

SIDE EVENT AGENDA

Investing in Coral Reef-Positive Businesses

Tuesday 16th April, 13:00-13:50, Book Castle

Lead: Global Fund for Coral Reefs, UN Development Programme, UN Environment Programme, UN Capital Development Fund, Conservation Finance Alliance.

The Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) mission is to enhance the resilience of coastal reef ecosystems, communities and economies by unlocking new public and private resources that accelerate sustainable businesses and financial solutions. To build strong enabling conditions that can ensure the scale and replication of GFCR's reef-positive solutions, it is necessary to scale knowledge in the coral finance space and demonstrate the investable potential for restoration and protection. **The GFCR REEF+ Community of Practice propels a virtuous cycle of knowledge and learning, enabling the uptake and replication of new business models to develop vibrant national reef and ocean-positive investment ecosystems.**

This event will create a dialogue on reef ecosystems. It will showcase GFCR-supported '**reef-positive solutions**' that include businesses and initiatives that have a positive impact on coral reef health while providing sustainable benefits for local communities, addressing local drivers of coral reef degradation in diverse sectors such coral restoration, integrating finance into marine spatial planning and sustainable finance mechanisms for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). By unlocking sustainable conservation funding flows and transitioning coastal communities away from harmful activities, these enterprises can achieve triple bottom line returns.

The session will invite panelists to share practical experience of their reef-positive solutions in the Asia-Pacific, Caribbean, and Mesoamerican regions, providing applicable lessons for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and other coral nations. The discussion will cover a range of topics spanning blended finance models and sustainable finance strategies.

Participants will be invited to join the GFCR REEF+ Community of Practice [here](#).



SIDE EVENT AGENDA

Facilitator: Andrew Rylance, UNDP Global Technical Specialist, Coral Reef Ecosystems & Finance, GFCR UN Global Team

Time (from-to)	Title of intervention/presentation Name, Affiliation
1300-1302	Pierre Bardoux, Director of the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, UNCDF Welcome Remarks
1302-1305	Susan Gardner, Director, Ecosystems Division, UNEP Introductory Remarks
1305-1310	Representative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Philippines Keynote Speech
1310-1330	Panel Session: Investing in Coral Reef-Positive Businesses Moderator: David Meyers, GFCR Senior Technical Advisor Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melissa Walsh, Head of Ocean Finance, Minderoo Foundation • Nicolas Pascal, Executive Director & Co-Founder, Blue Alliance - Marine Protected Areas. • Sam Teicher, Co-Founder & Chief Reef Officer, Coral Vita
1330-1345	Facilitated audience discussion and questions
1345-1350	Ron Tardiff, Ocean Innovation Lead, World Economic Forum Closing remarks