



St. Maarten International Coral Summit

Executive Summary

The World Federation for Coral Reef Conservation
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“Changes in attitudes....Changes in latitudes”



The International St. Maarten Coral Summit 2017

This event is an opportunity to share awareness about our oceans health and how to minimize its decline. One location at time, beginning with St. Maarten Netherland Antilles. All attendees will gain knowledge and avenues to assist in this battle for survival for our oceans. This is the emotional equivalent to a war and should have an equivalent response.

Our wish is that “The International St. Maarten Coral Summit 2017” will change the attitude about how we are altering our oceans. It’s our ocean to save. It belongs to us all, it has no boundaries.

One Ocean.....One Planet

By supporting this event you will have chance to participate with us at our 2017 Fundraiser/Gala. The event in St. Maarten will be The Fundraiser/Gala Event of the year for St. Maarten. The plans are for speakers and knowledge sharing about the value of maintaining the current status of coral reefs and coastal environments and how it pertains to keeping the local tourism business healthy.

There will be hors d’oeuvres provided by Random Wind and an evening meal provided by Pineapple Pete’s, a cash bar and a silent auction and sunset sailing on the first day. The second day will consist of hands on workshops in planting baby coral, mangroves and reef sweeping activities for local stakeholders and magistrates. The third day will be round table discussion that includes representatives for all Caribbean nations about how the **Caribbean Ring of Hope Sites** an idea built upon Sylvia

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Earls Hope Spots and will be one of the focal points at the Coral Summit in St. Maarten. Preparations are underway to obtain Mission Blues Hope Spot status for St. Maarten, which will bring international attention to maintaining St. Marten marine treasures now and into the future. With the synergy already generated by this Summit in St. Maarten it makes sense to host a conference of Caribbean Nations in one location to align themselves with an effort to collaborate with each other to share what is working for conservation and what needs work, this will surely bring results in a way that will benefit all nations equally. A zero draft of a living document will capture input from each delegate and will be shared with all and will be a base line for future sustainable development plans for the Caribbean. This document will be shared with the UN Ocean Conference as volunteer commitments to satisfy The Sustainable Development Goals as described by The United Nations.

The World Federation for Coral Reef Conservation is focused its efforts to comply with The UN Sustainable Development Goal number 14, "life below water" by attending the UN Ocean Conference. **WFCRC** was involved in this high-level United Nations Conference that aims to be the game changer that will reverse the decline in the health of our ocean for people, planet and prosperity. Sustainable goals #5, #6 and #17 are also

Oceans comprise roughly three-quarters of the Earth's surface and play an essential role in human wellbeing, producing half the oxygen necessary for life on the planet. They also serve as the backdrop for another important component of a well-rounded life: **recreation**. We are ALL users of ocean resources and need to realize that they are no longer free, and will have to be paid for by funding conservation programs and changing how we think about our oceans. These resources need to be protected now and for future generations.



The multiple benefits provided by the world's oceans, seas and marine resources are the focus of the first-ever [Ocean Conference](#) at The UN Headquarters in New York. The Conference seeks to achieve the targets laid out under [Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\) 14](#), including galvanizing action on ocean-related issues such as protecting coral reefs, reducing plastic pollution, and addressing the impact of climate change.

The initiative brings together leading ocean, climate earth and marine scientists to develop a list of the of the most critical coral reefs to protect, while leading conservation practitioners are working together to establish the best practices to protect these reefs.

We are developing this consortium of leading ocean, climate, earth and marine scientists together in one event in St Maarten. Some of the organizations we are contacting for participation are The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance, The Global Island Partnership, The United Nations SDG, and Mission Blue as well

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as local stakeholders. to be part of first ever “**The Caribbean Ring Of Hope Sites**” event.

The St. Maarten Coral Summit will have several modules to be presented like the science of coral reefs, the protection, the monitoring, sediment flows, storm water runoff, 1st response, preparedness, oil spills, GIS, local content and long term management.



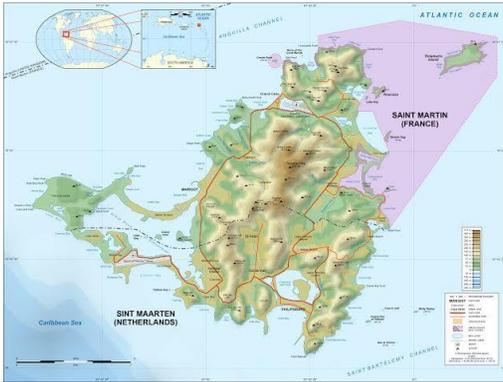
We are planning for a day of planting coral, mangroves and reef sweeping the following day after the Gala. The tentative line up of speakers will be:

1. [Mission Blue](#) Representative Ocean Conservation
2. [Tiffany Babcock](#) Marine Biologists and teacher will present “the science of coral reefs” along with her slide show and will share the event with her students for a real life conservation program.
3. [Maria Alejandra Faria](#), who will share the value in “Sustainable Development of the Caribbean”
4. [Rod Tyler](#) with Green Horizons Environmental LLC. Rod will explain how sediment and storm drainage has an impact of coral and how it can be averted.
5. [Austin Kerby](#), Marine Biologists and coral reef scientists and his experience with planting coral and how effective it is in restoring lost coral.
6. [Sam Purkis](#), Head scientists for The Living Ocean Foundation will shed light on how long term management will provide the best plan to keep coral reefs healthy and intact.
7. [Tadzio Bervoets](#) Manager of The St. Maarten Nature Foundation and The Marine Protected Area will outline what programs are now in effect and what is needed for local development and protection for the future.
8. [Diane Smith Morano](#) owner of the Random Wind SXM will outline gender equalities and how 19 per cent of women between 15 and 49 years of age said they had experienced physical and/or sexual violence. And how this underutilized resource plays a role in conservation.
9. Local magistrates will have the opportunity so show their support and need for conservation programs now and in the future.
10. [Vic Ferguson](#) of WFCRC will provide closing remarks and will answer questions and requests.

While on the island of St. Maarten there are many events to attend and beaches to relax on. For those attending the event there will be discounts on car rentals from Thrifty Car Rental, restaurants, guest accommodations and beautiful beach lounging in two different countries. Both the Dutch Side and the French Side with its outstanding French dining at [Friars Bay](#) on the beach. Not to be out done by the [Lottery Farm](#) a rainforest dining experience and of course the famous Dutch hospitality.

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Also The Random Wind Charter Co. has offered a complementary day/sunset sailing with wind in your face, a run drink in your hand and a special lunch prepared on board while under sail. With anchor stops to snorkel, swim and lay on the beach. It is a day not to be missed and is available **only** to the summit participants.

For divers, St. Maarten has [many dive sites](#) to take advantage of as well as those on St. Barts, Saba and

other islands in proximity.

Upon completion of the presentation and the execution of the proposal, the template we will have created will be moved to the next island location, most likely St. Barts then Saba and so on.

It's our ocean to save, ONE OCEAN.....ONE PLANET!

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank You

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The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing"....Edmund Burke



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