

# SACEP Celebrates International Year of Reef 2008



South Asia Co-operative Environment  
Programme



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Reef 2008

## What is International Year of the Reef ?

Ten years later there continues to be an urgent need to increase awareness and understanding of coral reefs, and to further conserve and manage valuable coral reef and associated ecosystems, the International Coral Reef Initiative designated 2008 as the International Year the Reef (IYOR).

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is an Intergovernmental Organization established in 1982 by the eight countries of South Asia. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SACEP established the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force( SACRTF) in July 2007 to address the growing concerns of Coral reefs conservation in the South Asian Seas region and is the Nodal Agency for the IYOR for this region.

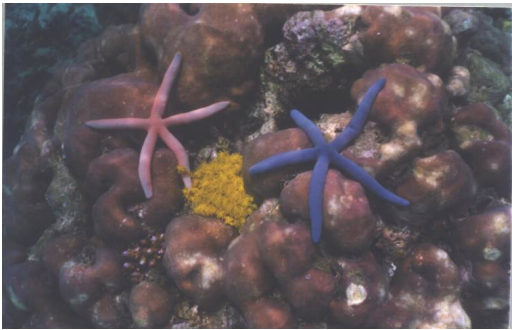


# Member Organizations Profile of IYOR

## Country & Site Information

### INDIA

Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park (MGMNP), located at Wandoor in South Andaman District of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Total area of MGMNP is 281.5 km<sup>2</sup> of which land area is 61.5 km<sup>2</sup> and remaining is sea water



### BANGLADESH

**St. Martin's Island** is a small island in the northeast part of the Bay of Bengal, about 9 km south of the tip of the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf peninsula, and forming the southernmost part of Bangladesh.



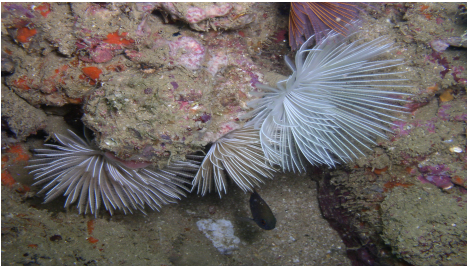
## MALDIVES

Baa Atoll of the Republic of Maldives which is a country composed entirely of coral reefs. It comprises 26 atolls.



## PAKISTAN

Jiwani is located at the eastern end of Gwadar Bay, which is shared between Iran and Pakistan. The area around the bay includes an important mangrove forest extending across the international border



Sabellid Worms (Class Polychaeta).in Churna Island, Paki-

## SRI LANKA

Bar Reef in Kalpitiya It is a complex of reefs which stretch parallel to the coast from the northern end of the Kalpitiya peninsula to the islands which separate Portugal Bay from the Gulf of Mannar. It has high ecological, biological and aesthetic significance, being home to 156 species of coral and 283 species of fish.



## PROPOSED ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

- Organize and host a special “Day of the South Asian Coral Reefs” which involves a public level festival / street parade with a focus on celebrating coral reef.
- Invite a celebrity who is interested in coral reefs to be an IYOR ambassador. Use their states to increase public awareness of coral reefs.
- Develop a range of IYOR merchandise such as Calendar, T-shirts, Caps or Drink holders.
- Produce an IYOR stamp
- Produce Leaflets, Broachers, Pamphlets, Stickers and Posters in native language to educate the public.
- Encourage local journalists to write features about issues important to coral reefs in the media.
- Promote the IYOR by Linking the SACEP web site to the IYOR web site.
- Identify and nominate the sites that are important for coral reefs in South Asian countries and lobby for their protection.
- Develop a code of practice for sustainable tourism-build relationships with Costal resort developers and tourism authorities and encourage them to ensure that their resorts are Coral Reefs.



# Threats to South Asian Reefs

- **Ocean acidification** - The decreasing ocean surface pH is of increasing long-term concern for coral reefs. Increased atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> increases the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> dissolved in the oceans. Carbon dioxide gas dissolved in the ocean reacts with water to form carbonic acid, resulting in ocean acidification. This is not only a regional problem but a global phenomenon
- **Dynamite Fishing** -Fishing with explosives.
- **Over Fishing**- Fishing extensively in the coral regions disturbs the Ecological balance.
- **Land Development and Pollution**-Conversion of reef flats and shallow lagoons to land , Pollution in the costal area.
- **Tourists activities**- Souvnieur collection, Boat anchoring in the reef area, Reef tramping.



International Year of Reef



South Asia Coral Reef Task Force



South Asian Seas Programme



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