



# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## U.N. IN ACTION

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Week of 30 June 2003  
Programme No. 865  
Length: 4'15"

### CORAL REEF PROTECTION

#### VIDEO

#### AUDIO

#### NARRATION

##### SAN PEDRO/DIVING (18")

Daybreak in San Pedro, a Caribbean coastal town in Belize. San Pedro is known as the diving and water sports capital of Central America. Thousands of tourists from all over the globe come here to see a unique marine spectacle.

##### CORAL REEF/BELIZE (15")

They are here to enjoy the second largest coral reef system in the world. It lies two kilometres from the shore and is home to over 500 species of fish, marine mammals and sea turtles. But this paradise is in grave danger.

##### CORAL REEF/GENERAL (28")

Coral reefs are composed of tiny plant-like animals that depend on clean, clear waters and sunlight to survive. Coral reefs are often called the rain forests of the sea because of the remarkable biodiversity of life that they support. One of the most complex ecosystems, their health is critical to economic livelihoods and the cultural values of millions of people, providing a significant source of income and food.

##### REEF/MANGROVE/GRASS (12.5")

To protect and maintain the reef in its natural

state, the government of Belize has established the Hol Chan Marine Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

POLLUTION/DEAD FISH (28")

Scientists estimate that coral reefs may disappear within the next 100 years unless drastic measures are taken. Pollution, over fishing and tourism activities are endangering the very survival of the reefs. On top of that, a rise in seawater temperature, due to the warming climate, has led to coral bleaching, causing widespread death of the coral reefs.

CATCHING LOBSTER (13")

As a result of declining coral reef health, fishermen here have seen their main source of income being reduced. Nano Marin catches lobsters for a living and has felt the impact of the reefs' decay.

MARIN:

NANO MARIN ON CAMERA (20")

"We used to catch a lot more lobsters. We could go for a day and take home maybe 50, 60, 80 pounds and now its...we have to give them lots of time so that we can come and catch the amount of lobsters we used to catch these past years ago."

NARRATION

FISH SWIMMING (15")

A working partnership between ICRAN, the

International Coral Reef Action Network, Ted Turner's UN Foundation and the government of Belize has been created in order to reverse the decline of the coral reef and support its management worldwide.

**BOMB ON WATER (29")**

Predatory fishing decimates the catch and destroys the reefs. Marine rangers now ensure that nobody fishes in sanctuary areas, and where fishing is allowed it is restricted to traditional methods. Funding for research and management of the Marine Park also comes from the diving enthusiasts who pay the rangers a fee, which entitles them to explore the reef. The rangers keep a watchful eye on the instructors to make sure that they inform the visitors how to behave underwater.

**VOX POP – TOURIST ON CAMERA (5.5")**

**TOURIST:**

"Absolutely not step on the reef or really not touch it at all. Just look and take only pictures."

**TOURISTS (10")**

**NARRATION**

The collaboration of everyone is vital to the survival of the reef says Miguel Alamilla, Director of the Hol Chan Marine Reserve.

**MIGUEL ALAMILLA ON CAMERA (18")**

**ALAMILLA:**

"We have tour guides, tour operators, hotels, hoteliers, even the small shops, the boat builders,

everyone depends on the reef. The fishermen. So it is very important for them."

NARRATION

CORAL REEF GENERAL (21")

Coral reefs are also the medicine cabinet of the future offering great promise for pharmaceuticals useful in the fight against major diseases. And coral reefs are amazing examples of paintings produced by nature. We MUST take action so that future generations can not only enjoy coral reefs but also benefit from them.

LOGO (20")

This report was prepared by Niels von Kohl and Chaim Litewski for the United Nations.