

36th ICRI General Meeting

Hosted by the United States of America
13th & 15th December 2021, 16:00 PM (EST)

Summary record

The United States of America hosted the 36th General Meeting which took place on the 13th and 15th of December 2021. This was the first General Meeting of the [United States of America's third tenure chairing the International Coral Reef Initiative](#). Due to the one-going and evolving global COVID-19 situation, the 36th General Meeting was conducted online. Despite this, the Secretariat welcomed over 70 participants throughout two days of productive discussions. The General Meeting was opened by Christine Dawson, Department of State. The agenda is available in annex 1 and list of participants in annex 2.

Summary	3
Adopted	3
New Reports.....	3
New Members	3
Plan of Action 2021-2024 “Turning the Tide for Coral Reefs”	4
Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network	5
Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network	5
Status and Trend of East Asian Coral Reefs.....	5
GCRMN monitoring analysis at the national level	5
WRI GCRMN regional dashboard & Social and Economic Vulnerability to Coral Reef Degradation and Loss	5
Presentations on the future of the Ad-hoc Committees	6
CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.....	6
ICRI ad hoc committee for coral reef restoration and adaptation	6
Mapping the global funding landscape for coral reef restoration	7
Ad Hoc Committee on Resilience-based Management	7
New initiatives and the role of ICRI	8
The Coral Research & Development Accelerator Platform (CORDAP).....	8
The Global Fund for Coral Reefs.....	8



International Coral Reef Initiative

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Upcoming Events.....	9
Annexes	11

Summary

ICRI welcomed three **new members**:

- the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- the Commonwealth Secretariat
- the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute

Adopted

- Addendum to the ICRI Recommendation on the inclusion of coral reefs and related ecosystems within the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
- Resolution to extend the ICRI ad hoc committee for coral reef restoration and adaptation
- Resolution to extend the ICRI Ad Hoc Committee on Resilience-based Management
- The 2021-2024 Plan of Action, Turning the Tide for Coral Reefs as a framework document. Comments can be sent to the Secretariat until 14th January 2022.

New Reports

- “Status and Trends of East Asian Coral Reefs” which will be released on 21st December 2021.
- World Resource Institute’s new coral reef regional dashboard
- Global Wetland Outlook: special Edition 2021
- Mapping the global funding landscape for coral reef restoration

New Members

General Meeting attendees were presented with three membership requests that were accepted, resulting in the introduction of three new members:

- **the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)**

Mohammed Ali Qurban and Carlos Duarte, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, provided an overview of the strategic expectations of the KSA National Environment agency, the expansion of Saudi Giga-projects, including CORDRAP, and how the mission and vision of the national wildlife center aligned, and supported, the advancements of ICRI.

- **the Commonwealth Secretariat**

The Commonwealth Secretariat’s commitments to ICRI were delivered by Nick Hardman-Mountford, Head of Oceans and Natural Resources, highlighting the role of 19 ICRI members being Champions of the Commonwealth Blue Charter specifically with developing research, policy, knowledge sharing and educational opportunities.

- **the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute**

Robert Glazer, Executive Director, delivered an overview of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute’s objectives and goals and how these aligned with the mission of ICRI, specifically noting the number of partnerships and activities: MPACConnect; Fisheries for Fishers Initiative; Co-Host of the GPML-Caribe; and the student initiative.

Plan of Action 2021-2024 “Turning the Tide for Coral Reefs”

Christine Dawson, Department of State, USA

Jennifer Koss, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

The new ICRI chair, the USA, presented the **2021-2024 Plan of Action, Turning the Tide for Coral Reefs**, outlining the work we want to accomplish over the next three years. Three years will provide more stability and an opportunity to advance our collective objectives.

The plan of action is structured around the 4 following themes:

- Theme 1 - Preparing for the Future: Promoting Resilient Coral Reefs
- Theme 2 - Coral Reef Science and Oceanography: Advancing and Utilizing the Latest Science and Technology
- Theme 3 - Local Threat Reduction: Integrating Response Planning Frameworks
- Theme 4 - Diversity and Inclusion: Expanding the Coral Reef Community

The Plan is framed as an overarching framework under which the Secretariat is committed to work on specific thematic areas and undertake specific activities. Illustrative activities have been added without including a lot of detail. It will enable members to comment and craft details through iterative processes. Additional specific ideas are welcomed, particularly on what ICRI members may do as a collective.

Finally, the proposed Plan of Action is dedicated to the notion that ICRI is committed to the future, to leaving our grandchildren a healthy and vibrant planet, reflected in restored, thriving, dazzling coral reefs.

Comments were provided from Australia, Japan, Coral Reef Alliance, The International Coral Reef Society, TNC and the Wildlife Conservation Society). Further comments are encouraged and should be sent to the Secretariat by January 14th 2022.

The ICRI Secretariat will circulate the list of comments received and how they were addressed electronically.

Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network

Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network

David Souter, Australian Institute of Marine Science

The Sixth GCRMN Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020 report was presented with a focus on the next steps for the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network. David Souter, GCRMN Global Coordinator, emphasised the need to build on the recent GCRMN report with a clear focus on building capability and capacity through regional webinars and workshops. A GCRMN Steering Committee was announced for early 2022

Status and Trend of East Asian Coral Reefs

Yohei Mori, Ministry of the Environment, Japan

The “Status and Trends of East Asian Coral Reefs” which will be released on 21st December 2021 following a regional workshop, was presented by Yohei Mori, Ministry of the Environment. The presentation, and subsequent report, outlines key results within the East Asian region, noting specifically that there has been a lack of a clear decline in coral cover since 1980. There was a call for increased long-term monitoring, capacity building, and demonstration sites while improving the resources, and methods, of monitoring, specifically remote sensing and the inclusion of socio-economic data.

GCRMN monitoring analysis at the national level

Serge Planes, Centre de Recherches Insulaires et Observatoire de l'Environnement

The presentation, delivered by Serge Planes, CRILOBE, provided a first insight into the coral reef monitoring programs undertaken in countries that collectively host 90% of the world's coral reefs. While it is clear that the monitoring programs, and associated data, provide an overall vision of the state and trends of live coral cover, there was a clear call that more resources should be invested to improve the collection of data. Improved protocols for live coral cover and “Fleshy Algae Cover and Cover of Key Benthic Groups” would enable a more accurate evaluation of trends on coral reefs and to help to prioritize conservation strategies. Through an example of French territories, the availability of such indicators for monitoring were provided and highlighted the importance of the spatial distribution of indicators to inform national and regional reports and policy.

WRI GCRMN regional dashboard & Social and Economic Vulnerability to Coral Reef Degradation and Loss

Lauretta Burke, World Resource Institute

[Coral Reef Dashboards](#) have been developed by the World Resources Institute and its partners, including data from GCRMN, presenting global and regional profiles of the importance, status, and outlook of coral reefs around the world. The aim of the dashboards is to provide a ‘live’ resource on the status and trends of coral reefs, supplementing the GCRMN

reports. This is further supplemented by the integration of the 10 GCRMN regions within the dashboards. GCRMN data are used for charts on hard live coral cover and algal cover, and descriptions of coral conditions in the region.

Laurette Burke further provided insight into the development of a Social and Economic Vulnerability index, building upon previous indicators and metrics portrayed in the Reefs at Risk series. The index will be developed through consultative processes, highlighting exposure, coral reef dependence and adaptive capacity. A revised concept will be delivered by Lauretta for consultation.

Presentations on the future of the Ad-hoc Committees

CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Emily Corcoran, ICRI Consultant

The Zero draft of the Global Biodiversity Framework included 4 goals and 18 targets. Of significance to coral reefs, the consideration of restoration was extracted from target 1 and placed into a new, stand-alone target 2.

Text of Target 2 in Draft 1 of the GBF: Ensure that at least 20 per cent of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems are under restoration, ensuring connectivity among them and focusing on priority ecosystems. [under negotiation]...

Restoration has not been addressed in detail in the existing ICRI Recommendation (adopted May 2020) and the ad hoc Committee agreed that there was a role for ICRI to develop guidance on the technical aspects relating to this new target to support negotiation of the final language.

A summary of the consultation was prepared and circulated to the meeting participants and formed the basis of the documentation circulated for consideration at the 36th ICRI General Meeting

The motion presented built upon both the existing Post-2020 Recommendation and the ICRI Resolution on restoration, adopted in 2019. The intention of the addendum was to complement the existing Recommendation, providing additional information relevant to Target 2.

The motion was adopted making an important contribution to the communication and advocacy efforts in the final phases of negotiations and can be found in Annex 3 of this report.

ICRI ad hoc committee for coral reef restoration and adaptation

Ian McLeod, James Cook University / Australian Institute of Marine Science

The new Terms of Reference were adopted as below:

- Provide a coordinating mechanism for international collaboration on coral reef restoration research and development.
- Advocate for the use of best practice restoration techniques and highlight examples of relevant policy and legislation as part of a broader strategy that involves traditional management and reducing carbon emissions in order to maintain coral reef function, structure and resilience.
- Facilitate the transfer of new knowledge of restoration techniques to managers and restoration practitioners.
- Explore the option of creating a specific ICRI Network for coral restoration and adaptation
- Maintain the Restoration Hub on the ICRI website
- Support the UN Decade of Ocean Science and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to help prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of coral reef ecosystems worldwide by promoting science-based restoration, upscaling, monitoring and capacity building

If resources allow the ad hoc committee would also:

- Update materials based on experiences thus far and conduct mentored trainings using the Manager's Guide to Coral Reef Restoration Planning and Design
- Continue to work on recommendations in the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's: A Decision Framework for Interventions to Increase the Persistence and Resilience of Coral Reefs
- Train facilitators to conduct mentored trainings using the Manager's Guide to Coral Reef Restoration Planning and Design
- Support efforts to improve coral reef restoration monitoring

The adopted Terms of Reference are available in annex 4.

Mapping the global funding landscape for coral reef restoration

Margaux Hein, ICRI Consultant

A new report by the ICRI found that only US\$258 million has been invested in coral reef restoration - a small fraction of the US\$1.9 billion economic value reported for coral reefs and associated ecosystems.

Ad Hoc Committee on Resilience-based Management

Katherine Martin, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

One of the ad hoc Committee's key achievements is the publication of a policy brief addressed to decision makers on building resilience for coral reefs. A short, animated video was created subsequently to summarise the key messages of the policy brief, in an attempt to engage with a wider audience.

The amended Terms of Reference were adopted as below:

Working with ICRI members, reef-bearing nations and relevant partners, the Committee will:

1. Assist members to identify and implement resilience-based management actions that support global biodiversity and sustainability targets, such as in the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the proposed CBD Global Biodiversity Framework.
2. Assist members to develop the necessary resources (tools, guidance, finance mechanisms, etc.) that support resilience-based management plans and policies.
3. Continue to share knowledge and expertise on implementing resilience-based management with members.
4. Develop closer linkages with the ad hoc Committee on Reef Restoration and the ad hoc Committee on developing a recommendation for a Post 2020 coral reef target

The adopted Terms of Reference are available in annex 5.

New initiatives and the role of ICRI

The Coral Research & Development Accelerator Platform (CORDAP)

Jennifer Koss, NOAA

In 2020, the G20 agreed to establish a global coral research and development (R&D) accelerator platform to bring together the best scientific minds from all over the world to scale-up next generation science and technology solutions for coral conservation and restoration.

The goal is to secure a future for tropical and cold-water coral reefs by uniting the best minds globally to accelerate and scale-up interdisciplinary research and development (R&D) efforts.

An International Committee of G20 nations, non-G20 nations, and international organizations will provide governance and oversight of CORDAP activities. In addition, a scientific advisory board consisting of renowned international coral reef scientists, managers and engineers provides guidance and recommendations on CORDAP's overall strategy, funding program priorities, resource allocation and deliverables.

All donations and contributions will go directly to coral restoration R&D activities.

Saudi Arabia and King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) resource and support all aspects of the administrative functioning of CORDAP at their own cost.

The Global Fund for Coral Reefs

Yabanex Batista, Global Fund for Coral Reefs

In September 2020, the UN launched the first impact fund dedicated to SDG 14 and the only global blended finance mechanism for coral reefs, the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR). The fund will de-risk and unlock investments in the blue economy that benefit coral reefs. Aiming to close the coral reef funding gap, GFCR will directly invest \$625m and unlock billions more to strengthen reef resilience to climate change, address ecosystem threats and ensure their chance of survival.

The objective is to prevent extinction of the global coral reef biome in our lifetime, by

- (A) Investing in the most resilient reefs to give them a chance to recover and support the regeneration of other reef systems and
- (B) Reducing local drivers of degradation

UN Agencies, philanthropies, private investors and organizations have joined the GFCR Coalition to deliver on ecological, social and economic resilience. The tailored, expert-led programming approach will aim to produce measurable benefits in an initial pipeline of more than 25 coral-dependent developing countries.

Building on the most advanced scientific studies, including the 50 Reefs initiative and the Allen Coral Atlas, GFCR targets the most climate resilient reefs with the best chance of survival in developing countries.

Programmes launched in 2021:

- The Bahamas
- Fiji
- Philippines
- Papua New Guinea
- Kenya & Tanzania

Programmes on track to launch in 2022 (dependent on resource mobilisation and programme development):

- Brazil
- Colombia
- Dominican Republic
- Indonesia
- Madagascar
- Maldives
- Mozambique
- Seychelles
- Solomon Islands
- Sri Lanka
- Vietnam

Regional programmes:

- Micronesia
- Gulf of Aqaba (Egypt & Jordan)
- MesoAmerican Reef (Belize, Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala)
- Eastern Melanesia & Polynesia

ICRI will act as co-chair of the Advisory Board.

Upcoming Events

Our Ocean Conference, Palau, February 16th - 17th, in Palau
Yimnang Golbuu, Palau International Coral Reef Center

Our Ocean Conference is a global conference to foster momentum for ocean conservation. Its seventh edition is hosted by Palau, and it is the first time that the Our Ocean Conference will be hosted by a small island developing state. The theme of this year's conference is Local to Global Action for Our Ocean.

UN Ocean Conference 2022, June 27th - July 1st, in Lisbon, Portugal

Madhushree Chatterjee, Natural Resources and Interlinkages Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

The UN Ocean Conference 2022 is co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal, following the General Assembly draft decision entitled "2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development".

15th International Coral Reef Symposium, July 3rd - 8th in Bremen, Germany

Andrea Grottoli, ICRS

The 15th International Coral Reef Symposium is the primary international conference on coral reef science, conservation and management, bringing together leading scientists, early career researchers, conservationists, ocean experts, policy makers, managers and the public.

World Wetlands Day, 2nd February 2022, observed globally

Jerker Tamelander, Ramsar

World Wetlands Day will be observed as a United Nations international day for the first time on the 2nd of February 2022, following its adoption by the General Assembly on 30th August 2021.

A new report, the Global Wetland Outlook: Special Edition 2021, by the Convention on Wetlands, was also introduced during the General Meeting. It shows that wetlands offer unmatched opportunities for reducing emissions, adapting to climate impacts and reversing biodiversity loss.

Reef Futures 2022, September 26th - 30th, Key Largo, FL, USA

Tali Vardi, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program

Reef Futures is the only venue that brings together coral restoration practitioners, researchers, students, and resource managers from around the world to share the latest techniques, technologies, and science to dramatically scale-up the impact and reach of coral reef restoration.

Annexes

- Annex 1 - Agenda
- Annex 2 - List of participants
- Annex 3 - Addendum to the ICRI Recommendation on the inclusion of coral reefs and related ecosystems within the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
- Annex 4 - Resolution to extend the ICRI ad hoc committee for coral reef restoration and adaptation
- Annex 5 - Resolution to extend the ICRI Ad Hoc Committee on Resilience-based Management

Annex 1 – Agenda

Day 1		13 th December 2021	
Time (EST)	Minutes (hh:mm)	Item	Speaker(s)
16:00	00:10	Welcome from the USA	Christine Dawson, <i>Department of State</i>
New Member Presentations			
16:10	00:08	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Mohammed Ali Qurban, CEO National Center for Wildlife.
16:18	00:08	Commonwealth Secretariat	Nick Hardman-Mountford, <i>Head of Oceans and Natural Resources, Commonwealth Secretariat</i>
16:26	00:08	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute	Robert Glazer, <i>Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute</i>
Presentation of the Plan of Action			
16:34	00:30	Presentation of the Plan of Action	Christine Dawson, <i>Department of State</i> Jennifer Koss, NOAA
17:04	00:15	Questions and discussion	
17:19	00:10	Break	

The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network			
17:29	00:30	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network	David Souter, <i>Australian Institute of Marine Science</i>
17:36	0:07	Status and Trend of East Asian Coral Reefs	Yohei Mori, <i>Ministry of the Environment, Japan</i>
18:06	00:10	GCRMN monitoring analysis at the national level	Serge Planes, <i>Centre de Recherches Insulaires et Observatoire de l'Environnement</i>
18:16	00:10	WRI GCRMN regional dashboard & Social and Economic Vulnerability to Coral Reef Degradation and Loss	Lauretta Burke, <i>World Resource Institute</i>
18:26	00:05	First day closing remarks	Jennifer Koss, <i>NOAA</i>

Day 2		15 th December 2021	
Time (EST)	Minutes (hh:mm)	Item	Speaker(s)

Presentations on the future of the Ad-hoc Committees

16:00	00:20	Post-2020 coral reef recommendation	Emily Corcoran, <i>ICRI Consultant</i>
16:20	00:20	Restoration	Ian McLeod, <i>James Cook University / Australian Institute of Marine Science</i> Margaux Hein, <i>ICRI Consultant</i>
16:40	00:20	Resilience-based Management	Katherine Martin, <i>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority</i>
17:00	00:15	Discussion of the Plan of Action (members open floor)	
17:15	00:10	Break (10 mins)	

New initiatives and the role of ICRI			
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17:25	00:15	The Coral Research & Development Accelerator Platform (CORDAP)	Jennifer Koss, NOAA
17:40	00:15	The Global Fund for Coral Reefs	Yabanex Batista, <i>Global Fund for Coral Reefs</i>

Upcoming Events

17:55	00:05	Our Ocean Conference, Palau	Yimnang Golbuu, <i>Palau International Coral Reef Center</i>
18:00	00:05	UN Ocean Conference 2022	Madhushree Chatterjee, <i>Natural Resources and Interlinkages Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, Department of Economic and Social Affairs</i>
18:05	00:05	15th International Coral Reef Symposium	Andrea Grottoli, <i>ICRS</i>
18:10	00:05	World Wetlands Day, 02 February 2022	Jerker Tamelander, <i>Ramsar</i>
18:15	00:05	Reef Futures 2022	Tali Vardi, <i>NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program</i>
18:20	00:10	Next steps for the Secretariat	Christine Dawson, <i>Department of State</i>
18:30	00:15	Questions & discussion	
18:45	00:05	Closing remarks	Monica Medina, <i>Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans, Environment and Science</i>

Annex 2 - List of participants

Name	Title/Organization
AGOSTINHO, Ana	Mirpuri Foundation
AMER, Maher	PERSGA
AMIR, Fathimath Hana	Maldives Marine Research Institute
ARDRON, Jeff	Adviser - Ocean Governance
ATTALLA, Tamer	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency
BARDOUX, Pierre	UN MPTFO - Global Fund for Coral Reefs, Head of Secretariat
BATISTA, Yabanex	Deputy Head of Secretariat, Global Fund for Coral Reefs
BELL, Catherine	Head of Marine Species Conservation - DEFRA
BREWSTER, Leo	Coastal Zone Management Unit
BRIGDALE, Amanda	Climate and Environment Policy Branch Climate Change and Sustainability Division Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
BURKE, Laretta	World Resources Institute
CAREMIER, Benedicte	European Commission
CHATTERJEE, Madhushree	United Nations / UN Ocean Conference
CIALACU, Ioana	Policy Analyst/ Environment and Climate Change Canada
CLARK, Erinn	Mote Marine Laboratory
CONRADO, María Paula	AIDA
COOPER, Chuck	Managing Director, Policy and Government Relations, Vulcan Inc.
CORCORAN, Emily	ICRI Consultant
CROSBY, Michael	President & CEO Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium
CURTIS, Monique	Manager, Ecosystems Management/National Environment and Planning Agency
DALLISON, Tom	International Coral Reef initiative
DAWSON, Christine	US State Department
DAYANA, Nicol	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible
DEGEMMIS, Alfred	Associate Director, International Policy, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
DERI, Wilfrid	Ministère d'Etat - Département des relations extérieures et de la coopération
DIEZ, Sylvia Michele	world bank

DOMÍNGUEZ, Karen	Ministerio de Ambiente de Panamá
DUARTE, Carlos M.	Executive Director (interim), Global Coral Reef R&D Accelerator Platform / KSA
FAQEEHA, OSAMA	The Deputy Minister for Environment, KSA
FOX, Helen	Conservation Science Director, Coral Reef Alliance
FRANCISCO ALBERTO, Lacase	Confederacion Mundial de Actividades Subacuaticas CMAS
FREW, Scot	NOAA
FURBY, Kathryn	US State Department
FYFFE, Theresa	Great Barrier Reef Foundation
GILLARD, Elle	UNESCO World Heritage Marine Programme
GLAZER, Robert	Executive Director/Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GOLBUU, Yimnang	Palau International Coral Reef Center
GOLD, Maya	Manager International Oceans Policy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
GOUGH, Charlotte	Technical Advisor Fisheries Management and Conservation, Blue Ventures
GRIMSDITCH, Gabriel	Programme Management Officer, UNEP
GROTTOLI, Andrea	International Coral Reef Society
HARDING, Simon	ICRS
HARDMAN-MOUNTFORD, Nick	Head of Oceans and Natural Resources
HARVEY, Chloe	The Reef-World Foundation
HAWARI DJOHANI, Safira Warili	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORAL TRIANGLE CENTER
HAWKRIDGE, Jane	Head, International Implementation, Joint Nature Conservation Committee
HEIN, Margaux	MER Research & Consulting
HOBSON, Anthony	IUCN
JACOB, Florina	Coral Guardian
JOHNSON, Margaret	General Manager, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
KETTLER, Amanda	Policy Analyst
KIMURA, Tadashi	GCRMN East Asia Region / Japan Wildlife Research Center
KOSS, Jennifer	NOAA / ICRI Chair
LEVY, Jessica	Director of Restoration Strategy, Coral Restoration Foundation
LYSENKO, Nina	ministerio de medio ambiente y recursos naturales
MARTIN, Katherine	GBRMPA

MATATIKEN, Denis	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT - ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
MCLEOD, Ian	Principal Research Fellow/ James Cook University
MEAKINS, Bryony	JNCC
MÉNDEZ VENEGAS, Mauricio	Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica
MOHD RAJUDDIN, Dr. Mohd Kushairi	Executive Director/Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) Regional Secretariat
MORENO, Andres	Ministerio de Ambiente
MORI, Yohei	Examiner/Ministry of the Environment, Japan
MOUMOU, Kevin	Ministry of Agriculture Climate Change and Environment
MTUI, Rose Sallema	National Environment Management Council
MUHANDO, Christopher A.	University of Dar es Salaam
NGUYEN, Long	Institute of Oceanography
OBURA, David	CORDIO East Africa
OCHSENDORF, Anne	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
PADOVANI FERREIRA, Beatrice	Federal University of Pernambuco
PEBAYLE, Antoine	Policy Officer / Ministry for the ecological Transition
PIVARD, Sandrine	SPAW-RAC
PLANES, Serge	CRIOBE-CNRS
PORTER, Sean	Oceanographic Research Institute
PRISLAN, Heidi	Commonwealth Secretariat / Blue Charter Adviser
PRUCKNER, Sara	UNEP-WCMC
QUINTAS, Yulieth	Ministerio de Ambiente de Panamá
QURBAN, Mohammed Ali Qurban	CEO National Center for Wildlife
RODRIGUEZ SALCIE, Ricardo Aquiles	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
RODRÍGUEZ, Ana Lorena	Ministerio de Ambiente
SAAVEDRA, Gennevy	Panama
SADKOWSKY, Teresa	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
SAMAAI, Toufik	Dr / DFFE Oceans and Coasts Research
SATO, Maria	MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT
SELU, Fimareti	Marine Conservation Officer/Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

SITSABESHAN, Subaskar	Blue Charter Outreach Coordinator
SMITH, David	MARS
SOKOLOVE, Diana	Conservation Program Director/Coral Reef Alliance
SOUTER, David	Global Coordinator, GCRMN and Chief Research Officer, AIMS
STAUB, Francis	ICRI Global Coordinator
SUCKOO, Richard	Coastal Zone Management Unit
TAMELADER, Jerker	Director, Science and Policy, Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands
TAMLYN, Coco	Coral Guardian
TANAKA, Eiji	Mr/Ministry of the Environment
TELEKI, Kristian	World Resources Institute
TOUCHON, Marie	Blue Pangolin Consulting
TOWLE, Erica	National Coral Reef Monitoring Program Coordinator
TREJOS-LASSO, Lissette	Ministerio de Ambiente de Panama- Sea and Coastal Division
TRUDEAU, Nicole	Strategic Engagement Lead, Global Fund for Coral Reefs, UN MPTFO
TURTLE, Lara	Defra
TYLEY, Harriet	Coral Cay Conservation
VALCARCEL, Andrea	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
VAN WYNGAARDEN, Jason	Policy Advisor, Environment and Climate Change Canada
VARDI, Tali	Executive Coordinator / Coral Restoration Consortium
WELLS, Sue	ICRS
WIENER, Jean	Executive Director, Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversite Marine
WINTERS, Scott	Coral Restoration Foundation / Coral Restoration Consortium
DAVIES, Peter	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme
MULLER, Erinn	Mote Marine Laboratory
YEEMIN, Thamasak	Ramkhamhaeng University, Thailand
ROCLE, Nicolas	Marine Conservation Specialist - SPREP
RAMNARACE, Vivian	Belize Fisheries Department

Annex 3 - Addendum to the ICRI Recommendation on the inclusion of coral reefs and related ecosystems within the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Addendum to the ICRI Recommendation on the inclusion of coral reefs and related ecosystems within the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Adopted at the 36th ICRI General Meeting (online), December 2021

Recognising the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) decision at its 34th ICRI General Meeting that there is an urgent and continued need for action to address coral reef issues in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;

Noting that the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and its associated monitoring framework provide an important opportunity to deliver focused, strategic action to safeguard coral reef ecosystems from further decline and drive progress towards a future of living in harmony with nature;

Recalling the decision by ICRI in May 2020 to adopt the Recommendation on the inclusion of coral reefs and related ecosystems within the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and noting that this addendum forms a part of this Recommendation;

Welcoming the progress of the ICRI ad hoc Committee to engage with and contribute to the CBD Process in line with Decision 14/34 of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Noting that the First Draft of the Global Biodiversity Framework includes a new target the focuses on restoration this addendum provides additional recommendations relevant to this particular issue;

Recalling the 2019 ICRI Resolution to update the 2005 ICRI resolution on artificial coral reef restoration and rehabilitation;

Noting the results of the 6th Status of the Coral Reefs of the World report (GCRMN, 2021), demonstrated a continuing decline of the state of coral reefs, combined with projections for continued impacts from climate change, restoration will comprise an important management option for the persistence of coral reefs;

The International Coral Reef Initiative: Calls upon its members and other relevant stakeholders to take into account the information provided as Appendix 1 to ensure:

1. The language of target 1 of the GBF calls for the retention and safeguarding of vulnerable ecosystems and the language of target 2 sets ambitions that drive restoration actions that are appropriate for coral reef ecosystems;
2. The adoption of an appropriate indicator within the monitoring framework of the Global Biodiversity Framework to ensure accountability and measurability in delivering progress against this target for coral reef ecosystems;

Appendix 1: Detailed recommendations with regards to Target 2 of the Global Biodiversity Framework

ICRI notes the need for an integrative approach to the management of interconnected ecosystems and recognises the beneficial impacts of co-locating ecosystem restoration efforts.

Explanatory note: The restoration of other ecosystems (associated ecosystems or those located from ridge to reef) has been demonstrated to have benefits for coral reefs (e.g. restoring forests

Annex 4 - Resolution to extend the ICRI ad hoc committee for coral reef restoration and adaptation

Resolution to extend the ICRI ad hoc committee for coral reef restoration and adaptation

Adopted at the 36th ICRI General Meeting (online), December 2021

In response to the acceleration in coral reef declines, there is growing recognition that traditional coral reef management approaches alone are not sufficient to counter the increasingly frequent stresses imposed by a changing climate. This has led to a surge in interest in active interventions to restore, protect and increase the resilience of coral reefs, and funding to support these efforts.

The ICRI Plan of Action 2018-2020 called for the promotion of leading reef restoration practices by facilitating partnerships, investment and capacity-building among ICRI members. ICRI established an *Ad Hoc* Committee on Coral Reef Restoration at its General Meeting in Monaco in December 2018 and this ran for three years. Membership included representatives from 19 ICRI members. The Committee produced several products, identified common interests, facilitated global and regional collaborations, and helped identify opportunities for co-investment in research and development on coral reef restoration and adaptation.

While undertaking this work, opportunities emerged to work with a broader group of nations and partners including the Commonwealth Blue Charter's Action Group on Coral Reef Protection and Restoration, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the French Coral Reef Initiative (Ifreco), Australia's Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program, and the Coral Restoration Consortium (CRC). There are now new funding and coordinating platforms such as the G20 Global Coral Reef Research & Development Accelerator Platform and the Global Coral Reef Fund as well as upscaled restoration projects such as Mission: *Iconic Reefs* in Florida, USA, the Shousha Island coral garden in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the multi-hectare coral restoration project in the Republics of Mauritius and Seychelles funded through the UNDP Adaptation Fund.

The proposed ICRI Plan of Action 2021-2024 includes:

Action 1.C - Promote and build capacity for the restoration of resilient coral reefs

Coral reefs are threatened by rapidly deteriorating environmental conditions that are warmer, less favorable for calcification, have impaired water quality, and pose continuing disease threats. Coral intervention strategies have arisen with the goal of increasing the long-term persistence and resilience of tropical coral reefs and their ecological functions. These interventions include stress-hardening, translocation of coral stocks or species, manipulation of symbiotic partnerships within the coral holobiont, managed selection, genetic modification, and engineering of the local environment.

Annex: Terms of Reference

Working with ICRI members, reef-bearing nations and relevant partners, the ad hoc committee will:

- Provide a coordinating mechanism for international collaboration on coral reef restoration research and development.
- Advocate for the use of best practice restoration techniques and highlight examples of relevant policy and legislation as part of a broader strategy that involves traditional management and reducing carbon emissions in order to maintain coral reef function, structure and resilience.
- Facilitate the transfer of new knowledge of restoration techniques to managers and restoration practitioners.
- Explore the option of creating an ICRI Network on coral restoration and adaptation

Annex 5 - Resolution to extend the ICRI Ad Hoc Committee on Resilience-based Management

Resolution to extend the ICRI Ad Hoc Committee on Resilience-based Management

Adopted at the 36th ICRI General Meeting (online), December 2021

Climate change is the greatest threat to coral reefs worldwide. There is growing understanding that management strategies require greater innovation and agility to build the resilience of coral reef ecosystems under current climate change trajectories. Resilience-based management (RBM) uses knowledge of current and future drivers to prioritise, implement, and adapt management actions that sustain ecosystems and human well-being. While RBM cannot prevent impacts from major disturbances such as coral bleaching and cyclones, building ecosystem resilience can increase the capacity of coral reefs to withstand and recover from these disturbances.

The previous ICRI Secretariat Plan of Action 2018-2020 called for members to support reef resilience at the local, regional and global scale. In recognition of the need to accelerate our collective efforts, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority convened an ICRI side event 'Managing for Resilience' at the 34th ICRI General Meeting in Australia, in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. Following this, ICRI established the ad hoc Committee on Resilience-based Management (RBM). The Committee's objective was to 'identify supports and develop best-practice guidance on the actions that will enable members to tailor and scale up RBM to meet local, national and global needs'. Key achievements of the Committee included development of a centralised 'Resilience Hub' on the ICRI Forum website, and a policy brief and amination to provide guidance for decision makers on what they could do to support RBM from a policy perspective.

While undertaking this work, the Committee surveyed members to identify their needs and to ensure its outputs were targeted and relevant. The survey identified several barriers to implementing resilience-based management, including lack of technical expertise and capability to identify appropriate funding sources to implement actions. As such, the Committee seeks to continue its work and build on its achievements to date by providing support for members to identify and prioritise actions that build reef resilience and develop the resources to deliver on global biodiversity and sustainability commitments.

The proposed ICRI Plan of Action 2021-2024 includes a theme focussed on 'Preparing for the Future: Promoting Resilient Coral Reefs', with the following sub-sections:

- Strengthening policies – Supporting conservation and recovery of coral reefs and associated ecosystems through resilience-based management frameworks.
- Promote capacity building for applying resilience-based management approaches to coral conservation.

Potential new sources of funding have also emerged that could be capitalised on by members, including the Global Fund for Coral Reefs and the Global Coral Research & Development Accelerator Platform.

Annex: Amended terms of reference

Working with ICRI members, reef-bearing nations and relevant partners, the Committee will:

1. Assist members to identify and implement resilience-based management actions that support global biodiversity and sustainability targets, such as in the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the proposed CBD Global Biodiversity Framework.
2. Assist members to develop the necessary resources (tools, guidance, finance mechanisms, etc.) that support resilience-based management plans and policies.