

#ForCoral Pavilion

[Invite Only] Roundtable: Integrating Coral Reefs into NBSAPs

Friday 25th October 2024

13:30 pm – 14:30 pm

Join us for a pivotal roundtable discussion at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This marks the first Biodiversity COP since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), also known as The Biodiversity Plan. During this critical meeting, governments will assess their progress in implementing the Biodiversity Plan and the alignment of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with its objectives.

NBSAPs are the main vehicle for implementation of the GBF at the national level and are expected to be a key component of the enhanced planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanism of the Convention for the GBF.

At the beginning of 2024, the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) released a guidance document to coral reef countries on how to integrate coral reefs and associated ecosystems into their revised NBSAPs to support the alignment of plans and actions, at the national level, with respect to the implementation of the GBF. The summary of the guidance presents key steps for countries to integrate coral reefs and associated ecosystems in NBSAPs, example actions that could be undertaken by countries in relation to the goals and targets of the GBF, and a range of resources that are further developed in Annex 8 of the Guidance Document.

In light of the ongoing challenges posed by the Fourth Global Bleaching Event (4GBE) and the increasing pressures on coral reefs, it is crucial to support coral nations to effectively conserve coral reefs. COP16 presents an invaluable opportunity to assess the current status of coral reef integration into NBSAPs and evaluate the effectiveness of ICRI's guidance for coral reef countries.

This roundtable will ignite engaging discussion around the ICRI guidance focusing on three key areas:

- **Implementation:** Explore the extent to which coral reef nations have utilised the ICRI guidance.
- **Barriers:** Identify challenges faced by countries where the guidance remains unutilised or where coral reefs are not integrated into NBSAPs. Discuss the necessary actions to support these nations in overcoming these challenges.
- **Integration and Management:** Assess the level of integration of coral reefs within NBSAPs and evaluate the effectiveness of conservation, protection, and management measures for coral reefs.

Agenda (60')

Welcome and Opening Remarks (5')

- *Joe Appiott, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*

ICRI Guide to Integrating Coral Reefs and Associated Ecosystems into NBSAPS (10')

Brief Introduction to the guide and associated case studies

- *Simon Harding, International Coral Reef Society (ICRS)*

Roundtable Discussion (40')

Moderator: ICRI Secretariat

- Share experiences regarding the implementation of the ICRI guidance
- Participants discuss barriers and challenges faced in implementing the guidance
- Current status of coral reef conservation under NBSAPs
- What metrics or indicators are used to assess the level of integration and effectiveness?

Summary of Key Points and Closing (5')