



**Member’s report on activities to ICRI**

**Presented by The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL)**

**Reporting period: January 2010 – December 2011**

*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 reports will be made available on the ICRIForum prior to the meeting. The ICRI secretariat is well aware of your busy schedule, thus don’t hesitate to submit an incomplete report.*

**1. General Information** (note that this information will be post on the ICRIForum in your member page: <http://www.icriforum.org/about-icri/members-networks>)

Are you an ICRI Member?	Yes
Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Organization
<b>Focal Point 1:</b>	
<i>Name:</i>	Michael Webster
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Last meeting attended:	October 2011 – 26th Coral Reef Task Force October 2011 - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reef Resilience Conference
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	Email, newsletters, print form, annual report, web publication
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	US \$1.18 million annually

For countries only:

<b>National Action Plan / Initiative</b>	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?	
Is this plan publicly available? If so please provide location:	
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative or Task Force?	
Are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relating to coral reefs:	
If yes, please indicate which programmes/initiatives:	CORAL is involved in several regional coral reef initiatives including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area Network (FLMMA)</li> <li>• Bay Islands MPA Network</li> </ul>

**2. Updates on your activities** (new initiatives/programs/projects of your government /organization which will be of interest to the ICRI Members)

## **GLOBAL OUTREACH**

The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) unites communities to save coral reefs. Our teams of experts and trained volunteers work on the ground with local stakeholders to provide the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to implement effective and financially sustainable conservation solutions that significantly reduce negative impacts to coral reefs.

Our proven approach is the Coral Reef Sustainable Destination (CRSD) model, which bolsters a community's ability to effectively preserve and manage its own coral reef resources. The CRSD model uses six strategic indicators to improve sustainability in a particular project site.

The CRSD indicators include: 1) promoting **sustainable business practices**, 2) fostering **conservation alliances**, 3) developing **sustainable financing**, 4) reducing local **reef threats**, 5) implementing **effective management** of marine protected areas, and 6) creating **community benefits**.

CORAL works directly with communities to create programs and infrastructure that address each of the six indicators of sustainability. Using this approach, we are able to considerably boost the health of coral reef ecosystems and the communities that depend on them and ensure that conservation benefits will continue long into the future.

In addition to our current work in our project sites, we have recently embarked on new and exciting global opportunities.

### ***Global Reef Resilience to Climate Change Program***



We received a grant from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Oceans, Environment, and Science to launch a two-year global training and management program to increase reef resilience to climate change around the world. This is our first grant that has allowed us to implement conservation trainings and expand significantly beyond our current project sites.

CORAL doubled the number of participants initially intended for a global training and was able to conduct two very different trainings. The first training held in Bali, Indonesia targeted MPA managers while the second training focused on MRP (marine recreation providers). Both trainings allow participants to return to their respective regions equipped with the knowledge, skills, and materials to replicate the training for additional coral reef managers and stakeholders in their own countries. They will also work directly with CORAL to identify microgrant funding opportunities to kick-start local conservation projects that apply the training content. These projects will transform the curriculum into conservation action and increase the effectiveness of resilience-building programs in critical coral reef locations.

The coral reef managers who attended the first global training in Bali earlier this year are now busy conducting replication trainings in their home communities. As a result, over fifty new participants

from Aceh, Bali, Lombok, Ovalau Island, Phuket, and the central Philippines have received extensive training in strategies to build reef resilience. These workshops have created a buzz throughout the Indo-Pacific and are capturing headlines in local newspapers including the Phuket News and Jakarta Post. In Thailand, for example, participants have proposed a set of guidebooks to educate both tourists and local residents on reef ecology. Participants are also exploring ways to develop a more robust reef monitoring survey that would outline twenty-three factors for assessing resilience in the Andaman reef region. Members of the Phuket Marine Biological Center are now discussing ways they might adapt these factors to strengthen their current survey monitoring approach. In the Philippines, participants are forming a coral bleaching response team comprised of local reef managers to help monitor the reefs within the central Visayas region.

Not only is the Indo-Pacific region sharing best practices in reef resilience, but CORAL has expanded the program to other high-priority locations. A global training was held in Mexico this summer and was attended by ten participants hailing from coral reef destinations throughout the Caribbean and Mesoamerica. This training was unique in that CORAL adapted the reef resilience curriculum to target a new audience—marine recreation providers. MRPs are often considered the early ‘eyes and ears’ on the reef since they make trips to the reef daily and research indicates that they can detect subtle changes taking place on the reef, sometimes before a reef manager does. We believe it is critical to expand trainings to dive tourism operators to provide them with the knowledge and tools to detect early warning signs on the reef and effectively respond to reduce local reef threats.

### *Fiji Shark Sanctuary Campaign*



CORAL is working in partnership with the Pew Environment Group and the Fijian Ministry of Fisheries to raise awareness for shark protection in Fiji through an exciting shark conservation campaign. The campaign's objective is to create a Fijian National Shark Sanctuary that would:

- prohibit the commercial fishing of sharks throughout the entirety of the Fijian exclusive economic zone
- prohibit the import and export of shark products in Fiji
- prohibit the sale of shark products within Fiji
- allow recreational catch and release of sharks
- allow the incidental, artisanal catch of sharks by citizens of Fiji, assuming the subsequent shark or shark products are not sold.

Since February 2011, our team has been working on the ground, alongside the Fijian people, to raise support for shark protection. Because effective conservation requires collaboration, we have been engaging and educating local stakeholders from the confederacies, provinces, districts, and villages to ensure long-lasting protection for sharks. Sharks have long held a place of respect and worship in Fiji, but past efforts to legally protect them from local and international fishing pressures were met with resistance. Thanks in part to the recent wave of shark sanctuary designations around the world, however, this current campaign is gaining momentum.

In July 2011, Fiji's Department of Fisheries and Forests confirmed that it is reviewing Fiji's fisheries laws and is considering revisions that would include a ban on the trade of all shark fins and other products derived from any shark captured in Fijian waters. If the proposal moves forward, we expect the government to issue an official decree before the year's end. The passing of such a law would make Fiji the first Melanesian country to approve such comprehensive protection for these iconic animals. The second—and perhaps most important step—is making sure the new policy is effectively implemented. We will work with the Fijian people to make sure communities are aware of the law, understand its importance, and proudly support it.

### ***Smithsonian Exhibit - Hyperbolic Crochet Coral Reef Display***

In the fall of 2010, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., unveiled a new art exhibition showcasing a stunning display of colorful crocheted corals and other reef-dwelling creatures constructed of yarn and recycled materials. CORAL teamed up with the Embassy of Australia and the Quiksilver Foundation to produce the Smithsonian Community Reef—the newest satellite reef of the Institute For Figuring (IFF)'s global Hyperbolic Crochet Coral Reef.

The engaging display is exposing millions of museum visitors to the beauty, importance, and predicament of the world's coral reefs. Using the mathematics of hyperbolic geometry—which naturally appears in the complicated forms of corals, sponges, and sea slugs—the Wertheim sisters crocheted a myriad of life-like marine organisms to create a coral reef in art form. The project sparked an unexpected flood of global support, and over the past five years the IFF has worked with communities around the world to produce local “satellite” crochet reefs to call attention to the plight of coral reefs. Over 800 crocheters from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and beyond have participated in crocheting portions of the reef and inspired handicrafters to take action on behalf of coral reefs.

To commemorate the opening of the exhibition, CORAL and our partners sponsored a VIP sneak preview event at the Smithsonian's Sant Ocean Hall. The event served as an opportunity to celebrate the remarkable exhibit and share our mission with a new audience. CORAL also developed reef education activities and trained Smithsonian docents to present the information to museum visitors, magnifying the impact of this exhibit.

### ***Coral Reef CSI Partnership***

In 2011, CORAL became the new home of the international Coral Reef CSI program. This new partnership will expand the field of coral reef forensic investigation in coral reef locations around the world, offering more protection to these valuable and fragile ecosystems.

Since 2006, over 300 marine protected area resource managers, enforcement officers, academics, and litigators in 13 countries have been trained in underwater evidence collection. Through the program's rigorous field training workshops, participants learn underwater forensic investigative techniques applicable to vessel groundings, destructive fishing, illegal extraction, and other negative impacts to coral reefs. Participants also practice proper procedures for gathering and preserving evidence in the marine environment and receive expert advice on providing clear and concise analysis during decision-making processes such as court trials.

The Coral Reef CSI program is filling an important niche, as few marine protected areas have field investigators armed with the knowledge and tools necessary to hold responsible parties accountable for injuries to managed coral reef resources. The program is a natural fit for CORAL because it is closely aligned with our own community-focused approach to reducing local reef threats in order to create and sustain healthy coral reef communities. In addition to the traditional CSI workshops, this new partnership has allowed collaboration and implementation of new training modules focused on marine enforcement, field contaminant assays, and sea turtle forensics.

## **MESO-AMERICAN BARRIER REEF (MAR)**

### **Mexico**

#### ***Voluntary Marine Recreation Standards***

CORAL led a pioneering grassroots effort in Mesoamerica to produce the world's first industry-developed set of voluntary marine recreation standards. Published in 2007, these standards establish good environmental practices for marine tourism businesses to follow to minimize their impacts on the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef. Since the launch of the standards, CORAL has worked with companies throughout the region to help them successfully adhere to the guidelines and reduce the impacts of

tourism on their reefs. In 2010 we developed an illustrated version or “comic book” of the standards to make them more accessible to boat captains and crew. Copies of the comic book were brought to the 2010 International Coral Reef Initiative meeting in Monaco and now several stakeholders that attended are now interested in replicating the book in their own countries.

### ***Sustainable Marine Recreation and Environmental Walk-Through***

The CORAL Reef Leadership Network has now trained over 700 local tour guides in Cozumel in Sustainable Marine Recreation (SMR) workshops. These engaging trainings introduce participants to the ecology and importance of coral reefs, the threats they face, and the importance of the voluntary standards. CORAL also developed the innovative Environmental Walk-Through (EWT) program, which provides comprehensive environmental performance assessments for marine recreation companies along with recommendations and support to help them further decrease their environmental footprint. Twenty-six companies have participated in CORAL’s Environmental Walk-Through program. CORAL’s education and outreach work has sparked one large commercial cruise line to request that its local providers comply with a modified version of the voluntary standards for sustainable marine recreation. The cruise line is currently conducting a pilot test with three local providers as it considers whether to implement the full standards as part of its operations.

### ***Meso-American Reef Tourism Initiative (MARTI)***

Seven years ago we were one of the co-founding members of Meso American Reef Tourism Initiative (MARTI) and now we are the secretariat of the MARTI steering committee. The MARTI initiative has achieved key breakthroughs in capacity-building through training, setting up good management practices in hotels and service providers, awareness-raising and institutional strengthening, in addition to the creation of social capital. MARTI’s approach is to work directly with tourism stakeholders that are contributing most to increasing reef degradation, and that also have the strongest interest in ensuring the long-term health of the reefs—chiefly marine recreation providers, cruise lines, and hotels.

The MARTI program, which was launched in 2004, is a multilateral initiative to address the threats posed by mass tourism to the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef by engaging leaders in the three main sectors of the tourism industry—hotels, tour operators, and cruise lines. MARTI has established an extensive network of partners, including private sector businesses, business associations and chambers, international and local NGOs, and local governments in Mexico, Belize, and Honduras.

MARTI has graduated several new hotels through the Environmental Walk-Through program, which imparts sustainable business practices to hotel operators and their partners. In addition, MARTI has been busy working with the Cozumel Reef National Marine Park to incorporate voluntary standards for marine recreation into the park’s business management plan.

## **Honduras**

### ***Protection for Cordelia Banks***

As one of the largest remaining staghorn coral communities, Cordelia Banks has been identified as a critical source of coral spawn that could potentially allow endangered staghorn to repopulate reef communities in the region. Because these corals grow quickly, they greatly contribute to reef growth and fishery habitat. In the case of Cordelia Banks, the reefs are a sanctuary for important reef species like the Caribbean reef shark (*Carcharhinus perezi*).

This sensitive ecosystem is located adjacent to the most developed coast of Roatan. It borders the nearby airport and is located between two cruise ship docks. In addition, rivers from the mainland deposit sedimentation in the area which poses a threat to the health of the reef. Realizing the potential for significant ecosystem loss, Cordelia Banks has been identified by CORAL as a high-priority coral conservation area.

Collaborating with our local partners, CORAL is encouraging the adoption of a conservation management plan for Cordelia Banks; outlining steps to eventually incorporate the region as a marine protected area. In an effort to build momentum for protection in the local community, CORAL has

organized various educational tours to Cordelia Banks where participants can see firsthand the value of this unique coral reef ecosystem and learn why protection is necessary.

An important partner to ensuring conservation success in the region is the local government. With that in mind, CORAL's Reef Leadership Network recently trained members of the Honduras Ministry of Tourism in SCUBA open water skills. As a result, government aides have had the opportunity to dive among Cordelia's reefs and learn about the local marine life. By establishing collaborative and meaningful relationships among local community members, NGOs, resource managers, government officials, and marine recreation providers, CORAL is building a strong case for the protection of Cordelia Banks. We will continue to move forward with conservation initiatives in the region so that the protection of this endangered reef ecosystem is fully realized.

### ***Roatan Marine Park Business Plan***

CORAL enlisted Packard Environmental Fellow and UC Berkeley MBA student Ian Hepworth to lead the effort. In collaboration with our conservation programs team, Ian evaluated the marine park's financial needs and developed a list of recommendations to build both monetary support and community buy-in for the park's future conservation work.

CORAL recognized an opportunity to create partnerships with local businesses to generate greater support, awareness, and revenue for the marine park's conservation initiatives. To tap into these groups, the marine park launched an outreach campaign to businesses and individuals in the community. CORAL encouraged the marine park to involve restaurants, hotels, cruise ship docks, and radio stations in addition to local dive shops. Employing this strategy, the marine park has inspired new local advocates to join the cause and created vital revenue opportunities.

CORAL also recommended that the marine park develop a multi-tiered membership program with incentives to entice individuals and local businesses to become members. Now a host of new member benefits—including logo placement on the park's website, a listing of participating dive shops in one of Lonely Planet's guide books, and promotional collateral for businesses supporting the Roatan Marine Park—are creating positive exposure for both local businesses and the marine park. Revenue from this program is helping to support the park's marine patrol operations, youth conservation outreach initiatives, and public awareness campaigns. In 2011, the Roatan Marine Park began to implement the next phase of the business plan, which included an increase in the park's voluntary user fee.

The business plan that CORAL developed for the Roatan Marine Park made several recommendations for diversifying and increasing the park's revenue. One of those suggestions was to sell merchandise to tourists as they disembark at the main cruise ship terminals on the island. The marine park implemented the idea last year, installing two new sales booths in these high-profile locations. Merchandise sales increased significantly as a result—in fact, the park's revenue grew approximately 25% from 2009 to 2010, thanks in part to this blossoming retail operation.

### ***Sustainable Marine Recreation Trainings***

CORAL's Honduras-based Reef Leadership Network, in partnership with the Roatan Marine Park, has successfully trained more than 300 of Roatan's local tour operators, boat captains, water taxi drivers, and cruise ship tourism providers in sustainable marine recreation. This exciting milestone is part of CORAL's larger plan to help reduce the negative impacts of mass tourism on the coastal environment in Roatan through targeted educational outreach.

Each week there is a huge influx of cruise ship tourists visiting the island from two recently-opened docks that can accommodate 17,000 people per day. To mitigate these impacts, CORAL's Reef Leadership Network is working closely with the Roatan Marine Park to actively engage and train local marine recreation providers who contract with cruise ships, as well as local NGOs and community members. The comprehensive trainings go beyond basic coral reef ecology and best practices for

marine tourism to incorporate additional useful information about tour group dynamics and the island's history.

Marine tourism providers continue to hire new guides to meet the increasing demand, and CORAL is working to provide additional trainings that will reach these new employees. In addition to training tourism providers, CORAL is investigating ways to reach tourists directly. We are working with local land-based taxi drivers to develop informational cards that they can post in the back seats of their vehicles. As a captive audience, taxi passengers are an excellent target for educational outreach about coral reef protection and responsible tourism practices.

## **Belize**

### ***Mangrove Restoration***

The San Pedro coastline is getting an environmental makeover due to a CORAL sponsored mangrove reforestation workshop for a group of local conservation experts and community volunteers. Participants planted nearly a hundred mangroves in three high-priority locations along the coast.

We are happy to report that our seedlings are making excellent progress—a testament to the effectiveness of the mangrove reforestation method we sponsored. Bob Riley of Mangrove.org taught our workshop participants to plant each mangrove propagule inside a specialized encasement device that protects the young plant from wind and wave energy as it grows. The temporary encasements allow the mangrove seedlings to survive on disturbed shorelines where difficult environmental conditions would normally prevent them from maturing. Once the protected plants have developed strong enough root and branch structures, volunteers will remove the encasement devices, and the mangroves will grow into mature reproductive trees.

Our mangrove reforestation efforts are addressing an alarming trend taking place throughout San Pedro. The increasing demand for coastal property is leading developers to clear more and more mangrove wetland habitat to provide land for expanding coastal communities. As our new mangrove seedlings continue to mature over the next six months, a local volunteer will monitor the three pilot sites on a regular basis to evaluate seedling growth and ensure that the sites have not been damaged.

In addition, the mayor and town council members of San Pedro endorsed our mangrove restoration project, marking the first time the local government has participated in a collaborative conservation project. CORAL will utilize the pilot sites to educate coastal developers and the local community about the importance of mangrove habitat and the numerous benefits these trees can provide. In the future, CORAL will evaluate ways to replicate this successful program at other locations within Belize and globally.

Recent monitoring reports reveal that ninety percent of the mangroves planted by the local community are surviving, a true testament to the effectiveness of the reforestation method used by CORAL. Given the success and survival rate of the project so far, CORAL is preparing to plant additional mangrove seedlings in Boca del Rio Park this winter.

### ***Mooring Buoy Usage Project***

Off the coast of Ambergris Caye is a popular snorkeling spot known as Mexico Rocks. Marine tour operators from the mainland are bringing increasing numbers of snorkelers to explore this beautiful coral reef and the nearby seagrass beds. Recognizing an increase in boat traffic to this tourist destination over the past year, CORAL and private investors funded a mooring buoy project to prevent anchor damage to the shallow reef system. A total of eighteen new mooring buoys were installed by our local partner, the San Pedro Tour Guide Association (SPTGA).

Tour operators can now safely visit Mexico Rocks without needing to drop anchor and risk damaging the reef. SPTGA is working with local marine tour operators to assign shared responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the buoys so that they remain an effective conservation tool well into the future.

In addition, CORAL-funded flashcards and posters explaining mooring buoy guidelines have been distributed nationally, and are now available on the Belize Tourism Industry Association website.

## **INDO-PACIFIC REGION**

### **Hawaii**

#### ***West Hawaii Voluntary Standards for Marine Tourism***

CORAL, beginning in 2008, established a taskforce of almost 200 local stakeholders to develop the West Hawaii Voluntary Standards for Marine Tourism. The standards development process, lasting over a year, gave businesses, government agencies, NGOs, and individuals the chance to create these important guidelines together and ensured that they all became invested in this conservation effort. Thanks to CORAL's continued outreach during 2010, more than twenty-five marine recreation providers in Kailua-Kona have committed to following the voluntary standards in their shops.

In 2010, CORAL seized the opportunity to involve important new partners in the voluntary standards project. CORAL staff persuaded the popular Keauhou Beach Resort in West Hawaii to place the standards' environmental pledge in every guestroom of the hotel. In addition, the Expedia® concierge service contracted by the hotel agreed to display a handout for customers listing its participating companies that have signed on to follow the voluntary standards. Hotel guests can now easily choose a company that has committed to adopting responsible business practices that minimize impacts to the reefs of West Hawaii. In addition, Aston Hotels and Resorts LLC has included the "Ten Things You Can Do to Save Coral Reefs" pledge—developed as part of the West Hawaii Voluntary Standards project—in its 2011 *Aloha Book*. This popular coupon booklet which will be distributed to over half a million hotel guests this year.

#### ***Take a Bite out of Fish Feeding Campaign***

We're excited to report that several of Hawaii's largest commercial merchandisers, including Walmart and Longs Drugs, have agreed to remove snorkeling fish food from all of their Hawaii locations. These companies are following the lead of marine recreation businesses across the state that have become part of the Fish-Friendly Business Alliance through the "Take a Bite out of Fish Feeding" campaign, a CORAL-led initiative that discourages the practice of using food to attract fish for tourists to view.

The "Take a Bite out of Fish Feeding" campaign has been spearheaded by Liz Foote, CORAL's Hawaii Field Manager, and Carlie Weiner, a researcher at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology. The two have spent years enlisting businesses to stop selling and using fish food, as well as educating visitors and locals alike about the effects and dangers of fish feeding. The recent effort to secure buy-in from the large retailers in Hawaii was taken up by San Francisco attorney Joshua Rosen, who volunteered his time and talent to convince these important merchandisers to voluntarily take fish food off their shelves. Ultimately, it is in their best interest to protect the health of the reefs that support the Hawaiian economy.

One company that has recently agreed to discontinue the sale of fish food state-wide is Longs Drugs, which includes over thirty locations across Hawaii. This success is an important step in the ultimate goal of the "Take a Bite out of Fish Feeding" campaign to end the sale of snorkeling fish food and to eliminate the practice of fish feeding throughout the state of Hawaii.

#### ***Coral Reef Monitoring Data Portal***

Volunteer "citizen scientists" gather data for a variety of reef monitoring activities in Hawaii, including water quality testing, herbivore grazing surveys, and key species observations. CORAL's new Coral Reef Monitoring Data Portal is improving the efficacy of these efforts.

Launched in 2010, our web portal provides a one-stop shop where volunteers can find monitoring programs statewide, access and download supportive resources, and enter their data so that reef

managers can access it. The project not only supports and expands previous reef conservation efforts in Hawaii, but is also intended to act as a catalyst for further collaboration.

## **Fiji**

### ***Fiji Shark Sanctuary Campaign***

CORAL, in partnership with the Pew Environment Group and the Fijian Ministry of Fisheries, is raising awareness for shark protection through an exciting shark conservation campaign. Working alongside the Fijian people, CORAL is raising support for shark protection and championing the creation of a Fijian National Shark Sanctuary.

Earlier this year Ratu Manoa Rasigatale joined CORAL to raise awareness and support for shark protection. He is one of the most recognized television personalities in Fiji and his passion for sharks has won him the nickname, “Sharkman.” He is a Fijian cultural icon and is taking on an important cause in his native country—shark conservation. As a member of our Fiji Shark Sanctuary Campaign team, he is working alongside the Fijian people to engage and educate local community members and government stakeholders to ensure long-lasting protection for sharks.

Sharks have long held a place of respect and worship in Fiji, but past efforts to legally protect them from local and international fishing pressures were met with resistance. Thanks in part to the recent wave of shark sanctuary designations around the world, however, this current campaign is gaining momentum.

Manoa is contributing to this momentum by leveraging his media expertise and local relationships to spread our message of shark conservation. He has met with key leaders from local confederacies, provinces, districts, and villages to engage their full support. He is currently working with the Fiji Times on a weekly print column that explores the issues surrounding shark protection. He is also working with Pew and CORAL to create Shark Hope, a thirty minute documentary that focuses on the importance of sharks to Fiji’s culture, economy, and marine environment.

### ***Namena Marine Reserve is Officially an Anchor-Free Zone***

The Kubulau Resource Management Committee made an important decision to install mooring buoys in the Namena Marine Reserve in order to make it an official anchor-free zone, the first so designated in all of Fiji. We are delighted to report that the last of a total of nine mooring buoys has now been installed. This number includes three moorings located near shore to support village visits by tourists. All moorings are now being used by both tour operators and private vessels.

In Namena, local dive operators called for an end to anchor damage in the reserve at a Namena Marine Reserve Stakeholder Committee meeting. They proposed a series of heavy-duty moorings that would secure all vessels using the reserve, eliminating the need for anchoring. The proposal was supported by the Kubulau Resource Management Committee, and CORAL raised the necessary funds for the installation of the moorings with generous contributions from the Mar Viva Foundation, Greenforce, the Jean Michel Cousteau Resort, and Aggressor Fiji Ltd.

Following the long process of securing project approval from the Fiji Islands Maritime Safety Administration and researching correct GPS information and other necessary data, and after delays caused by tsunamis and hurricanes, the last moorings were finally installed this fall by Dive Centre Fiji Ltd. In addition to six deep-water moorings that serve popular dive sites in the Namena Marine Reserve, three near-shore moorings also allow dive operators and other vessels to access five of the Kubulau villages.

### ***Ecotourism and Community Benefits***

Since 2001, CORAL has worked with resource owners and other local stakeholders in Fiji’s Kubulau District to develop sustainable conservation initiatives that protect the reefs of the Namena Marine Reserve and bring tangible benefits to the local people. Village visits like the one described above are

part of a community-based ecotourism program created in partnership with CORAL. The program has helped Kubulau villagers set up ecotourism businesses that leverage the area's attraction as a dive tourism destination that brings new revenue and benefits to the district's ten villages.

Over the past year, the Kiobo community welcomed five separate groups of tourists, principally through a partnership with the *NAI'A*—a live-aboard dive boat that provides marine recreation services within the Namena Marine Reserve. With the income generated from these village visits, the people of Kiobo were able to fund the additional infrastructure required to extend clean water resources into their village. Moreover, one of the tourists was so inspired by his experience that he decided to fund secondary education scholarships for four local students.

## **Indonesia**

### ***Local Patrol Boat and Educational Community Benefits***

In the biodiverse Raja Ampat region of West Papua, Indonesia, CORAL has helped local partners develop patrol guidelines and trainings for the Misool Locally-Managed Marine Area (LMMA). The patrols reduce poaching in the region through effective enforcement of the LMMA's no-fishing rules. In 2010, nearly 140 violations were reported and appropriate legal sanctions were enforced.

Effective management requires more than enforcement, though. Community support for conservation is essential for its long-term success, and local people must see benefits from conservation efforts if they are to continue maintaining them. To this end, an innovative CORAL-supported project has turned the Misool LMMA patrol boat into more than an enforcement vehicle: it now also serves as a much-needed educational resource, visiting remote villages throughout the region with an onboard library of more than 400 books to lend to local children.

The library project expanded in 2010 when a portion of the floating collection was transferred to a permanent facility at a local school, allowing students to access the educational materials in a school setting where teachers can provide tutoring support. Plans are underway to expand the project's book collection to help support additional school libraries in the region.

### ***Campaign to Create an LMMA for Amed***

CORAL has expanded our marine conservation work to the eastern Bali community of Amed. The area is rapidly becoming a popular marine tourism destination, and it is in need of targeted coral reef management efforts.

After discussions with major dive operators in the region, CORAL identified support to pilot conservation activities based on our Coral Reef Sustainable Destination model. We are also meeting with local stakeholders to explore the potential for developing an effective locally-managed marine area in the region.

Since the waters of Amed are particularly susceptible to coral bleaching, CORAL partnered with Reef Check Indonesia and several local dive operators to complete a coral bleaching survey of the area in 2010. The data from the survey, currently being compiled, will help inform future regional management activities that build reef resilience to climate change.

### ***Shark Conservation Campaign***

In Raja Ampat, CORAL is increasing shark conservation knowledge among village communities and implementing locally-driven projects to reduce immediate threats to sharks in the region. As part of the outreach effort, CORAL is creating an engaging educational video, writing curricula for school teacher trainings, and developing a student writing competition to raise awareness for sharks and build support for their protection.

**3. Contribution to the ICRI GM:** Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the current ICRI action plan and objectives of the general meeting. Due to the heavy schedules of ICRI members, we have tried to keep the questions to a minimum and value any response you can provide.

**a. Rio+20**

To support efforts to share ideas and plans for coral reefs/marine initiatives at Rio+20 and nurture opportunities for collaboration, we would like to invite you to share your proposed events and ideas:

- Are you/your organization attending Rio+20?
- Are you proposing an event or other initiative? (please share any ideas and/or details)
- Are you looking to collaborate with others?

We would also appreciate ideas that you may have around how we can work together to ensure we have attention on coral reefs.

A summary of the response received will be compiled by the secretariat and shared during the meeting in a session on Rio+20.

- b. During the meeting, a full day will focus on the Indian Ocean region.** If you have any question about the region, ongoing projects in the region... please let us know.
- c. What other new initiatives/programs/projects/progress, in particular since November 2010, has been made by your government/organization relative to i) Marine Protected Areas, Ramsar, World Heritage sites, and Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) sites designation containing coral reefs; ii) Policy changes; iii) Economic valuation of coral reef ecosystem services, etc., which you believe would be of general interest to other ICRI Members?
- d. Is there any topic you would like to raise during the meeting?
- e. Please list publications, reports you have been released since the last meeting.
- f. Please indicate upcoming coral reef-related meetings you will attend?
  - February 2012 – 2012 Global MPA Enforcement Conference
  - July 2012 – ICRS 2012 (International Coral Reef Symposium)