



Report from the International Year of the Reef (IYOR) 2008 Ad Hoc committee

Presented by Francis Staub

Background

1. At the ICRI General Meeting in Tokyo, the terms of reference of the International Coordination of the International Year of the Reef 2008 were adopted. A new composition for the Ad-Hoc committee was also adopted.
2. The purpose of the IYOR 2008 Ad Hoc Committee is to actively advise, support and provide guidance to the IYOR 2008 Coordinator in carrying out the IYOR 2008 Action Plan and accompanying activities.
3. The IYOR 2008 Ad Hoc Committee provided input for the ICRI IYOR Plan of Action taking into account the recommendations made during the IYOR breakout sessions of the General Meeting in Tokyo by June 15th, 2007.
4. This report highlights keys actions of the Ad Hoc Committee and the IYOR coordinator based on the Terms of Reference for the International Coordination of the International Year of the Reef 2008

1. Central Coordination

- The Coordinator identified several focal points (more than 60), developed an IYOR focal point mailing list, and communicates frequently with these focal points..
- The actions of the IYOR focal points are posted on the IYOR web site on the IYOR focal point page.
- The Coordinator is serving as the point of contact for ICRI members and provides information to them on how to participate in IYOR.
- The Coordinator spends a large portion of his time providing articles for newsletters. A list of articles featuring IYOR is available in annex 1.

2. Coordinate and contribute to the development and Distribution of ICRI IYOR Products and Materials

- An IYOR postcard and poster have been developed (available on the IYOR web site). An "in-house" IYOR leaflet has also been developed.

3. Web Site Development and Management

An IYOR web site has been developed to serve as a central communications hub for the International Year of the Reef (www.iyor.org). IYOR web site features include:

- Coral reefs facts (developed with the help of ICRAN)
- “Ask the experts” – A call for volunteers to help reply to the questions received was posted on the Coral-List, and 20 volunteers agreed to assist. We are also receiving more and more questions.
- Events Calendar – 50 events have been posted. We are still working on a nicer layout for the calendar and will add a search function soon.
- IYOR E-News: Visitors have the option to sign-up for the IYOR E-news. We will send the first one after the ICRI General Meeting
- Focal Point pages: each focal point has their own page where relevant information can be posted. This is a very useful method for information gathering. Also, we are currently working on a map to display the location of the focal points.
- We are also working on an interactive “what you can do section”. This should be live early February.
- An “Educational Materials” corner compiles materials related to Coral Reef Education.

Once the campaign is officially launched in January 2008, these pages will be updated frequently. Additional features will be developed in the coming months and comments and suggestion are welcome.

Partnerships and Event Coordination

The organization of the IYOR press briefing, reception and symposium have been major tasks of the IYOR Coordinator for the last few months. The IYOR coordinator would like to recognize the help and support of the World Bank in the organization of the IYOR reception, and from NOAA in the organization of the press event.

The coordinator also attended:

- *The Diving Equipment & Marketing Association show (October 31-November 3, 2007, Orlando, Florida). His attendance was facilitated by the Project Aware foundation.*
- Planning meeting of the IYOR Wider Caribbean Campaign (Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 10 – 11 November 2007)

Ongoing discussions with ICRI partners are held regarding:

- an ICRI IYOR side event at the CBD
- an IYOR presence at IUCN Conservation Congress (Barcelona, October 2008)

Discussions are also underway regarding a collaboration with World Ocean Day (June 8th) and the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup.

Budget Management and Support

The IYOR campaign partnered with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to facilitate the receipt of funds to the campaign (online donations can be made via the IYOR web site). Funding is needed to print and disseminate materials, particularly for individuals and organisations in developing countries. If funds remain at the end of the campaign, the ICRI co-chairs will decide, with input from the ICRI Members, how best to use them..

Action Requested

- Confirm the current membership of the IYOR Ad-Hoc Committee.
- Confirm the mandate of the IYOR Ad-Hoc Committee remains: “*actively advise, support and provide guidance to the IYOR 2008 Coordinator in carrying out the IYOR 2008 Action Plan and accompanying activities.*”

Annex 1: List of newsletter with IYOR and media coverage

Blue Planet (The Ocean Project)

C3-Comores newsletter

Caribbean WaterWays

CNMI Newsletter

Coral Reef Alliance Newsletter

CTO Keep Sake Newsletter

Emirates Diving Association Newsletter

Gincanino, the newsletter on youth and biodiversity by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

ICRAN newsletter

ICRI Newsletter

Linkages Update (Issue 85. 3 May 2007)

NOAA Coral Reef News

Our Blue World - Project AWARE newsletter

PEMSEA - E-update Vol. 8. Issue NO. 2 Partner News

Ramsar-CEPA e-mail list (5 April 2007)

Reef Base

"Reef and Leaf", the newsletter of Coral Cay Conservation

Reef Encounter, the newsletter of the International Society for Reef Studies

Science (14 December 2007), Editorial called “Year of the Reef” from Donald Kennedy, Editor-in-Chief

SCRFA newsletter

SeaSpan--Marine Conservation News

Sport diver Magazine (225,000 printed copies)

Straight from the Vine - The Environmental & Cultural Education Newsletter for the Virgin Islands Community, Volume 3 - Issue 1

The Transect line - News from the Reef check Global news network the "Voice of OCEANIA" newsletter

The World Ocean Observatory newsletter

UN Atlas Newsletter

White Water to Blue Water Newsletter (Fall 2007)

WIMOSA Newsletter

Young reporters newsletter May 2007

IYOR media coverage is as follows:

01/17/2008 - Coral reef symposium, proclamation on Friday
Saipan Tribune - Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, Micronesia

01/16/2008 - International Year of the Reef launched in Barbados
Barbados Advocate - Barbados

01/16/2008 - Campaigns to protect coral reefs planned in two regions
Bangkok Post - Thailand

01/16/2008 - How baby fish find a home

EurekAlert (press release) - Washington, DC, USA

01/09/2008 -- Help reef, buy beach sign
Maui News - Wailuku, HI, USA

01/09/2008 - Barbados focuses on coral reefs this year
Caribbean Net News - Georgetown, Cayman Islands

01/08/2008 - Island reef respect being taught
Maui News - Wailuku, HI, USA

Potato the hot item in celebration feast Scouts, reefs and rats ...
The Canberra Times - Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, Australia

01/02/2008 - Year in Review
Plenty Magazine

01/01/2008 - Environment: STARTING OUR NEW YEAR VOYAGE, 2008 declared the Year of the Reef
Island Business

1/1/2008 - 2008 to be the year of potatoes, sanitation and frogs, among others
Thaindian.com - Bangkok, Thailand

01/01/2008 - Party like it's the year of the frog ... and a bunch of other stuff
Glens Falls Post-Star - Glens Falls, NY, USA

12/31/2007 - Year of the what?
Nature.com - London, England, UK

12/31/2007 – The New YEarth
Common Ground.ca - Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

12/22/2007 - Caribbean tourism conference to focus on sustaining coastal product
Caribbean Net News

12/21/2007 - Behold the reefs
The Maui News

12/20/2007 - New mural helps celebrate 'Year of the Reef' on Maui
The Honolulu Advertiser

12/17/2007 - New Study Warns Warmer, More Acidic Oceans Will Kill Coral Reefs
VOICE OF AMERICA

12/15/2007 - CORAL REEFS AT RISK
The Cornishman - Truro, England, UK

12/15/2007 - Immediate action needed to save corals from climate change
Hindu - Chennai, India

12/14/2007 - Time change for reef awareness event today on Maui
Honolulu Advertiser - Honolulu, HI, USA

12/14/2007 - Coral Reefs Under Rapid Climate Change and Ocean Acidification
Science Magazine – USA

12/13/2007 - New Science Paper Says Carbon Emissions Threaten Coral Reefs
NOAA - Washington, DC, USA

10/16/2007 - 2008 to be the International Year of the Reef
Bahamasweekly.com