

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 5/3/2/7
DATE: 23 October 2017
CIRCULAR: 17/51

TO: SPREP National Focal Points
CROP Organisations
SPREP Partner Organisations

SUBJECT: Celebrating the 3rd International Year of the Reef for the Pacific: *Healthy reefs, protecting our natural heritage, building our living legacy.*

2018 has been designated as the 3rd International Year of the Reef by the [International Coral Reef Initiative](#). Coral reefs and climate change are the guiding themes of the campaign. As a CROP agency, we are taking this opportunity to take the lead globally and to build upon the existing efforts for coral reefs locally. SPREP and ICRI are also encouraging member countries and territories to promote the value and importance of coral reefs, threats to their sustainability and to stimulate on ground conservation action by people, communities and governments to act to protect this important and vital natural heritage.

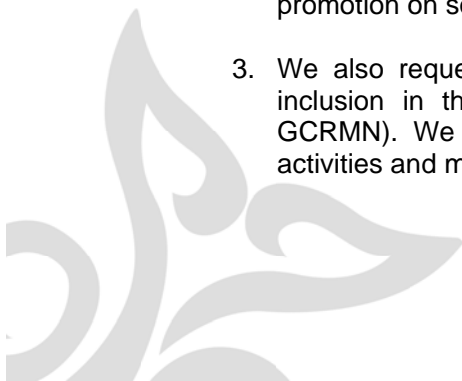
The 3rd IYOR was launched regionally during the 28th SPREP Meeting held in Apia, Samoa from 19 – 21 September, 2017. The programme for the 3rd IYOR 2018 will be further discussed at the ICRI General Meeting in Nairobi on 7 – 9 December, 2017.

The 3rd IYOR will be an international platform for action. [ICRI](#) and [SPREP](#) social media are available for use by SPREP Members to contribute to the publicising of programmes, events, activities and/or other news around the Pacific region. Participate in the coordinated efforts, by using the following hashtags:

#IYOR2018 and **#Pacific**

This Circular is to encourage involvement of our Members to undertake specific actions to enhance actions for coral reef protection during the 3rd IYOR in 2018. We ask for your feedback as soon as possible on the following:

1. Your suggestions (ICRI members and non-members) in developing a programme of activities for inclusion on the 3rd IYOR for the Pacific prior to **Friday, 17th November**. The programme would have the greatest success if SPREP Member countries could make at least one financial/resource commitment now towards coral reef conservation outcomes for 2018 in their country.
2. Your suggestions on media formats specific to your country that will be used to promote Year of the Reef. SPREP aims to provide monthly media packages for promotion on social media sites managed by your respective departments.
3. We also request that you nominate a coral reef focal point in your country, for inclusion in the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network for the Pacific (Pacific GCRMN). We will use this group to help coordinate and promote IYOR Pacific activities and mobilise additional resources.



We look forward to working with you in partnership to celebrate this year. We hope you also take this opportunity to become a member of the International Coral Reef Initiative by firstly checking out the website at the following <http://icriforum.org/members/become-a-member>.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Chape', written in a cursive style.

Stuart Chape
Officer in Charge

For further information and/or questions, please contact Akiko Hamada-Ano (IYOR 2018 Pacific Regional Focal-point) at akikoh.ext@sprep.org