
ICRI Recommendation to prioritise coral reefs in the Post-2020 GBF



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With thanks to Vulcan for their on going technical and financial support



Image credit: Coral Reef Image Bank

This presentation was made to the 2nd COBSEA webinar relating to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

It presents ICRI and its role in helping to develop policy consensus; how ICRI has engaged in the Post-2020 process to date. It then introduces the Recommendation that ICRI has adopted, which sets out how coral reefs can be prioritised in the Post-2020 GBF.



International Coral Reef Initiative

A global partnership for the preservation of the world's coral reefs and associated ecosystems.

What We Do

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www.icriforum.org

2: The International Coral Reef Initiative – is a global partnership between nations and organisations that strives to preserve the world's coral reefs and related ecosystems. One role the ICRI Partnership is to develop coordination and consensus building in relevant policy areas. Countries that are members to ICRI are custodians of 75% of the world's coral reefs and almost all are Parties to the CBD.

The ICRI Secretariat is hosted for a determined period (normally 2 years) – currently co-hosted by the governments of Australia, Indonesia and Monaco. I have provided contact details on the screen if you would like to find out more about ICRI.

Country	ICRI member (Y/N)	% of the world total
Cambodia	N	N/A
People's Republic of China	N	0.53%
Indonesia	Y- ICRI Co-Chair and ad hoc committee	17.95%
Republic of Korea	Y	N/A
Malaysia	Y	1.27%
Philippines	Y	8.81%
Singapore	N	N/A
Thailand	Y	0.75%
Viet Nam	Y	0.45%
Total		29.76%

3. The COBSEA region encompasses a third of the world's coral reefs - coral reefs - and their associated ecosystems are globally significant.

Six of the 9 countries in the region are members to ICRI, and have already been part of the effort to ensure that coral reefs are included within the Post-2020 GBF.

Of course, one of the COBSEA countries - Indonesia is also our co-chair and has been very supportive in this work over the past couple of years.

Post 2020
documentsWorking Group
2020Regional
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Consultations

Peer Review

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CBD // CONFERENCES // POST2020



The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

4: CBD Post-2020 GBF

We have already had a very useful introduction to the [Post-2020 process](#), a highly consultative process to develop a new and transformative framework for the world, a framework to set us on a path to live in harmony with nature.

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK 5



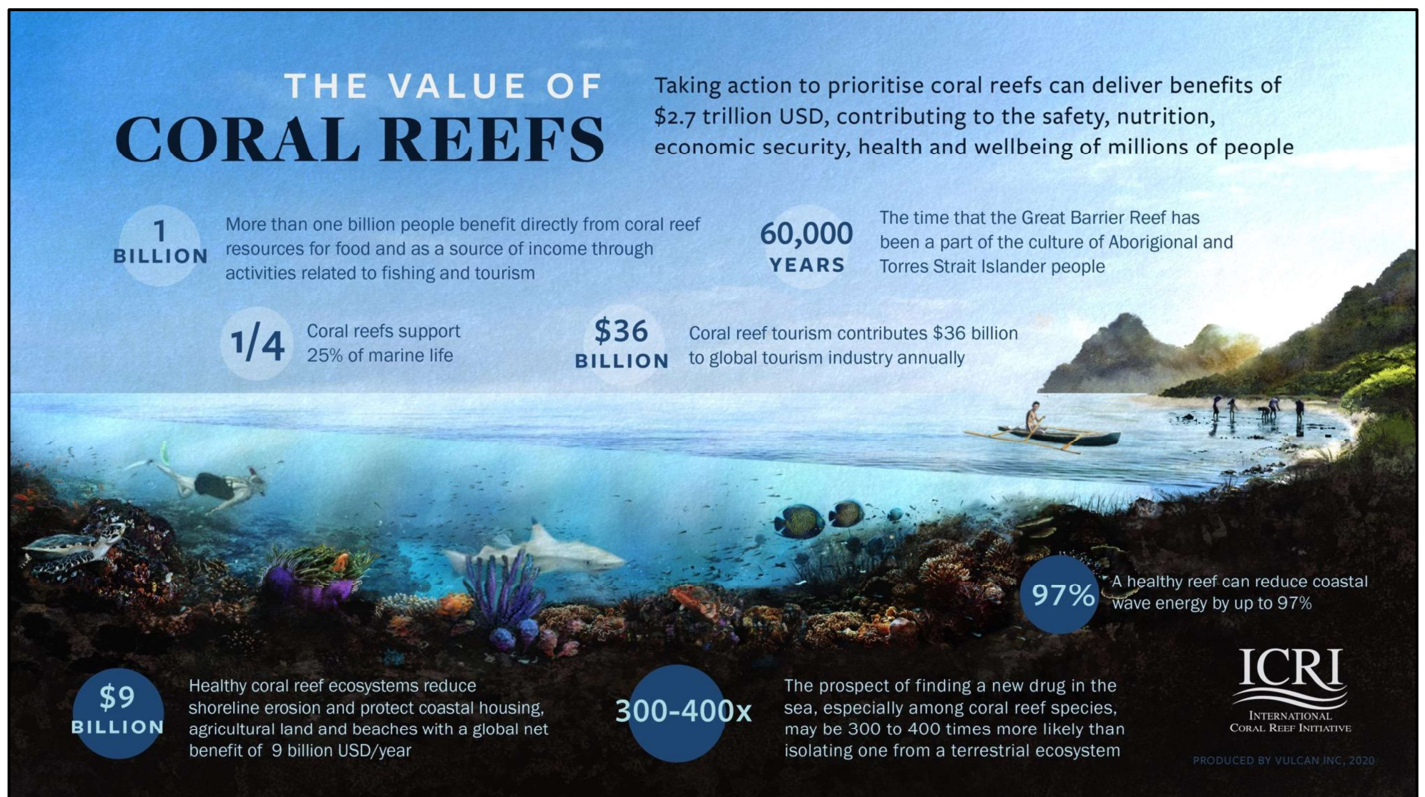
By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs (1), and other vulnerable ecosystems (2) impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.



5. It is clear that we will however need to look at things in a new way - this need to do things differently was urgently re-enforced by the recent publication of GBO5 - especially so for coral reefs. Whilst NONE of the Aichi Targets have been met - AT 10 had perhaps the worst results.

It is notable that AT10 also really struggled with a lack of available and meaningful indicators - only one dimension of this target could be assessed. Strengthening our ability to detect change will help increase accountability and communication of targets and goals under the new framework

As highlighted both in GBO 5 and the WWF Living planet report, corals are showing the most rapid increase in extinction risk of all assessed groups. – with hard coral cover declining in many regions, and key pressures continuing to increase.

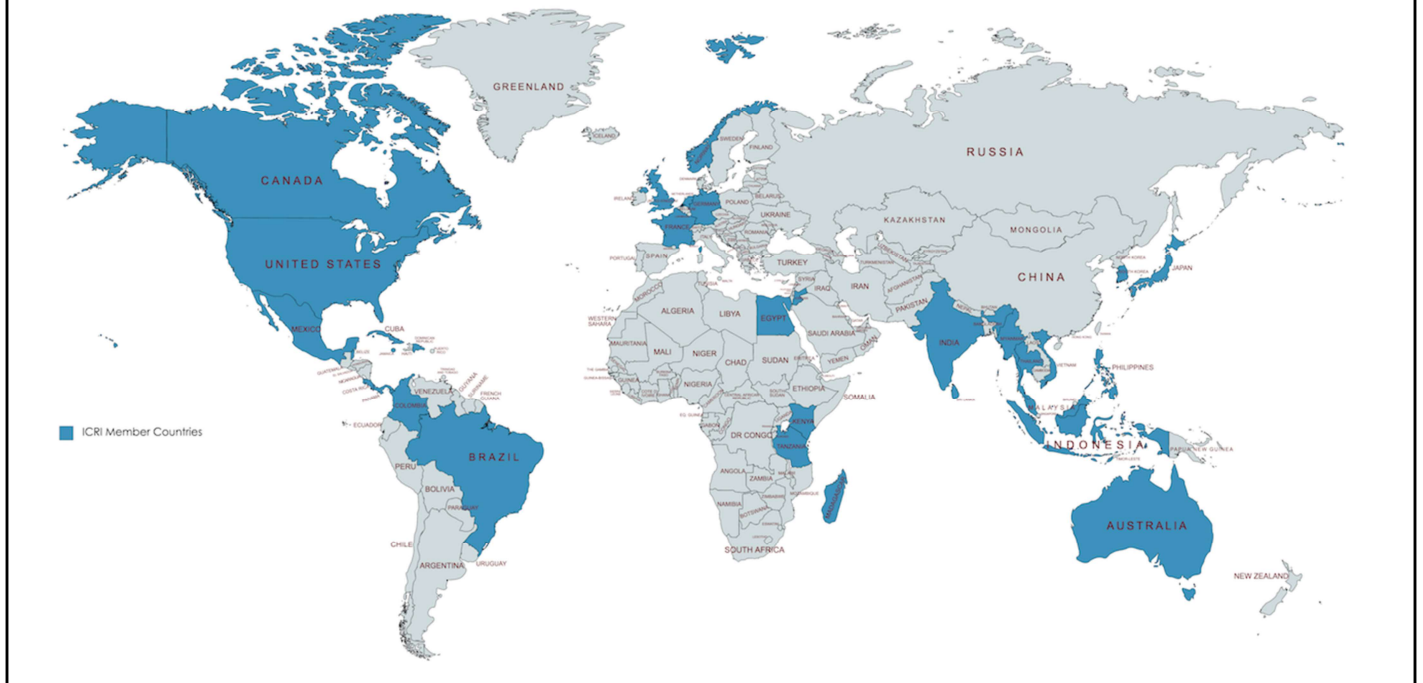


6. ICRI's response

2 years ago this month, ICRI agreed that it was critical to engage with the Post-2020 process and contribute to the development of the GBF - recognising that huge benefits provided by coral reefs, and the continued declines. An ad hoc committee was established to coordinate this work with 3 Terms of Reference:

1. To engage in the CBD post-2020 process
2. To draft a Recommendation for how coral reefs could be prioritised
3. To communicate the Recommendation.

May 2020: ICRI Adopts Recommendation for Coral Reefs in the Post-2020 Framework

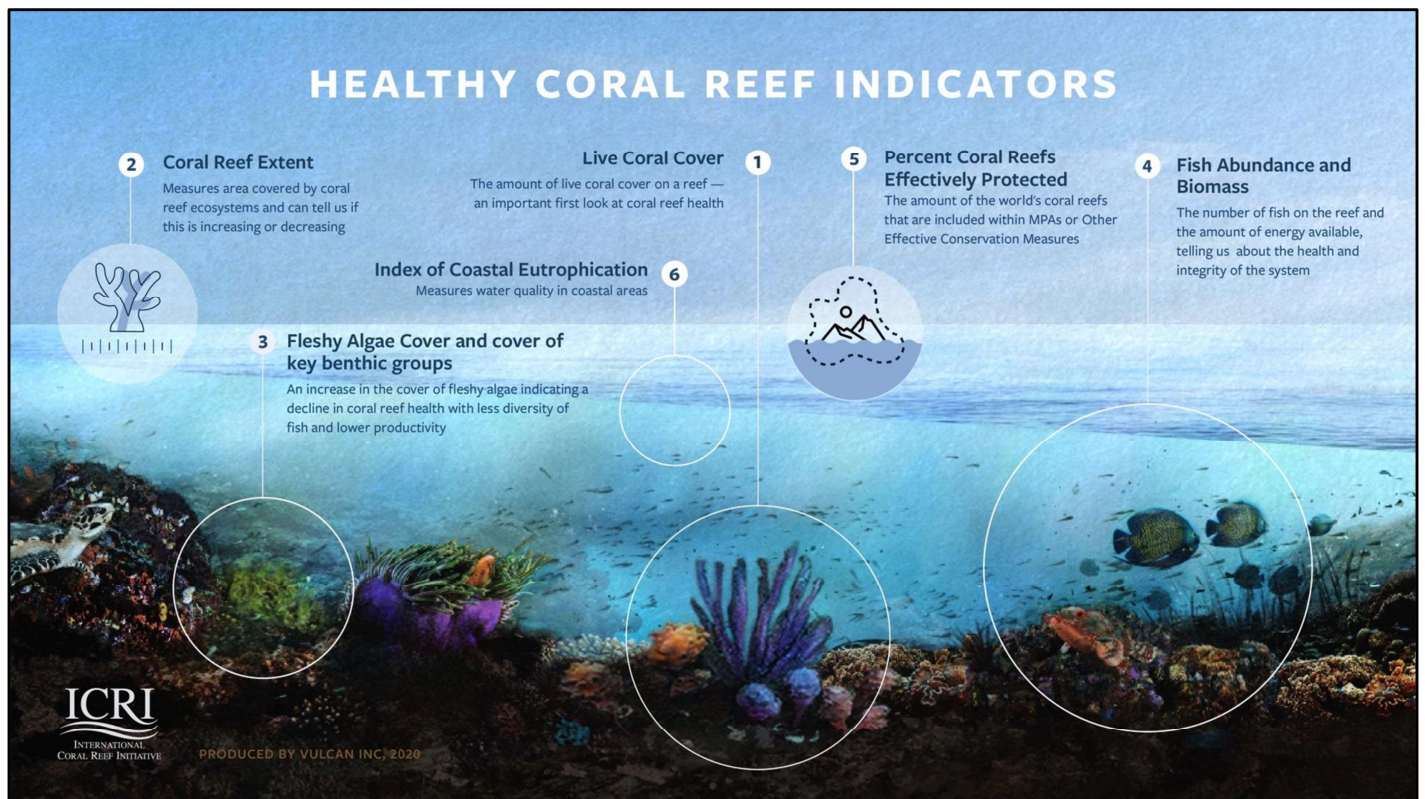


7. The [ICRI Recommendation](#) - result of ToR 2 was adopted in May 2020 and represents 18 months of consultation and work through the ad hoc committee.

The result represents a consensus of all ICRI members, including the 44 member countries - custodians of 75% of the world's coral reefs - again acknowledging the significance of this region in that statistic.

It is important to emphasise that the process to draft and adopt the recommendation was highly collaborative and there are many countries that have already made important contributions in shaping the Recommendation and how it is being applied, in order to produce something that is useful as a basis to inform their positions regarding coral reefs during the GBF negotiations.

Much of the preparatory work has been submitted to the Post-2020 consultation process and shared with both ICRI members and CBD focal points and is available [here](#)



8. There are three main elements to the Recommendation

1. calling for prominent recognition of coral reef ecosystems within the text of the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) with Goals and targets at an **ecosystem scale** with focus on enhancing integrity and resilience to support human society into the future;
1. The Goals and Targets have timescales appropriate for achieving the stabilisation and recovery of coral reef ecosystems, recognising the lag time between action and effect of that action;
2. Calls for the inclusion of a set of available, measurable and meaningful coral reef indicators that are foundational in determining progress against goals and targets.

The 6 indicators

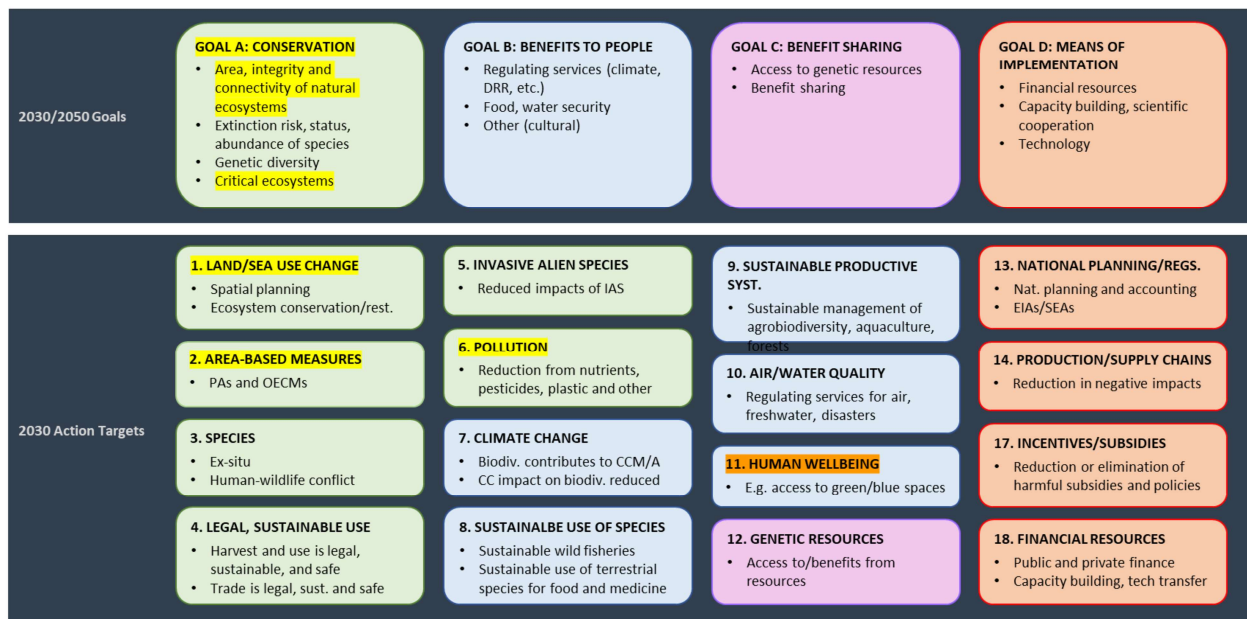
These are the six Recommended indicators(shown here) that are already in use and can help improve what we know about the health and function of the reef.

The Recommendation also highlights 5 emerging indicators – that are in various stages of development, but could really help us understand more about how intact reefs are and how resilient we can expect them to be.

It is the expectation that the realisation of these elements will increase VISIBILITY/ FOCUS/ PRIORITISATION coral reefs as a special ecosystem at a critical juncture; INCREASE CAPACITY to assess coral reefs globally and INCREASE accessibility and coherence of information and knowledge;

Current draft goals and targets

Credit: Alfred de Gemmis, WCS



9. The [current draft of the GBF](#) appears to be providing space for coral reefs and associated ecosystems - although there is a need to ensure the wording around “ecosystems” is retained in Goal A. The [recent advice from SBSTTA](#) on the updated goals and targets, indicators and baselines will also be analysed in respect to the ICRI Recommendation.

THANKS TO WCS for allowing me to borrow this slide which shows the current goals and targets and helps me to identify where these recommended indicators fit.

The healthy coral reef indicators respond principally to

- Goal A: Coral reef extent and live coral cover work together to provide information on changes in extent of coral reef ecosystems. In addition, bringing in cover of fleshy algae and other benthic organisms + fish abundance and biomass can start to provide information on ecosystem function and integrity, information also relevant to Target 1. [IMPORTANT is the need to keep the ecosystem focus - current wording lends the concept of health and resilience to species populations - but these are also important for ecosystems.
- Target 1: particularly target 1.2 - looking at fragmentation of natural areas
- Target 2: where tracking the % of coral reef protected is a very achievable metric and can show ecological representativity

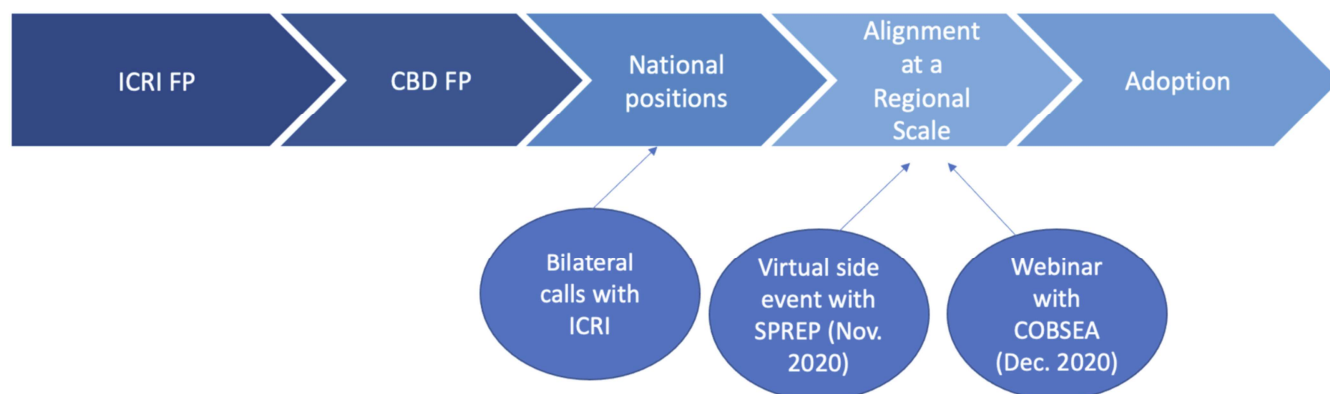
- Target 6: Water quality is critical for coral reefs - The index of coastal eutrophication is an SDG indicator could provide highly relevant information for coral reef health

But this is an evolving framework and so we keep alert to the fact that as it evolves there may be other opportunities to use coral reef indicators or coral reefs as an exemplar ecosystem.

There are still a number of important steps in this negotiation process - but it is now for Parties to be shaping up the details of the framework and ensuring an outcome for coral reefs.

The current pandemic is causing delay and uncertainty - however it is critical to capitalise on the opportunity that the Post-2020 Framework represents for critical and coherent action for coral reefs

What is the role of Parties to the CBD?



10: The Recommendation has been used principally to

- To engage consistently with consultations e.g.
- To give coral reefs a coherent voice - developing a narrative that can be shared and amplified
- to provide policy briefing notes to support national preparations for consultations and negotiations.

The challenge to realise the prominent inclusion of coral reefs in the framework is perhaps not simple -it is – Multifaceted – multiple actions – multiple scales – multiple actors – but critical and possible.

- Countries are encouraged to use the Recommendation in discussion with CBD FPs and for their engagement in the GBF development process - and we have learned from recent virtual dialogues that many countries are already doing this
- Countries are also encouraged to work through relevant regional mechanisms to develop Regional coherence - COBSEA and the regional seas are a really excellent example of such mechanisms for exploring options for alignment that fall within their mandates. Regional mechanisms are also invited to look at the suite of recommended indicators to see how to build coherence across national>regional>global scales.
- Working to ensure that the monitoring framework is at the right level to help in

tracking progress, learning from experience and communicating results

What support can ICRI Provide?

Negotiation Phase

- Technical / policy support (e.g. briefing notes, preparing for consultations with a coral reef lens)
- Producing supporting materials
- Communication assets and media outreach

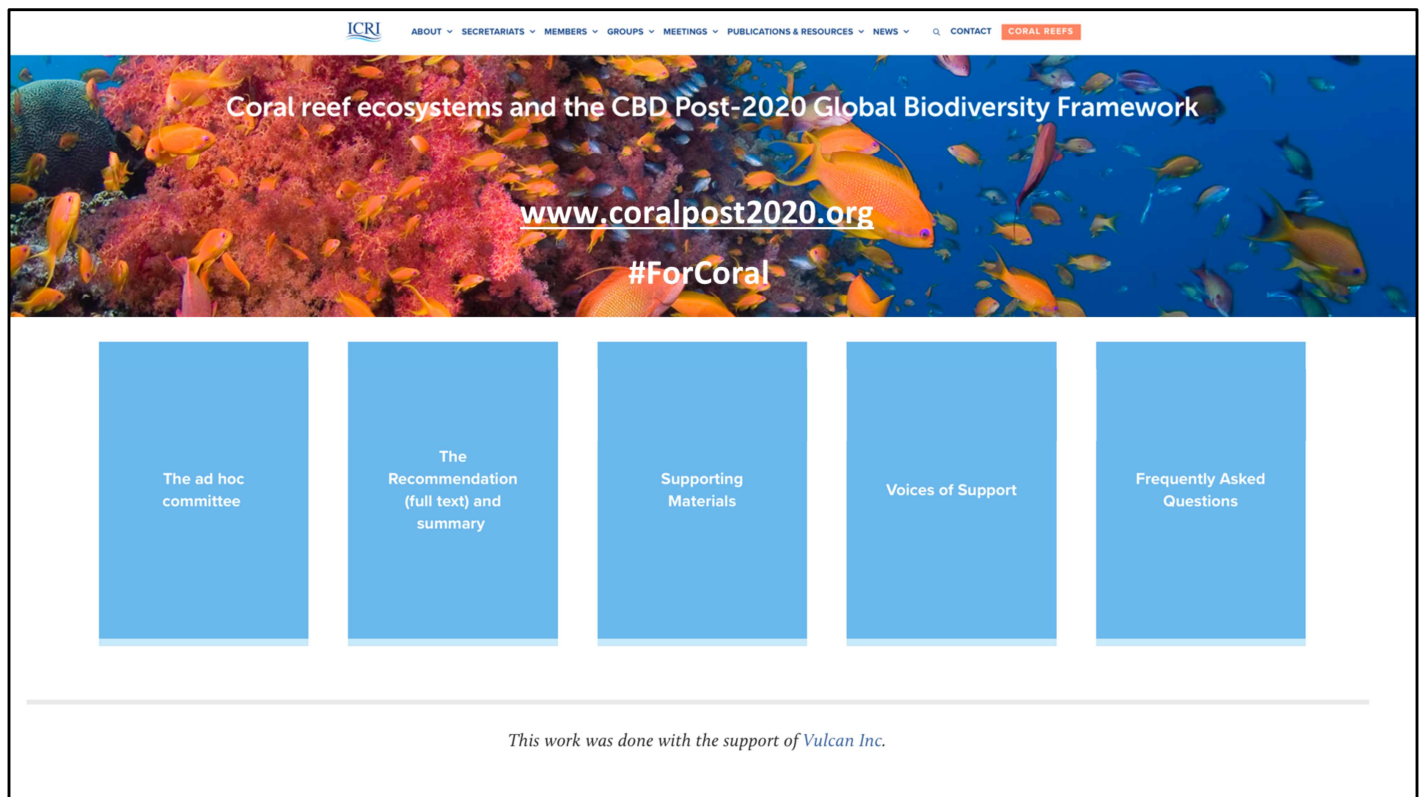
Implications for implementation...

11. ICRI can provide a range of support to help countries taking up the recommendations made by ICRI and we look forward to the opportunity to discuss what this might look like in more detail. The focus at the moment is in providing support in terms of this next negotiation phase.

However it is important to be thinking about implementation, and within the work of the ad hoc committee, we are also thinking about that.

- We will soon be issuing a questionnaire to find out how many countries are already using the recommended indicators - to help us understand this more;
- we are also aware of the importance of mobilisation of resources, ensuring there are tools to support monitoring and assessment, understanding the potential role of new tools and technologies. This requires that we connect with other activities and work streams within the ICRI family and across its member countries and organisations to understand what could support implementation and how that would work. Examples that come to mind include
 - the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
 - The new 2020 status report
 - the Allen Coral Atlas, that at least in the first instance could help improve maps of coral reef extent - but using AI and big data could open new ways of monitoring.
 - MERMAID - a tool that could help increase standardisation in data collection
- What role for regional seas in the implementation? - coherence in monitoring

could be a major contribution, as well as building political momentum.



12. Many resources are already available

- communication outputs - infographics, social media strategy, video clip, FAQ,
- all technical contributions - the Recommendation + all submissions to the CBD process
- provided in multiple languages - thanks to translation support from ICRI members

Please visit www.coralpost2020.org

 <p>We lose coral reefs at 2°C global warming. Without coral reefs, how can we have a healthy Ocean? Without a healthy Ocean, how can we have a healthy planetary ecosystem? Greenhouse gases are our common enemy.</p> <p>Peter Thomson DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE OCEAN</p> <p>WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG</p>	 <p>Protection of our ocean is a global challenge requiring global action. Coral reefs remain vital to this effort as they support over a quarter of all life in the ocean, and are facing unprecedented threats.</p> <p>Zoe Goldsmith THE UK INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MINISTER</p> <p>WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG</p>	 <p>We have already lost 50 percent of the coral reefs globally. To save what is left we must halt climate change and protect these beautiful and life supporting ecosystems. The world will be a lot poorer without them.</p> <p>Helen Agran US EMBASSY MINISTER FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS</p> <p>WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG</p>	 <p>The value of healthy coral reefs lies in their incredible biodiversity, which supports tourism, coastal protection and provides food security for coastal communities who depend on the fish living around the reefs. Coral reefs are a global asset, but they are under threat. Join me in supporting their protection.</p> <p>Dana Bartaroli OFFICE SPECIAL ADVISOR FOR THE BLUE ECONOMY THE BLUE ECONOMY MINISTER</p> <p>WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG</p>
 <p>The Framework will set the priorities for biodiversity to ensure the realization of CBD's vision – that society is living in harmony with nature by 2050. The Framework goals, targets and indicators make it clear how actions to address coral reef decline contribute to this vision.</p> <p>H.E. Edhy Prabowo MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES</p> <p>WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG</p>	 <p>Coral reefs are an invaluable heritage to pass on to future generations. The Government of New Caledonia is fully conscious of its responsibility towards 30% of the planet's remaining pristine reefs, still unaffected by human activity.</p> <p>Thierry Santa PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW CALEDONIA</p> <p>WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG</p>	 <p>As a country that thrives from and breathes by virtue of its coral reefs, we understand the need to protect and safeguard this fragile ecosystem. It is not enough to just have policies, it is about being used as part of the strategy to change and implement part of policies. It's just proper and coral reefs could slip further into the abyss.</p> <p>Umitch Sengebau MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM</p> <p>WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG</p>	 <p>The future of coral reefs will ultimately depend on local actions to build resilience and address key threats combined with global action to reduce the extent of climate change. Australia will continue to advocate for the conservation of these critical ecosystems within the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.</p> <p>Dr. Ian Palmer EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR MARINE AND FISHERIES AUSTRALIA</p> <p>WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG</p>
 <p>The Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 confirms that coral reefs have 'shown the most rapid increase in extinction risk of all assessed groups' due to climate change and other human pressures. This underlines the urgency to prioritize coral reefs in the new Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.</p> <p>Alain de Comarmond DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE ENVIRONMENT FRANCE</p> <p>WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG</p>	 <p>We need to focus on coral reef conservation and management for the sustenance of agriculture, fisheries and tourism industries in the Maldives. Our solutions and Our future depend on coral reefs.</p> <p>Abdulla Nasser, PhD MINISTER OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES</p> <p>WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG</p>	 <p>Sustainable use of coral reef resources is a cornerstone for the wellbeing and prosperity of millions of people from tropical countries and ISS. ICR's call to the CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is to save and nurture this wealth, and recognize the flagship role coral reefs have in inspiring, and restoring our sustainable future.</p> <p>David Shum SPECIAL ADVISOR HONG KONG, EAST ASIA</p> <p>WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG</p>	 <p>The world's coral reefs are being killed off at an alarming rate. It's not only reef deaths counter the SDG that will suffer the consequences, but also the SDG. To help and this coral ecosystems, we must harness the best available science and research to target these critical reefs with the best prospects and strongest capacity to regenerate.</p> <p>Han Jussila PRIME MINISTER OF FIJI</p> <p>WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG</p>
 <p>Please draw your attention to the worrying state of the coral reefs, which must be the subject of global measures, given their urgent situation. The International community must forward by the end of the year the Convention on Biological Diversity's Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.</p> <p>HSM Prince Albert II of Monaco PRINCE OF MONACO</p> <p>WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG</p>	 <p>Coral reef ecosystems bring about nature's contributions to people including a great deal of blessings. I hope that ICR will continue to contribute to the conservation of coral reefs under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.</p> <p>Tariq Tashir MINISTER OF FISHERIES, MARINE RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES</p> <p>WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG</p>	 <p>Coral reefs are widely known to be an essential part of our ecosystem and of the very nature contributing to the SDG. However, we witness in the frequency and the magnitude of climate change associated impacts, such as mass bleaching and ocean acidification, the extent of the damage to coral reefs. It is the time for our nations to take the necessary steps to ensure the sustainability of coral reefs, and to ensure the well-being of the people and the world.</p> <p>Zohra Wahed MINISTER OF FISHERIES, MARINE RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES</p> <p>WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG</p>	 <p>In our region (the Pacific) our reefs are part of our heritage and important for our future. 30% of the protein in diets of Pacific Islanders come from well-managed fisheries. Our island athletes within the new Global Biodiversity Framework that support strong and sustained action.</p> <p>Katie Brown EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GLOBAL ISLAND PARTNERSHIP, NEW ZEALAND</p> <p>WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG</p>
 <p>Every Fijian is brought up by the ocean. The first thing they see is the ocean and the reefs around them. In my traditional story, the Great Sea Reef is not only our life, it's a sanctuary for us. My vision for the next 10 years is for people to not have to go far for fish to have enough food and fish to eat.</p> <p>Karl Lohu MINISTER OF FISHERIES, MARINE RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE FIJI</p> <p>WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG</p>	 <p>The urgent need to prioritize coral reefs could not be more in line with our vision of a 'radiant Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our culture'. Our island nations depend on coral reef and their survival is imperative and foundational to all we hold dear.</p> <p>Karl Lohu DIRECTOR GENERAL, SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME</p> <p>WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG</p>	 <p>Living by the sea, for generations our people are dependent on coral reefs for food and livelihood. The fish we catch from the reefs are source of daily protein for more than 20 households here. The income we derive from fish sales is used to provide for our needs and secure our children's future.</p> <p>Vilva Valsarasa NATIONAL SECRETARY FOR FISHERIES, MARINE RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE INDONESIA</p> <p>WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG</p>	<p>#ForCoral</p>



13. - we have an increasing number of voices showing their leadership in support of the recommendation and we are sharing their voices through social media platforms and other communications -

We invite you to add your voice.

Proposed next steps

01

Be a voice for coral reefs in the Post-2020 GBF

03

Identify events, opportunities where we can share the Recommendation

04

Let us know how we can support you

14. We will be continuing to progress this work and engage with countries through to the COP. We are very keen to understand how we can best support you in the forthcoming negotiations and would be very happy to take any questions during the discussion, or follow up with you afterwards.



Thank you