



IYOR 2008 celebration at
the 11th International
Coral Reef Symposium



CORAL REEF AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES IN THE UNION OF THE COMOROS

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Community Centred Conservation (C3) is a British non-profit organization that has been working with local partners in the Union of the Comoros since 2005. During this time, C3 has conducted a number of projects in collaboration with local communities to raise awareness of issues affecting their marine resources. In 2008, C3 has already conducted a number of International Year of the Reef (IYOR) activities and even more are planned.

C3 has designed and produced a series of posters: (1) Threatened marine species of the Comoros, (2) Sea turtles and (3) Dugongs, which have been used in education and outreach activities, particularly in local schools. C3 has also produced a IYOR poster, funded by Hotel Le Moroni, providing information about coral reefs, their importance and threats. This poster is currently displayed at the hotel and at prominent locations around Moroni including the airport.

C3 is currently creating a television series featuring local scientists and celebrities to raise awareness about environmental issues in the Comores. This will include two emissions on the marine environment including explanations of marine ecosystems, factors contributing to their degradation and potential solutions to these problems.

This summer, C3 will run a Young Environmental Leaders Camp at Mitsamiouli, Grande Comore. A national schools' essay competition will be held to select 10 teenagers who will participate in this week-long activity camp where they will learn about marine ecosystems and ways to protect them.

C3 is also planning the 'Race to Save the Reefs', an exciting family fun run in Moroni where participants will be presented with IYOR T-shirts and will enjoy presentations about the coral reefs of the Comoros.

C3 is grateful to the Captain Planet Foundation, PADI, Project AWARE, Volvo-UNEP Adventure and Hotel Le Moroni for funding IYOR-related activities in the Comoros.