

Recommendation on Continuing Coral Reef Awareness Efforts

Presented by the IYOR Ad-Hoc Committee

*Adopted during the ICRI General Meeting (GM)
20-23 April 2009, Phuket (Thailand)*

Recognizing that public awareness is an essential element of coral reef conservation and is necessary to ensure that the value of and the threats to coral reefs are understood by the general public, and that sufficient resources are devoted to conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs and associated ecosystems;

Noting the importance of developing relevant public awareness initiatives that reflect national and regional priorities as well as local culture and knowledge concerning coral reefs and to facilitate public involvement in coral reef conservation related activities in all countries;

Acknowledging the success of the International Year of the Reef 2008 in raising awareness of the importance of coral reefs and associated ecosystems;

The International Coral Reef Initiative:

Encourages its Members and other active participants in IYOR 2008 to continue their efforts to carry out the goals of the IYOR 2008 to: a) strengthen awareness about the ecological, economic, social and cultural value of, and critical threats to, coral reefs and associated ecosystems; b) encourage and facilitate public involvement in coral reef education and conservation activities; and c) generate urgent action at all levels to develop and implement effective management strategies for conservation, increased resiliency and sustainable use of these ecosystems;

Encourages governments, international organizations, foundations, corporations and other institutions and individuals to collaborate with the ICRI Secretariat and ICRI Members in developing and supporting public awareness initiatives on coral reefs;

Encourages its Members to utilize ongoing initiatives such as the World Water Monitoring Day, the International Year of the Biodiversity, World Ocean Day (see Annex for list of upcoming events and initiatives), to pursue these outreach and awareness-raising efforts;

Encourages its Members, in particular national focal points, to facilitate the development of national level awareness activities;

Requests the IYOR Focal Points to remain active and continue to share their work; and



Requests its Members to share educational materials, tools and resources to include them in the ICRIForum.



Date			Brief description
1 January 2009-1 January 2010	The Pacific Year of Climate Change.	SPREP	The South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) has designated 2009 the Pacific Year of Climate Change for more information please see http://www.sprep.org/
3-6 January 2009(Official launch in Boston)-1 January 2010	Year of Science	COPUS	The Year of Science 2009 is an initiative of the Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science (COPUS www.copusproject.org). COPUS is a growing, grassroots effort whose goal is to engage sectors of the public in science to increase their understanding of the nature of science and its value to society. June - Ocean and Water
2010	International Year of the Biodiversity	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	
2-Feb	World Wetlands Day	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance	To undertake actions aimed at raising public awareness of wetland values and benefits in general and the Ramsar Convention in particular. http://www.ramsar.org/wwd/wwd_index.htm
22-Mar	World Water Day		The international observance of World Water Day is an initiative that grew out of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro.
22-Apr	Dive for Earth Day	Project AWARE Foundation	Project AWARE Foundation coordinates and provides support materials to involve volunteer divers in specific events around the world to make a difference on Earth Day. Events include underwater & shoreline cleanups, AWARE Kids activities, CoralWatch monitoring or Earth Day conference/booth activity.
22-Apr	Earth Day		



22-May	International Day for Biological Diversity - 22 May	CBD	to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues
5-Jun	World Environment Day	UNEP	World Environment Day, commemorated each year on 5 June, is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action.
8-Jun	World Ocean Day	The Ocean Project	Created in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro - although not yet officially designated by the United Nations - World Ocean Day is an opportunity each year to celebrate our world ocean and our personal connection to the sea (www.worldoceanday.org)
16-Sep	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	UN	States are invited to devote the Day each year to promote, at the national level, activities in accordance with the objectives of the Montreal Protocol and its amendments
September 14-16	Clean Up The World Campaign	UN	Clean Up the World is a community based environmental program that inspires and empowers individuals and communities from every corner of the globe to clean up, fix up and conserve their environment.
	International Coastal Cleanup	Ocean Conservancy	The Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup is the largest and most successful volunteer event of its kind. Each year, thousands of volunteers from around the globe participate, clearing tons of trash from coastlines, rivers and lakes and recording every piece of trash collected.



19-Sep	International Cleanup Day	Project AWARE Foundation	Project AWARE Foundation organizes thousands of volunteer divers around the world participating in underwater cleanups to remove debris and collect data from marine and fresh water environments. Project AWARE partners with the Ocean Conservancy and contributes data to the ICC database.
27-Sep	World Tourism Day	UN WTO	To foster awareness among the international community of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic values. Theme in 2008: "Tourism Responding to the Challenge of Climate Change"
16-Oct	World Food Day	FAO	http://www.fao.org/getinvolved/worldfoodday/en/ Theme in 2008: World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy