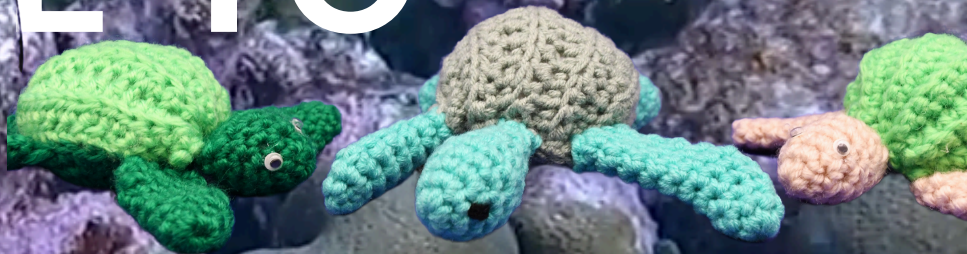


CROCHET FOR A CAUSE: RIDGE TO REEF PROJECT



Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Community Empowerment and Environment Partnership (CEEP)

SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme





CROCHET FOR A CAUSE: RIDGE TO REEF

Dive in to our visual display of
crochet and coral.

Through this creative expression of
handicraft and nature, readers are
challenged to become
environmental champions
against the impact of climate change.

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RIDGE TO REEF

"Ridge to Reef" environmental awareness is a holistic approach that encompasses the interconnectedness of terrestrial and marine ecosystems within a specific geographic area, typically from the mountainous "ridge" down to the adjacent "reef" or coastal areas. This strategy recognizes that activities and changes in one part of the landscape can have cascading effects on downstream ecosystems.

For instance, pollution, deforestation, or poor land management practices in the upland areas can impact water quality and runoff, adversely affecting coral reefs and marine life downstream. Conversely, healthy ecosystems on land contribute to the well-being of coastal and marine environments.

Promoting "Ridge to Reef" environmental awareness involves educating communities, policymakers, and stakeholders about the intricate linkages between these ecosystems. It encourages sustainable practices, conservation efforts, and integrated management strategies that consider the entire landscape to ensure the overall health and resilience of both terrestrial and marine environments.





PLANT A GARDEN

Gardens, especially those using sustainable practices, contribute positively to the environment. They promote biodiversity, support pollinators, and reduce the carbon footprint associated with transporting food

WE PLANTING!

Creating a home garden is a rewarding and eco-friendly way to contribute to environmental sustainability while reaping numerous personal benefits.

To start, choose a space with ample sunlight and decide whether to grow in the ground, raised beds, or containers. Planting herbs like basil and thyme, or easy-to-grow vegetables like lettuce and tomatoes, can provide fresh ingredients for your meals.

Gardens also allow you to recycle organic waste. Composting kitchen scraps and yard trimmings creates nutrient-rich soil, reducing waste sent to landfills and supporting healthier plants. Rainwater collection systems can provide a sustainable water source for irrigation, making your garden even more environmentally friendly.

Gardening offers physical and mental health benefits, providing exercise, stress relief, and a sense of accomplishment. It's also an opportunity to teach children about sustainability and food production.

By dedicating even a small amount of time to gardening, you can transform your space into a vibrant, productive haven that supports your household and the planet. Start your garden today and grow a greener future!





SUNNY SIDE UP

Solar energy is one of the most sustainable and accessible forms of renewable energy available today. By utilizing the sun's power, individuals can reduce their carbon footprint, lower energy bills, and contribute to a cleaner environment. Incorporating solar energy into daily life is easier than ever, thanks to technological advancements and increasing affordability.



One practical way to start is by installing solar panels on rooftops or in yards. These panels convert sunlight into electricity, powering homes and reducing reliance on non-renewable energy sources. For smaller-scale adoption, solar-powered chargers and lights are excellent choices. Solar chargers can keep devices like phones and tablets running without drawing from the grid, while solar lights are perfect for illuminating gardens and patios sustainably.

Solar water heaters are another great option, allowing households to use solar power for heating water, reducing energy costs significantly. Even simple actions, such as drying clothes on a line under the sun instead of using a dryer, can use solar energy effectively.

Embracing solar energy not only helps the planet but also empowers individuals to take an active role in environmental preservation. By incorporating solar solutions into everyday routines, everyone can enjoy the benefits of renewable energy while fostering a more sustainable future.



CARE FOR OUR CORAL

The health of our coral reefs is compromised by human induced stresses - poor water quality, physical damage and exploitation.

Adapted from "Barbados A Coral Paradise"

CARE FOR OUR CORAL

The mesmerizing beauty of the Caribbean's coral reefs, vibrant and teeming with life, is facing a silent but urgent crisis. Our coral ecosystems, delicate and intricate, are under siege from the consequences of human activity. The very essence of these underwater wonderlands is compromised by the collective impact of poor water quality, physical damage, and exploitative practices.



Poor water quality, physical damage, and exploitation imperil Caribbean coral reefs. Inadequate waste management introduces pollutants, stressing corals. Unmindful anchoring inflicts swift, lasting damage, altering centuries-old formations. Overfishing disrupts the symbiotic dance of marine life, imperiling biodiversity. Urgent action is imperative. Conscientious conservation, sustainable practices, and heightened awareness can reverse this trajectory. The future envisions resilient coral reefs, a testament to harmonious coexistence, preserving the vibrant beauty of the Caribbean. Now is the time to safeguard these vital threads in our planet's health.





An underwater photograph of a sea turtle swimming over a sandy ocean floor. The turtle is the central focus, with its head and front flippers visible. The water is clear and blue. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the image, containing text.

Both green and hawksbill
turtles are seen in our
coastal waters and we have
vibrant populations of
nesting hawksbills and
leatherback turtles.

Adapted from 'Barbados A Coral Paradise'

**TAKING TIME FOR
OUR TURTLES**

TAKING TIME FOR OUR TURTLES



To safeguard the vibrant populations of nesting hawksbill and leatherback turtles in our coastal waters, concerted efforts are paramount. Implementing strict conservation measures, such as establishing protected nesting zones, is crucial. Public awareness campaigns can educate communities on responsible coastal practices to mitigate disturbances to nesting sites. Collaborative research initiatives can provide valuable insights into their migration patterns and habitats, aiding in the development of comprehensive conservation strategies. Additionally, supporting and actively participating in local and international marine conservation organizations contribute significantly to the protection of these magnificent sea turtles.





FOR FISHES' SAKE

If fishing is so heavy that there is widescale removal of key herbivores, then reefs become overrun with turf and macroalgae

Adapted from 'Barbados: A Coral Paradise'

FISH FOR OUR FUTURE

Sustainable fishing practices are vital to maintaining the delicate balance of marine ecosystems. Widescale removal of key herbivores due to excessive fishing can disrupt the ecological harmony of reefs, leading to the proliferation of turf and macroalgae.



To avoid overfishing, adopting responsible harvesting techniques, implementing catch limits, and supporting marine protected areas are essential.

Engaging local communities in sustainable fishing education fosters a sense of environmental responsibility, ensuring the long-term health of coral reefs and the diverse marine life they harbor. Balancing human needs with ecosystem health is crucial for the preservation of these underwater wonders.





CROCHET FOR A CAUSE

Ridge to Reef project

F O L L O W U S F O R M O R E
E L A I N E S C A R I B B E A N C R O C H E T . C O M