



Donation Request

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Vic Ferguson

The World Federation for Coral Reef Conservation 281.886.7428 P.O. Box 311117 Houston Texas 77231

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Thank you for the LinkedIn connection, I am sure you saw **The World Federation for Coral Reef Conservation (WFCRC)** profile or our web site (www.wfcrc.org) and agree that we have some common ground and areas of mutual interest. That is why I am sending you this letter. I thought you might have an interest in hearing about this initiative.

Would you support a conservation effort that could have a major impact on delicate marine eco systems, simply by sharing information?

I thought so.....

The functionality of **WFCRC's "Best Practices for Oil Spill Cleanup Program"** is to give coastal constituents the time to prepare for marine disasters, like an oil spill, should an actual spill occur. Do you live in an environmentally responsible part of the world? Millions of people do not and are at risk of not being able to implement a 1st response plan for an oil spill disaster that would devastate a shallow water coral reef complexes and beach environments. For instance, if lessons were learned from the Deep Water Challenger spill and an infrastructure was in place to immediately launch alerts and PSA (public service announcements) to coastal constituents about an approaching oil spill or other coastal events, better planning could have resulted in a reduction in the loss of biodiversity due to these types of events. If a program like this "Best Practice" was executed early, in the early stages of the Gulf of Mexico spill, the resulting devastation could have been minimized.

In order to form a more perfect union between local stake holders in St. Maarten Netherland Antilles, (our pilot program) and concerned citizens around the world we have created the opportunity to develop a frame work to deliver coral reef conservation programs that puts the right information, in the hands of the right people, at the right time in a time frame that will keep the attention on concerned citizens rather than in a life time.

Our coastal and marine portal brings together the most current technology along with vital 1st response plans, action plans, examples and case histories via a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) all viewable on hand held devices by members of our programs.

Aerial imagery that utilizes drone technology with a resolution of 1.5 cm is collected and arranged much like Google earth. As this imagery is collected for coastal areas all around the island a level of change manage, coral reef inventory and management, land based threats and beach decline can be achieved that has never been seen before. As this imagery will provide a base line for future management, informed decisions can be made from real time data.



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With all of the media attention given to global issues, like global warming, acidification, coral bleaching, and habitat loss, if we do not enact a 1st response action and preparedness plans **now**, it is unlikely that coral reefs will be able to survive a marine disaster like an oil spill when combined with these current issues. Creating the next great extinction event.

The WFCRC program, "The Best Practices for Oil Spill Cleanup," is a very powerful directive that illustrates the importance of collaboration and being prepared for an oil spill catastrophe and how we align ourselves with coastal environments, coastal constituents, foundations, agencies and local stakeholders in our "area of mutual interest".

Our grass roots plan of action is our commitment to get the information into the hands of people who will be affected the most. We need contacts throughout the world to get our response plans to our end users. This method of contacting people of like interest and concerns is paramount for reaching out to our end users.

By endorsing this model for sharing information with people who are affected by coastal environments throughout the world we are making a logical decision to make a difference one location at a time.

We are currently seeking sponsors and support from concerned people that believe in evidence based science and realize that millions of people do not live in an environmentally responsible part of the world and that we have a responsibility to share what we know about coral reef conservation with the rest of the world. It is logical and just makes sense.

Somewhere in the world the worst-case scenarios already exist. Do we care about what we have today?

If we keep stalling, it's going to be a problem that we cannot fix. A sobering thought.

[Please donate](#) what you can and share this with other like-minded people together we can make the difference.

Thank you

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