



WFCRC Statement about St. Maarten

Join WFCRC

The World Federation for Coral Reef Conservation
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9/9/17

The World Federation for Coral Reef Conservation

Urgent Statement about St. Maarten

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5K-XoQxMSI&sns=em>

What an incredible and unfortunate set of circumstances we are currently facing all around the world. Nature is revolting and wants us to listen. As the temperature of the earth rises we are exposed to ever more devastating events and consequences, we all should realize that these events are the emotional equivalent to a war and should have an equivalent response.

But for now circumstances and recovering from the hurricane in St. Maarten will not allow for programs and events that are not *directly related* to recovery. 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**.

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 who is the **on the ground contact** for this effort. We have a clear cut development and exit strategy with obtainable goals for this relief effort. Full blown logistical development is a critical component of this program.

WFCRC is approaching agencies to partner with us and to provide matching funds. We are creating a consortium of relief providers called “**Relief without Borders**” that together will be able to have a larger impact than individual efforts. St. Maarten has long been the focus of our conservation plans and we want to stand by them in this tragedy. We are under negotiations with entities on St. Maarten to provide disaster recovery and stakeholder support. We are among the first to send support and will be among the last to leave.

Our partner, [The Ocean Guardian](#) specializes in environmental protection and remediation. Starting with our Vital Oceanic cleanup and recovery, focusing on removing plastics, the mid-water materials and oceanic floor of illegally dumped, downed vessels or toxic materials. Then providing non-lethal protective research that focuses on the ocean waters, coral, and marine life, after our

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cleanup efforts, in order to continue to monitor the health of our oceans and marine environments. We then take all of our critical information from our mission and pass it on to our international oceanic educational programs so we can prevent future oceanic trash issues and/or additional pollution. As former United States military personnel combat engineering, horizontal and vertical engineers, we have the proper training and experience for assuming a lead or support role in rescue and damage control. With our heavy equipment operators for bulldozers High X scrapers and maintenance, are all former military personnel and are prepared to tackle large cleanup and recovery projects. As with all post disaster areas security and safety is a must and we do have specialized individuals for security and force protection for immediate deployment.

We also provide animal rescue, and humanitarian missions when needed and we are committed to disaster recovery and rebuilding devastated lives as The Oceans Guardians mission is Environmental Protection and Remediation, so we can go into an area and clean up a damaged area and then bring it back to its natural state, again available for immediate deployment.

Our environmental scientist Chuck Ramsey is an expert with water sampling and environmental impact dealing with everything from sewage to nuclear waste and can provide a complete GIS operational picture of an area using drone imagery identifying and monitoring sites.

Our humanitarian effort is provided by a U.S. medical team that might be able to come and assist with some special operations for medical emergencies.

Another partner with us is [Random Wind Charters](#), in St. Maarten. The manager and owner of Random Wind Charters is Diane Morano Smith and has been providing an update of events in SXM and it is **deeply disturbing**. Their 54 ft. cutter-rigged ketch broke its mooring some time on Wednesday and is still unaccounted for. Diane is packing 18-20 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.

Our joint effort GoFundMe campaign has raised over \$16,000 for the people as they rebuild. There will be a continued need for food and supplies as the tourism economy is gone, it was 85% of the islands GNP. Full recovery may never happen but for now our recovery efforts will continue now and for possibly for a year.

Diane's effort is **so heroic** and we will support and work with her to the highest degree and ask that you help us as well by giving to the crowd funding event that will *follow this statement*. Diane is

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the person on the ground and will be the operational director for the event along with local volunteers ready to help.

What we would need is feedback and permits from the Government and Magistrates to help define the necessary framework and what is specifically needed. As well as a date we can begin.

A crowd funding event will follow this statement, 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.

The culprit: <https://gfycat.com/ThankfullInfiniteKomododragon>

Thank you so muchOne Ocean-One World

Vic Ferguson
Executive Director
The World Federation for Coral Reef Conservation

For an aid in tracking real time wind currents the site below is a very unique tool.

<https://earth.nullschool.net/#current/wind/surface/level/orthographic=-73.21,20.32,673>

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[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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