

SPREP is working closely with the Coral Reef Initiatives for the Pacific (CRISP) programme on the 2008 Pacific Year of the Reef through their ongoing work to strengthen community and national management of coral reefs throughout the Pacific.

Visit [crisponline.net](http://crisponline.net) for more information.

## Become a partner

Help us strengthen coral reefs in the Pacific:

- Contribute to the Pacific Reef Trust Fund
- Let us know about your Pacific Year of the Reef activities
- Provide articles on coral reef science for our website and newsletters
- Send us links on educational materials to be listed on our website
- Share your pictures on our website
- Let the artists of the Pacific Festival of the Arts know about the SPREP auction
- Support the behaviour change workshop
- Spread the word on coral reef conservation and the Pacific Year of the Reef
- Co-fund challengecoralreef and Legends of the Reef competitions



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2008  
**Pacific Year of the Reef**  
strong reefs  
strong islands



Coral reefs are critical to Pacific island life; they provide food, medicine, inspiration for arts and culture, sustain our livelihoods and protect our islands from storm surges. But they are dying. In the past ten years, the rate of destruction of Pacific reefs has doubled.

In this climate of global change, the state of coral reefs needs urgent action – the stronger our coral reefs, the stronger our islands.



## 2008 Pacific Year of the Reef

The 2008 Pacific Year of the Reef is a regional initiative to incite action to save the Pacific's coral reefs.

The 2008 Pacific Year of the Reef is facilitated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), a regional intergovernmental organisation working with Pacific island countries and territories to strengthen environmental management and promote sustainable development.

The campaign is part of the International Year of the Reef (IYOR) that aims to raise awareness of the value and importance of coral reefs and threats to their sustainability, and to motivate people to take action to protect them.

## Key activities

### Challenge coral reef competition

Five challenge coral reef Champion Teams, comprised of young people aged 13-18 years, from the Pacific will receive funding to implement their 'Action Plans' to save coral reefs in their communities.

### Legends of the Reef competition

This regional story and poster competition for children aged 5-12 years aims to capture the legends and stories about the importance of reefs to Pacific island life.

### Ridge to Reef

Vanuatu is taking the lead with this CRISP activity that aims to achieve integrated coastal management and good governance including the creation of a steering committee of stakeholders.

### Reef economic valuation

Coral reef economic valuations will be carried out through the CRISP programme to promote the values of this ecosystem and the use of economic tools to support government decision-making.

### Promote community-based management

Several community-based projects will be supported as part of the Pacific Year of the Reef and CRISP including events such as the Locally-Managed Marine Area Conference and community exchanges.

### Identify reef conservation priority

Ecoregional analysis of Cook-French Polynesia will be carried out by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) through the CRISP programme.

### Supplementary/alternative livelihood assessment tool

Aimed at governments and communities, it aims to build capacity to assess the feasibility of alternative/supplementary livelihood projects.

### Pacific Festival of the Arts

SPREP hopes to organize an auction of pieces of art related to the reef during the Pacific Festival of the Arts in American Samoa in August 2008.

### Coral Reef Fund

SPREP wishes to set-up a Pacific Reef Trust Fund to support small-scale projects to conserve reefs or to allow school kids to visit the reefs.

### Behaviour change workshop/kit

SPREP will develop a behaviour change kit and workshop to promote community-based action to strengthen coral reefs.

### Pacific Coral Reef Atlas

CRISP is developing a Pacific Coral Reef Atlas from satellite images.

### Post Larvae Capture and Culture

In Fiji, CRISP is developing this eco-friendly method to catch larvae for aquarium trade and replenishment.

