



# St. Maarten Relief without Borders Proposal

Join WFCRC

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9/13/17

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## “Relief without Borders” Proposal

St. Maarten and Other affected Caribbean Islands

Fall of 2017 / Spring of 2018

### Concept Note

**The Relief without Borders** is a consortium of agencies with the express purpose of providing disaster relief and aid to St. Maarten and other Caribbean islands affected by the recent hurricanes. As we reach out to other organizations to join us we hope to have many other partners' involvement.

**Ocean Guardian** and **The World Federations for Coral Reef Conservation (WFCRC)** are both US based Non Profit 501 (c) (3) organizations with a broad goal of humanitarian concerns and protecting the world's oceans through research and advocacy. **Random Wind Charters** of St. Maarten is a locally owned and operated business with an overwhelming desire to help the people of St. Maarten. Their 54 ft. cutter-rigged ketch broke its mooring some time on Wednesday and is still unaccounted for. Diane Morano Smith the owner/point person on the ground, and is currently packing boxes of medical supplies that will go to the Medical Center as well as food and other supplies to point people all over the island who have agreed to receive and distribute to those in need around them. Several of those point people are well respected St. Maarteners who have their pulse on immediate need, including but not limited to the orphanages as well as the impoverished and those who have recently become homeless and jobless by the force of one storm.

The World Federations for Coral Reef Conservation (**WFCRC**) has for almost 10 years been in development with the Nature Foundation, to create a coral reef conservation plans for St. Maarten and have worked closely with the Nature Foundation as well as other organizations on the island and for St. Barts and Saba. The catastrophic hurricane events are the emotional equivalent to a war and should have an equivalent response. With that in mind **The World Federation for Coral Reef Conservation** reluctantly and with great sadness will, for the time being, cancel its **St. Maarten International Coral Summit** scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup> at Pineapple Pete's

We will however, now refocus our humanitarian and conservation efforts by being directly involved in the aftermath by raising funds that go **directly** to the people of St. Maarten by way of our partner Random Wind Charters.

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For information visit [www.oceanguardian-og.org](http://www.oceanguardian-og.org) , [www.wfcrc.org](http://www.wfcrc.org) and [Random Wind Charters](#)

These organizations plan to partner for an expedition to St. Maarten, conducting humanitarian assistance and delivering relief assistance to the people of St. Maarten.

Areas of humanitarian assistance will revolve around getting nonperishable food, water, medical supplies, diapers and other survival material to people that need the help so much.

### **Proposed plan**

Depending on the time frame of the approval, availability and funding of vessels and cargo an expedition can be mounted within two weeks, plus travel time to the island. The vessel will be self-sufficient and not require any resupply during the expedition.

### **Requested approvals**

**Random Wind, WFCRC and Ocean Guardian** would like the approval of the St. Maarten Government in principle and in writing, to provide approval for the expedition so that detailed planning and fundraising can begin. Once the approval in principle is given the formal process of research permit applications can begin.

It is understood and agreed upon by all that time is of the essence. Please confirm our request to bring humanitarian relief to St. Maarten as soon as possible along with all of the necessary documents that are required.

Below is the crowd funding event that we have already raised over \$20,000 so please stand by for additional material as it develops and give generously for this relief effort the devastated people of St. Maarten. All donations to our 501 (c)(3) corporation are tax deductible.

<https://www.gofundme.com/st-maarten-hurricane-relief>

Thank you, a joint statement by:

[Ocean Guardian](#) 501 (c) (3) - Director, Ken Welch

[Random Wind Charters](#)-Managing Director, hostess/first mate-Diane Morano Smith

[The World Federation for Coral Reef Conservation](#)-501 (c) (3) Director, Vic Ferguson

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