



Coral Cay Conservation Member's report on activities to ICRI

**Presented by Simon Harding, Head of Marine Science, Coral Cay Conservation,
www.coralcay.org.**

Reporting period: May – December 2007

Please note that the purpose of this report is to help you share information about your activities within the ICRI community to allow discussion at the next ICRI General Meeting. The report will be made available on the ICRI Forum prior to the meeting, and a question and answer session will be held at the meeting. The ICRI Secretariat is well aware of your busy schedule, therefore please complete the report to the best of your ability.

1. General Information

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| Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization): | Coral Cay Conservation |
| Focal Point 1: | Simon Harding |
| Focal point 2: | Jan-Willem van Bochove |
| Last meeting attended: | Tokyo, April 2007 |
| How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization? | Via CCC website and email |
| Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period): | Approximately £110K per annum |

Coral Cay Conservation (CCC) is a UK based non-profit organization that was founded in 1986. CCC's aim is to provide resources (human, technical and financial) in order to help to sustain livelihoods and alleviate poverty through the protection, restoration and management of coral reefs and tropical forests. Invited by host countries, to assist with existing conservation issues, CCC does not charge for the collection of scientific information that is used to produce habitat maps and management recommendations. Instead, the services CCC provides are largely financed by international volunteers who pay to participate on a CCC project. As a non-profit organisation, CCC donates all financial surpluses to the CCC Charitable Trust (Registered charity no. 1025534). The CCC Trust provides opportunities for local stakeholders (scholars) to take part on an expedition at no cost, through a Scholarship Awards Programme available to the nationals where CCC works. The aims of the scholarship programme are threefold: firstly, to provide education in tropical ecology, conservation, SCUBA diving and trekking; secondly, to provide local participants with technical knowledge and thirdly, to generate local capacity in order to form local man-power for future monitoring and research programmes devised by the host nation government. Since its foundation CCC has been invited to monitor and survey coral reefs and/or tropical forests by the governments of Belize (1986-1998), Philippines (1995 to date), Honduras (1998-2006), Fiji (2001-2007), Malaysia (2002-2005), Trinidad and Tobago (2007 to date) and has participated in short collaborations with Indonesia at the Banggai Islands in Sulawesi (1996) and at East Kalimantan (1998).

2. Member contribution to the ICRI GM: Your responses to the following questions will contribute to the background material provided for the next ICRI General Meeting in Washington, DC. Due to heavy schedules of ICRI members, we have tried to keep the questions to a minimum and value any response you can provide.

A. Questions to inform the break-out discussion groups

Session 1: Economic Valuation of coral reef ecosystems

- a. Do you have examples of economic valuation of coral reefs being applied in practice? (e.g., in consideration of coastal land use, coastal/marine spatial planning, for determining compensation, etc.);

CCC are not currently involved in economic valuation of coral reefs but are interested in using or adapting methods that are appropriate to our project sites

- b. Do you have established methods for assessing these values? If so, please provide further information.

Not at present but we are interested in any methods that could be used at our project sites to help generate information on the economic cost of coral reef degradation.

Session 2: Designing the ICRI Regional Workshop on Sustainable Tourism (to be held in July 2008 directly following ICRS-11)

- a. With respect to coral reefs, what does sustainable tourism mean to you?

To CCC, the term 'sustainable tourism' means that tourism (in coastal areas where coral reefs are present) is conducted in a sustainable manner with minimal ecological or environmental impact on the marine environment.

- b. What are the key challenges you face to achieving sustainable tourism?

The key challenges are the development of truly sustainable tourism in regions where it is currently absent and the conversion of unsustainable tourism practises into sustainable ones

B. Summary of IYOR 2008 Activities

- Briefly tell us about your activities for IYOR 2008. Information provided will contribute to the discussion during the IYOR 2008 Session on Friday, January 25, 2008.

CCC aims to promote IYOR 2008 both within the UK and at our project sites through a broad range of activities that include:

- Promotion of the IYOR through the CCC website and the bi-annual newsletter 'Reef and Leaf'.
- Tri-partite agreement between PADI 'Project Aware', CCC and Blue Ventures with the aim of promoting IYOR and raise funds for IYOR promotional events in the UK
 - Series of articles in national press
 - Collaborative fundraising event(s)
 - Public lecture series
 - School presentations
- CCC attendance and participation at the International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS) 2008 including the promotion of IYOR at the CCC stand during the ICRS fair

On our project sites:

Southern Leyte Coral Reef Conservation Project, Philippines (SLCRCP)

The SLCRCP was initiated in 2002 with the main objective of assisting the Provincial Government of Southern Leyte (PGSL) in the conservation of the coral reefs of Sogod Bay for the long-term benefit and food-security of the local population. The project is a tripartite agreement between the PGSL, CCC and the Philippine Reef & Rainforest Conservation Foundation, Inc. (PRRCFI).

The SLCRCP will promote IYOR 2008 in Leyte through:

- Collaborative educational projects with the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation Inc. (PRRCFI)
- Working with the Southern Leyte State University where CCC is actively involved in the BSc Marine Biology curriculum.
- Collaboration with the local dive centres in creating awareness of IYOR for tourists and through the organisation of beach and reef cleanups.
- Helping the PGSL promote its whale shark tourism in a sustainable manner
- CCC's teacher training ('train the trainer') programme and open days for local schools and colleges
- Ongoing CCC scholarship programme for local government employees and university students

Tobago Ecosystem Mapping Project, Tobago (TCEMP)

The TCEMP project is a collaborative, two-year project between the Buccoo Reef Trust (BRT), the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) and CCC and forms part of the Caribbean-wide Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management in Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean (IWCAM) programme. The TCEMP project is supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and aims to provide a baseline dataset on the current status of the coral reef, mangrove and sea grass ecosystems surrounding Tobago in order to create effective integrated coastal resource management plans for Tobago's marine resources. The TCEMP also has strong community education and capacity-building components.

CCC will be promoting IYOR 2008 in Tobago through:

- Participation and co-organisation with the BRT of the bi-annual Sea Sun and Science programme geared towards creating awareness of tropical marine biology and conservation through a series of activities including lectures, field trips, workshops, try-dives and games.
- Participation at annual science fairs, food fairs in collaboration with the THA, BRT and the Save Our Sea Turtles (SOS) NGO.
- The ongoing CCC scholarship programme
- Teacher training weekends in collaboration with the BRT and the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment (DNRE)
- Development of Tobago specific coral reef awareness posters for local schools

C. Emerging Issues

- Please identify any emerging issues relevant to coral reef ecosystems that you believe ICRI should consider.

The main emerging issues that should be considered by ICRI are the direct and indirect effects of climate change on coral reefs including coral bleaching, ocean acidification and the increased prevalence of coral disease after severe stress events. ICRI should focus on providing information on the best way that nations and organisations can tackle these major issues, on the predicted extent of change that ecological and socio-economic systems in tropical coastal regions will face and on how communities can best adapt to the changes that take place. An economic assessment of the financial cost of any predicted change would be useful in terms of generating support for action.

D. ICRI and Other Meetings

Are your ICRI Focal Points considering attending any of the following meetings in 2008?

- 2008 Ocean Sciences Meeting, Florida, 2-7 March
- CBD COP 9, Bonn, 19-30 May
- UNICPOLOS 9, New York, June 2008
- ICRS 11, Fort Lauderdale, 7-11 July
- IUCN World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, 5-16 October
- Ramsar COP 9, South Korea, 29 October - 4 November
- Other (please specify):

CCC will be attending the 11th ICRS in July 2008, whilst our project partners in Tobago (The Buccoo Reef Trust) will attend the Ocean Sciences Meeting in March 2008.