



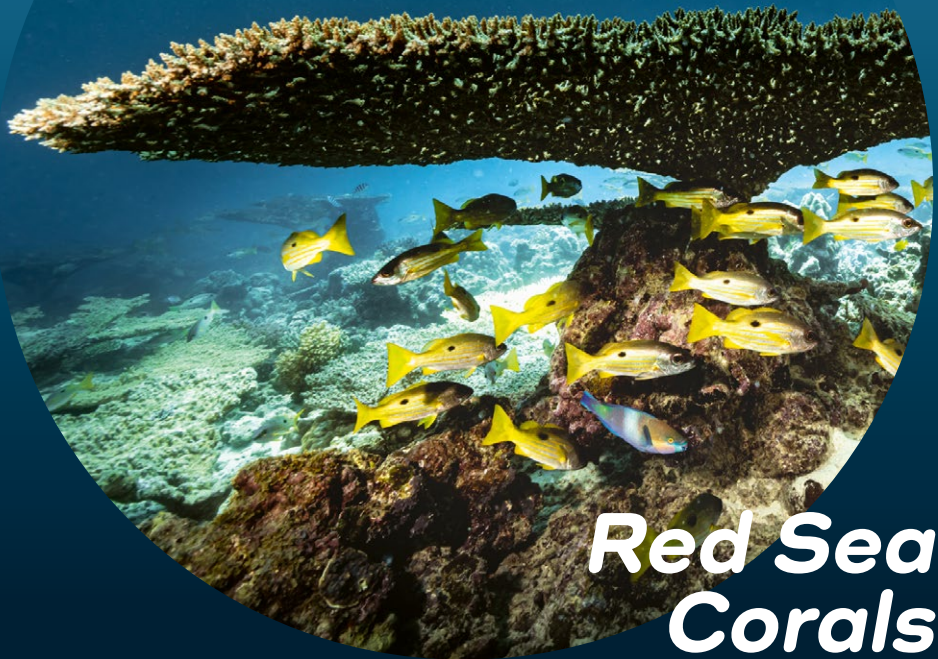
CLUB DIPLOMATIQUE
DE GENÈVE
FONDATION POUR GENÈVE



Transnational
Red Sea
Center

Coraux de mer Rouge

Science et diplomatie
se conjuguent en faveur
des « récifs de l'espoir »



Red Sea Corals

*Bridging science and
diplomacy in favor
of the "reefs of hope"*

Red Sea corals

Bridging science and diplomacy in favor of the “reefs of hope”

Photo exhibition
6 August — 3 September 2024
Quai Wilson, Geneva

The Red Sea coral reefs need to be recognized – and cherished – as the “reefs of hope”. Because of their exceptional capability to resist heat-stress in a warming world, they are humanity’s best chance to preserve at least one large and highly biodiverse coral reef ecosystem alive past the end of this century.

In these dual – both alarming yet also promising – circumstances, the Transnational Red Sea Center (TRSC) was inaugurated in 2019 at EPFL, with the support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. TRSC core mission is to bridge cutting-edge science and diplomacy to help understand and conserve these unique Red Sea coral reef ecosystems.

This photo exhibition features the scientific missions and educational workshops carried out during 2022 and 2023 in Djibouti – in the Gulf of Tadjoura and around the Seven Brothers archipelago – by the TRSC and its scientific partners from Djibouti, Sudan and Yemen.

Organized in close collaboration with Djibouti’s Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Higher Education and Research, the University of Djibouti as well as the *Centre d’étude et de recherche de Djibouti*, this work is part of a long-term vision to create the scientific and educational basis

for the study and conservation of the coral reef ecosystems in the Red Sea.

The exhibition also aims to underscore the necessity of a regional approach to conservation of these “reefs of hope”, eventually involving all eight countries bordering the Red Sea: Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Yemen. Because even if these corals can resist global warming, other – more immediate – threats loom over these complex ecosystems, which are as fragile as they are essential to the biodiversity and functioning of our oceans and to mankind, through the diverse services (e.g., sea food and income from tourism) upon which the livelihood of hundreds of millions of people depend.

The exhibition is jointly organized by the Diplomatic Club of Geneva and the TRSC. As such, it not only raises awareness of the uniqueness of the Red Sea coral reefs and the clear need to bridge science and diplomacy for their conservation. But it also brings Lausanne and Geneva together as natural partners in this endeavour: Lausanne with EPFL embodying the scientific and educational pillar of the initiative and “International Geneva” the diplomatic pillar, with a prominent role in numerous peace initiatives in the Middle East, for which the city has historically been the privileged setting.