



International Year of the Reef 2008





Designation of IYOR 2008

“Recognizing that ten years later there continues to be an urgent need to increase awareness and understanding of coral reefs, and to further conserve and manage valuable coral reef and associated ecosystems, the International Coral Reef Initiative designated 2008 as the International Year of the Reef (IYOR 2008).”

*- International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
October 2006*



IYOR 2008 Goals

International Year of the Reef 2008 (IYOR 2008) will:

- **Strengthen awareness** about the ecological, economic, social and cultural **value of coral reefs** and associated ecosystems
- **Improve understanding** of the critical **threats** to coral reefs and generate both practical and innovative solutions to reduce these threats
- **Generate urgent action** at all levels to develop and implement effective management strategies for conservation and sustainable use of these ecosystems.



IYOR 2008 - Organization

- The campaign will consist of a wide range of events and activities that will take place throughout the year 2008 and around the world. The activities range from science workshops and report publications to beach clean-ups and art exhibits.
- Publication of articles related to IYOR and coral reefs in newspapers and newsletters (and especially outside our community)
- More than 60 Focal Points in 50 countries.



SPORT DIVER DIVE LIFE

International Year of the Reef 2008

TOP 5 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR ACTIONS COUNT

BY TIFFANY LEVIT, PROGRAM SPECIALIST, PROJECT AWARE FOUNDATION

International Year of the Reef (IYOR) 2008 call to action. Help protect reefs from destruction. Divers can take part in yearly long campaigns to raise awareness about coral reefs and the threats facing these

first time in history the IYOR (World Conservation Union) Red List of Threatened Species includes corals in its annual report of wildlife going extinct — with climate change being named one of the biggest threats to marine scientists. Additional research conducted all the world's coral reefs

could die in the next 25 years. And healthy reefs are tremendously valuable to ecosystems, human health and global economies.

Project AWARE Foundation calls on divers around the world to focus their conservation efforts on IYOR events in 2008.

TOP 5 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR ACTIONS COUNT FOR IYOR 2008

1. **MONITOR CORAL REEF.** Find a registered Project AWARE CoastalWatch Operator and volunteer for coral reef monitoring. The information you collect will be used to answer important scientific questions about coral reef bleaching and recovery. There are more than 500 — and counting — established Coastal Watch locations around the world.

2. **VOLUNTEER FOR A REEF CLEANUP.** Find a reef cleanup in your area or volunteer for one during your next dive vacation. Use your underwater skills and be part of the effort to remove harmful debris from reef environments. Project AWARE is the official underwater coordinator during annual International Cleanup Days events and year-round. Shoreline and underwater cleanups are organized in more than 100 countries and territories of the world.

3. **BE AN AWARE DIVER.** Always dive carefully and responsibly. Consider your business cycle, beware of equipment placement, and monitor your body positioning to avoid any contact with reefs. For more tips, see Project AWARE's 10 Days a Diver Can Protect the Underwater Environment and 10 Tips for Underwater Photographers.

4. **REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT.** Find simple ways to go green such as switching to compact fluorescent light bulbs, turning off electronics when not in use, and turning down central heating or turning up central AC by just one or two degrees.

5. **TELL AT LEAST THREE PEOPLE WHY REEF IS IMPORTANT.** Don't be shy. Just describe what reefs mean to you. Do they provide a world of recreation and adventure, support your annual income, supply food for your table? Let others know why reefs deserve our protection.

Visit www.projectaware.org for these and other ways to take action and stay tuned to IYORing for the latest updates on IYOR 2008 events and coral reef conservation topics.

sportdiver.com

CORAL NEWS



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE REEF

FEATURES INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF ACTION NETWORK (ICRAN)

The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) has designated 2008 as the International Year of the Reef. This action plan provides a greater chance of survival.

The International Year of the Reef (IYOR) 2008 is a starting campaign of events and activities related to governments, institutions, companies, and citizens around the world to promote sustainable development and strengthen long-term support for coral reef conservation. IYOR is a unique global partnership between nations and citizens.

The IYOR campaign first places its focus on the Caribbean region and has a goal of reef health and sustainable development. IYOR 2008 is a global effort to raise awareness and understanding of coral reefs. The goal is to create a global network of coral reef conservation and management efforts. IYOR 2008 will be launching the first "Coral Reef Alliance" in the Caribbean region. The goal is to create a global network of coral reef conservation and management efforts. IYOR 2008 will be launching the first "Coral Reef Alliance" in the Caribbean region.

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INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF ACTION NETWORK (ICRAN)

2008 Designated the Year of the Reef

Activities coordinated by French, Greek, Indonesian, and the United States

The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) is a global partnership of governments, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations throughout the world. Its objective is to protect the world's coral reefs.

The International Year of the Reef (IYOR) 2008 is a year-long campaign of events and activities related to governments, individuals, companies, and citizens around the world to promote sustainable development and strengthen long-term support for coral reef conservation. IYOR is a unique global partnership between nations and citizens.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ICRAN, PLEASE VISIT: www.icran.org

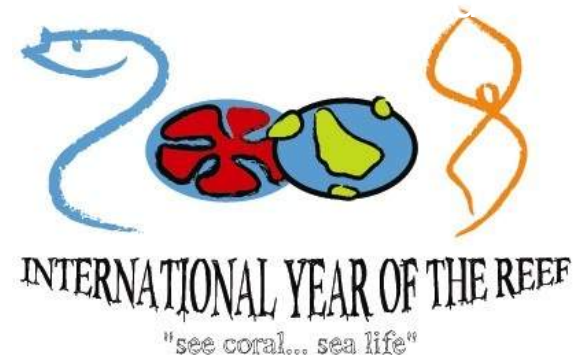




Barbados

The National campaign was launched on January 9th, 2008 with the participation of the permanent Secretary of the Environment.

Barbados is planning a series of activities to highlight both the Art and Science of Coral Reefs during IYOR 2008. A national plan of action has been developed.





Fiji

Theme: Protecting Coral Reefs From the Mountains to the Sea

Goal: to create awareness about the values and importance of coral reefs and threats to their sustainability, and to motivate people to take action to protect them.

The national launch for IYOR for Fiji, to be held on 3rd of March 2008, will be made **by the Honorable Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries**, Mr. Joketani Cokanasiga.

Fiji developed a Yearlong Plan of Action



France

- **IYOR France was launched at UNESCO, on February 4th, 2008.**
- Example of activities planned:
 - Creation of 11 posters about coral reefs to be displayed at several ministries in Paris and in conjunction with seminars.
 - An year-long exhibit about coral reefs (about 3000 square feet) at OCEANOPOLIS in Brest. **(450 000 visitors/year)**
 - Edition of a scientific comic book about coral reefs (February 2008) for free distribution in schools.



France

What is a coral reef?

A coral reef is an underwater structure formed by a colony of living organisms, or biotic coral, and a shell of calcareous corals, which construct an impenetrable barrier that can last for centuries or even millennia.

Having accumulated over hundreds of thousands of years, these colonies develop into the largest structures ever built by living things.

Coral reefs are fragile ecosystems, with a limited ability to adapt to abrupt environmental changes. They are an extraordinary and valuable biological phenomenon, which must be preserved.

What are they?

- A large, complex, porous structure
- A mass of hard to loose coral (skeletons)
- A calcium carbonate structure that builds up an extensive reef which blocks and holds waves
- A structure of reefs are formed by the photosynthesis of corals.

Most corals are made up of a large number of individual organisms, known as polyps, living together as a colony. Each polyp consists of a tubular body, topped by a mouth through which tentacles, Acropora's fleshy plumes. Polyps also feed and a skeleton produced by one general edge with which they live on skeletons, the pavement.

Coral reefs are characterized by their very high genetic diversity. This culture of genetic diversity is a key factor in their ability to recover in disaster or through genetic adaptation.

The coral ecosystem hosts a wealth of biodiversity. Although only representing 1% of the ocean area, 25% of the species of the world, they contain an estimated 25% of living marine species. Biodiversity comes from the marine organisms of the tropical zone.

IFRECOR **IYOR**

COLLECTION OKISE

CANCER des TROPIQUES

Viollette Le Quérou-Cady

CANCER DES TROPIQUE

IFRECOR **IYOR** **Quæ**

Protéger la mangrove... D'accord! Mais à l'échelle globale, le blanchissement des coraux... où on en est ?

En Caroline, suite à un réchauffement des eaux, on a enregistré 30°C l'année dernière, soit 6° au-dessus de l'anormal. Environ 50 % des coraux vivants ont blanchi. Aujourd'hui, selon les lieux, 50 à 85% d'entre eux sont morts !

Une situation d'une telle ampleur ? C'est jamais été observée en Caroline. C'est inquiétant !

Comme par hasard, le blanchissement intensif en plein réchauffement climatique. Il y a un lien direct ?

Difficile à affirmer avec certitude. Ce qui est sûr c'est que cette année de blanchissement exceptionnel est liée à l'augmentation de température et que nous sommes arrivés à la même température qu'on l'a observée comme Katrina.

Ces phénomènes de blanchissement entraînent-ils une mortalité élevée de mortalité avant le recouvrement depuis 20 ans ?

Avant, on observait des cycles biennaux, on est en phase avec ça, n'est-ce pas ?

Accroissement des provinces biogéographiques où les récifs sont atteints par le blanchissement

Soit ! Mais souvenez-vous... l'océan Indien en 1998... important blanchissement suivi de forte mortalité ! 6 ans après, 90 % des coraux avaient disparu ! Peut-être aura-t-on une résilience* ou une adaptation !

Une théorie... Il est difficile de prédire ce qui va se passer... mais ce que l'on sait, c'est que les coraux ne pourront s'adapter !

Certes, à terme, parfois que des coraux existent grâce à la réciproque... mais le phénomène n'est ni constant ni automatique !

SD *En écologie, c'est la capacité à récupérer après une catastrophe.



Pacific Year of the Reef

- The 2008 Pacific Year of the Reef campaign is a regional initiative facilitated by SPREP to incite action to save the Pacific's coral reefs. The campaign has three objectives:
 - Promote coral reef conservation initiatives
 - Promote behaviour change
 - Raise awareness of the economic value of coral reefs and their vital role in adapting to climate change
- The campaign slogan of "**Strong Reefs, Strong Islands**"
- Target audience:
 - policy makers
 - tourism sector
 - school kids
 - Local communities





Pacific Year of the Reef

SPREP has developed a range of activities for different audiences and encourages Members to adapt and implement appropriate activities or develop their own. Activities developed as part of the regional campaign aim to promote two key messages: "**Coral Reef: Provider, Protector**" and "**Time for action**".



The Regional launch of the Pacific Year of the Reef, is being held in Vanuatu (February 25th -29th) at the French Embassy.

<http://www.sprep.org/PYOR/>



Reef Talk: PYOR Newsletter

REEF TALK

ISSUE NO.1

FEB 2008



Message from the SPREP Director
Asterio Takeya

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Reef Talk, a quarterly newsletter produced as part of the 2008 Pacific Year of the Reef campaign.

Reefs are a central part of life in the Pacific islands. For centuries, the beauty of the reefs has sustained our livelihoods. People from all walks of life, from all over the world, marvel at their beauty and diversity of life by the millions each year. All people benefit from new medicines derived through application of the genetic makeup of its life forms. Coral reefs are one of the richest ecosystems on the planet, and many of its species can only be found in our part of the world.

Sadly, reefs before have our reefs been so imperiled. Exacerbated by access to modern technology, unsustainable practices create destruction on a scale previously unknown. Dynamiting, dredging, coral trading - these are just a few ways in which we "bite the hand that feeds us." In some cases we also literally "love our reefs to death" when tourism and other recreational activities are not carefully managed and result in damage to the precious coral and the life it supports.

In addition to the "traditional" threats we are faced with, perhaps the greatest threat to reefs over the impacts of accelerated global climate change. While not a new problem, only recently have we understood the nature and extent of the threat posed to reefs. The results are alarming. Clearly, the time has come for each of us to take active steps to protect our reefs. In this regard, I am pleased that the SPREP Governing Council has designated 2008 as the Pacific Year of the Reef. Through this newsletter, I hope you will learn more about reefs in general, mangroves and marine species, and steps we can all take to ensure their survival into the future.

Region launches 2008 Pacific Year of the Reef campaign

Future objectives of marine and coral reef projects in the Pacific region, as well as lessons learnt in the past, have been translated into the two key messages for the 2008 Pacific Year of the Reef (PYOR) campaign by SPREP and its partners. The two key messages embody the campaign slogan of strong reefs, strong islands and reflect the current and potential pivotal roles of reefs in Pacific island life.

These messages provide the focus of regional campaign activities targeted at policy and decision makers among SPREP Members. Activities of the campaign will build on the solid foundation of a maraea raised during the highly successful 1997 Pacific Year of the Coral Reef according to Tomare Lagoon, SPREP's Education and Social Communication Advisor.

"This year's campaign remains strategic in looking beyond raising awareness to taking action at national and community levels. The campaign hopes to encourage changes in people's practices by promoting incentives and reducing barriers," Ms Lagoon explained.

"This year-long campaign is only the beginning. Sustainable use of coral reefs will require long-term commitment by policy makers to protect one of the most unique features of this region," she elaborated.

The regional campaign will be officially launched on 27 February in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The 2008 PYOR campaign is part of the global 2008 International Year of the Reef programme of the International Coral Reef Initiative.

2008 PYOR Key messages

Ms Caroline Vieux, SPREP Coral Reef Management Officer

"Our first key message of 'provides, protects' sums up the importance of coral reefs to our livelihoods, identities, and culture, and as a shielder of our islands against destructive events such as storm surges."

"The other key message is 'It's time to give back' which encourages action that builds on the high levels of awareness about the status and threats to coral reefs in the Pacific."

REEFS PROTECT

IT'S TIME TO GIVE BACK







REEF TALK



School competition deadline extended

Enthusiastic response to two regional school competitions launched by SPREP and its partners as part of the 2008 Pacific Year of the Reef (PYOR) campaign has prompted the extension of the deadline for one of the competitions through the end of March. The first phase of the secondary school competition, 'challengeareef', will now close on Friday, 28 March 2008. Participants in the competition now have more than two months to complete action plans as required in Phase One.

According to SPREP's Coral Reef management Officer, Caroline Vieux, both 'challengeareef' and 'Legends of the Reef' (a competition for primary school students) were designed to demonstrate the need for urgent, concerted action to effectively protect Pacific reefs.

"Both competitions are designed to encourage people to connect and cooperate with others for reef conservation and protection. Secondary school groups will benefit from partnerships with Government agencies and non-Government organisations in the 'challengeareef' competition. Similarly, primary school students will need to talk with community elders in the course of preparing their entries for the 'Legends of the Reef' competition," Ms Vieux explained.

Guidelines and a workbook for both competitions can be obtained from the SPREP website at www.sprep.org/pyor. Digital submission of entries is encouraged and all participants in both competitions will receive participation packs. Competition prizes have been made possible by the CRISP programme, ICRAN, and UNEP.

Commencement of competitions coincided with the launch of the 2008 International Year of the Reef campaign in Washington, DC USA on 25 January 2008 by the International Coral Reef Initiative. The launch symposium and meeting were attended by Ms Vieux, who made a presentation on the 2008 Pacific Year of the Reef campaign.

2008 PYOR school competitions

The three-phased 'challengeareef' competition requires groups of secondary school students to develop action plans of activities to protect a reef in their areas. School groups submitting the five best action plans will receive funding to implement key components of their plans. The overall champion will be invited to send a representative to present their work at the International Coral Reef Symposium in Florida, USA in July 2008.

'Legends of the Reef' is a primary school competition that aims to capture legends or stories that demonstrate the importance of reefs to Pacific island life. Entries are required to write about a legend or story concerning a reef in their area and draw a poster depicting the story. Entries for this competition should reach SPREP by 30 March 2008, and will be displayed at all SPREP meetings and events.




Strong reefs Strong islands

2



National Launches

Japan: Official launch was held on December 9, 2007 with the participation of Ms. Ritsuko Tanaka, an actress who is also the chairwoman of an NGO working on coral reef conservation,

Turks and Caicos Islands : The Ministry of Natural Resources, Fisheries and the Environment has declared 2008 as the Year of the Coral Reef under the theme: "*Achieving the Right Balance: Protecting our Reefs- Prosperity for our future*". (February 8, 2008 in Providenciales).

Malaysia: the Secretary General of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has declared 2008 as the Year of the Coral Reef. Theme: *OUR Reefs, OUR Heritage, OUR Responsibility* (Terumbu KITA, Warisan KITA, Tanggungjawab KITA)



©Ministry of the Environment, Japan





US and US jurisdictions

The USCRTF is and has been very engaged

Nomination of a **Non-Government Focal Point**

Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands:

the Governor signed a proclamation on January 18, 2008, proclaiming 2008 as the Year of the Reef.

Hawai'i: the Governor signed a proclamation declaring 2008 International Year of the Reef on Friday, Jan. 25

Guam: the Governor of Guam signed a proclamation declaring 2008 as International Year of the Reef for Guam on Friday, 01 February 2008.



IYOR web site: www.iyor.org



The screenshot shows the homepage of the International Year of the Reef 2008 website. At the top left is the IYOR 2008 logo with the tagline 'INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE REEF'. To the right is a search bar and navigation links for 'Donate', 'SignUp', and social media icons. Below this is a horizontal menu with links: 'About Coral Reefs', 'About IYOR', 'News & Events', 'IYOR Resources', 'Get Involved', and 'Contact IYOR'. The main banner features a large image of coral reefs and a text box that reads: '...WE CAN strengthen awareness, improve understanding, and generate urgent action to save these threatened ecosystems.' Below the banner, the page is divided into two columns. The left column has a section titled 'International Year of the Reef 2008' with a paragraph of text and a '[More]' link. The right column has a yellow button with a calendar icon and the text 'IYOR Event Calendar'. Below the main text, there is an 'IYOR Highlight' section with a small image of a book cover and a blue octopus cartoon character wearing glasses and sitting at a laptop.

IYOR 2008
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE REEF

Search

Donate | SignUp |  

About Coral Reefs | About IYOR | News & Events | IYOR Resources | Get Involved | Contact IYOR

...WE CAN strengthen awareness, improve understanding, and generate urgent action to save these threatened ecosystems.

International Year of the Reef 2008

The ICRI International Year of the Reef 2008 is a worldwide campaign to raise awareness about the value and importance of coral reefs and threats to their sustainability, and to motivate people to take action to protect them. All individuals, corporations, schools, governments, and organizations are welcome and actively encouraged to participate in IYOR 2008. [\[More\]](#)

IYOR Highlight

Celebrations of the International Year of the Reef 2008 (IYOR 2008)

IYOR Event Calendar

IYOR

YEAR OF THE REEF

IYOR



IYOR website

- An online calendar: more than 100 events submitted around the world.
- Educational Materials section compiles materials related to Coral Reef Education
- [Information about countries/organizations involved in IYOR](#)
- Press center
- www.youtube.com/iyor2008
- And much more!!!



What can YOU do?

- **Nominate an IYOR point of contact** for your organization
- Spread the word, promote IYOR 2008
- Disseminate IYOR/Coral reef information
- Register your organization, your activities and report your achievements
- How?
 - Link to the IYOR web site
 - Put an article in your newsletter
 - Hold “special session” on coral reefs at upcoming meetings



Upcoming National launches

- ❖ March 3rd, 2008: **Fiji** national launch
- ❖ March 17, 2008: **Belize** national launch
- ❖ April 2008 : **Brazil** national launch at the National Congress in Brasilia.
- ❖ April 2008: **Germany**, official opening of the special exhibit on coral reefs by the German Federal Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel.



Upcoming events

- ❖ **April 7-11, 2008:** IYOR presence at the 4th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, Hanoi, Vietnam
- ❖ **May 2008:** Tentative “ICRI/IYOR” side event at the CBD Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Bonn, Germany
- ❖ **June 8th, 2008:** World Ocean Day – IYOR will be highlighted during the WOD
- ❖ **July 7-11, 2008:** 11th International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS). IYOR presence at the Education Center
- ❖ **September 2008:** International Coastal Cleanup - the Project AWARE Foundation is coordinating the underwater portion of the global ICC for the 13th year. IYOR will be promoted during the ICC, and “cleanup organizers” are encouraged to make their activities count for IYOR as well.



The British Indian Ocean Territory IYOR Stamp



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE REEF

NE Florida Sea Grant Extension Poster Contest



1st place 5-10 year olds
Journey Carrion, Celebration, FL



2nd place 5-10 year olds
Kensey McMahon, Jacksonville, FL



3rd place 5-10 year olds
Courtney Ann Andexler, DeBary, FL



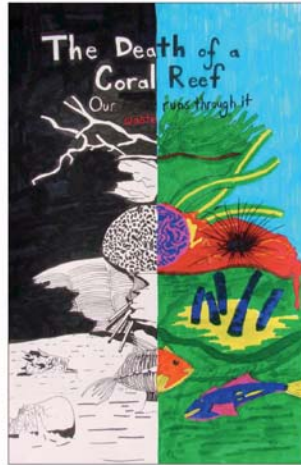
1st place 11-13 year olds
Max Vorob, Palm Coast, FL



2nd place 11-13 year olds
Brenna Opelka, Palm Coast, FL



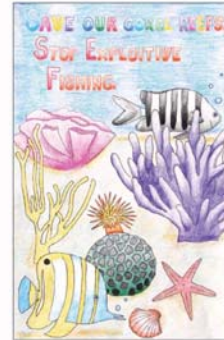
3rd place 11-13 year olds
Bre' Bryant, Palm Coast, FL



1st place 14-18 year olds
Matthew Carter, Jacksonville, FL
OVERALL WINNER



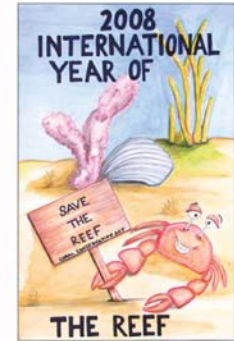
Honorable Mention 11-13 year olds
Christopher Nichols, Palm Coast, FL



2nd place 14-18 year olds
Raluca Micula, Jacksonville, FL



3rd place 14-18 year olds
Amanda Rutcha, Jacksonville, FL



1st place adult
Lisa Kay Gilkison, Shalimar, FL



2nd place adult
Shekinah Rudolph, Jacksonville, FL





2008 International Year of the Reef

www.iyor.org



Celebrations of the International Year of the Reef 2008



Guam




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Latest News

 The Governor of Guam signed a proclamation declaring 2008 as International Year of the Reef for Guam on Friday, 01 February 2008.

[Download the proclamation \(PDF File, 124 KB\)](#)

