

ICRI Working Group on Enforcement & Investigation

A diver in a black wetsuit is shown underwater, holding a yellow tool and a white tag. The diver is positioned horizontally, with their head to the right. The background is a deep blue, slightly murky water.

- Initiated in 2005 to address NRD
- At the time, there were no established protocols, tools, training for Natural Resource Trustees
- Established a working group which transitioned into a active pool, which collaborated with enforcement officers, prosecutors, resource managers, and forensic specialists

Development of CRCCSI Field Training Program



THE CORAL REEF ALLIANCE



Coral Reef CSI

The CRCSI Program

Base on the four cornerstones of ICRI:

- Capacity Building
- Integrated Management
- Research & Monitoring (Assessment of Resource Impact)
- Review (active incorporation and evaluation)

It successfully and actively partnered field forensics, reef ecology, chain-of-custody, risk assessments, ecotoxicology and resource management into something new and very applicable for direct coral reef management for many of the ICRI members.

The CRCSI Program



Mock Court Activity



Focus on NRD Actions

Coral Reef CSI

The CRCSI Program

Have conducted 17 trainings, trained over 420 marine resource managers, enforcement officers, prosecutors and agency field scientists.

Success has focused on the program being INDEPENDENT of any country's regulations or approaches towards resource management. It was developed as a tool, one that was easily adaptable to any country or region, did not require expensive gear or technology.

Expanded Program

- Illegal Marine Wildlife Trade
- Field Contaminant Assays
- Sea Turtle Field Forensics
- Advanced Vessel Grounding Field Investigations



Focus on Criminal Actions

Coral Reef CSI

Steps Forward

CRC SI has been a successful example of a inter-disciplinary, multi-country applied approach towards increasing coral reef management and compliance successes in coral reef countries around the globe.

Enforcement & Compliance crosses all borders, all regions; it is one of the few areas where jurisdictions can make a direct and active contribution to coral reef conservation and preservation.

It is frequently listed as a top concern for active management.

With increasing concerns regarding climate change and loss of reefs, creation and maintenance of MPAs is seen as a strategy for many small countries and islands.

Enforcement & compliance activities are often a challenge for many MPAs, yet one of the areas where directed assistance may reap large returns.

Revised Terms of Reference

Renew Working Group

Make use of the multi-disciplinary, multi-agency, inclusive and field-focused CRC SI approach

Focus on Increasing Field Investigative Capacity of Small-Scale MPAs

Maintain previous focus: Low-tech, Easily Available, Adaptable within any country, multi-agency, multi-disciplinary, with a emphasis on increasing capacity within each targeted site or region.

Emphasize activities to promote intelligence gathering and risk assessments, field capacities, and inter-disciplinary approaches to MPA enforcement and compliance issues at a scale and technology applicable to the size and capabilities of the region's MPAs.