



High-Level Retreat on Investing in Ocean Solutions:
Towards a Brighter Future for the Ocean.

Communities of Ocean Action (COAs)

15 January 2025
Dr. Abdulaziz Alsuwailem
Co-chair of ICRI
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

www.icriforum.org
[@ICRI_Coral_Reef](https://twitter.com/ICRI_Coral_Reef) 

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INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE

- ICRI is global partnership between Nations and organizations that strives to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around the world.
- Founded in **1994** by **8** nations: Australia, France, Japan, Jamaica, the Philippines, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.
- The Initiative has over **100** members, **45** countries accounting for over **75%** of the world's coral reefs.
- ICRI is currently chaired by the **Saudi Arabia** (The General Organization for the Conservation of Coral Reefs and Sea Turtles (SHAMS)).

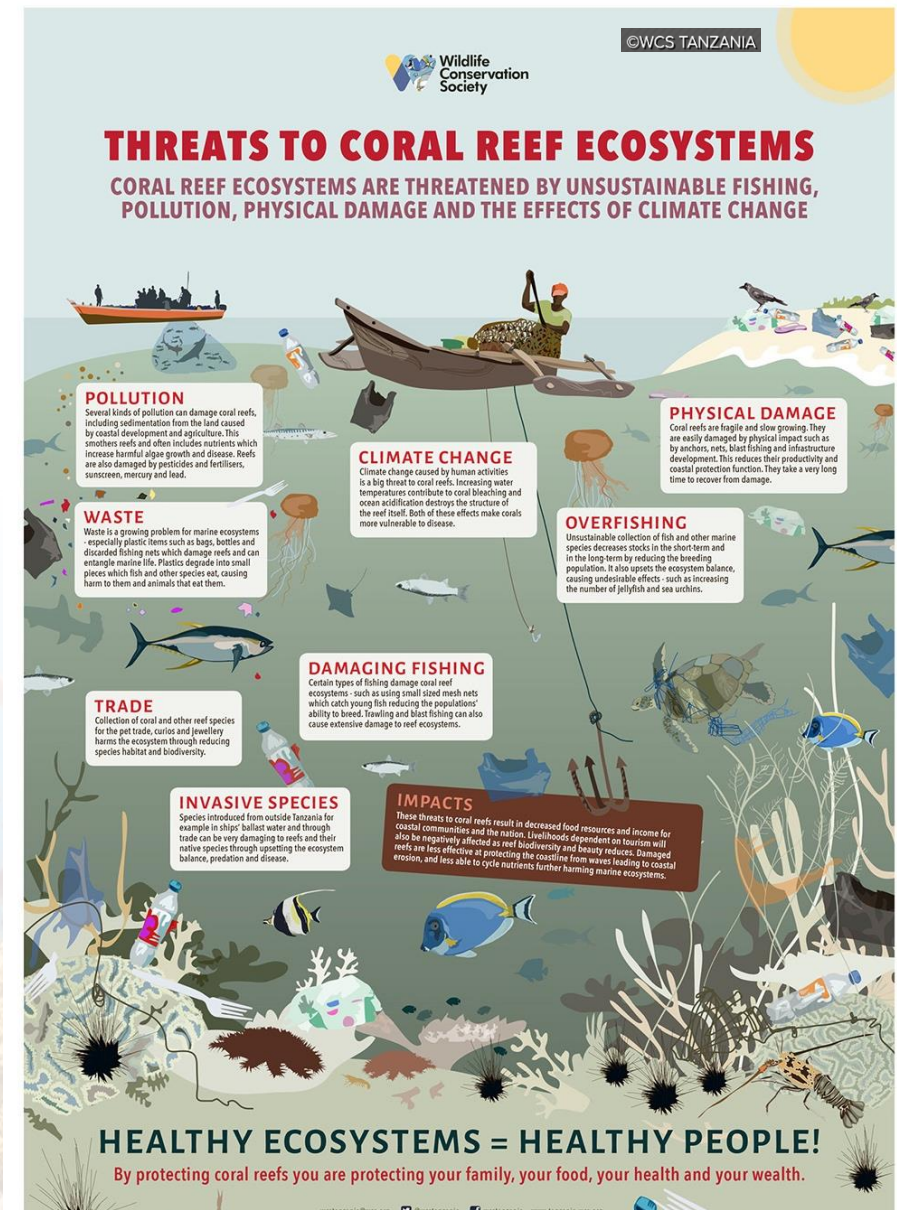


THREATS TO CORAL REEFS

Coral reefs are among the most vulnerable ecosystems on the planet to **anthropogenic pressures**, including global threats from **ocean warming** and **ocean acidification**, and local impacts from **land-based pollution** such as input of nutrients and sediments from **agriculture**, **coastal development**, **marine pollution**, and **overfishing** and **destructive fishing practices**

What we would lose if coral reefs continue to decline...

- **Food and Fishing**
 - Coral reefs sustain the fish and shellfish populations that provide protein for 1 billion people.
 - Coral reefs are nurseries for many commercially valuable species.
- **Coastal protection**
 - Coral reefs act as natural barriers that protect shorelines from storm damage by reducing wave energy by up to 97%.
- **Medicine**
 - Coral reefs have been described as the “medicine chests of the 21st century”, with more than half of all new cancer research focusing on marine organisms.



THE VALUE OF CORAL REEFS



Coral Reefs occur in over **100 countries and territories** and are one of the most threatened ecosystems in the world, despite their immense value to the **one billion people** (13% of the global population) that depend on them for their livelihoods, food security, and coastal protection.

\$9.9 TRILLION

The value of goods and services provided by coral reefs is estimated at US\$9.9 trillion per year.

\$36 BILLION

In coral reef Tourism

\$109 BILLION

The amount of GDP protected by coral reefs

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THE VALUE OF CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS

CORAL REEFS PROVIDE FOOD FOR MILLIONS OF PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD. THEY SUPPORT THOUSANDS OF FISH AND OTHER MARINE SPECIES, PROTECT COASTLINES, SUPPORT LIVELIHOODS AND TOURISM

FOOD
Coral reefs provide food for millions of people who eat fish and other marine species such as octopus, lobster, crab, sharks and rays. If fisheries are managed sustainably coral reefs can continue to feed communities across Tanzania.

INCOME
Coral reefs support fisheries which create income for fishermen, traders, mama mtila, restaurants, hotels and the tourism industry.

RESOURCES
In addition to food, coral reefs provide a wide range of resources including medicines. Scientists are still searching for cures for many diseases and coral reefs are a source of huge genetic diversity which could benefit humans in many ways.

NUTRIENT CYCLE
Coral reefs are an important source of nutrients which support marine food chains. They store carbon which helps mitigate climate change as well as recycling nutrients helping keep the marine ecosystem healthy.

BIODIVERSITY
Coral reefs have the highest biodiversity of any ecosystem in the world. This means they support an incredible variety of species as well as large populations of different species. Reefs provide food and shelter as well as breeding areas and nurseries for many fish and other marine animals.

COAST PROTECTION
Reefs help protect coastal areas through reducing the power of waves. This is increasingly important given the impacts of climate change such as more frequent and extreme storms as well as sea level rise.

TOURISM
People come from all over the world to visit Tanzania's healthy coral reefs. This generates income for local communities and the national economy.

CULTURE
Ecosystems are the root of human culture and identity, providing education from the natural world, sacred places to worship and believe, inspiration and recreation.

HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS = HEALTHY PEOPLE!
By protecting coral reefs you are protecting your family, your food, your health and your wealth.

wctanzania@wcs.org | @wctanzania | wctanzania | www.wctanzania.org

INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE

Driving Global Protection of Coral Reefs

- **Priority:** **Double reef protection** under the Coral Reef Breakthrough, advocate for and align with the **30x30 Initiative** for 100% coral reef protection, and build capacity at all levels.
- **Capacity Building:** Enhance MPA management through ICRI's **ITMEMS** program, a flagship activity of ICRI to enhance the management of MPAs globally.
- **Key Actions:** Organize **capacity building** activities (trainings and events), advocate for coral reefs at international events.

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INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE

Scaling Coral Reef Restoration

- **Approach:** Prioritize passive restoration to harness natural recovery, complemented by active methods like coral nurseries and genetic studies.
- **Target:** Restore 30% of degraded reefs by 2030 under the Coral Reef Breakthrough.
- **CORDAP:** Leverage innovation and global expertise to enhance reef resilience.

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INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE

Financing Coral Reef Conservation

- **Target:** Mobilize \$12B by 2030 to protect and restore coral reefs, addressing critical ecological and economic needs.
- **Mechanisms:** Promote innovative funding for coral reefs (bonds, biodiversity credits, debt swap for nature) and build capacity.
- **Valuation:** Adopt initiatives like SHAMS' World Bank project to quantify coral reef value for targeted investments.
- **Partnerships:** Collaborate with global financial entities to scale funding and drive long-term impact.

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INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE

Call to Action for UNOC

- **Protect:** 100% of coral reefs by 2030 under 30x30 and double effective reef protection globally.
- **Finance:** Address the \$12B funding gap with biodiversity credits, blue bonds, and partnerships.
- **Restore:** 30% of degraded reefs by 2030 with climate-smart solutions.
- **Empower:** Build capacity through ITMEMS and engage indigenous coastal communities, youth and women on coral reef conservation.

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Thank you

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