Virtual) July 2021
- IUCN World Conservation Congress, Marseille, September 2021
- UN Ocean Conference (TBC)

Month	Meeting	Location
January	Stakeholder open webinars on the Post-2020 GBF; 12 Jan + more TBC) Briefing webinars relating to SBSTTA/ SBI (19, 26 Jan)	Virtual
February 17-19/24-26	Informal sessions of SBSTTA 24	Virtual
March 8-12/ 14	Informal sessions of SBI3	Virtual
TBC First half of 2021	Formal sessions of SBSTTA 24/ SBI 3	(Montreal)
TBC Q2 2021	Open Ended Working Group 3	Cali, Colombia
October 2021	CBD COP15	Kunming, China

The ad hoc Committee proposes the following strategic elements in delivering these ToR:

1. work to ensure that the ICR Recommended coral reef related indicators are retained in the GBF monitoring framework (as per operative §1d of the ICR Recommendation) ; examine sufficiency of the current draft GBF and its monitoring framework for coral reefs and incorporate this into any communications and policy

guidance; and articulate the feasibility of implementation for the recommended indicators (also linked to points 4 and 5);

2. examine opportunities realise the explicit and prominent recognitions of coral reefs within the text of the GBF as per operative §1a of the ICRI Recommendation;
3. examine opportunities to strengthen language to support immediate and focused actions for particularly vulnerable and important ecosystems such as coral reefs (operative §1c of the ICRI Recommendation)
4. Seek to contribute to development of guidance relating to resource mobilisation and financial mechanisms so that this is framed to be appropriate to enable targeted and urgent action in specific ecosystems that are uniquely vulnerable, such as coral reefs (as articulated in the Annex to the ICRI Recommendation); and
5. Start to consider how a Post-2020 GBF and its monitoring framework, once adopted, could be applied to a specific ecosystem, such as coral reefs.

Proposed means for achieving these elements:

- Continuing to work closely with key ICRI members as champions of the ICRI Recommendation to ensure increased discussion of uniquely vulnerable ecosystems and coral reefs within the negotiations, creating a demand for a successful outcome for coral reefs in the GBF and its monitoring framework, both through engagement in the ad hoc Committee and through their leadership in carrying the Recommendation through into their national and Regional CBD processes;
- Work closely with GCRMN to understand the current use of the recommended indicators and the existing monitoring available to support these (for example through the indicator use questionnaire) and the potential role of technology to support monitoring;
- The development of a Negotiation tool kit to support Parties in taking up the ICRI Recommendation. This could be adapted to the different phases of negotiation (SBSTTA, OEWG, COP) and tailored according to different national/ regional contexts. The package would be based on current documentation and be informed by information collected through the ICRI community (e.g. the outcomes of the questionnaire on current use of the ICRI recommended indicators). It could comprise:
  - Further information in the recommended indicators, complementarity of what is already in use/ what data exists to support them
  - Talking points (including infographics)
  - Bottom line elements to be included in the GBF/ monitoring framework
  - Narrative to connect to other relevant policy discussions
- Virtual briefing sessions or preparatory meetings before key CBD meetings in order to facilitate awareness and uptake of the negotiation toolkit. If CBD meetings are face to face, these could be arranged as in person briefings in the sidelines.
- Phase 3 of the Communication strategy: A new phase to focus on supporting negotiations and ensuring the recommended coral reef related indicators remain in the monitoring framework.
- By ensuring appropriate linkages are made to other complementary areas of work to help build coherence of action, including with the UN Decades of Ocean Science and Ecosystem Restoration;

## Annex 1: Summary of the ICRI recommended indicators included in the draft monitoring framework - *CBD/SBSTTA/24/3Add.1*

Goal / Target	Headline indicator	Component indicator	Complementary indicators	ICRI recommended indicator?
<p>Goal A:</p> <p>The area, connectivity and integrity of natural ecosystems increased by at least [X%] supporting healthy and resilient populations of all species while reducing the number of species that are threatened by [X%] and maintaining genetic diversity;</p> <p>2030 Milestones:</p> <p>(i) The area, connectivity and integrity of natural systems increased by at least [5%].</p> <p>(ii) The number of species that are threatened is reduced by [X%] and the abundance of species has increased on average by [X%].</p>	A.0.1 Extent of selected natural ecosystems (Incl Coral reefs)	A.1.1. Extent of natural ecosystem (A.0.1) by type		Yes. The extent indicator will be the same as both a headline and component indicator as far as I can see. The only difference is that the headline indicator will only be done for "selected" natural ecosystems (which specifically includes coral reefs)
			A.1.1.13. Live coral cover	Yes this is one of the ICRI Recommended indicators
			A.1.1.14. Hard Coral cover and composition	No - this was not one of the ICRI Recommended indicators. But it is a GCRMN indicator
			A.1.1.20. Cover of key benthic groups	Yes One of the ICRI Recommended indicators. In the recommendation we have this together with Fleshy algae cover - and suggest they are used in combination.
			A.1.1.21. Fleshy algae cover	Yes - see above.
			A.1.1.47. Fish abundance and biomass	Yes this is one of the ICRI Recommended indicators
Target 2	MPA		2.1.1.4. Protected area coverage of coral reefs	Yes this is one of the ICRI Recommended indicators

Note: The Index of Coastal Eutrophication was recommended by ICRI, but has not been picked up within the draft monitoring Framework;

## **Annex 2:** Proposed ToR amendment for the ICRI ad hoc committee on the inclusion of a coral reef-related target in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

(please refer to Motion for the full details of the proposed ToR)

Amended Terms of Reference:

The updated objectives of the ad hoc committee are to:

1. Coordinate ICRI's contribution to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; and
2. Develop and implement a communications strategy to promote the ICRI Recommendation at important international meetings and events in preparation for and including the 15th COP of the CBD.