



Member's report on activities related to ICRI

Reporting period December 2015 – November 2016

1. **Contribution to the ICRI Plan of Action and GM.** *Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the current ICRI Plan of Action (<http://www.icriforum.org/icri-secretariat/current>) and objectives of the general meeting.*

a. Bleaching event

Were you affected by the Third Global Coral Reef event? Did you do some monitoring, if yes what are the results and could you explain what method did you use? Would you like to report during the ICRI Meeting?

Coral Cay Conservation utilises the internationally recognised Reef Check methodology for monitoring coral reefs. Due to the long term nature of our projects and based on the information requirements of our project partners CCC enhances the standard methodology by increasing number and diversity of target organisms considered during a survey.

Over the course of the Third Global Coral Reef event, CCC was monitoring the nearby reefs to our sites in Southern Leyte, Philippines and Montserrat. As part of these surveys, bleaching is recorded wherever it is encountered, however no specific bleaching surveys were conducted.

From preliminary analysis and anecdotal reports from our field staff, the effect of the global event appear to have been minimal in the regions where CCC operate. Further analysis will be conducted in due course.

b. INDCs - Intended Nationally Determined Contributions – *Did your national contribution mention 'marine ecosystems or coral reefs'? Would you be interested in joining an Ad Hoc committee to develop guidelines to integrate coral reefs in the INDC?*

CCC do not work on a national scale and therefore this question is not applicable. Work is undertaken on local and regional levels.

c. Nature-based Solutions to address Climate Change - *Do you have some example(s) of Nature-based (coral reef and related ecosystems) Solutions to address climate change? If yes, could you please provide use some details?*

Through efforts in tropical coastal ecosystems, working with local communities to improve food security through increased fishery production, CCC believes that such efforts are vital for communities in the face of climate change. By facilitating in the establishment of autonomously managed MPAs within local communities and providing the necessary tools for their sustainable exploitation, CCC hopes to lessen the impact of climate change on coastal communities. Furthermore, studies have demonstrated that MPA's can sustain resilience on coral reefs whilst also remediating anthropogenic impacts to re-build resilience. Importance of resilience on coral reefs is well documented, and to is the synergistic relationship between biodiversity, functional redundancy, MPAs. Thus the establishment of MPAs within CCC active communities and regions is deemed, intrinsically, as a step forward in providing local solutions to climate change.

CCC, as a result of the nature of the undertaken conservation efforts cannot provide solutions to climate change on a far-field scale. It must be noted that volunteers have the option to offset their carbon emissions travelling to site(s) through purchasing Forest Credits.

- d. **UN Sustainable Development Goals** – Do you have example(s) showing how coral reefs and related ecosystems address the SDG (SDG 14 but also other related ones such as SDG 1 – End poverty in all its form; SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition...).

CCC objectives have and will continue to support Goal 14 of the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development as well as SDG1 and SDG2.

In order to support to the long-term sustainable management of marine resources within Sogod Bay and southern Leyte, as well as CCC's objectives to achieve the aforementioned goals, marine protected areas will be effectively developed along with ensuring the continued successful monitoring and evaluation of established MPAs. Taking an ecosystem approach to an already established holistic management plan throughout Sogod Bay, CCC will further build capacity within the region, raising awareness and conducting educational programs to enable the sustainable use of the bay's resources and components. As such, CCC have focussed on the following three key areas for this project: 1) conduct surveys in established and proposed MPAs to determine the ecological status of coral reefs in order to inform management decisions and enable adaptive management; 2) develop training and educational programmes, along with delivering practical survey experience, to enhance capacity for effective management; 3) build capacity, increase awareness and facilitate the development of alternative livelihoods through scholarships, community training and workshops.

Adopting a bottom-up, cohesive approach to management, CCC believes that transparency and local stakeholder empowerment are key to effective and successful management practices. Using the scientific knowledge gained through surveys and monitoring coupled with the local knowledge and administrative power of the Provincial Government of Southern Leyte in a triangulated consortium, CCC aims to achieve SDG14 to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems avoiding significant adverse impacts, strengthening their resilience and restoration, aiming for healthy, sustainable and productive coastal ecosystems. By developing and establishing management schemes in tandem with improved fishery production, SDG1 and SDG2 will also be targeted as food security improves whilst striving to decrease the percentage of coastal populations below the poverty line.

- e. Do you have notional measure(s) – existing or in development - to ban the sale and manufacture of cosmetics and personal care products containing plastic microbeads? And plastic bags?

Due to the nature and work conducted by CCC, such notions are not applicable to CCC and its volunteers. However, during pre-departure conversations between staff and volunteers, volunteers are advised in the purchase of 'environmentally friendly' cosmetic products such as perfume free products and those which do not contain microbeads. Social media is also used on a daily basis to raise awareness of such issues to prospective, current and post-expedition volunteers.

- f. **Upcoming events** - Do you plan to attend:

- November 2016 - Marrakech Climate Change Conference / The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22)
- December 4, 2016 to December 17, 2016 - Convention on Biological Diversity COP13
- June 2017 - Oceans & Seas Global Conference, Fiji
- Other(s):

Due to the small nature of CCC and respective funds, attending such meetings and summits are, in most cases, unfeasible. Therefore, CCC will not be able to attend any of the above events.

2. **Updates on your activities.** The following table is a summary of ICRI's *Framework for Action* (FFA) and its four cornerstones. (The full text of the FFA is available in English, French, and Spanish at <http://icriforum.org/icri-documents/icri-key-documents/continuing-call-action-2013>).

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| Integrated Management | Objective | Manage coral reefs and related ecosystems using an ecosystem approach, recognizing place based activity; connectivity within and among ecological, social, economic, and institutional systems; as well as with attention to scale; resilience of ecological and social systems; and long-term provision of ecosystem services. |
| | General Approach | Integrated management, using a strategic, risk-based, informed approach, provides a framework for effective coral reef and related ecosystem management which supports natural resilience, ecosystem service provision, and enhances the ability to withstand the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification. |
| | Desired outcome | There is a demonstrable reduction in the threats to coral reefs and related ecosystems through management action. |
| Capacity Building | Objective | To build capacity in all facets of management of coral reefs and related ecosystems and support dissemination and application of best practices to achieve the widest possible engagement of all stakeholders in planning and management activities. |
| | General Approach | Continued collaboration, partnerships, outreach, information sharing and education to ensure the uptake of best practices and encourage behavioural change. This can only be successful if the diversity of cultures, traditions and governance among nations and regions are taken into account. |
| | Desired outcome | Persons who have influence in the management of coral reef and related ecosystems have the knowledge, tools and capital necessary to apply best practices, adapted to the cultural and socio-economic context. |
| Science & Monitoring | Objective | To support research and citizen science approaches to enable countries and communities assess and report on the status of and threats to their coral reefs and related ecosystems in a coordinated, comparable and accessible manner. |
| | General Approach | Research and monitoring programs are essential to ensure that management of coral reefs and related ecosystems is based on best available (scientific) information. |
| | Desired outcome | Knowledge of the status and trends in coral reefs and related ecosystems health is enhanced and used to inform planning and management, improving management outcomes. |
| Periodic Assessment (Review) | Objective | To engage in periodic review of the impact and effectiveness of all elements of management to enable evaluation and refinement of management measures in an adaptive framework. |
| | General Approach | Periodic assessments of management effectiveness and evaluation of projects and activities to ensure the efficacy of management tools and systems in tackling the range of pressures affecting coral reefs and related ecosystems and protecting the values associated with them. |
| | Desired outcome | Management processes and activities are regularly reviewed and improved using a structured approach, to enhance their ability to effectively reduce pressures and threats. |

Using the table on the previous page, as well as the detailed descriptors of approaches and strategies available in the full text of the FFA as a reference, please give us an update on an activity/project/program(s) which has been particularly successful in your country/organization during this reporting period.

Project 1

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| Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project | Check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review) |
| Project Title | Southern Leyte Coral Reef Conservation Project (SLCRCP) |
| Location | Southern Leyte, Philippines |
| Dates | 2002 - present |
| Main Organizer(s) | Coral Cay Conservation (CCC) |
| Main Stakeholder(s) | Provincial Government of Southern Leyte (PGSL) |
| Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones) | <p>In 2002, CCC, in partnership with the Philippines Reef and Rainforest Conservation Inc. (PRRCFI) and the Provincial Government of Southern Leyte (PGSL), established the Southern Leyte Coral Reef Conservation Project (SLCRCP). Three main objectives were developed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. To conduct scientific assessments of the coral reefs and associated marine habitats in Sogod Bay in order to produce habitat maps and support the sustainable management of marine resources. II. To build capacity within government bodies, local organisations and the communities of Southern Leyte to enact sustainable management of marine resources through training schemes. III. To raise awareness of marine conservation issues within the population of Southern Leyte through community engagement and educational programmes. <p>Between 2002 and 2012 scientific surveys focused on mapping and evaluating the overall status of the reefs in Sogod Bay, with the ultimate goal of identifying key areas of biodiversity to establish the appropriate management network needed to conserve and protect highlighted areas. During this time, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) were established throughout Sogod Bay, many with the assistance of CCC. As this occurred, demand increased for ecological monitoring activities within MPAs, to enable successful ecological and socio-economic adaptive management. In 2013 a summary of baseline survey data was produced (Longhurst et al., 2013) and the decision was taken, in collaboration with project partners at PGSL, to refocus survey work predominately on MPA monitoring. Alongside this monitoring work, it was agreed that CCC would, when requested, assess specific sites proposed as MPAs.</p> <p>During the reporting period CCC has surveyed 8 MPA and proposed MPA locations within Sogod Bay. Using an enhanced Reef Check methodology that employs international volunteers as trained citizen scientists we have been able to provide PGSL and local government units (LGUs) with technical reports detailing the current state of the reefs in selected locations.</p> <p>In addition to MPA monitoring as assessment, CCC works closely with communities throughout Southern Leyte and the Philippines to build capacity and raise awareness of marine conservation issues. Our flagship capacity building programme centres on the selection and training of Philippine nationals through our scholarship scheme. This intensive four week course takes individuals who demonstrate a passion and desire to protect the marine environment through a skills</p> |

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| | <p>development programme which includes dive training, species identification and marine survey techniques, at no financial cost. Over the reporting period CCC will welcome 20 scholars from around the Philippines. Individuals from Southern Leyte are afforded preferential acceptance on to the heavily oversubscribed course, though we also welcome applicants from across the Philippines.</p> |
| Outcome (Expected outcome) | <p>The aims of the SLCRCP are continually focused on the support and development of management plans for marine areas within Southern Leyte. Primarily this takes the form of recommendations for adaptive management and the establishment of small scale, locally managed MPAs. Over the reporting period 8 surveys have been conducted of existing MPAs or sites proposed for protection. As a direct result of the recommendations delivered by CCC, alterations to two existing MPAs have been implemented following community consultation and debate. Nominally this has resulted in the alteration of boundary locations and the extension of small No-Take areas to include limited use and fishing restricted buffer zones.</p> <p>Furthermore, consultation and discussion for the implementation of new MPA has begun at two sites within Southern Leyte. CCC provides the scientific support to LGUs to initiate the process at community level and supports the consultation process through each step until designation.</p> <p>The success of the scholarship programme has continued to increase over the reporting period. The scheme is currently oversubscribed into 2017 and continues to attract extremely dedicated and passionate conservationists from within the Philippines. CCC has a strong working relationship with the Marine Biology department at the Southern Leyte State University (SLSU) and regularly welcomes students and graduates wishing to develop their fieldwork skills. As testament to the development and progress of individuals through the programme, in 2016 a team comprised entirely ex-CCC scholars was approached by a LGU to conduct the assessment for a new 100 hectare marine reserve currently in development. Furthermore two scholars have subsequently established local environmental NGOs that focus on monitoring and community education.</p> |
| Lessons learned | <p>The multifaceted programme has yielded continued results over the reporting period. However, changes have been made to the report structure for presented results. After consultation with PGSL and local community leaders CCC now produce a secondary two page report flyer. This supplementary document relays the key findings of the survey work in a format which is concise and easily accessible to community members. The summary document enables a wider breadth of the community to understand the findings of our surveys and increases their ability and desire to be included in any planning process. This minor alteration has greatly impacted the effectiveness of our survey work and increased community engagement.</p> |
| Related websites (English preferred) | <p>www.coralcay.org/philippines</p> |

Project 2

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| Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project | Check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review) |
| Project Title | Montserrat Ridge to Reef Conservation Project (MRRCP) |
| Location | Montserrat |
| Dates | 2013 - present |
| Main Organizer(s) | Coral Cay Conservation |
| Main Stakeholder(s) | Government of Montserrat (GoM), Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Lands, Housing and the Environment (MATHLE) |
| Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones) | <p>In 2013 CCC, in partnership with the Montserrat Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Lands, Housing and the Environment (MATLHE), established the Montserrat Ridge to Reef Conservation Project (MRRCP). The project is funded by contributions from volunteers who join the project to assist with survey work. The project has four main objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assessment and monitoring of marine resources 2. Assessment and monitoring of terrestrial resources 3. Community engagement, education and awareness raising 4. Capacity building training programmes for members of the local community interested in or already working within the field of conservation <p>Working with both local and UK based project partners, CCC's work aims to provide a more thorough understanding of the marine and terrestrial ecosystems on Montserrat to help the local community better utilise these natural resources and conserve threatened biodiversity. The project also aims to raise awareness on the island about the importance of conservation through education and outreach work in schools, libraries and public events. CCC also offers young Montserratians the chance to volunteer at no cost with the organisation as part of a 'Local Scholars Programme' to build capacity and further raise awareness about the importance of conservation.</p> <p>Since the project's inception, marine surveys have been focused on the western coast of the island. Through data collection and analysis, consultations with local stakeholders such as fishermen and representatives of the fisheries department, one of the project's long term aims is the establishment of a Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) to be managed by these local stakeholders and the Montserratian authorities.</p> <p>Terrestrial surveys have been conducted within the forests and along the shoreline of the island, focusing on birds, reptiles and amphibians. The ongoing programme of monitoring is yielding baseline data to enhance a locally managed database of native flora and fauna.</p> <p>In a similar model to the SLCRCP, a scholarship programme has been developed on the MRRCP to build capacity in home-grown environmental monitoring. Unfortunately, over the reporting period there has been very little uptake of the scheme from interested individuals on Montserrat. The reasons for this are discussed in the 'Lessons Learned' section below.</p> |

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| Outcome (including expected outcome) | <p>In line with the targets set out at the start of the MRRCP, CCC has conducted 30 marine surveys over the reporting period. This has increased the database for surveys since the start of the project and focused primarily on un-surveyed areas of the north west coast of Montserrat. The entire database is currently being analysed with the intention of providing recommendations for adaptive management with the long term goal of establishing a Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA).</p> <p>Ongoing monitoring of birds and herptiles has continued during the reporting period. The data has been shared with the government to assist with the adaptation and revision of the existing terrestrial management plans.</p> |
| Lessons learned | <p>One of the primary lessons learned in relation to Science and Monitoring has been the implementation of the Reef Check survey methodology. At the outset of the MRRCP, a marine survey programme was developed which was based on experience from the SLCRCP. Survey sites were selected at random and distributed at 500m intervals along the coastline. In the Philippines this is applicable due to the prevalence of abundant fringing reef along the coast. However in Montserrat the reef structure tends to be patch reef and coral bommies interspersed with large areas of seagrass and silt. Therefore, important reef habitat was being missed by the evenly spaced survey sites. To correct this oversight, CCC adapted the survey methodology to be more targeted to reef sites whilst also covering the seagrass areas. Unfortunately this initial oversight in the implementation of the survey methodology has caused a delay in survey effort. Moving forward, a pilot study to test suitability will be implemented.</p> <p>In relation to our capacity building scholarship programme, uptake on the scheme has been poor over the reporting period. Societal and financial restrictions (both perceived and actual) on target individuals have meant that only 2 scholars have undertaken the programme in 2016. This is despite a rigorous advertising campaign by CCC field staff. The primary factors that have been highlighted are the lack of financial reward for school leavers to join the programme, given that they may find paid apprenticeships elsewhere and a wariness of swimming in the ocean.</p> |
| Related websites (English preferred) | <p>www.coralcay.org/montserrat</p> |

Note: If you have more activities/projects/programs you would like to report on or share with other members, please duplicate the table above and fill it in for as many projects as you wish.

3. **Publications.** Please list relevant publications/reports you have released during this reporting period.

| Title (incl. author and date) | Website URL if available | Type of publication (Paper, report, etc.) |
|---|---|---|
| Dallison, T., Ferguson, A. (2016) 'A Report on the Activities of Coral Cay Conservation in Southern Leyte, Philippines Throughout 2015: Scientific and Community Work.' | http://www.coralcay.org/science-research/scientific-reports/ | Report |
| Lancaster, D., Dallison, T., Ferguson, A. (2016) 'Coral Cay Conservation Proposed Marine Protected Area Report: Barangay Anislagon, 2016' | http://www.coralcay.org/science-research/scientific-reports/ | Report |
| Seraphim, M., Lancaster, D., Dallison, T., Ferguson, A. (2016) 'Coral Cay Conservation Marine Protected Area Report: Barangay Punta, 2015' | http://www.coralcay.org/science-research/scientific-reports/ | Report |
| Lancaster, D., Dallison, T., Ferguson, A. (2016) 'Coral Cay Conservation Marine Protected Area Annual Report: Barangay Napantao, 2016' | http://www.coralcay.org/science-research/scientific-reports/ | Report |
| Dallison, T., Ferguson, A. (2016) 'Coral Cay Conservation Triennial Marine Protected Area Report: Barangay Napantao, 2013-2015' | http://www.coralcay.org/science-research/scientific-reports/ | Report |
| Lancaster, D., Dallison, T., Ferguson, A. (2016) 'Coral Cay Conservation Proposed Marine Protected Area Report: Barangay Estela, 2016' | http://www.coralcay.org/science-research/scientific-reports/ | Report |

4. **General Information.** (Note that this information will be posted on the ICRI website on your member page: <http://www.icriforum.org/about-icri/members-networks.>)

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Thank you very much for sharing your valuable experiences and information with ICRI.