

Reef is now a member of (WIOMSA) Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association!

A regional professional, non-governmental, non-profit, membership organization, registered in Zanzibar, Tanzania, dedicated to promoting the educational, scientific and technological development of all aspects of marine sciences throughout the region of Western Indian Ocean with a view toward sustaining the use and conservation of its marine resources.

[Issue 9 - May 2013]

Reintroducing Club Mer for 2013 Learning , Building Friendships and Fun!



The Club Mer programme – developed by Shoals Rodrigues, has proven itself not only as a practical hands-on marine environmental education programme, but also as framework to promote youth development. We will be reintroducing the Club Mer Programme to Mauritius this year! The Club Mer course provides a combination of classroom activities, lab work, fieldwork and recreational use of the sea. As a CSR Project we will seek 20 participants, 14-17 years of age, from deprived socioeconomic areas in the North as identified by the National Empowerment Foundation. If you work with youth who may be interested in the environment and fit the NEF criteria please contact us for more information!

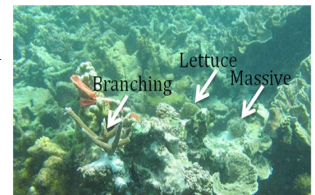
PhD work on Coral Transplantation Survival

Jennifer Elliott a biologist from Mauritius is currently working on a doctoral degree in marine science at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, US. Jennifer joined us with her supervisor **Mark Patterson** a coral reef expert and robotics inventor, for 6 weeks at the beginning of the year. One focus of her PhD work is a coral transplantation experiment which will be performed at a study site in the lagoon of Anse La Raie.

Three common corals species of Mauritius with different growth forms (branching, massive, leafy) have been selected. Coral fragments transplanted as part of this project will be monitored for a period of 2

years. **Reef's Marine Biologists** will be working with Jennifer: by combining our monitoring and research data Jennifer hopes to answer the following questions:

1. Which coral species are the best candidates for coral reef restoration based on their survival post transplantation and subsequent growth?
2. For optimum coral survival and growth in a restoration program, is it better to grow coral species in monocultures or polycultures (multiple species)?
3. As transplanted coral fragments grow bigger over time, do they attract more fishes?



Cluster with the 3 species of corals



Gluing a massive coral fragment

We look forward to welcoming Jennifer back in June 2013 for her second trip!



AGM held on 21.03.2013

REEF aims to implement the following activities in 2013;

- Voluntary Marine Conservation Project with Roches Noires, Trou D'Eau Douce and Anse La Raie,
- Marine Ecoguide training for 24 persons under CSR funding,
- Club Mer program for kids 14 - 17 years,
- Revamp the Pereybere BRC with new tools and displays for marine sensitisation,
- Develop a Marine Ecosystem Education booklet,
- Run three marine camps for children 7 - 11 years,
- Implement new swim zones and fixed mooring buoys
- Run a 2 day training course "Introduction to coastal and marine habitats of Mauritius" for tourism operators.

Exhibition at l'Aventure du Sucre April - July 2013

Reef Conservation has been invited to hold an exhibition on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity at L'Aventure du Sucre. The aim is to sensitize visitors about our rich marine biodiversity and their importance. **Come visit us!**

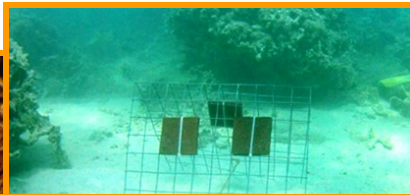
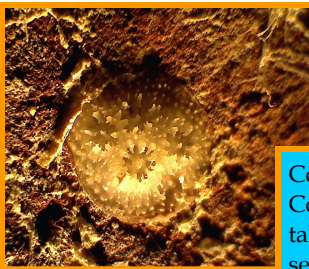


Voluntary Marine

Conservation Areas

Monitoring and research are integral components of the project

When you visit the VMCA area in Roches Noires and go snorkeling in the Anse La Raie Lagoon you may happen upon some of our study gear of **Sediment Traps** and **Coral Recruitment Tiles** which have been placed in several sites in Anse la Raie and Roches Noires. This equipment is checked and replaced every one to two months by our monitoring team. The sites include live coral areas as well as dead coral, sand and sea grass patches. This research would tell us over time how much sedimentation there is in the lagoon, record seasonal changes over a period of one year and determine whether sedimentation could be a factor affecting corals recovery and survival.



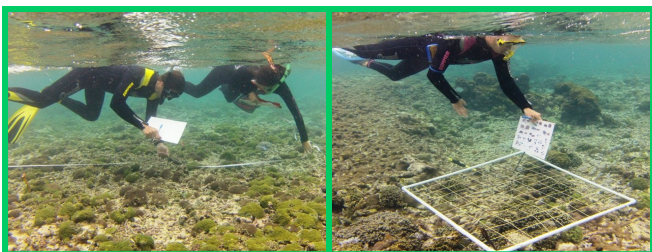
Coral Recruitment Tiles (above) and Coral Larvae (left) settled on a tile taken from the Anse La Raie Lagoon as seen under the microscope Mag x 40

Natural recruitment and coral survival data can help us understand our reef systems and find solutions and methods best suited on a site by site basis to helping our degraded coral reef systems recover.

"Although restoration can enhance conservation efforts, restoration is always a poor second to the preservation of original habitats." Young, T.P. (2000) Restoration ecology and conservation biology. Biological Conservation, 92, 73-83.

Please support Community Based Marine Conservation Actions and Voluntary Marine Conservation Areas around Mauritius. A little care goes a long way!

Coral Reef Health Monitoring in Anse La Raie



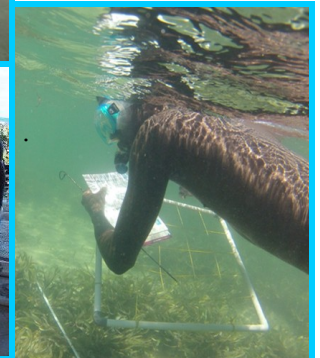
Monitoring with the Community

Training community to help collect data

An important part of this work is to get community actively on board with the project actions. Learning to help collect data is not only fun but is a great way to learn more about the ecosystems we are protecting. If you are



from Roches Noires and want to get involved or learn more about the project contact Celine at the office 262 6775. We would be happy to have you onboard!



What's Next for 2013!

- More monitoring and data collection at both Roches Noires and Anse La Raie
- Reaching out to the St, Francois, Anse La Raie and Cap Malheureux communities
- Organising of Events; Open Days, Film Projections, Meetings and Workshops



PRINCES TUNA (MAURITIUS) LIMITED

Certificate Award Ceremony for the Participants of the Marine Ecoguide Course



Thirteen MEG Course participants received their certificates after successfully completing the course. The ceremony was held on the 27th of November 2012 at NAUTICAZ. We aim to train 24 more students in 2013. Funding for 10 participants has been secured through CSR. If you would like to fund a student or are interested give us a shout!



Nauticaz continues to be a center for discovery and sensitisation for schools, community groups and hotel guests. In 2012 we welcomed over 2500 visitors including 416 students and 84 teachers.



New 2 Day MQA Course



Reef Conservation has a new training course registered at the MQA for **Tourism operators** such as Boat Houses, Dive centers... It's a two day foundation course on Marine & Coastal habitats accompanied by field trips. If clients want to be trained more in depth in a specific ecosystem, this will be an option. For more information contact us.

Beach Resource Centre



The ANFEN School of Chemin Rail visited the Beach Resource Centre through an initiative of GML Fondation Lagesse. Students learnt about the coastal and marine habitats and what they can do to better preserve it..

The Beach Resource Centre will receive funding from MCB Foundation for new materials and educational tools. The centre is temporarily closed for repair works by the Beach Authority. We aim to re-launch the centre later in 2013.

We will be sure to keep you informed for this date!

Les explorateurs marins

Holiday Camps for Kids



Reef Conservation organized its first summer camp for kids aged from 7 to 11 years old between the 17th and the 21st of December at Nauticaz. 10 participants discovered the marine environment and its unique

biodiversity through hands-on learning, field trips, swimming and snorkelling sessions and many other activities. Following the success of



this event, we are organising 3 more holiday camps in 2013 with the first scheduled for April 2013. Contact us to find out more on 262 6775 weekdays from 9 am - 4pm

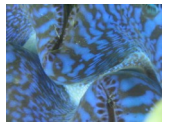
All our projects and activities are CSR approved. If you have a CSR Programme or work with a CSR Foundation and are interested in one or more of these projects, Please contact us for a presentation or meeting 262 6775



Reef Conservation (Mauritius) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and the restoration of the marine environment in Mauritius. It seeks to promote community integration with marine conservation and resource management through research, training and education. It promotes the sustainable use of the biodiversity of our marine ecosystems, through local and regional efforts in a partnership approach with all concerned stakeholders.

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Support Us! Reef Conservation (Mauritius) depends on your generous support. We welcome any donations and/or support in-kind for our projects.



Buy our products and contribute to saving the sea!

Our products selection has expanded. Waterproof slates on all the marine ecosystems and reef fish of Mauritius are available for Rs. 500/each.

Check out our website to see more products!



Reef Conservation would like to thank all our Sponsors and Partners. The Ministry of Fisheries the Beach Authority, the Tourism Authority and the Mauritius Life Saving Society. Sponsors whose logo's we do not have Deutsche International Trust Corp, Building Development Ltd, Asya Engineering & Interior Design, Cap Loisier Ltd.

A special thanks also to our student volunteers and interns whose hard work and time are invaluable to our Projects successes. Thanks also to the Roches Noire Eco Marine and the Fisherman's Associations of Roches Noires.

Last but not least, a big thanks to the following individuals: Jocelyn Gonzales (for allowing the VMCA team access through his property and use of facilities in Roches Noires), Shirley and Francois Rogers for continued use of their kayak for monitoring in Roches Noires and to all others who have helped Reef Conservation in any other way!

Sponsors and Partners

