

U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Update on International Coral Reef Activities

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International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

Partnership
founded in 1994,
which aims to
preserve coral reefs
and their related
ecosystems in a
framework of
sustainable use.



ICRI Plan of Action 2017 -2019

Theme 1 – Help raise awareness of how coral reefs and related ecosystems help to fight climate change

- Goal (1) 1: highlight the contribution of coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses to mitigate and adapt to climate change
- Goal (1) 2: encourage financing for projects and initiatives which help protect and restore coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses
- Goal (1) 3: increase knowledge on the role of coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses in interactions with the climate and the ocean

Theme 2: Meet international requirements regarding coral reefs

- Goal (2) 1: implement the UNEA 2 resolution on the sustainable management of coral reefs
- Goal (2) 2: help to meet the Sustainable Development Goals
- Goal (2) 3: take advantage of upcoming international events to pursue the advocacy for coral reefs and related ecosystems

ICRI Plan of Action 2017 -2019

Theme 3: Help to reduce human threats to coral reefs and associated mangroves and seagrasses, by making greater use of regulatory tools”

- Goal (3) 1: promote legal frameworks for the protection of coral reefs and associated mangroves and seagrasses
- Goal (3) 2: encourage a ban on plastic microbeads in cosmetic products
- Goal (3) 3: improve regulation and enforcement to reduce damage due to dredging and physical alteration of reef s
- Goal (3) 4: promote the deployment of mooring devices limiting destruction of coral reefs and seagrasses
- Goal (3) 5: review issues related to the impact of sunscreens and other endocrine disruptors on coral reefs

Theme 4: Monitor the state of reefs in order to better manage them

- Goal (4) 1: promote regional reports on the health of coral reefs
- Goal (4) 2: monitor the phenomena of coral bleaching

Theme 5: Progress via education

- Goal (5) 1: prepare for the 2018 International Year of the Reef (IYOR)
- Goal (5) 2: increase awareness among the general public, communities, and young people

UNEA-2 Coral Reefs Resolution

- Encourages governments to:
 - establish partnerships to raise awareness on the importance of coral reefs and related ecosystems;
 - adopt integrated, ecosystem-based approaches for sustainable management of coral reefs;
- UNEP requested to:
 - assist Governments in developing such approaches
 - with ICRI, prepare an analysis of coral reef policy instruments and governance mechanisms
 - support development of coral reef indicators, regional coral reef assessments, and global coral reef report through ICRI GCRMN

International Year of the Reef 2008

Select U.S. Activities

- **Public service announcements** promoting that everyone can play a small role in protecting coral reefs.
- **Florida Department of Environmental Protection** conducted 14 reef identification workshops with over 230 stakeholders attending.
- **Wyland** named the official US artist for IYOR 2008 & produced art to inspire action to preserve reefs
- **Hawaii year-long** campaign including “Reef Night” community event





GCRMN

GCRMN supports ICRI by working through a global network to strengthen the provision of best available scientific information on and communication of the status and trends of coral reef ecosystems, for their conservation and management.

- Main substantive activity of GCRMN - preparation of regional periodic assessments drawing on monitoring, research and other data and establishment of regional GCRMN committees, where possible drawing on existing nodes and linked to existing Regional Seas mechanisms.
 - Caribbean (2014)
 - Pacific and Western Indian Ocean (underway)
 - Eastern Tropical Pacific and SE Asia (beginning)
- Mechanism for reporting on the 3rd Global Coral Bleaching Event through Journal of Coral Reefs
- Resolution on the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) – ICRI General Meeting 31 (Paris, France)