



**Khaled bin Sultan**  
**LIVING OCEANS Foundation**  
**SCIENCE WITHOUT BORDERS®**

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## **Background information**

### **Global Reef Expedition**

The Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation is a US Based non-profit dedicated to conserving and restoring living oceans through research, education, and a commitment to Science Without Borders®.

Throughout the past ten years, the Foundation has been conducting cutting-edge coral reef ecosystem research in remote locations around the world. The Foundation's strength is in its multi-disciplinary network of marine scientists, a state-of-the-art research ship, dedication to applied science, and use of technology to conduct rapid ecological assessments.

In 2011 the Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation launched an ambitious *Global Reef Expedition* program. The primary scientific goals of the Expedition are to map and characterize coral reef ecosystems, identify their current status and major threats, and examine factors that enhance their capacity to resist, survive and rapidly recover from major disturbance events. The resulting scientific findings will be shared freely with participating countries and scientific and regulatory organizations, and will be used by countries for developing sound management strategies for coral reefs.

The Expedition will provide the opportunity for coral reef researchers, in collaboration with local partners, to conduct management-driven coral reef research. Together, the Foundation and local partners will explore, map and characterize coral reefs in remote locations and compare these to near shore reefs off populated coastlines.

Information obtained during the Expedition will assist in identifying sites of high priority for protection and in developing conservation strategies to mitigate human impacts and improve reef resiliency, in order to preserve and protect the biodiversity, health, heritage and social and economic value of these precious resources.

The Expedition will enable scientists of many nations, materializing the Foundation's *Science Without Borders*® program, to conduct applied research on coral reefs that will provide information and tools needed to develop regional and global conservation measures to counter the most serious threats impacting these ecosystems.

## **The Global Reef Expedition Itinerary**

### **2011**

Cay Sal Bank, Bahamas

Inaguas Islands and Hogsty Reef, Bahamas

Andros and Abaco Islands, Bahamas

St. Kitts and Nevis.

### **2012**

Jamaica

Navassa Island

Colombia

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

Society Islands, French Polynesia

Tuamotu Islands, French Polynesia

### **2013**

Gambier Islands, French Polynesia

Cook Islands

Austral Islands, French Polynesia

Fiji

Tonga

New Caledonia