



White Water to Blue Water Newsletter

Fall 2007

Dear White Water to Blue Water Participant:

On behalf of the Steering Committee, we are pleased to issue the White Water to Blue Water (WW2W) newsletter. In this issue, we inform you of the plans and activities of 2008 Year of the Reef including Reef Fest, update you on the selected projects of MyCOE, discover the history behind IWCAM and review the activities of the WW2BW Sustainable Tourism Committee. If you would like your partnerships to be highlighted in our next issue, please contact Heather Allen at heather.allen@noaa.gov.

We encourage you to distribute this newsletter widely to interested parties and we welcome your input and questions.

Year of the Reef is on its Way!

Submitted by Scott Frew (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

2008 has been declared the second International Year of the Reef (IYOR 2008) by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), a partnership of



governments and international organizations that seek to halt and reverse the global degradation of coral reefs and related ecosystems. IYOR 2008 will be a year-long campaign of events and activities hosted by a wide range of organizations around the world. The first IYOR, celebrated in 1997, helped to raise global awareness and knowledge of the value of coral reefs and the threats they face. IYOR 2008 will build on those awareness-raising efforts and will seek to generate urgent action to conserve and promote sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems.

A number of countries and organizations throughout the Caribbean are preparing for IYOR 2008, including the Bahamas, Barbados, Bonaire, Brazil, Jamaica, Mexico, and the Caribbean Tourism Organization. Anticipated activities include art and marine science exhibitions, films newspaper articles, and regional science meetings. The UNEP

Caribbean Environment Program will host a meeting with key regional stakeholders in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, November 10-11 to further plan for the IYOR Caribbean campaign.

In July 2008, the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS) will be held in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. ICRS will be an international capstone event for IYOR 2008, and will focus on research, education and conservation of coral reef ecosystems. In addition to several mini-symposia, plenary sessions and keynote speeches, the symposium will host field trips throughout the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico to showcase the region's coral reefs and associated ecosystems. For more information on ICRS, please visit <http://www.nova.edu/ncr/11icrs/>.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in IYOR 2008, including governments, organizations, corporations, schools and individuals. To learn more about IYOR 2008 and find local points of contact, please visit www.iyor.org or contact info@iyor.org. UNEP-CEP will also serve a regional focal point for the IYOR 2008 initiative. Contact avk@cep.unep.org to learn more about IYOR events in the Caribbean region.

Reef Fest Jazzes Up International Year of the Reef 2008

Submitted by Jim Hendee (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

Reef Fest is a series of music festivals throughout Florida and the Caribbean raising support for coral reef conservation. The basic idea behind Reef Fest is that a portion of the ticket price for Reef Fest concerts and festivals would be donated to coral reef conservation projects. The proceeds from these ticket sales will be deposited directly in a special non-profit account set up within the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF: www.nfwf.org) for the purpose of supporting coral reef conservation. Reef Fest will be considered a major event of the International Coral Reef Initiative's "International Year of the Reef" (IYOR). Funds raised from Reef Fest will go towards coral reef conservation.



There are three different phases to Reef Fest vision: 1) through local nightclub participation, 2) through existing or planned festivals, and 3) through

organizing new festivals especially for this purpose (for example, hopefully just before the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium, July 7-11, 2008). So far there has been great progress in South Florida where several clubs have begun regular Reef Fest events.

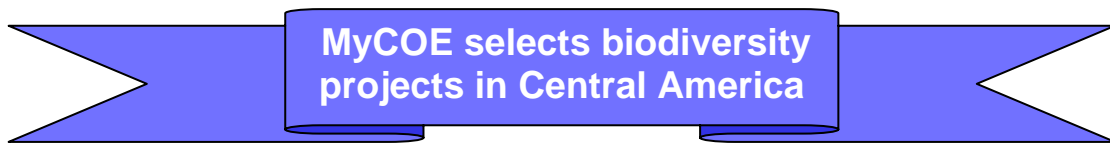
Since the mechanism for receiving funds has already been set up (i.e., NFWF), coral conservationists throughout the Caribbean can help by setting up or utilizing concerts or musical groups in your area, with portions of the proceeds going straight to the Reef Fest fund. For more information, contact Jim Hendee at jim.hendee@noaa.gov, or Bryan Shipley at Bryan.Shipley@nfwf.org.

Check out this new document!

“Fifty facts about wider Caribbean Coral Reefs”.

www.iyor.org/focalpoints/orgs/unep-car/Caribbean_Coral_Reefs.asp

Produced by UNEP CAR/RCU through its SPAW Regional Programme



Submitted by Dr. Patricia Solis (Association of American Geographers)

The My Community, Our Earth Project: Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development (MyCOE) project is a [partnership](#) to encourage youth to use geographic tools and concepts to address local issues of sustainability. By participating in MyCOE, [young people](#) from around the world can examine and learn more about environmental issues, determine patterns and trends, and propose solutions to the challenges they study.

The MyCOE partnership is conducting a new initiative in partnership with USAID, USGS, ESRI and other public/private partners and focusing attention on building local capacity to use geography and geographic technologies for biodiversity initiatives in Central America. (www.geography.org/sustainable)

A MyCOE Biodiversity Cadre has been formed from 12 teams of students and their mentors in six countries, competitively selected for their long-term potential to contribute to the region's biodiversity issues. They will attend a capacity building workshop in Panama in January 2008 and will be provided with additional resources such as software, data, tutorials, and mentoring from the MyCOE partnership. Both students and their mentors will receive modest stipends to conduct projects of 3 to 6 month duration and travel support to attend the workshop.

Examples of MyCOE Biodiversity Projects

COLOMBIA

Identificación de un paisaje cafetero como corredor biológico en el corregimiento San Sebastián de Palmitas, Medellín, Colombia

Mentor: Jorge Luís Vásquez Muñoz, Fundación Grupo HTM
Estudiante: Javier Alfonso Racero Casarrubia, Biología y Ciencias Ambientales, Universidad de Córdoba

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Análisis de la Diversidad de Macroinvertebrados Acuáticos y Microalgas, en Función del Gradiente Longitudinal y las Variables Químicas de un Río: Cuenca del Río Haina

Mentor: Bienvenido Santana Ferraras
Estudiante: Litay Amelia Ramos Pimentel, Biología, Universidad de Santo Domingo

GUATEMALA

Sistema de colecciones de referencia y de información sobre diversidad biológica y conservación

Mentor: Enio B. Cano, Museo de Historia Natural de Guatemala
Estudiante: Mayra Lisseth Maldonado Montufar, biología, Universidad del Valle de Guatemala

MEXICO

Diagnóstico de la degradación de los manglares de la zona costera Xcalak-Mahahual, Quintana Roo, México

Mentor: Dr. Julio Espinoza Avalos, El Colegio de la Frontera Sur
Estudiante: Marina Hiraes Cota, Recursos Naturales y Desarrollo Rural
Estudiante: Blanca Margarita Vázquez Villa, Geografía

NICARAGUA

Extracción ilegal de la fauna marina y el peligro de extinción de las especies (tortugas marinas). En el municipio de San Juan del Sur

Mentor: Alfonso Jirón García, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua
Estudiantes: Raquel López Ramos y Ana Vega Guillen, Geografía, UNAN

PANAMA

La problemática en los sistemas marino-costeros existentes en región de Gaymau

Mentor: Teobaldo Hernández, Pronatura
Estudiante: Natalia D. Tejedor Flores, Ingeniería Ambiental, Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá



GEOGRAPHIC LEARNING
for Sustainable Development

Eligible student applicants are local to the countries in which they work and are enrolled or completing studies at a university or similar educational institution (undergraduate or graduate). Participants were competitively selected on the basis of existing capacity and long-term future potential.

Local and regional organizations proposed projects work in conjunction with their paired student through an appointed mentor.

Join the MyCOE community listserv where you can post inquiries about topics, ask mentors questions, and share information with others on geographic learning for sustainable development. To join, just send an email to

mycommunity@aaglistserve.org.

SAVING LIVES THROUGH EARTH OBSERVATIONS

On November 13, 2007, The Panamanian Ambassador to the U.S, the U.S. Group on Earth Observations (USGEO), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). will host a media briefing to announce the successes of SERVIR, a Spanish acronym for Regional Visualization and Monitoring System. The system is used to assist the people of Central America during severe events, such as forest fires and tropical storms. Participants will discuss how SERVIR provided critical information following hurricanes Dean and Felix during this hurricane season in Central America, giving people vital updates and guiding officials in the response effort. The team will discuss plans to expand SERVIR's benefits to Africa. servir.nsstc.nasa.gov

Sustainable Tourism Workshop Coming!

Submitted by Matt Strickler (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

WW2BW Sustainable Tourism theme group co-chairs Deirdre Shurland (Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism) and Mareba Scott (Caribbean Tourism Organization), along with partners in NOAA and the US Department of State, are working with the US-Mexico Joint ICRI Secretariat to develop a workshop on sustainable coral reef tourism. While the proposal is still in its early stages, discussion of the workshop is on the agenda for the ICRI General Meeting, being held January 23-24, 2008 in Washington, DC. If the idea is well received, the workshop will be held immediately following, and in conjunction with the International Coral Reef Symposium next July in Fort Lauderdale, FL. We see the initiative as an important component of IYOR 2008 activities, and will update the WW2BW network with any new developments.

Background on the IWCAM Project from Caribbean WaterWays

BACKGROUND ON THE IWCAM PROJECT:

The Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas Management in Caribbean Small Island Development States (IWCAM) Project, with a value of USD 112 million, was approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in May 2004. Implementing agencies are the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Executing agencies are the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention (UNEP-CAR/RCU) and the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) and the UN Office of Project Services (UNOPS). The thirteen participating SIDS are: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Grenada, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. The length of the Project is 5 years and commenced in the second quarter of 2005. The Project Coordinating Unit is located at the CEHI, as agreed by the Implementing and Executing Agencies and the participating countries.

Newsletter of the
GEF IWCAM Project
Volume 1, Issue 3 September 2007
Submitted by Donna Spencer
(Caribbean Environmental Health Initiative)
For more information visit www.iwcam.org

The New WW2BW Website is on its way! This updated communication tool will strengthen WW2BW partnerships and open new opportunities.

www.ww2bw.org