

International Year of the Reef 2008

Internationales Jahr des Riffes 2008







Why care? Reefs are Valuable

Reefs provide food, income and jobs:

√ ½ billion people depend on coral reefs globally for food, income, jobs, coastal protection, medicines and cosmetics)

✓ Reef services worth \$375 billion worldwide (\$100K-600K per sq km, including value from fisheries, tourism and shoreline protection)

Reefs provide valuable products and services

- ✓ Medicines: Increasing focus on coral reef species
- ✓ Storm protection: Thousands of communities depend on healthy reefs for protection from storms and erosion
 ✓ Decline of coral reefs in SE Asia has been identified as a key factor
- resulting in catastrophic tsunami damage



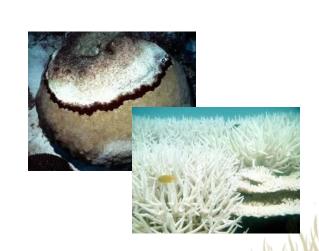
Why Care? Loss of Coral Reefs

Increasing reef decline: 20% effectively lost, 19% critical state – loss in 10 to 20 years, 21% threatened state – loss in 20 to 40 years, 40% remaining healthy (Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2004)

Major causes of reef loss:

- ✓ Over-fishing
- **√Land-based** pollution
- ✓ Climate change and ocean acidification

- ✓ Vessel groundings✓ Coastal development✓ Trade in reef species





International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

The international coral reef initiative (ICRI) is a unique public-private partnership that brings together governments, international organizations, scientific entities, and non-governmental organizations committed to reversing the global degradations of coral reefs and related ecosystems, by promoting the conservation and sustainable use of these resources for future generations.



International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

The ICRI approach is to provide a platform for information sharing as well as to mobilize governments and a wide range of other stakeholders in an effort to improve management practices, increase capacity and political support, and share information on the health of these fragile ecosystems. In particular, ICRI aims to catalyze action that will:

- >Improve management practices
- Increase capacity and political support; and
- >Share information on the health of these ecosystems



The First Year of the Reef: 1997

1997 was designated the "International Year of the Reef" by an informal group of People and organizations to:



"raise global awareness of the value of coral reefs and the challenges they face"





International Year of the Reef 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

ICRI 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.



Vision and Organization

- ✓ Consist of a year-long campaign of events and initiatives hosted by governments and non-governmental organizations around the world. ✓ Be modeled after IYOR 1997 and other successful international
- years:

 - ✓ International and regional coordination
 ✓ Centralized website with customizable information, tools and actions for international dissemination
 - ✓ International calendar of events
 - ✓ "Ownership" for IYOR should be global all invited to participate, from communities upward
- ✓ Place strong emphasis on promoting conservation action and strengthening long-term constituencies for coral reef conservation.



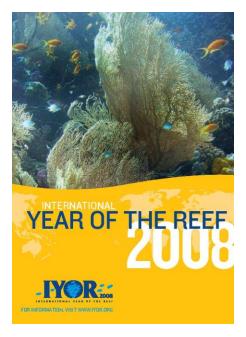
ICRI's role

- **1.Encourage** ICRI members to support and participate in planning efforts and events leading up to and during the 2008 IYOR; and especially <u>national</u> <u>delegates</u>, to facilitate the development of national level activities on IYOR.
- 2.Promote IYOR/coral reefs at International meetings
- 3.Disseminate information about IYOR/coral reefs
- 4.Develop partnerships with existing initiatives / campaigns to raise awareness about coral reefs
- 5.Set-up an IYOR web site to serve as a central
- 6.Organize an International Launch



ICRI's role





IYOR 2008 IS A WORLDWIDE CAMPAIGN TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF CORAL REEFS AND THEATS TO THEIR SUSTAINABILITY, AND TO MOTIVATE PEOPLE TO TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT THEM. ALL INDIVIDUALS, CORPORATIONS, GOVERNMENTS, SCHOOLS AND ORGANIZATIONS ARE WELCOME AND ACTIVELY ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN 1709 2009

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT CORAL REEFS?

- Join YOR 2008; eiganize and host events to a class awareness and funds for coral reef conservation or participate in an existing event. Register your events; you are whost or register your own event; you are whost or register your own event allower and the value of coral reefs, managers and say agrasses.

- Encourage conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs, managers, and say of the coral reefs, managers.

—AND WHY?

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WWW,ICRIFORUM,ORG



IYOR Launch

- √ Press conference (Jan. 25th, 2008)
- ✓ Reception at the World Bank (Jan. 25th, 2008)
- ✓ IYOR Symposium (Jan. 25th, 2008) to celebrate IYOR through a showcase of IYOR activities taking place around the world, and to allow IYOR "national coordinator" to meet, share, brainstorm and coordinate regarding their IYOR plans



ICRI partners response...

National Launches and proclamations:

- Bahamas Proclamation of the International Year of the Reef in the Bahamas by the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas (February 4, 2008)
- Barbados National launch (January 9, 2008)
- Belize National launch with Hon. Gaspar Vega, Belize's Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment (March 16, 2008)
- Brazil National launch with Maria Cecilia Way de Brito, Secretary of Biodiversity and Forest (April 9, 2008)
 Fiji National launch under the theme "Protecting Coral Reefs From the
- Fiji National launch under the theme "Protecting Coral Reefs From the Mountains to the Sea" with Mr. Joketani Cokanasiga, Minister for Primary Industries (March 3rd, 2008)



- France National launch (February 4, 2008)
 Germany National launch (January 25, 2008)

- Japan National launch (December 9, 2007)
 Indonesia National launch (March 28, 2008)
 Malaysia Theme: Our Reefs, our Heritage, our Responsibility" (Terumbu KITA, Warisan KITA, Tanggungjawab KITA)
 Solomon Islands National launch (April 9, 2008)
- Turks and Caicos Islands National launch (February 8, 2008), theme:
 "Achieving the Right Balance: Protecting our Reefs- Prosperity for our future"





PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the 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;

AND WHEREAS, the International Year of the Reef 2008 campaign is coordinated by the International Coral Reef Initiative and is an ongoing campaign of the International Year of the Reef 1997 awareness campaign;

AND WHEREAS, The Bahamas National International Year of the Reef Planning Committee encourages the involvement of corporations, schools, government and organizations to participate in this campaign to protect our reefs;

AND WHEREAS, the International Year of the Reef Planning Committee recognizes that, ten years later, there is still an urgent need to increase awareness and understanding of coral reefs and to further conserve and manage valuable coral reefs and associated ecosystems;

AND WHEREAS, the objectives of the International Year of the Reef 2008 are to strengthen public awareness about the ecological, economic, social and cultural value of the coral reefs, to improve the public's understanding of critical threats to coral reefs and to develop both practical and innovative solutions to reduce the threats;

AND WHEREAS, the International Year of the Reef 2008 Planning Committee will develop and implement effective management strategies for conservation and sustainable use of these ecosystems;

AND WHEREAS, coral reefs are significant to The Bahamas in many ways, having ecological, aesthetic, physical and economic values to our people;

AND WHEREAS, the Planning Committee has planned a number of activities to encourage the public's participation in promoting and conserving Bahamian coral reefs;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Hubert A. Ingraham, Prime Minister of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, do hereby, proclaim the year 2008 as THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE REEF IN THE BAHAMAS.

> IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal this 7 day of February, 2008



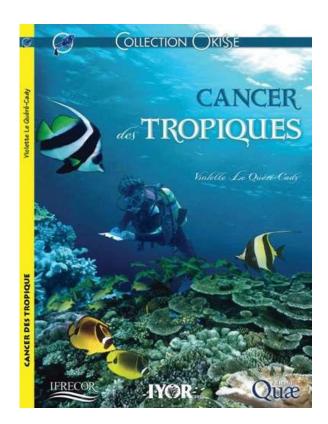
France IYOR campaign

- ✓ 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.





IFRECOR IYOR







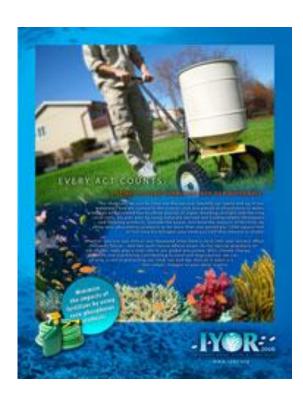
U.S. and U.S. Territories/Jurisdictions

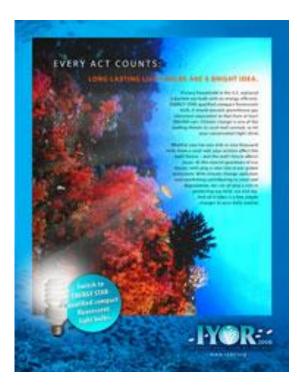
The United States is conducting its IYOR activities in a decentralized way. Each region and or jurisdiction (Florida, U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) is planning and implementing IYOR activities that are specific and relevant to their location and community.

The United States has developed a national messaging campaign that can be used throughout the nation and can be adopted and adapted as appropriate by other nations and regions (www.iyorcreative.com).













International Year of the Reef

Scientists around the world agree: the health of the world's coral reefs will be one the most important environmental issues of the to promote, protect, and preserve the water systems of our planet. As a steward of our planet, you can take part in this unique program and, quite possibly, leave a legacy that benefits our world for the rest of time.

TASK FORCE - IYOR

Want to learn more? Visit www.wylandboundation.org











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Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands: Governor Benigno R. Fitial proclaimed 2008 as the Year of the Reef for Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (January 18, 2008)

Guam: Felix P. Camacho, governor of Guam, proclaimed 2008 as International Year of the Reef for Guam (01 February 2008).

Hawai'i: the Governor signed a proclamation declaring 2008 In Year of the Reef (January 25, 2008)

Palau: President Remengesau proclaimed 2008 at the Year of the Reef in Palau (April 17, 2008)

Juam



Republic of Palau Office of the President

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. President PO Box 6051, Palau, PW 96940 tal (680) 488-2403/2828, fax (680) 488-2424/1662 amail-iN:rop.pessident@palaunes.com

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 08-03

Declaring 2008 as the Palau Year of the Reef

WHEREAS, The International Coral Reef Initiative declared 2008 as the International Year of the Reef (IYOR) with the goals of:

- Strengthening awareness about the ecological, economic, social and cultural value of, and critical threats to, coral reefs and associated ecosystems; and
- Generating urgent action at all levels to develop and implement effective management strategies for conservation and sustainable use of these ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the launch of the 2008 Pacific Year of the Reef campaign was declared in Vanuatu by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and key partners to support the International declaration and to encourage the peoples of the Pacific to take urgent action to save the region's coral reefs; and

WHEREAS, The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Coral Reef Conservation Program and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have worked together to develop a united U.S. IYOR Messaging Campaign with the input from the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Education and Outreach Working Group; and

WHEREAS, IYOR 2008 will be a year-long campaign of events and initiatives hosted by governments, individuals, corporations, schools around the world to promote conservation action and strengthen long-term constituencies for coral reaf conservation; and

WHEREAS, the Republic, before and since the declaration of the First International Tear of the Reef in 1997, has taken a proactive approach to protect its coxal reefs, through domestic, regional and international action, including the establishment of the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC), funded as a response and result of the 1997 declaration through a tri-partite commitment by Palau, the United States and Japan.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, do hereby proclaim 2008 as the Palau Year of the Reef and to implement this proclamation, I designate the PICRC as the focal point and national representative for all activities relating to this proclamation.





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:

- 1. Promote coral reef conservation initiatives
- 2. Promote behaviour change
- 3. 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 are the policy makers, the tourism sector, the school kids, and the 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 was held in Vanuatu (February 25th -29th) at the French Embassy.





UNEP Contribution

"Small grants" for developing countries:

•Preparation of a 15-minute video documentary on the value and importance of coral reefs as part of an outreach programme in the Gulf of Mannar (India)

•Coral reef education activities in Lakshadweep and Andaman Islands (India).

•Editing, printing and dissemination of the Regional Coral Reef Action Strategy for East Africa.



UNEP Contribution











In summary...

- ✓ Around 75 focal points from countries and organizations
- ✓ Articles in local, national newspapers (to-date about 150 articles published around the world), newsletters and magazines
- ✓ Production of educational materials (stickers, posters, calendars, comic books...) in several languages
- ✓ Organization of symposiums, workshop, and exhibits
- ✓ National declarations

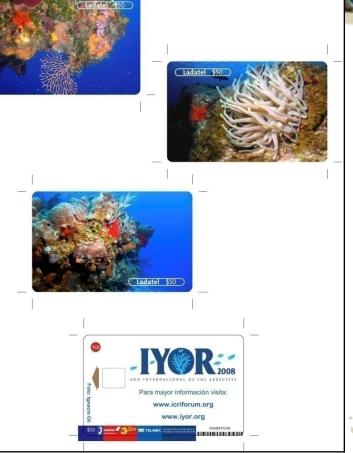


www.IYOR.org

- An online calendar: more than 150 events submitted around the world.
- Educational Materials section compiles materials related to Coral Reef Education in several languages
- o Information about countries/organizations involved in IYOR
- Press center
- o_www.youtube.com/iyor2008









Upcoming events

June 8, 2008: World Ocean Day



○ July 7-11, 2008: 11th International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS)

September 20, 2008: International Coastal Cleanup

September 18, 2008: World Water Monitoring Day





The World Ocean Day (June 8th, 2008)

This year theme is: "helping our climate, helping our ocean". This focus also allows WOD partners to take advantage of International Year of the Reef (IYOR) 2008 and all the attention that will be focused on coral reef this year (www.theoceanproject.org/wod/)

For more information, visit: www.theoceanproject.org/wod/





The World Water Monitoring Day (WWMD) September 18th, 2008

The World Water Monitoring Day is an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies

The World Water Monitoring Day (WWMD) partnered with the International Year of the Reef (IYOR) in 2008 in a joint effort to highlight the importance of water quality to marine wildlife. Citizens around the globe are encouraged to monitor their oceans in celebration of IYOR this year.

www.WorldWaterMonitoringDay.org.



International Cleanup Day / International Coastal Cleanup September 18th, 2008

Project AWARE's International Cleanup Day, in partnership with dive and resort operators around the world and the Ocean Conservancy, helps to collect over seven million pounds of trash and recyclables every year. Last September,



an estimated 350,000 water-loving participants scoured shoreline and underwater environments in more than 100 countries and territories around the world. IYOR will be promoted during the ICC, and information about coral reefs will be distributed to participants.



Possible side event at:

- **❖ OSPAR Convention** (to focus on <u>cold water corals</u>), June 2008
- the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands (to focus on mangroves), October 2008











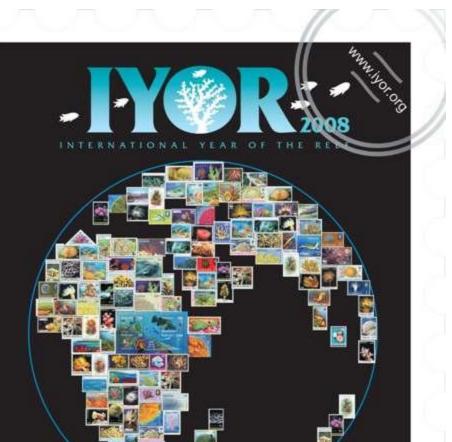


Committee to host Year of the Reef youth activities

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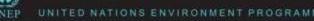


Coral Reefs

in mint condition

in nature, not only on stamps!







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

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE REEF

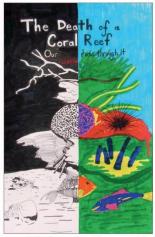
NE Florida Sea Grant Extension Poster Contest



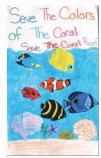
1st place 11-13 year olds Max Vorob, Palm Coast, FL



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



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



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



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









For information:

www.IYOR.org info@iyor.org









