



Planetary Coral Reef Foundation Overview

The Coral Reef Crisis

The Planetary Coral Reef Foundation (PCRF) was founded in 1991 to address the coral reef crisis. An estimated 25% of the world's reefs have already disappeared and an estimated two-thirds of all coral reefs are at risk today. In Southeast Asia, more than 80% of the reefs are at risk and more than 90% of the reefs in the Florida Keys have lost their living coral cover since 1975. Threatened by pollution, over-fishing, dynamite and cyanide fishing, sedimentation as well as bleaching caused by global warming, coral reefs are now endangered on a planetary scale. If immediate action is not taken, coral reefs could disappear from Earth within this century. The future of life on our planet depends on the health of our oceans and the health of our oceans depends on the health of our coral reefs.



A Healthy vibrant coral reef



A coral colony that has bleached

Why Coral Reefs Are Important

Coral reefs are the most biodiverse marine ecosystem and the greatest expression of ocean life. Home to more than 25% of all fish species, reefs and their habitats play a vital role in the global economy, providing resources and services worth an estimated \$375 billion per year including: food for an estimated 10% of the world's population, fish nursery habitats, shoreline protection from erosion, pharmaceuticals and tourism. The prospects of a world without reefs are devastating – for the global economy, for a hungry and ever growing world population, for the sustainability of the oceans and for the life of all future generations.

PCRF – Meeting the Planetary Challenge

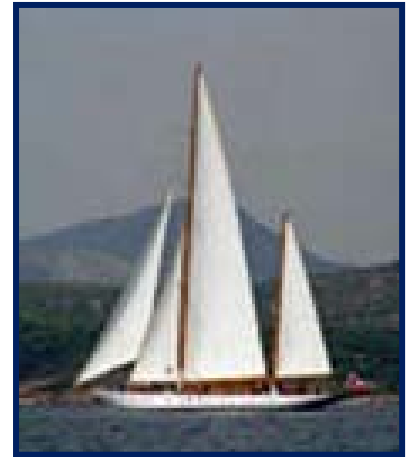
PCRF continues to aspire, more than 15 years since its inception, to contribute to the body of knowledge about coral reefs, to further marine conservation initiatives, to inform the curious public on its findings in the field free of charge and to educate by both hands-on experience and virtual transmission. PCRF approaches projects and tasks from a combination of angles including science, education and conservation. All of its programs aim to inform, inspire and provide ways for the individual to get involved and become a steward of our earth's biosphere.



PCRF researcher monitoring coral reefs in Southeast Asia

Goals of PCRF

PCRF's primary goal is to inspire conservation efforts through Information, Inspiration and action. PCRF's prime organizational value is sharing information. PCRF embodies the belief that *information* about the oceans belongs to everyone on the planet. Encouraging others to use it by providing free data online is central to the organization's information-sharing strategy. PCRF's collaborative approach provides new *inspiration* for the conservation movement: volunteers and stakeholders understand that they can make a difference and identify the contribution they can make to the preservation effort. PCRF turns this inspiration into *action* by giving people hands-on ways to become part of the conservation movement. Through educational programs that are accessible to students who will become tomorrow's preservationists, through the culturally rich hands-on collaboration with island people, PCRF ensures that everyone who is part of our programs plays a part in the solution and through online ways to make a difference, through a trusted source of data used by scientists and conservationists.

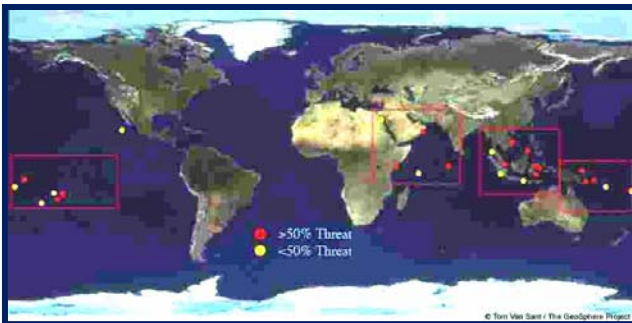


Research and Youth Leadership Program at Sea

In support of its mission, PCRF has managed an on-going expedition at sea for fourteen years to map and monitor the world's coral reefs and provide an education-outreach program for students. PCRF is now retrofitting *SV Marilou* in Malta and will sail her to Indonesia to provide the necessary offshore base for marine conservation projects.

PCRF-Southeast Asia

PCRF is presently engaged in two Indonesian projects: one is at Bali Barat National Park (NW coast of Bali) and the other based in the Anambas Islands, South China Sea. Both are conservation projects involving the local community that focus on reef preservation, restoration of fisheries and sea turtle protection.



Website Output

PCRF's websites include a comprehensive world map with data from 49 science study sites, a Google Earth demonstration project representing a planetary sea voyage of more than 60,000 nm, immersive 360° underwater video, as well as an educational and informative hub that features films, photos, and expedition logs for the public to *Join the Voyage!*

Studio of the Sea

Studio of the Sea is a production studio that produces short films and still images from the sea. Over 30 films and 250 photographs are posted online to illustrate the beauty and the challenges of our biosphere.



Join us at www.pcrf.org!