

END OF YEAR REPORT

IYOR 2018

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE REEF



Government Offices of Sweden
Ministry of the Environment and Energy



Gouvernement Princier
PRINCIPAUTÉ DE MONACO

International Year of the Reef End of year report

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Foreword



A NOTE FROM THE COORDINATOR

I would like to thank every person, organization, nation and government who was involved in the International Year of the Reef (IYOR) 2018. You should be proud of the work you have done this year to raise awareness about the plight facing coral reefs. I truly believe that it is communities of like-minded, passionate people, such as those involved in the IYOR that will spearhead the change we need to see globally to preserve and protect coral reefs.

I joined as the coordinator of the IYOR halfway through the year, when it was already a fully-fledged machine churning out information and support for those involved with coral reefs. I was immediately galvanised and taken by the enthusiasm and simply unquashable optimism – from people all over the world – that we can and will make a difference to the future of coral reefs.

Although this report can only cover a very small selection of the amazing activities that took place throughout the year, the range and sheer variety of activities never stopped surprising and amazing me. From tropical islands, where livelihoods can and do depend directly on reef health, to landlocked countries, where coral reefs are things of dreams and holidays, and from children's art competitions, and stamp design competitions, to an A380 being

adorned with “save the coral reefs”. Every single event and single person involved made a difference, which only made choosing specific ones to include more of a challenge, but it was a challenge I have revelled in, because it has given me the wonderful opportunity to meet with and speak to so many of you, who share my passion for coral reefs and the IYOR.

Although the IYOR 2018 has come to an end, the work that must still be done and the spirit of the IYOR will, I am sure, go on. I encourage each and every one of you reading this to begin (or continue) working in your own way to protect coral reefs, whether that be by changing things in your own day-to-day life (reducing your carbon footprint, recycling or cutting down on the use of single-use plastics) or by disseminating information about coral reefs to those who may not know why we should be protecting them. However you decide to support coral reefs remember there is a community of people throughout the globe who are standing with you!

Thank you,
Claire Rumsey

Background

THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE REEF

At their thirty first General Meeting (Paris, France) in November 2016, the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) declared 2018 as the third International Year of the Reef.

The IYOR 2018 was an international awareness campaign, designed to disseminate information about the very serious plight facing coral reefs to as many people around the globe as possible. It is the third of its kind following on from the first in 1997, and the second in 2008. Despite the success of the previous two IYORs, two decades later, ICRI members acknowledged once again that the need for greater awareness and input from the general public was as serious then as it had been the first time, this realization led to the declaration of the third IYOR, **IYOR 2018**.

The goals for the 2018 IYOR were to:

- strengthen awareness globally about the value of, and threats to, coral reefs and their associated ecosystems;
- promote partnerships between Governments, the private sector, academia and civil society on the management of coral reefs;
- identify and implement effective management strategies for conservation, increased resiliency and sustainable use of these ecosystems and promoting best practices;
- and share information on best practices in relation to sustainable coral reef management.

What will follow in this document is a brief overview highlighting the very many activities and events that took place over the IYOR 2018. We could not possibly include everything, as we certainly do not know about every event which was held.

THE IYOR LOGO



was chosen by ICRI members following a contest that ICRI held in 2007. Twenty-seven proposals were received for this contest from around the world. For 2018, ICRI decided to use the same logo. We would like to thank the Ministry of the Environment (MoE), Japan and Mr Masami Nakamine who was the winner of the IYOR logo contest for allowing us to use it again in 2018.

ICRI is an informal partnership between nations and organizations, which came to recognize that coral reefs and their related ecosystems were facing serious and extreme degradation worldwide. Since its establishment in 1995, ICRI has been committed to preserving coral reefs and their related ecosystems such as mangrove forests and seagrass beds. www.icriforum.org



Activities & Events of the 3rd IYOR



2017 December

NATIONAL LAUNCHES

The European Coral Reef Symposium (ECRS), United Kingdom

The European launch of the IYOR took place during the ECRS in Oxford. Five hundred and fifty people from thirty-three countries attended the event, including students, academics and conservationists. Sue Wells, chair of the International Coral Reef Society, formerly the International Society for Reef Studies (ISRS), introduced the IYOR 2018 to the attendees.



European launch of the IYOR in Oxford - Photo credit: ©Gal Eyal



Presentation of Germany's previous involvement in the IYORs, and their plans for the IYOR 2018 campaign - Photo credit: ©Gert Wörheide

2018 January

NATIONAL LAUNCHES



Macuata District Representatives with the UN Special Envoy to the Oceans, Peter Thomson and Fiji's Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama at the launch of the IYOR in Fiji. © WWF-Pacific

Fiji launches the IYOR with the nomination of a Ramsar Site

The Prime Minister of Fiji, Mr Voreqe Bainimarama, launched the IYOR at a ceremony at the Nukubati Island Resort off the coast of Macuata. During the ceremony, which UN Special Envoy for the Ocean, Peter Thomson attended, a section of Fiji's Great Sea Reef (also known as Cakau Levu – the Big Reef, or Bai ni kei Viti – the Wall of Fiji) was officially nominated as a Ramsar site.

Opening symposium held to launch the IYOR in Japan

During the opening ceremony Minister Nakagawa appointed Sakana-kun, a famous expert on fish and a very popular entertainer in Japan, as Ambassador for IYOR 2018 in Japan. Thirteen other parties (a number which increased to twenty-six by the end of 2018) were also appointed as official Japanese supporters for the IYOR. There was a panel discussion on the importance of coral reefs, the threats they are facing and what could be done to protect them. Approximately 300 people participated in the opening symposium.



Poster created for the opening symposium to celebrate the launch of the IYOR 2018 in Japan. Designer: Bokunen Naka



Barbados celebrates the launch of the IYOR

The Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU) in collaboration with Bellairs Research Institute of McGill University and the Coral Reef Restoration Alliance collaborated to celebrate the launch of the IYOR in Barbados. Director of the CZMU, Dr Brewster, stated that the IYOR had coincided with the work that Barbados was doing to monitor and manage the condition of its coral reefs. One of the initiatives undertaken by the CZMU is to manage reefs through the establishment of the Coral Lab with financial assistance from the Inter-American Development Bank.

GLOBAL EVENTS

Social media awareness campaign by the Mesoamerican Reef (MAR) Fund



An example of the weekly coral reef facts shared by the MAR Fund throughout the IYOR.

Every Friday for the twelve months of the IYOR the MAR Fund shared a short fact about coral reefs across all of their social media platforms, this was to help raise awareness about the plight facing coral reefs.

Google Street View went underwater for the IYOR

To celebrate the IYOR, The Ocean Agency continued its collaboration with Google and developed a bespoke IYOR dive, which allows viewers to explore seven reefs from around the world and learn about coral.

The Coral Reef Image Bank

Launched for the IYOR, The Ocean Agency created the Coral Reef Image Bank; an online collection of media-quality photographs and videos, spanning thirteen different reef regions made available for free to help attract interest to the coral reef crisis and to inspire action.

TESTIMONIAL:

"Each entity, that has been engaged in coral reef conservation, so far, has made further efforts because of IYOR 2018. As a result, we were able to inform many people about the importance and current situation of coral reefs. We therefore think that IYOR will be a good opportunity to raise awareness of coral reef conservation if it is held about once in ten years, as we have done so far."
Sayuri Furuta, Japan

Alex Mustard, UK

**Coral Reef Image Bank
January photographer**



2018 February

NATIONAL LAUNCHES

Germany launched the IYOR at boot

In Düsseldorf during 'boot', the world's largest water sports trade fair, Germany launched the IYOR under the patronage of the German Underwater Federation (VDST). There was a welcome speech from Petros Michelidakis, Director of the boot trade fair, and an

introduction from Professor Dr Ralph Schill, from the VDST. Leading German coral reef researchers gave a brief introduction to coral reefs and presented various management options and ways in which everyone can help to protect coral reefs.



Germany launching the IYOR at the boot in Düsseldorf. From left to right: Prof. Dr. Ralph Schill, VDST; M.Sc. Marina Schiller, Uni Bochum; Prof. Dr. Helmut Schuhmacher, Uni Essen; Prof. Dr. Gert Wörheide, LMU München; Dr. Sebastian Ferse, ZMT Bremen; Prof. Dr. Peter Schupp, Uni Oldenburg; Prof. Dr. Reinhold Leinfelder, FU Berlin; Anna von Boetticher, the moderator. Photo credit: Heinz Krimmer

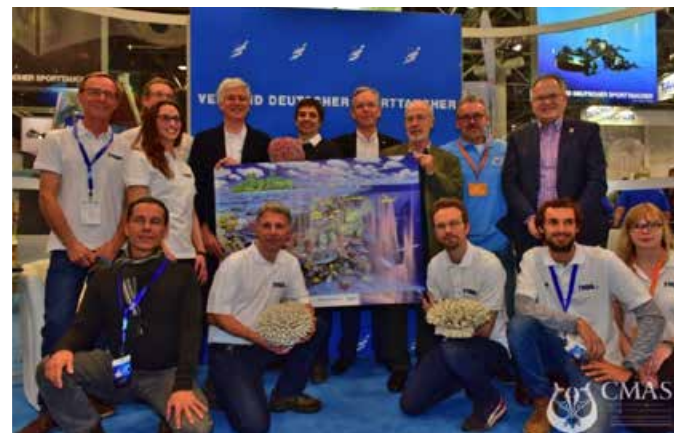


Photo credit: VDST/P. Sutter, G. Heiss

Proclamation signing to declare the IYOR in Guam



Lieutenant Governor Ray Tenorio (centre), after signing the proclamation declaring the GYOR. Photo credit: Whitney Hoot

Lieutenant Governor Ray Tenorio launched the IYOR in Guam by signing a proclamation declaring the Guam Year of the Reef (GYOR) 2018. This was to show Guam's recognition of the importance of their coral reefs, and its commitment to protecting them for current and future generations.



The proclamation signed by Lieutenant Governor Ray Tenorio declaring the GYOR.

GLOBAL EVENTS



IYOR poster- Paradise / IYOR poster- Wave / IYOR poster- Hourglass



Prince Charles at a high-level meeting in London. Photo credit: Ian Jones

Prince Charles announces a global call for action, United Kingdom

During a high-level meeting in London, HRH The Prince of Wales announced a global call to action to save coral reefs from their complete collapse globally. At this event, the three specially designed posters for the IYOR were released as well as the IYOR trailer.

Green Fins released #RedefineTheDive

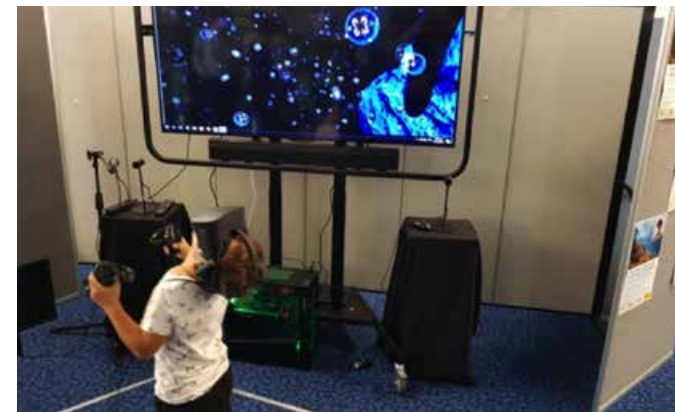
Green Fins is a joint initiative between the Reef World Foundation and the United Nations Environment. For the IYOR Green Fins created four action points to be released throughout the year. The first was #RedefineTheDive, which focuses on scuba divers having zero impact dives.



The first of four action points from Green Fins #RedefineTheDive

NATIONAL EVENTS

Virtual Reality (VR) experiences at Wellington libraries, New Zealand



A child enjoying virtual reality during one of the sessions at a Wellington Library. Photo credit: Wellington City Libraries

Wellington City Libraries encouraged their patrons to try VR in order to experience a 360° immersive coral reef film and game. The aim was to give people a chance to see the stunning underwater reefs and by this to encourage them to protect the coral reefs.

Talk on deep water coral reefs of New Zealand, New Zealand

Dr Ashley Rowden, a Principal Scientist in marine ecology at the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), gave a talk about discovering coral reefs in the oceans of New Zealand and protecting reefs from trawling and bleaching.

Blue Ventures and the IYOR

Blue Ventures wrote and shared a blog post about the IYOR encouraging people to get involved in hands-on coral reef conservation efforts.

TESTIMONIAL:

"The year 2018 has been designated by ICRI as the IYOR. This is a great opportunity to draw attention to the condition of coral reefs and to step up efforts to save them. Action is our watchword for this year and beyond. We are committed to work as a team to make a difference to coral reef conservation."

Xavier Sticker, former French Ambassador for the Environment

Jayne Jenkins, Wales

Coral Reef Image Bank
February photographer



March 2018

NATIONAL LAUNCHES



Governor Ralph D.L.G. Torres (centre) after signing the proclamation declaring the IYOR. Photo credit: Lory Lyn Lirio

Proclamation signing in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

Governor Ralph D.L.G. Torres signed a proclamation declaring 2018 as the IYOR in the CNMI. This was done to encourage and engage the public in the protection and preservation of coral reefs in the CNMI.



The proclamation signed by Governor Ralph D.L.G. Torres.

'Celebrating Singapore Reefs' Singapore launches the IYOR



Members of the public joining in 'Celebrating Singapore Shores'. Photo credit: Celebrating Singapore Shores

For the IYOR 2018, Singapore created 'Celebrating Singapore Reefs' which began during 'The Fun Odyssey'. It was organised, over two days, especially for children and families during the March school holidays. This event brought together blue interest groups, as well as marine research and conservation groups, who created different activities to showcase their work in a fun and engaging manner for the public.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Reef Check Malaysia hosted beach and mangrove clean-ups, Malaysia

Over 500 people, from twenty organizations, in fifteen locations around Malaysia participated in beach and mangrove clean-ups. Participants included dive-shop operators, community members, school children, NGOs and local government agencies. The aim was to collect data on the scale of the marine debris problem facing Malaysia.

Coral Reef Symposium, Guam

The Coral Reef Symposium was held at the same time as the ninth Annual University of Guam Regional Conference on Island Sustainability, in conjunction with GYOR. The symposium brought together about 200 participants from Guam's coral reef researchers, managers, students and community members to share the latest coral reef research and explore innovative strategies for addressing impacts.



IYOR posters created by The Ocean Agency at a bus stop in London. Photo credit: Stuart Morton

IYOR posters were shared around London, United Kingdom

The Ocean Agency (TOA) in collaboration with advertising agency Proximity, used the IYOR posters to run a short burst of out of home advertising, where the IYOR posters popped up across various London sites for a weekend during March, to further awareness of coral reefs.

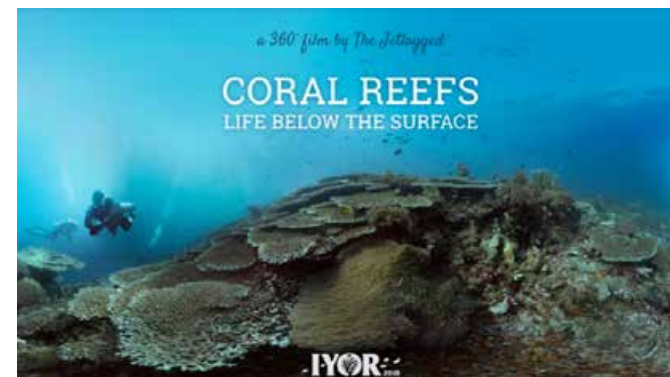
Reef Week in Belize

Reef week is an annual week-long celebration, during which local and international organizations in Belize, raise awareness about the ecological, economic and cultural importance and value of the Belize Barrier Reef.



Left to right: Breniesha Meyers, Kiara Montero, and Allissa Roches during the Reef week celebration in Belize. Photo credit: D. Arzu/WCS

Coral Reefs – Life Below the Surface a new film by The Jetlagged



'Coral Reefs Life below the Surface' a 360-degree film by The Jetlagged.

For the IYOR, The Jetlagged collaborated with the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) to release, 'Coral Reefs – Life Below the Surface' a 360° fully immersive VR dive into the reefs of the Coral Triangle. As part of a fund-raising plan, between the 27 March and 15 April they screened the video to over 1,000 people in Indonesia.

TESTIMONIAL:

"The Guam Coral Reef Initiative was honoured to join others worldwide in celebrating coral reefs throughout 2018. IYOR is an opportunity to form new partnerships, strengthen existing relationships, and celebrate coral reefs in the midst of grave concern for the future and health of our oceans. IYOR shed a positive light on coral reef management and gave our community a sense of hope and optimism in making a difference for our island's marine resources. IYOR 2018 was an opportunity to learn, connect, highlight, collaborate, strategize and strengthen our coral reef network on Guam and with others worldwide."

Mallory Morgan, Guam



Yen-Yi Lee, Taiwan



David Gross, USA



Patti Gross, USA



Bart Lukasik, Poland



Ellen Cuylaerts, Belgium



Cristina Mittermeier, Mexico

Coral Reef Image Bank March photographers

April 2018

NATIONAL LAUNCHES

The launch of the IYOR in Malaysia

The Malaysian Department of Marine Parks, within the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, launched celebrations for the IYOR during the 2018 Research Seminar in Kedah, under the theme 'Conserving Malaysia's National Treasure'.



Malaysia began celebrations for the International Year of the Reef under the theme 'Conserving Malaysia's National Treasure'.

GLOBAL EVENTS

Monaco Ocean Week – an evening of coral reefs, Monaco



Celebrating coral reefs in Monaco at the opening of the exhibition "From coral to reef: a jewel in jeopardy". L-R E. Tambutte (CSM), E. Béraud (CSM), Mr. Colognoli (Coral Guardian), D. Allemand (CSM), HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, HE Mr. X. Stiker, O. Jude (Phoctopus) and R. Vevers (The Ocean Agency)
Photo credit: C. Albuquerque (Heure Bleue)

As part of Monaco Ocean Week the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco hosted a special evening to celebrate coral reefs in the presence of HSH the Sovereign Prince Albert II of Monaco. The evening consisted of the opening of the exhibit 'From Coral to Reef: A Jewel in Danger'.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Commonwealth Marine Science Event, United Kingdom

Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs promoted the IYOR at the Commonwealth Marine Science Event hosted by the National Oceanography Centre (NOC), with a special coral reef stand, that aimed to raise awareness about the IYOR, and also NOC projects. At this event Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey announced the UK's intention to sign the Coral Reef Life Declaration.

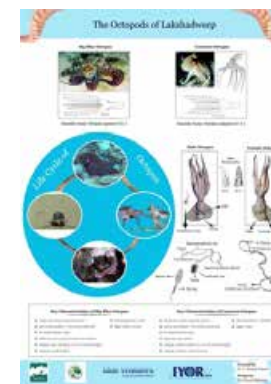


Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey trying virtual reality in front of an IYOR poster at the Commonwealth Marine Science Event. Photo credit: Daily Echo

Training and monitoring workshop, India



Participants of the octopus monitoring workshop received certificates at the end. Photo credit: CARESS



A training workshop on octopus catch monitoring for around thirty people, for their involvement in the workshop participants were awarded certificates that featured the IYOR logo.

'The Octopods of Lakshadweep' poster created for the workshop.

The Rain Barrel Art Contest, CNMI

One of the fun ways the CNMI decided to celebrate the IYOR was to hold a rain barrel painting competition. The CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality invited all community members to participate in a rain barrel painting contest. Over forty-five entries were received.



Examples of the art created as part of the rain barrel painting competition in the CNMI. Photo credit: Jihan Younis

TESTIMONIAL:
"Coral reefs are under threat and plastic pollution in the ocean has reached an alarming state the 2018 campaign addressed both these issues. These periodic campaigns are necessary to highlight issues and sensitize the public."
Vineeta Hoon, CARESS



Warren Baverstock, UK



Simon Pierce, New Zealand



Jill Heinerth, Canadian



Michael Aw, Singapore



David Robinson, UK



Andy Brandy Casagrande IV, USA

Coral Reef Image Bank April photographers

May 2018

NATIONAL LAUNCHES

Seychelles launches the IYOR

Marine conservation and education company WiseOceans and the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change organized a ceremony to launch the IYOR in the Seychelles, during which attendees were encouraged to make promises to help reef health/security. In attendance was the Principle Secretary Mr de Comarmond, the Principal Secretary for Tourism Mrs Lafortune, the Seychelles Island Foundation, Marine Conservation Society Seychelles, University of Seychelles as well as school children from the Baie Lazare school.



Principal Secretary Alain de Comarmond posing with his coral pledge, along with Principle Secretary of Tourism Mrs Lafortune (pink shirt), CEO of Seychelles Island Foundation Dr Dogley (Stripy shirt) and Chairman of the Marine Conservation Society Seychelles Dr Rowat (blue shirt in the back ground) at the Seychelles launch of the IYOR. Photo credit: Lois Nippard



IYOR celebration at the Phuket Marine Biological Centre in Thailand. Photo credit: PMBC

Thailand launches the IYOR with a series of celebrations

The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources in Thailand began their IYOR 2018 celebrations with a series of events including the Tao Island tourism opening festival, reef watch training, in Phuket, and Chulabhorn Underwater Park Conservation Centre, and reef restoration on Hae Island.

GLOBAL EVENTS

The Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation Science without Borders® Challenge winners announced

The Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation hosts a global annual Science without Borders® Challenge art competition, and in celebration of the

The Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation 2018 Science Without Borders® Challenge. (Left) High school winner 'The Last Coral Reef', Selena Yang, 16, US. (Right) Middle school winner 'Saviour of Human Beings', Xiyan Wang, 13, China.



IYOR, 2018's Science without Borders® Challenge theme was 'Why coral reefs matter'. This theme took into account the importance of coral reefs and encouraged participants of two age groups (high school (15–19 years old) and middle school (11–14 years old)) to explore their existence and the threats they face. Over 600 entries from thirty-eight countries were received.

Raffles Institution book launch, Singapore

The Raffles Ecological Literacy Programme have written and illustrated two children's books based on Singapore's two most important marine habitats – the seagrass beds the reef. Follow the adventures of Doo the Dugong, Ollie the Octopus in The Super Seagrass Search, exploring seagrass meadows; and Cory the coral spat in Woosh! A coral's journey amid the reefs and mangroves of Singapore.



The poster for the Raffles Ecological Literacy Programme book launch in conjunction with the IYOR.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Training on coral reef monitoring, Zanzibar

Coastal Oceans Research and Development – Indian Ocean (CORDIO), Marinecultures and Chumbe Island Coral Park organized a training workshop on coral reef monitoring in Zanzibar. The workshop brought together nineteen participants representing fourteen NGOs and dive centres from across Zanzibar each with an interest in contributing to the conservation of coral reefs.



Dr. David Obura (CORDIO) leading the two-day coral reef workshop in Zanzibar. Photo credit: CORDIO

Festival of the Sea, Italy

Educational workshops on tropical coral reefs were given to primary and high school students. These included lectures on the different types of corals found on reefs, their different roles within their ecosystems, and the main threats facing them.

The ANGARI foundation premiered its 360°-film, USA

Around 300 visitors attended the release of the ANGARI Foundation film Generation Ocean: Coral Reefs, a 360°/virtual reality film featuring coral reef

scientists from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science and the Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies. The film takes an immersive look at the methods these scientists are using to study and conserve corals in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

International Day for Biological (IDB) Diversity, Seychelles

To celebrate the IDB, the Seychelles National Park Authorities (SNPA) created a stand about the IYOR, to highlight their coral restoration project, to exhibit the different varieties of corals that they have in their collection and to discuss with visitors the importance of coral reefs.

'Yo solo ando en arena' (I only anchor in sand), Puerto Rico

A new campaign was created as a collaboration between the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (Puerto Rico) and local NGO Protectores de Cuencas, Inc. which disseminate information at various marinas about the importance of avoiding anchoring on coral reefs and seagrass beds, and when buoys are not available, anchoring only in sand.

Amigos de Sian Ka'an (ASK) photography competition, Mexico

As part of their commemoration of the IYOR 2018, ASK, held a photography competition under the title "Monitors of the Reef". The focus was on the promotion of the natural beauty of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef, commonly known as the Great Mayan Reef, in Mexico and the conservation of its associated species. In total there were forty-seven participants and 198 photos were submitted.

TESTIMONIAL:

"The IYOR 2018 has provided a crucial platform for a range of organisations, communities and individuals to discuss the global, regional and local threats to coral reefs and their associated systems whilst also providing tools and resources to actively promote conservation and challenge ecosystem impacts. Through IYOR 2018, the scientific community has been able to reach-out to the public sector, increasing awareness, driving social responsibility and building a network of conservation-minded advocates and environmental stewards. It is important, however, that IYOR 2018 is the starting point for conversations, actions and policy change and that efforts to protect and promote coral reefs and their associated ecosystems continue to increase."

Tom Dallison, CCC



Ramona Osche, Germany



Fabrice Dudenhofer, France

Coral Reef Image Bank May photographers

2018 June

WORLD OCEANS DAY



World Oceans Day (WOD) celebrations in support of IYOR 2018

The Government of Canada proposed the concept of a World Ocean Day, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. In December 2008 the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution recognizing the 8 June as WOD. Since then celebrations and involvement has continued to grow, there are now thousands of events in over 120 countries and a social media reach into the several billions. This year, several organizations chose to use WOD to celebrate the IYOR.



World Oceans Week- Guam.
Photo credit: Jesse Rojas

World Oceans Week, Guam

A six-day long event to celebrate World Oceans Week, in conjunction with the Outrigger Guam Beach Resort and Guam's local coral reef community took place. The event included training seminars, lectures, hands-on activities for kids, snorkelling lessons and two separate mini-fairs. About 300 community members and tourists attended the event.

WOD TV interview, Seychelles

On WOD a SNPA outreach officer was interviewed by the Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation, which is the national TV station, she talked about IYOR 2018 and the importance of coral reefs.

WOD beach clean, Philippines

CCC staff and volunteers undertook a 'surface interval beach clean' whilst offsite at Anilao, Southern Leyte, Philippines. During the surface interval participants got busy cleaning up the hefty amount of trash found on the diving beach. Some of the volunteers even had the enthusiasm to bring sacks underwater for an Eco-fun dive. In total they collected six full bags of trash (one full sack per person!) amounting to 15kgs.

WOD celebrations in the Philippines

CCC in partnership with 4Ocean and the Local Government Unit of Liloan organized an afternoon event to celebrate the IYOR and WOD. The event included presentations, a synchronized coastal clean-up, a prize-draw and a photography competition which brought together over 250 people from



During a surface interval, CCC volunteers and staff did beach clean-ups. Photo credit: Jasmine Corbett (Science Officer at the time) at Anilao, Liloan

the surrounding communities. The theme was 'preventing plastic pollution and encouraging solutions for a healthy ocean'. In keeping with the theme, the municipality of Liloan joined in provincial government efforts to name June as Environment Month, and officially launched their 'rice from garbage' programme as well as partaking in CCC's WOD celebration. The programme acts as an incentive for communities to undertake the making of eco-bricks (building blocks made from reused plastic waste) to trade-in for a given amount of rice. Our collective efforts removed approximately 1421.5lbs (or 646kg) of trash from Liloan.

NATIONAL LAUNCHES

Trinidad and Tobago launch the IYOR

The official launch of the IYOR in Trinidad and Tobago took place on WOD. On this occasion, guests were invited to: discover coral reefs through 'virtual dives' using VR goggles, contribute (through the purchase of unique coral reef art crafted in chocolate) and to appreciate the complex connections between coral reefs, climate change and people. John Agard, tropical island ecologist from the University of the West Indies, and a lead author/editor on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported on his field and Dr Ahmad Khan, Director of the Institute of Marine Affairs reflected on changes in the reefs of Tobago.



John Agard, giving a speech at the launch of the IYOR in Trinidad and Tobago. Photo credit: Joseph Cazabon

The Pacific Year of the Reef is launched



The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) has supported every IYOR with the creation of the Pacific Year of the Reef (PYOR) 1997, 2008 and now 2018. The PYOR 2018 was launched at the Protected Areas Meeting held in Apia, Samoa, where sixty delegates from the Pacific region attended. Coral reefs have been chosen as the thematic focus for not only PYOR 2018, but for PYOR 2019 as well, as a two-year SPREP thematic campaign which aims to strengthen the Pacific's coral reef network.



Children celebrating the launch of the Pacific Year of the Reef at the SPREP campus in Vailima, Samoa. Photo credit: SPREP

2018 June

GLOBAL EVENTS

British Indian Ocean Territories stamp competition

The British Indian Ocean Territories (BIOT) held a stamp designing competition for children to design a new stamp for the BIOT under the theme 'Year of the Reef'. Four ages groups were created and there was one winner per group. Winners were selected by a panel of judges. The winners were: Kyle Irvine, age 6, from Aberdeenshire, UK, age group 4-6; Megan Lee Yit May, age 9, from Brunei, Darussalam, age group; Laura Gilbert, age 12, from Norfolk, UK age group 10-13; and Ailis Law, age 14, from Greater Manchester, UK, age group 14-17. The winning designs were turned into stamps and can be purchased.



BIOT stamp design competition winners.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Chasing Coral screening and discussion, Trinidad & Tobago

A Chasing Coral screening in Trinidad was held to celebrate the IYOR, following the screening, there was a question and answer session with local scientists about the coral reefs of Trinidad and Tobago, the local and global threats they face and what can be done to help.

Reef Blitz, Jamaica



Reef Blitz participants
L-R Kay-Ann Miller (NEPA), Gabrielle-Jae Watson (NEPA), Monique Curtis (NEPA), Matthew Lee (CL Environmental Ltd.), Inilek Wilmot (Oracabessa Foundation), Michael Sterling (Oracabessa Foundation), Shanti Persaud-Levy (University Sub-Aqua Club) Photo Credit: Robert Hew

The first major activity planned under IYOR 2018 in Jamaica was a 'Reef Blitz'. Reef Check monitoring was carried out at six different Marine Protected Areas and Special Fishery Conservation Areas island-wide. A total of thirty volunteers participated with a total of ten sites surveyed. IYOR 2018 branded T-shirts were created for the event.

The 2018 Ridge to Reef Eco Camp, CNMI



2018 Ridge to Reef Eco Camp participants. Photo credit: Keith Nabors

This is an annual Youth Stewardship Program in the islands of Tinian and Rota (CNMI). This year's camp theme focused on the IYOR. Eco camp participants explored their watershed from ridge to reef, through learning about agricultural best practice; hiking and exploring in a limestone forest; conducting beach clean-ups; learning about the detrimental impacts of marine debris and learning about coral reefs.

The Depththerapy team celebrate the IYOR

The Depththerapy Team marked the IYOR 2018 with the launch of a new environmental project 'Protecting Our Oceans'. A team of UK Armed Forces veterans have launched a project to 'give back' to the marine environment that they credit with turning their lives around. The thirty wounded-in-service veterans,



Ben Lee, Depththerapy Ambassador and former Royal Engineer. Photo credit: Dmitry Knyazev

all suffering from life-changing physical and/or mental injuries, are Programme Members of the scuba diving rehabilitation charity Depththerapy. The aim of the Protecting Our Oceans project is to raise awareness of the fragility of the world's oceans and for each Depththerapy Programme Member to make their own practical contribution to environmental protection to help safeguard the future.

Coral reef and seagrass bed workshop, Puerto Rico

The Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) held a workshop entitled "The Importance, condition, and management of coral reefs and seagrass beds in Puerto Rico", for teachers, fisherman and community leaders. Sixty-nine people attended the workshop and learned about topics ranging from herbivory on coral reefs to the importance of sharks.

Coral reef management workshop, Thailand

The Marine Science Association of Thailand, in collaboration with the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, universities and relevant agencies organized a workshop on strategies for coral reef management in Thailand. It was a side-event at the sixth National Marine Science Conference aiming to brainstorm and discuss the effective strategies for coral reef management in Thailand. Some of the outcomes and suggestions, particularly the strategies for research and monitoring, from the workshop resulted in the Bangsaen Declaration 2018.

Coral Reefs: solutions for today and tomorrow, symposium, France

The Foundation for Research of Biodiversity (FBR), the Oceanographic Institute of Monaco, CRIOBE (CNRS-EPHE-UPVD-PSL), the Oceans and Climate Platform and French Coral Reef Initiative (IFRECOR) organized a symposium to present the latest scientific information on the state of coral reefs and the solutions to preserve them. A screening of the documentary Chasing Coral followed the conference. About 133 people attended the symposium and 250 participated in the screening later in the evening.

'It's your reef festival', Australia

As part of 2018 IYOR celebrations, Burdekin Shire Council held the 'It's Your Reef Festival' where hundreds of people attended to learn about protecting the Great Barrier Reef and minimising their own environmental impact. Attendees were encouraged to pledge their love of the Great Barrier Reef, to signify their commitment to the environment.



Mayor Lyn McLaughlin of the Burdekin Shire Council (left) at the 'It's your reef' festival.

Coral Reefs - Endangered Treasures of the Oceans, Germany

The Senckenberg Natural History Museum (in Frankfurt) opened a special exhibition as part of the IYOR. The exhibition aimed to inform visitors about the unique and complex ecology of coral reefs, their immense economic importance as well as the growing danger they face.

TESTIMONIAL:

"Coral reefs are underfunded, yet a necessary ecosystem for millions of people around the world and are particularly important for the well-being and safety of the Pacific islands Region. It is vital to bring and continue the awareness on ways to mitigate the issues that affect the health of the coral reef ecosystem."

Akiko Hamada-Ano, SPREP



Gregory Piper, USA



David Hannan, Australia



Renata Romeo, Italy



Philip Hamilton, UK



Wojtek Meczynski, Poland



Erik Lukas, USA



Jett Britnell, Canada

Coral Reef Image Bank June photographers

July 2018

GLOBAL EVENTS

The Mirpuri Foundation painted a Hi Fly Airbus A380 with a coral message 'Save the Coral Reefs'

In a bid to raise awareness for coral reefs the Mirpuri Foundation joined forces with AkzoNobel and Hi Fly, to paint an A380 Airbus with a message pledging the need to save coral reefs.



The Hi Fly Airbus A380 painted in coral livery, by the Mirpuri Foundation and AkzoNobel. Photo credit: Hi Fly

NATIONAL EVENTS

'Advances and Challenges of the research and conservation of coral reefs in Venezuela in a climate change scenario' conference, Venezuela

As a part of the celebrations held for the IYOR, the Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research hosted a conference to disseminate the current status of reef research in Venezuela. The conference was comprised of five presentations covering a broad spectrum of topics, including: human impacts on our reefs; the current state of conservation, bleaching events; climate change and basic reef ecology. Over thirty individuals attended the event, including researchers, students, representatives from governmental institutions and NGOs.

Workshop on 'Promoting best practices in coastal marine conservation in collaboration', Thailand

In collaboration with private sector partners, a workshop was hosted, that brought together the government, NGOs and the private sector to discuss solutions to the threat of coastal marine ecosystem degradation and to promote best practices in coastal marine conservation. Participants from twenty private sector groups from all over Thailand plus three different government agencies joined the workshop.



Participants of the 'Promoting Best Practices in Coastal Marine Conservation in Collaboration with Private Sector Partners Workshop' in Thailand. Photo credit: Karistha Chusing

Bay Islands coastal clean-up, Honduras

Organizations and communities from all around the Bay Islands (Honduras) took on a massive clean-up initiative, collecting solid waste and debris from the beaches and reefs across the Bay Islands. The event was made possible with the support of Bay Islands Coastal Clean-Up, the Coral Reef Alliance, the Bay Islands Conservation Association (BICA), and all the hardworking volunteers. More than 500 volunteers in Utila, Roatan and Guanaja participated.

Roatan Marine Park (RMP) Reef Fest, Honduras

During the RMP Reef Fest thirty high school students from Instituto José Santos Guardiola, received educational lectures on marine conservation from "Plastics" to "Sustainable Tourism in Bay Islands".



The certificate awarded to participants of the Reef Fest.

Over five days guest speakers came from organizations such as Think Beyond Plastic, MAR Alliance Honduras, Bay Islands Reef Restoration, BICA and Go Blue Bay Islands.



Roatan Marine Park Reef Fest. Photo credit: Roatan Marine Park

Reef HQ live student extravaganza, Australia

More than 250 students from four different cities joined together to participate in a dedicated IYOR live hook-up from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's (GBRMPA) national education centre and the world's largest living coral reef aquarium – Reef HQ. This was held as part of the GBRMPA's celebration of IYOR across five local government areas throughout the June–July school holiday period.

Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation (BREEF) Sea Camps , Bahamas



Mallory Raphael, BREEF Research and Environmental Education Officer giving a presentation on «Coral Reef Ecosystems, Rainforests of the Sea». Photo credit: Tessa Morelli

In celebration of the IYOR, over three separate weekends in June and July, BREEF held Sea Camps for children in San Salvador, New Providence and Andros. BREEF's mission is to "promote the conservation of the Bahamian marine environment that sustains our way of life" which aligns with the IYOR's goal to spread awareness about coral reefs. Thus, the IYOR was a fitting theme for this Year's Sea Camps. The goals for this year were derived from the IYOR's goals and adapted for the camps.

TESTIMONIAL:

"The IYOR 2018 inspired our team to hold more ocean-based public events in order to raise awareness of the essential functions that coral reef ecosystems serve in and around Phuket, Thailand. The tourism industry often takes these ecosystem services for granted, and with the help of IYOR 2018, we hope that we have raised more awareness of these fragile ecosystems and inspired a greater love for coral reefs."

Kathryn Bimson, IUCN Thailand

Rick Miskiv, USA
**Coral Reef Image Bank
July photographer**



2018

August

GLOBAL EVENTS

Stamp month, Australia

The Australia Post celebrated August stamp-collecting month by inviting all Australians to go on a 'Reef Safari' with the release of five stamps showcasing the beautifully diverse and threatened species found on the Great Barrier Reef.



Reef Safari stamps created for stamp-collecting month in Australia.

Animal Collective and Coral Morphologic release audio-visual album 'Tangerine Reef' to celebrate the IYOR

Tangerine Reef is a full-length audiovisual album by Animal Collective, created in collaboration with Coral Morphologic, to commemorate the 2018 IYOR.



Animal Collective and Coral Morphologic's album Tangerine Reef album cover. Image credit: Coral Morphologic

Green Fins released #AlternativesToAnchoring



The second of four action points from Green Fins #AlternativesToAnchoring

Green Fins released the second in a series of four IYOR action point, #AlternativesToAnchoring focuses on reef safe options for boats and liveaboards.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Coastal ecosystem awareness and photography workshops, India



One of the images created as part of the coastal ecosystem awareness and photography workshop, that will be compiled into The Amjum Tales.

A series of workshops were held throughout 2018 where awareness activities were conducted in various villages of North Andamans. The children who participated in the workshops submitted drawings, stories and paintings which will be compiled into a children's book called The Amjum Tales.

Public speaking competition in Roatan, Honduras



The competitors of the public speaking competition in Roatan. Photo credit: Roatan Marine Park

The RMP held a public speaking competition under the title "A Roatan Reef Plastic-Free" (Por una Roatan libre de plástico). Eighteen students from several local public and private high schools took part in the competition; the participants enthusiastically recited persuasive speeches at the Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences in English and Spanish before a panel of judges.

Coral Encounters: Photographs from our underwater world, Cayman Islands

The National Gallery of the Cayman Islands (NGCI) celebrated the IYOR by hosting the work of thirty local and international underwater photographers.



'Coral Encounters', photography exhibition at the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands. Photo credit: National Gallery of the Cayman Islands

Positioned at the crossroads between art and science, this exhibition brought together artists, marine professionals, scientists,

curators and educators to raise awareness about the beauty of, and threats to, our coral reefs. A wide programme of events was developed for the exhibition, including film screenings, a lecture series, a Family Fun day and a recycled plastic art workshop. Over 3,400 people visited the exhibit.

Coral Reefs, a Challenge for Humanity, France



'Coral Reefs, a Challenge for Humanity' on display outside the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France. Photo credit: MNHN - Pascale Joannot

A coral reef themed photography exhibition by photojournalist Alexis Rosenfeld and journalist Alexie Valois entitled "Coral Reefs, a Challenge for Humanity" was displayed along the gates of the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, with the aim to bring attention to coral reefs. Additional text, video interviews, reports and 360° photographs were available via smartphone by scanning the QR codes on the displays.

TESTIMONIAL:

"The 2018 International Year of the Reef could not have come at a more critical time for the future of coral reefs. Whilst it has been fantastic in raising the much-needed awareness of reefs and inspiring support for their conservation, most importantly it has brought people and organisations together, working with a level of collaboration that has not been seen before. The new initiatives developed as a result of International Year of the Reef have the potential to be game-changing for the future of coral reefs; from generating mass-public support for coral reef conservation (through long-term creative communications), to technology innovation (through a coral reef XPrize). We are thinking bigger and making progress."

Richard Vevers, TOA



Grant Thomas, Scotland



Ishan Hassan, Maldives



Martin Colognoli, France



Katerina Katopis, Greek

Coral Reef Image Bank August photographers

2018

September

NATIONAL EVENTS

Progress in Marine Conservation, Germany

The international conference on “Progress in Marine Conservation” had an IYOR 2018 section on Friday 7 September where Professor C. Sheppard (University of Warwick, UK) presented “Coral Reef Conservation in recent decades and the Future of Reefs”, to the 102 attendees at the conference in Germany.

Chasing coral screening and discussion, Kenya



Chasing coral screening and Q&A hosted by CORDIO at the Nyalí Cinemax in Kenya. Photo credit: James Mbugua, CORDIO

CORDIO in partnership with Nyalí Cinemax in Kenya hosted a free screening of the award-winning documentary Chasing Coral to commemorate the third IYOR and CORDIO's twentieth anniversary. The event was attended by 293 people. After the documentary screening, there was a question and answer discussion with local coral reef scientists, managers and government officials.

Marine Science Symposium, United Kingdom

The Bertarelli Foundation hosted a marine science symposium at the Royal Geographical Society, in London, where attendees could hear researchers and academics from the Bertarelli Programme in Marine Science describe recent advances in the science of the open ocean, coral reefs and terrestrial ecosystems in the British Indian Ocean Territory. The IYOR had a stand, to showcase some of the events that had taken place, and also to educate the attendees on the IYOR.



The IYOR stand at the Bertarelli Foundation Marine Science Symposium. Photo credit: Claire Rumsey

Regional Coral Reef Action Plan 2020-2030

During SPREP's inaugural executive board meeting, a proposal for the Pacific coral reef action plan 2020-2030 was officially endorsed by SPREP members. The proposed Regional Coral Reef Action Plan 2020-2030 will encompass the following initiatives and issues:

- Promoting integrated management of coastal and marine areas to reduce anthropogenic pressures on coral reef ecosystems and to increase coral resilience.
- Increasing capacity for coral reef management and related ecosystems, along with best practices among all stakeholders.
- Supporting regional, national and sub-national legislation, policy and management for coral reef conservation.
- Integrating traditional knowledge and customary practices into coral reef management.
- Seek sustainable financing and resources.
- Implementing a communication strategy and increase information and awareness.
- Increasing the accessibility of research and monitoring data and results for the benefit of coral reef conservation.

Coastal and underwater clean-up, Jamaica

To celebrate the International Coastal Cleanup Day (ICCD) an underwater clean-up was held, as well as a beach clean-up. IYOR 2018 and ICCD branded T-shirts were made for the event. The day's activity resulted in the removal of over 1,300 plastic bottles.



International Coastal Cleanup Day in Jamaica. L-R Dalelan Anderson (WRMA), Valerie Pougatchev (volunteer), Gabrielle-Jae Watson (NEPA), Donovan Sankey (NEPA), Mark Lobban (WRMA), Kyle Mais (WRMA), Everton Simpson (WRMA), Tamarah Myles (NEPA) and Bluntly Brown (WRMA). Photo Credit: National Environment and Planning Agency

Beach clean-up, and coral reef survey, Iran

The Department of Environment of Qeshm Free Area Organization (QDOE of QFAO) hosted a beach clean-up where over 300kgs of trash were collected and then removed from over 3km of coast in Zeytoon park, Iran. Coral reef survey, Iran (13-17 September). The Organization in conjunction with the Green reef Group conducted a series of coral health surveys with the help of local diving clubs. This program was performed on the three islands of Qeshm, Hengam and Larak island.



Volunteers from the beach clean-up in Zeytoon Park, where over 300kgs of garbage was removed. Photo credit: QDOE of QFAO

International Coastal Cleanup Day, Malaysia

On ICCD nearly 5,000 volunteers at eighty-four locations around Malaysia, conducted beach clean-ups. Approximately 7,500 kg of trash were removed from beaches, with the most common items being plastic bottles, cigarette butts and plastic bags.

IYOR Pecha Kucha, Australia

In a first for the GBRMPA, a Great Barrier Reef – IYOR Pecha Kucha event was held in Townsville, North Queensland. Each speaker presented twenty images, each for twenty seconds – focusing on why people need to #LoveTheReef. The eight speakers covered a diversity of topics, including: reef science, research, arts and conservation which showed the positive and important connection many community members have with the Reef. More than 150 people attended the event.

Rainbow sea: diving into the heart of France and Israel's coral reefs, France

“La mer arc-en-ciel: une plongée au cœur des récifs coralliens de France et d'Israël” (Rainbow sea: diving into the heart of France and Israel's coral reefs) was a photography exhibit at the Paris Zoological Parc that showcased images on forty photographic panels focusing on the reefs of New Caledonia but also both French and Israeli reefs. This was organized by France's National Natural History Museum in close collaboration with the Steinhardt Natural History Museum (Israel), and supported by the French Institute and the French Ministry in charge of the Environment.

Release of the “Status and Trends of Coral Reefs of the Pacific”

At the occasion of the sixth National Report Technical Support and Preparatory Meeting for the fourteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) regional meetings, convened at SPREP Headquarters, the “Status and Trends of Coral Reefs of the Pacific” was released. This analysis of Pacific reefs includes the results from nearly 20,000 surveys from 128 islands covering nineteen countries or territories.



Rainbow sea: diving into the heart of France and Israel's coral reefs display. Photo credit: Alexis Valois

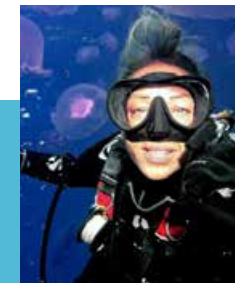
TESTIMONIAL:

“Given the pressing state of reefs and the dire predictions for the future survival of coral reefs, the International Year of the Reef in 2018 provided a timely initiative for conservationists to raise global awareness and increase protection under a common banner.”

Mishal Gudka, CORDIO



Jordan Robins, Australia



Cinzia Osele Bismarck, Italy

Coral Reef Image Bank September photographers

October 2018

GLOBAL EVENTS

Corals Matter

The Paribas Foundation and the Association of Science–Technology Centres (ASTC), came together to create a unique experience for science centre and museum visitors, with the aim of raising awareness about coral reefs, and the importance of these ecosystems.



The Corals Matter banner, complete with QR codes to allow viewers access to a variety of different resources.

Coral Universe: when ceramic art, ocean science and virtual reality meet, Indonesia

On the eve of the Our Ocean Conference in October the unveiling of the Coral Universe at the Coral Triangle Center for Marine Conservation in Sanur, Bali took place. Coral Universe is a ceramic 18.6 x 2.4 metre coral sculpture that is made of 3,000 ceramic coral pieces. The unveiling of which commemorated not only the IYOR 2018 but the presidency of Indonesia, Monaco and Australia in ICRI.

Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR) 2018, India

The Union Territory of Lakshadweep's Administration in collaboration with the Zoological Survey of India organized the STAPCOR 2018 International Conference based on the theme 'Reef for Life'.



Photo credit: Lakshadweep Administration

NATIONAL EVENTS

B(reef)ly Ours a coral reef exhibit, Guam

This exhibit has been designed to depict the past, present and future of Guam's coral reefs, in celebration of GYOR. The exhibit features: underwater photography from around Guam; coral fossils; historic and cultural fishing tools; a chronology of Guam's reefs and information about coral bleaching. The exhibition ran for four months and was open to residents and visitors.



B(reef)ly Ours museum Exhibit in Guam. Photo credit: Mallory Morgan

Seychelles IYOR symposium

The University of Seychelles held an IYOR scientific symposium with the aim of bringing everyone from the coral community and the wider public together. The symposium consisted of fourteen presenters from various different organizations in the Seychelles, who each gave a fifteen-minute presentation about their projects or research relating to coral reefs which were all within the Seychelles. Eighty-two people attended the symposium and there was a wide diversity of stakeholders.

The Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology (SIST) launch two new initiatives, India



Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology members at the launch of two new initiatives. Middle row-seated L-R S. Prakash and Amit Kumar (Founders of MERC and CMSP, Organisers of IYOR 2018) and T. Sasipraba (Pro vice-chancellor). Photo credit: Sanjeevi Prasath

The Centre for Climate Change Studies at SIST has officially launched two new initiatives: (i) the Marine Ecology Researchers' Club (MERC) and (ii) the Citizen Marine Science Program (CMSP). The aim of MERC and CMSP is to develop a network of action-oriented researchers who are involved in marine ecology and citizen science research in India. Following the announcement of the creation of these two initiatives there was a screening of Chasing coral. The idea of streaming the documentary was to create awareness among the students and researchers' community and to uncover the underwater paradise showing that coral reefs are disappearing due to global climate change and to discuss the possible ways to save corals and their associated bioresources for the future generation. There were 130 participants.

Reef clean-up, Thailand

Save Our Sea with the Marine Biodiversity Research Group, Ramkhamhaeng University and other relevant agencies organized reef clean-up activities at several locations in the Gulf of Thailand including, Ko Losin, Pattani Province. The success of these activities was due to the collaboration among volunteer divers who helped collect marine debris found in coral reefs. The collected marine debris was brought back to the mainland for proper disposal.

Reef Check surveys, Colombia

Twelve EcoDivers surveyed five diving spots for Reef Check Colombia and collected data on reef health for the local environmental authority on San Andrés Island, Colombia.

Coral reef photo exhibit, Germany

ZMT held a photography exhibition under the title "Coral Reef Organisms – Artworks of Nature Exhibition" of close-up photos taken of reef animals. Roughly 1,500 visitors attended.

Twenty-four-hour dive for the love of the reef, Australia

The University of Queensland held a twenty-four-hour dive where a team of forty plus divers went to great depths to raise funds and awareness for coral reefs by collectively spending twenty-four hours underwater. The event was part of the Reef Citizen Science Alliance's month-long ReefBlitz citizen science and community action campaign. "The event's bringing together a range of UQ-related groups – including UniDive, UQ Sport, Coral Watch, Reef Check Australia, and Virtual Reef Diver – to promote reef conservation and fundraise in the IYOR," said Dr Roelfsema.



Participants of the 24-hour dive 'for the love of reefs' held at the University of Queensland. Photo credit: Chris Roelfsema

Global Eco Conference, Australia

Australia's twenty-sixth Ecotourism conference was held in Townsville, Queensland. During which

tourism operators, protected area managers, tourism organizations, indigenous bodies and researchers came together to discuss the industry's big issues, with a focus on the IYOR.

AXA Coral Live

Coral reefs were brought into classrooms with AXA Coral Live from Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity Research Centre. Working with coral experts linked to the research station, Encounter Edu Director, Jamie Buchanan-Dunlop animated thirty interactive education broadcasts for teachers seeking to create real world connections for their science, geography and primary school students.

TESTIMONIAL:

"The IYOR 2018 helped to raise awareness for the beauty and plight of coral reefs in the general public and the media, and it inspired science communicators to organize a considerable number of extraordinary events illustrating the importance of this valuable ecosystem and drawing attention to the urgency of comprehensive reef protection."

Susanne Eickhoff, ZMT



Mark Fitz, Australia



Shaun Wolfe, USA

Coral Reef Image Bank October photographers

2018 November

GLOBAL EVENTS

IYOR at the fourteenth Conference of Parties (CoP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Egypt



IYOR stand at the CEPA fair during the CoP CBD.
Photo credit: Claire Rumsey

IYOR at the fair on Communication Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)

During the CoP to the CBD ICRI had a stand at the CEPA fair to showcase a selection of events that had taken place during the IYOR. Alongside this a presentation was given to visitors at the CEPA fair, on the history of ICRI and the IYOR. On the 23 of November ICRI, along with WCS, TOA, TNC, WWF, Vulcan Inc., CBD and the UN Environment Program hosted the 'Voices of Coral Reefs' session as part of Sustainable Ocean Day: Ocean Voices. This day was concurrent with CBD COP14. This session showcased a Coral Reef Quiz Show. The trivia quiz questions were designed to challenge the attendees of Ocean Voices about their coral knowledge.

Flyer created for Sustainable Ocean Day 'Voices of Coral Reefs'



Green Fins released #DoNotFeedTheFish

The third of four action points by Green Fins for the IYOR, focused on why creating an unnatural relationship between fish and humans is not healthy or sustainable for a balanced ecosystem.

The third of four action points from Green Fins: #DoNotFeedTheFish



Green Fins released #HealthyOceanHealthyBusiness

The fourth and final action point from Green Fins focused on showcasing pioneering businesses from different aspects of the diving industry that are working towards protecting the marine environment.



The fourth action point from Green Fins: #HealthyOceanHealthyBusiness

NATIONAL EVENTS

CAPTURE Coral Reef Colloquium, Germany

To celebrate the IYOR the ZMT held a two-day conference to address current research on tropical coral reefs and their need for protection. There was also a screening of 360 Coral Reefs: Life Below the Surface.



Dr. Georg Heiss from the Institute of Geological Sciences of the FU Berlin opening "CAPTURE". Photo credit: Jan Meier (ZMT)

The Seychelles Ocean Festival



Official poster of the Seychelles inaugural Ocean Festival.

The Seychelles Tourism Bureau launched its inaugural Ocean Festival and the 2018 theme was the IYOR. The festival took place over four days and included: an official opening at Eden Island, complete with a photographic/cinematographic display of old photographs and films; the screening of an episode of the BBC's The Blue Planet; a competition among the NGOs to build and race a raft; volleyball and football competitions; a competition to build the best sand castle; a kiddies' treasure hunt; educational stalls set up by the NGOs to advertise aspects of their work; a beach clean-up; a dedicated edition of Word Up; live music and closing speeches by the minister.

Workshops on coral reef conservation, Thailand

Several workshops on coral reef conservation were held to enhance the awareness and knowledge of the general public. These covered conservation-related topics such as reef conservation, environmental management and marine protected areas. About fifty participants who varied from tour operators, to divers, to local people and government officers were involved in the workshops in Chumphon Province, the Western Gulf of Thailand and Trat Province, the Eastern Gulf of Thailand.

IYOR mural Pointe Larue Secondary school, Seychelles

The IYOR mural was a joint partnership between the Seychelles IYOR steering committee, the Seychelles Art Foundation, WiseOceans and Pointe Larue Secondary School with the aim of creating an inspirational piece of art to raise awareness of coral reefs and IYOR 2018 in the Seychelles. The mural creation was directed by the George

2018 November



Camille Studio and conducted by the Seychelles Art Foundation in 2018, as a side-project collaboration between 'UP!Seychelles' an environmental public art installation project initiative and WiseOceans Seychelles' School Marine Education Programme which delivers marine education lessons to Pointe Larue Secondary School. 'UP!Seychelles' and the School Marine Education Programme are both funded by the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme. The mural was funded by local NGO Anba Lao, Seychelles' Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust and the British High Commission Victoria. The volunteer helpers were seven staff and twenty students from Pointe Larue Secondary, four from the George Camille studios, one staff member and five volunteers from WiseOceans Seychelles who all helped to create this 80metre mural over five days.

Scientific journalist workshop 'IYOR2018 – Into the reef!', Germany

The University of Bremen in collaboration with the Deutsches Meeresmuseum in Stralsund (FRG),

held a scientific journalist workshop during the annual meeting "Knowledge – Value" which fifteen journalists attended. BreMarE-day 'IYOR2018 – Into the reef!' was a student symposium at the University of Bremen in cooperation with the Deutsches Meeresmuseum in Stralsund (FRG) and was attended by ninety faculty members and students.

"Arrecifes coralinos y su relación sinérgica con la economía, conservación, investigación y el cambio climático" (Coral reefs and their synergistic relationship with economy, conservation, research and climate change), Costa Rica

A new conservation initiative on coral reefs has been developed for Costa Rica, that allows synergy with the economy, conservation, research and climate change in Costa Rica.

Discovering the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico L-R Abigail Martínez, Andrea Rivera, María José Hernández, Ernesto Arias, Jose Luis Cabrera, Johanna Calle Triviño, Camilo Cortés Useche and Alonso Britto, at the 'Discovering the treasures of the Yucatan Peninsula'. Photo credit: Pau Romero



Discovering the treasures of the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico

The Laboratory of Ecology of Coral Reef Ecosystems (LEEAC) of CINVESTAV hosted 'Discovering the treasures of the Yucatan Peninsula', an event involved the dissemination of environmental, educational information in the form of film screenings, a sound and light show, photographic exhibitions and talks by experts in the ecology and conservation of coral reefs.

IYOR celebration on Diego Garcia, BIOT

As part of their IYOR celebrations the BIOT Chief Scientific Advisor gave a talk about the coral reefs, science and environment of the BIOT. A screening of Chasing Coral was also held, followed by a kayak race on Diego Garcia, with the prize of an IYOR T-shirt.

The 27th Science Festival: 'Coral reefs: from the gene to the ecosystem', French Polynesia



The twenty-seventh Science Festival in French Polynesia

Started in 1991 by the French Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation, the Science Festival is a national event, which brings together the scientific community and the general public. For the twenty-seventh Science Festival in conjunction with the IYOR the theme was 'Coral reefs: from the gene to the ecosystem'.

TESTIMONIAL:

"During the IYOR, Costa Rica began to move clearly and decisively on the path of recovering our coral reefs and preventing them from disappearing from our oceans. The government, international organizations, NGOs, universities and communities have joined efforts in an easy and natural way, to get the magic and beauty of our coral reefs back to our oceans. No one questioned whether we should do it, nobody asked what he would personally get in return if we do it, we all knew from the first moment that it was necessary, and that the effort would be worth it."

Mauricio Méndez-Venegas, Conservation Areas National System, Environment and Energy Ministry, Costa Rica

Alex Tyrrell, UK
Coral Reef Image Bank
November photographer



December 2018

GLOBAL EVENTS

IYOR article in the Emirates Diving Association (EDA) magazine

The EDA is a non-profit voluntary federal organization and is accredited by the United Nations Environment as an International Environmental Organization. The EDA has long supported the IYOR and featured the 2008 IYOR several times in their monthly magazine. This IYOR was no different with them dedicating a double page spread to the IYOR.

NEWS

2018 IS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE REEF



The IYOR article in EDA magazine.

Coastal Marine Fishes of São Tomé and Príncipe book launch

In celebration of IYOR, "The Coastal Marine Fishes of São Tomé and Príncipe" book was released. The book presents the most common coastal fishes of São Tomé and Príncipe, their size range, habitats, the depths they are found at, their behaviour, the colours and patterns they exhibit.

The Coastal Marine Fishes of São Tomé and Príncipe book IYOR dedication.



NATIONAL EVENTS

Marine Science Station (MSS) held an IYOR ceremony, Jordan

The MSS, the research institute in Jordan, held a ceremony in celebration of the IYOR. The event was sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme Jordan. Coral reefs are a key part of the Gulf of Aqaba; they support a major part of the subsistence needs and the tourism economy in Aqaba. The MSS assists Jordan and the local authorities in strengthening their coral reef management capacity. Attendees of the event were stakeholders, NGOs, community bodies and decision-makers from Aqaba City. All attendees showed their full support of the efforts being made to protect coral reefs along the Jordanian coastline.



IYOR celebration in Jordan, Eng. Sahl Dudin, Managing Director of Ayla Oasis Development Co. giving a presentation on the success of artificial reefs at the Ayla lagoons. Photo credit: Eyad Alzgoor

Day of the Coral Reef, Colombia logo.



National Day of the Coral Reef, Colombia

In 2008 Colombia participated in the second IYOR by declaring 5 December "The National Day of Coral Reefs" under resolution 1597, and it has been observed every year since. The National Day of Coral Reefs is an initiative that seeks to raise awareness in the country about the importance of protecting and conserving existing coral reefs in the Colombian marine territory. For the National Day of the Coral Reef celebrations in 2018 a presentation about the state of coral reefs in Colombia and information about the different coral formations was given, with special focus on 'what can I, as an individual do to prevent further degradation of coral reefs?'

Chasing coral screening and discussion, New Zealand

The Auckland (New Zealand) branch of IMarEST hosted a screening of Chasing Coral. The screening was free to attend and open to members of the public, with the intention of increasing awareness of the plight of coral reefs and increasing understanding of how the public can help, this took the form of an open discussion following the film.

Coral reef discovery event, Reunion Island (French overseas territory)

Reunion Island, in partnership with the Natural Marine Reserve organized a "coral reef discovery" event, to celebrate the IYOR. The event was open to the general public, and it focused on raising the awareness of children about coral reefs. The idea was to showcase Reunion Islands' beautiful reefs and lagoons, and to explain what a reef is and some of the problems they are facing. Staff from the Reunion Island aquarium attended the event and organized activities on waste and the impact of it on coral reefs. Approximately 1,000 people came specifically to participate in the event.

Japan held an IYOR Closing Event

Coral reef conservation activities by students were held on Ishigaki Island and similar activities by official IYOR supporters were held across Japan. Information regarding the conservation of coral reefs and measures against global warming (which were named the 'cool choice') were widely disseminated to the general public by experts. All of the participants acknowledged the importance of increasing efforts to conserve coral reefs.

Guam end of year celebration

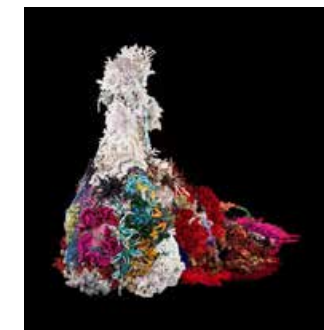
A GYOR wrap-up event was held to recognize GYOR participants and to bring together the community to envision strategies for continuing the GYOR momentum into the future. The event included coral trivia quizzes, prizes, awards and a behind-the-scenes tour of a coral propagation laboratory at Underwater World. About 100 coral researchers, managers and community members attended the event.



Guam end of year celebration. Photo credit: Tony Azios

Coral reef inspired sculpture, Spain

Inspired by the plight facing coral reefs and wanting to highlight the serious issue of coral bleaching, Paola Idrontino began her largest sculpture yet; Evanescent. This is a 2 metre by 4 metre textile and mixed-media sculpture which portrays coral bleaching caused by climate change. This giant sculpture was displayed at the Maritime museum in Barcelona.



Evanescent, sculpture by Paola Idrontino.

Shark release and reef clean-up, Thailand

Thirty-five juvenile bamboo sharks raised by the Thai Department of Marine and Coastal Resources were released by twenty schoolchildren and hotel guests at the reef at Phuket Marriott Resort and Spa, Merlin

December 2018

Beach. The Shark Guardian and the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources gave a presentation on the importance of sharks to marine ecosystems worldwide. Twenty-five local divers then removed approximately 30 kilograms of marine debris from the reef, providing a safe environment for the juvenile sharks.



Bamboo shark release and reef clean-up in Thailand. Photo credit: Karistha Chusing

(Almost) everything about coral reefs

'(Almost) everything about coral reefs' is a project that offers coral-related content to National Education System teachers who want to communicate coral biology to their students in an

original and catchy way. It is the brainchild of Tara PACIFIC and Océanopolis and includes a clear, science-based textbook and six YouTube videos covering a range of coral-related topics, made by environmental influencer Léa Camilleri.

IYOR closing event, France

On 18 December an event was held to discuss and celebrate coral reefs. With roughly 250 people attending, it was a good opportunity to present France's involvement in the IYOR 2018 in front of many IFRECOR's stakeholders as well as to the general public.

Workshop on businesses participation in coral reefs, Vietnam

In Vietnam a workshop on the role of businesses in the management and restoration of coral reefs for ecotourism in Khanh Hoa province took place. Fifty participants came from different governmental departments and the Institute of Oceanography and environment experts were included.

ISRS launched the Coral Reef Conservation Award, United Kingdom

This award was launched as a contribution to IYOR. Up to two awards will be given annually to ISRS members who have made, over a period of some years, a regionally or globally significant contribution to the protection of coral reefs.

MAR Fund photography competition



The winning image from the MAR Fund photography competition: El corazón del mar. El Arrecife. (The heart of the sea. The reef) by Francisco David Penados Saravia taken in Mahahual, México

Under the title 'Life in the MAR', MAR Fund held a photography competition to promote awareness and appreciation of conservation in the MAR. The competition was aimed at adults living in the four countries of the Mesoamerican Reef: Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras. Thirty-four photographs were submitted. A panel selected the thirteen finalist photographs that have been included in the MAR Fund 2019 calendar. The public voted to select the three winners. The first-place winner was Francisco David Penados from Guatemala.

IYOR themed log book, gifted to participants of the coral map in Japan. Designed by Ftsako Kun.



Coral map of Japan

During the second IYOR (2008), Japan formed the Coral Map Executive Committee to begin creating a coral map of Japan. Volunteers (including scientists, educators, people from the diving industry and NGO officials) collected information on coral distribution, bleaching and spawning throughout the country. For the third IYOR the MoE and the Coral Map Executive Committee collaborated with the official supporters to raise awareness about the project and the information gathered by it to encourage more participants. Those who contributed to the coral map, were awarded an IYOR themed log book.

An IYOR display at Reef HQ Aquarium, Australia

This display includes messaging about the value of coral reefs both within Australia and worldwide and is demonstrated on a map. A pledge wall was also created in Reef HQ Aquarium, encouraging guests to pledge to take action to reduce their impact on the reef. These pledges will be placed into a time capsule and buried in the coral reef exhibit to be opened during the next IYOR.

Secrets de Recifs, New Caledonia

In its continued mission to educate the youth of New Caledonia on coral reef preservation Pala Dalik in collaboration with the renowned artist Bernard Berger, author of Tonton Marcel et sa bande, have published a comic strip about New Caledonia's coral reefs.

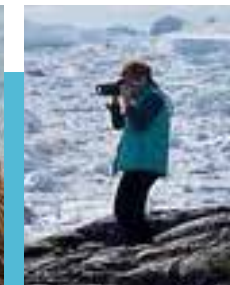


The cover page of 'Secrets de Récifs' comic book about coral reefs.

TESTIMONIAL:
"The IYOR 2018, was a great chance to unify all the efforts around the world, to help one of the most important ecosystems on our planet, the reefs. Also, it was a chance to see what type of different work others from around the world are doing to help in protecting reefs, it was an opportunity to exchange experiences in this field."
Dr Fuad, Al-Horani, Jordan



Kimberly Jeffries, Hawaii



Diane Burko, USA

Coral Reef Image Bank December photographers

The Coral Reef Image bank

The Coral Reef Image bank continued to grow throughout the IYOR with new photographers joining every month. By the end of the year the collection included over 1,000 media-quality photographs and videos. Nearly fifty of the world's top underwater photographers have donated their high-quality imagery. The donated photographs and videos span thirteen different reef regions, with varying subject matter; from bleaching, fluorescing and macro, to local communities and tourists interacting with the reef. There are now over forty videos free to use and thousands of additional photographs available on request. More than 65,000 individuals and organizations in over 170 countries utilized and downloaded photographs in 2018, using the images for news articles; scientific and student publications; climate events and social media.

2019

NATIONAL EVENTS

IYOR mural painted on a government building, Iran

Miss Veysi (manager of Avid Ava Namaye Qeshm Co.) painted the IYOR logo as part of a mural on the front of the Qeshm Department of Environment of QFAO building, in Iran.



The IYOR mural painted in Iran, and the artist Miss Veysi.
Photo credit: QDOE of QFAO

'What do penguins and coral reefs have in common?'

Marji Poutinen, a marine scientist, asked school children to draw what they thought penguins and coral reefs have in common in a bid to increase awareness about climate change. In total 1,246 drawings from eleven countries and 120 schools were submitted. These were printed on fabric which travelled with eighty women scientists on a leadership journey with Homeward Bound where they launched the flag in Antarctica in January 2019.



Members of the Homeward Bound mission in Antarctica with the 'kids care about climate change' flag. Photo credit: Melania Guerra

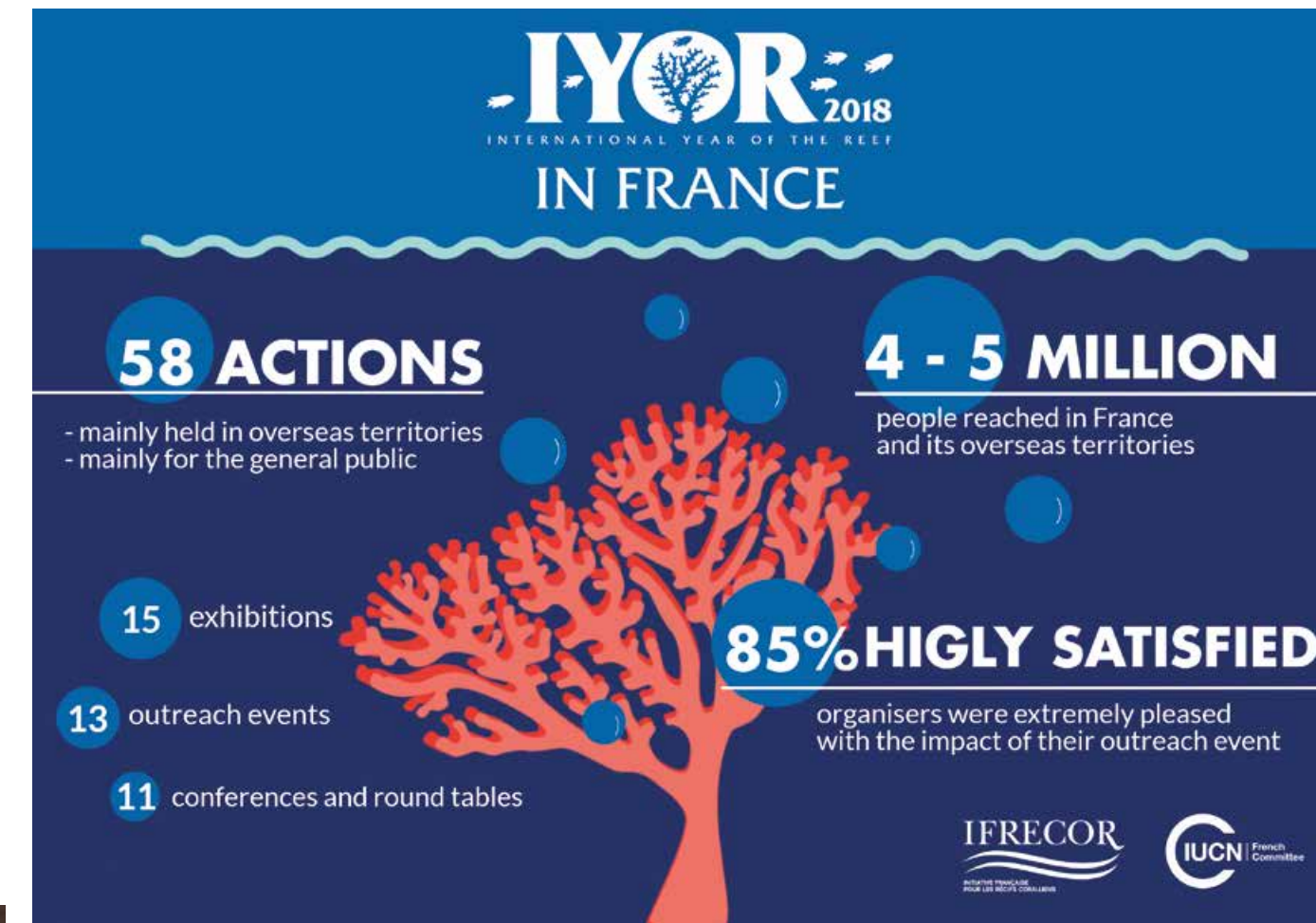


Marji Puotinen lying in the middle of the 'Kids care about climate change' flag. Photo credit: Dr. Sharyn Hickey of AIMS

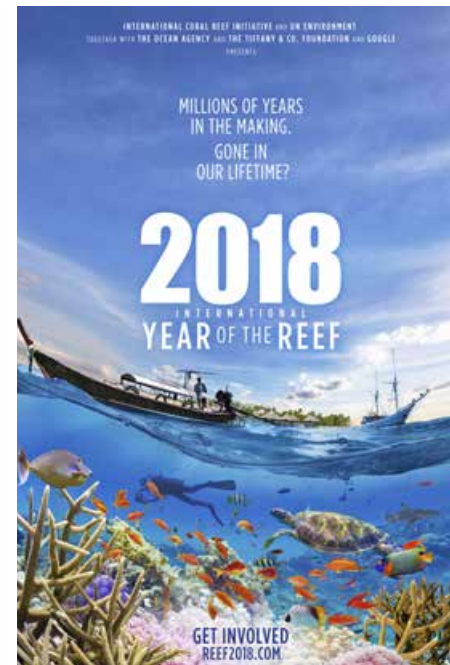
IYOR activities culmination night in the Philippines

A celebratory evening was held in Manila to wrap-up the IYOR in the Philippines. Throughout the evening participants were thanked and key highlights were shared. The evening closed with Departments of Environment and Natural Resources DENR Undersecretary Juan Miguel Cuna saying "Although we are culminating the International Year of the Reef, our efforts must only progress, and not end with this global event. Let us continue to integrate the values of coral reef conservation into the development of the Philippines."

IYOR Philippines partners at the culmination night.



The French Government provided 5000 euros to each of the IFRECOR (French Coral Reef Initiatives) local committees in its overseas territories IYOR outreach actions. These actions were coordinated through the French Committee for IUCN and included a variety of activities such as a comic book, snorkeling outing for kids in Wallis, a photo exhibit in the streets of Papeete, French Polynesia, the translation in French of the Mangrove Action Project curriculum in Guyane, or events at the arrival of Route du Rhum in Guadeloupe

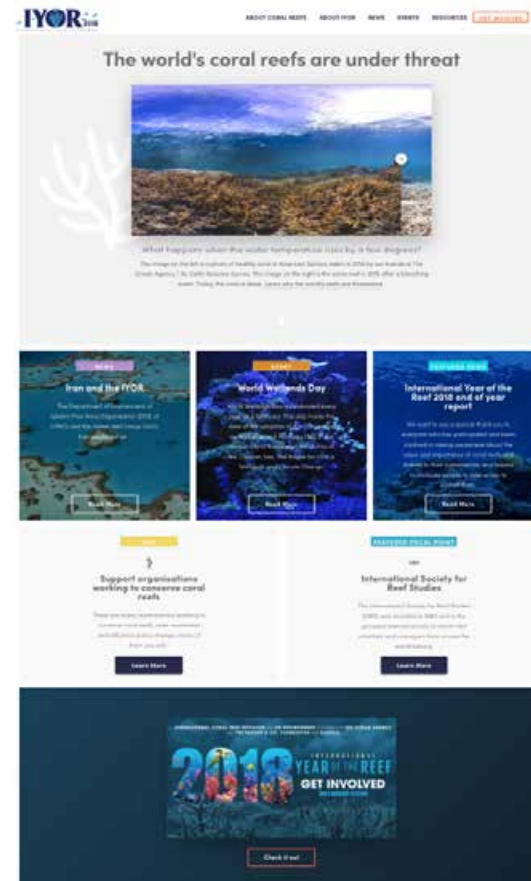


IYOR posters

The IYOR posters were created as though they were being made for a brand-new blockbuster movie. This was because everyone has different preferences and we wanted to make sure everyone who wanted to be involved in the IYOR would be.

As of February 2019:

- There have been around 1,200 downloads.
- A little over 300 custom poster requests.
- And over 50 posters to the likes of WWF, AZA, TNC, Lonely Whale and SeaLegacy.



Please note that additional information on most of the events listed in this report can be found on. > www.iyor2018.org

Apps related to coral reefs

TINYBOP INC, CREATED CORAL REEF BY TINYBOP (February 2018)

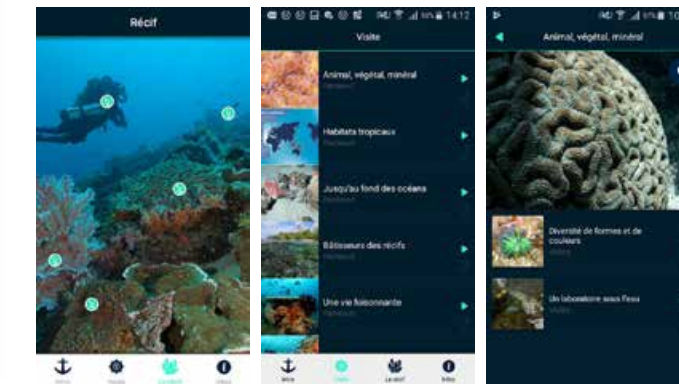
Coral Reef by Tinybop is the tenth app in Tinybop's STEM series for young scientists. The idea behind this version is to encourage children's natural fascination with the ocean.



Process mockups of updated UX flow and label interface. Labels are available in 40+ languages and support further learning.

JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF CORAL REEFS (December 2018)

The French Research Institute for Development (IRD) created a mobile app to help inform large numbers of people about the importance of coral reefs.



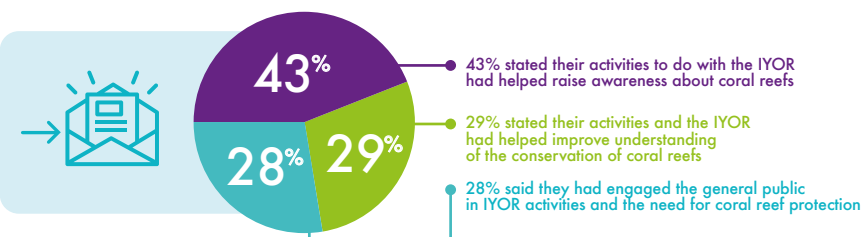
NeMO-Net Although still in development

This interactive video game will teach players how to classify corals using satellite images of reef systems from around the world, to help create a global coral data set.



Conclusion

YEAR IN NUMBERS



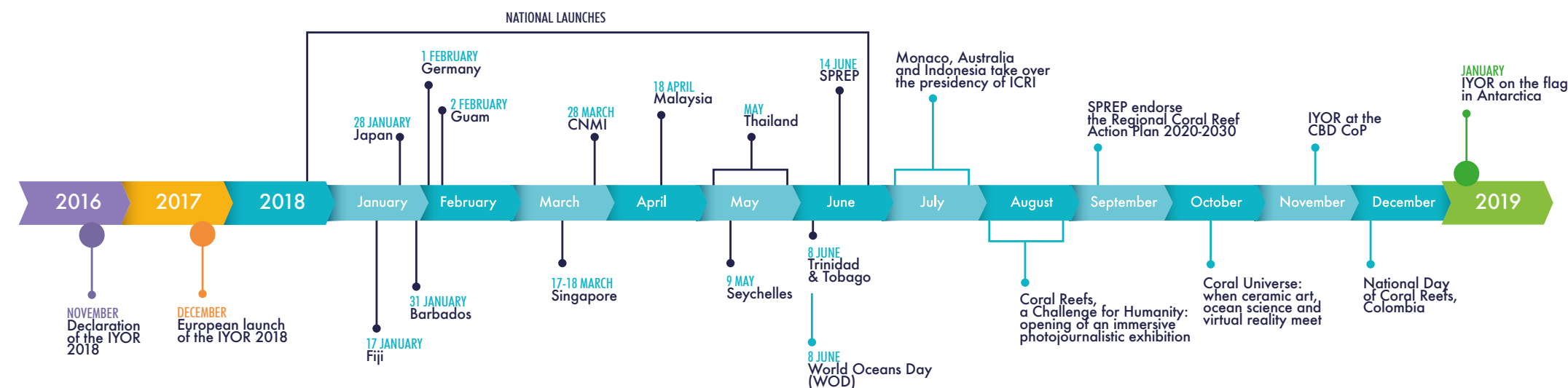
The IYOR 2018 was full of an amazing variety and a large number of events, that collectively brought people from all around the world and from all walks of life and introduced them to coral reefs, so on this front the IYOR succeeded in its goal to strengthen awareness globally about the value of, and threats to, coral reefs and their associated ecosystems.

We asked participants of the IYOR to tell us what impact they thought their IYOR activities has had on themselves or their organizations and, in summary, here is what they said:

Hosting and holding events within the framework of the IYOR has really helped raise awareness about not only the existence of coral reefs, but the plight they are facing and the very real danger they are in, on a scale and across a platform

much larger than what could have been reached otherwise. Children and adults alike have been actively involved in promoting conservation practices and assisting with beach and reef cleans worldwide. It was a great platform to show the general public what governments have been doing to protect and preserve coral reefs. The public have been galvanised from landlocked countries to countries with coral reef to do their bit, to support coral reefs.

TIMELINE IYOR2018



Acronyms

ASTC – Association of Science-Technology Centres
BICA – Bay Islands Conservation Association
BIOT – British Indian Ocean Territory
BREEF – Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation
CARESS – Centre for Action Research on Environment Science and Society
CBD – Convention on Biological Diversity
CCC – Coral Cay Conservation
CNMI – The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CNRS – National Centre for Scientific Research
CoP – Conference of Parties
CORDIO – Coastal Oceans Research and Development – Indian Ocean
CRIOBE – Center for Insular Research and Environment Observatory)
CTC – Coral Triangle Centre
CZMU – Coastal Zone Management Unit
DEFRA – Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DNER – Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
ECRS – European Coral Reef Symposium
EDA – Emirates Diving Association
EPHE – École Pratique des Hautes Études
FBR – Foundation for Research of Biodiversity
GBRMPA – Great Barrier Marine Park Authority
GCRMN – Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
GEF – Global Environment Facility

GYOR – Guam Year of the Reef
HRH – His Royal Highness
HSH – His Serene Highness
ICCD – International Coastal Cleanup Day
ICRI – The International Coral Reef Initiative
IFRECOR – French Initiative for Coral Reefs
IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRD – The French Research Institute for Development
IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature
ISRS – International Society for Reef Studies
IYOR – The International Year of the Reef
IYORTT – International Year of the Reef Trinidad and Tobago
MAR Fund – Mesoamerican Reef Fund
MSS – Marine Science Station
NEPA – National Environment and Planning Agency
NGCI – National Gallery of the Cayman Islands
NGO – Non-Governmental Organization
NIWA – National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research
NOC – National Oceanographic Centre
PMBC – Phuket Marine Biological Center
PSL – Paris Sciences and Letters
PYOR – Pacific Year of the Reef
QDOE – Qeshm Department of Environment
QFAO – Qeshm Free Area Organization
RCUK – Reef Conservation United Kingdom
RMP – Roatan Marine Park
SIST – Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology
SNPA – Seychelles National Park Authorities

SPREP – The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
STAPCOR – Status and Protection of Coral Reefs
STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
TOA – The Ocean Agency
UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
UPVD – University of Perpignan
VDST – German Underwater Federation
WCS – Wildlife Conservation Society
WOD – World Ocean Day
WRMA – White River Marine Association
ZMT – Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research

Acknowledgements

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END
OF YEAR
REPORT

IYOR 2018

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE REEF