



## ICRI Member's Report

[MEMBER NAME]

Reporting period December 2017 – November 2018

1. **Reporting on the ICRI Plan of Action 2016-2018.** *Your responses will help inform the Secretariat about members' contributions toward the previous Plan of Action.*
  - a. **Please list any relevant examples from your organisation/country of investment/projects to protect and restore the natural infrastructure of reefs and mangroves.** (See Goal (1) 2 [ICRI Recommendation for supporting investments in the natural infrastructure of reefs and mangroves to increase climate resilience](#)).

Coral Cay Conservation (CCC) has continued with its commitment to protecting, enhancing and promoting areas of high biodiversity within Southern Leyte, Philippines. Such efforts have become tangible through the establishment of numerous ( $n= 5$ ) small-scale MPAs, that encompass a No-Take-Zone (NTZ) within a Marine Reserve (MR). These protected areas are small (<100ha) but are designated in direct collaboration with the Local Government Units (LGUs) of Barangays (villages) that are located along the coastline of Sogod Bay. CCC undertake bio-physical assessments of coastal systems, owned by respective Barangays, and provide expert recommendations on the spatial management required to enhance the system. These recommendations are disseminated to the local user group, in coordination with PENRMO (Provincial Environment & Natural Resource Management Office) in which a participatory process leads to various discussions with each demographic within the community and management protocols are decided and implemented. This practice has continued throughout 2017 and 2018 and will be further implemented throughout 2019 resulting in the establishment of further small-scale MPAs.

To further supplement this practice, CCC take effort to ensure community buy-in is facilitated through the undertaking of numerous education initiatives within each respective focus-Barangay as well as capacity building workshops. Education initiatives focus on various demographics; children, adults, and fisherfolk. Focusing on reef ecology, sustainability, fisheries and their respective management. CCC ensure that the knowledge and understanding regarding MPAs, as well as the importance of coral reefs, and their associated systems, is present within communities, leading to an increase in support, compliance with MPA by-laws and reduction in known anthropogenic pressures.

CCC are an advocate for this three-tiered approach and will continue to promote this approach amongst the wider and scientific communities.

Prior to 2017, CCC did not have a conclusive response to the efficacy of the established MPAs as a result of CCC's recommendations and therefore, between 2017 and 2018, implemented an MPA-specific study. This study aimed to quantify the efficacy of established MPAs in ecological context, drawing further insight into the process behind establishing them; understanding the processes positives and drawbacks. In

order to assess this, the study undertook the framework of a Before-After-Impact-Control (BACI), where areas previously surveyed (and recommended) by CCC were re-sampled. Survey sites were separated into two groups; impact (where an MPA was established from CCC's recommendations) and control (where no MPA was established). This approach will enable CCC to study the ecological status of reefs prior to MPA establishment and derive the impact of the MPA establishment. At control sites, where no MPA was established, CCC will be able to understand the temporal trend of reef health in areas of limited protection and continued degradation. Furthermore, impact sites will be compared based, not only their ecological status, but also on their respective legislation supporting the MPA, community buy-in, and socio-economic incentives. Therefore, the BACI analysis will enable CCC to provide critical information on the efficacy of small-scale MPAs within Sogod Bay and further provide recommendations on the process for their respective development and establishment; an area that shows paucity when considering multiple MPAs within a diverse community environment. CCC aim to publish results in 2019.

In 2019, CCC have been requested by PENRMO to assess current practices in reef rehabilitation currently being conducted by numerous NGOs within Sogod Bay. PENRMO have concerns regarding the current financing, practice and impact of the actions. CCC will therefore undertake quantitative bio-physical assessments on this current practice; addressing concerns, developing innovative practices to avoid detrimental impacts and to increase efficacy.

- b. **Has your organisation/country made any progress in the following areas to target anthropogenic pressures?** Please give detail below. Note: If no change since your last ICRI member report, please write 'no change'.

**Encourage ban of plastic microbeads in cosmetic products.** (See Goal (3) 2 & [See ICRI Recommendation to reduce plastic microbeads pollution in marine environment](#)):

**Improve regulation and enforcement to reduce direct anthropogenic damage due to dredging and physical alteration of reef structures.** (See Goal (3) 3 & [ICRI Recommendation to reduce damage due to dredging and dumping on coral reefs](#)):

**Deployment of mooring devices limiting the mechanical destruction of coral reefs and seagrasses.** (See Goal (3) 4).

- c. **Did your organisation/country celebrate International Year of the Reef?** Please give details below. (See Goal (5) 1 & [ICRI Recommendation designating 2018 as the third International Year of the Reef](#)):

Yes. CCC were an advocate for IYYOR2018 within our operational country of the Philippines, whilst further promoting the year through social media in the UK. IYOR2018 was integrated within CCC's actions in 2018 through continued promotion and communication in our education initiatives and outreach events such as large-scale beach cleans (removing over 1,000kg on individual events) in coordination with the Provincial Government of Southern Leyte, LGU of Liloan, PENRMO and the

international organisation, 4Ocean. Our actions in 2018 have become a catalyst for individual barangays to undertake independent beach cleans, integrate responsible purchasing into communities and the development of a local initiative termed Trash4Rice where individuals in Liloan return a set amount of plastic waste and/or eco-bricks for a weight of rice; an incentive driven by IYOR2018 and CCC. IYOR2018 was further promoted in coordination with other well-known promotions such as World Ocean Day. CCC utilised their in-country network to **responsibly** promote the use of eco-bricks; and method which sees community members place plastic trash (destined for the ocean) into 2L plastic bottles to be used in construction work. CCC further recognises potential impacts as result of this construction, particularly the use of concrete and possible run-off, and as such, hold eco-brick-focused workshops in local communities to disseminate the responsible creation and utilisation of this new construction resource. The eco-brick incentive has quickly become popular and is being adopted by numerous communities, even those outside of the Philippines, and as such, CCC are promoting their use in coordination with responsible purchasing to limit the organic purchase of plastic, instead of no-plastic items, to produce eco-bricks. CCC promote the use of eco-bricks as a “last option” and instil the attitude the plastic products should not be purchased of the sole purpose of generating eco-bricks. This practice is being promoted in coordination with LGUs.

**2. Contribution to the ICRI Plan of Action 2018-2020 and upcoming ICRI general meetings.** *Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the draft ICRI Plan of Action 2018-2020.*

**Theme 1 – Promote effective and adaptable solutions to improve the protection of coral reefs**

a. **Which of the below topics do you consider to be the three top challenges that your organisation faces in managing coral reefs?** Please select from the options below:

- Climate change impacts
- Inadequate planning, zoning and management
- Unsustainable resource extraction
- Tourism and recreation
- Shipping
- Coastal development
- Dredging
- Illegal and destructive fishing
- Fish and coral trade
- Marine debris
- Other. Please specify:

b. **Please list any examples of innovative management practices that your organisation/country is involved in, such as use of VMS, drones & ecological**

**mooring devices.** Include their limits, conditions of implementation, financing and an assessment of their results and links for more information if possible.

CCC's practices in the Philippines adopts a well proven framework for marine conservation. However, moving forward into 2019, CCC are in the advanced stages of establishing a new conservation project in Indonesia. This project will utilise innovative protocols such as temporarily partial closures of species-specific fin fish fisheries to increase community well-being and integrate sustainable development. This practice has been used previously in invertebrate fisheries, but data show paucity with its use in fin fish fisheries. Furthermore, the project will aim to establish a LMMA through a participatory approach, as a result of a three-year plan that involves the establishment of local a Community Fisheries Group, the training of local fisherfolk as snorkel guides and an increased community-wide capacity to manage marine resource autonomously.

Within the proposed project, subject to financing, CCC will also look to operate various reef rehabilitation techniques. The aim of these reef rehabilitation initiatives will supplement overall goals of enhancing reef systems, whilst increasing capacity through workshops for autonomous implementation from local communities. It is intended that CCC will practice multiple 'traditional' techniques and develop a monitoring protocol that is easily adoptable, efficient and accurate; utilising photogrammetrics to ensure best practice. Furthermore, photogrammetrics will enable CCC to record true growth rates of coral fragments and graphically quantify reef complexity.

- c. **Please list any examples of innovative funding for management that your organisation/country is involved in.** Include their limits, conditions of implementation, financing and an assessment of their results and links for more information if possible.
  
- d. **Please list any examples of leading practices, techniques and strategies for building reef resilience that your organisation/country is involved in.** Include their limits, conditions of implementation, financing and an assessment of their results and links for more information if possible.

*See above*

- e. **Please list any examples of leading practice reef restoration mechanisms that your organisation/country is involved in.** Include their limits, conditions of implementation, financing and an assessment of their results and links for more information if possible.

Implementation of Photogrammetrics as listed above. *N.b.* this is not being implemented yet, but we have had various pilot research projects undertaken on this to better understand its implementation.

### **Theme 3 – Support communities reliant on coral reefs**

- f. **Is sustainable tourism development a significant challenge for your organisation?** If so please include detail below of the kinds of challenges faced and

your strategies to deal with them.

Our current challenges faced with sustainable tourism development reside within the financial sector. CCC are finding it increasingly more challenging to attract high numbers of tourists to support our projects and as such, directly support tourism development in local areas. This view is shared also by members of the [Year Out Group](#).

CCC believe that the current citizen-science framework operated in country is beneficial to all (individuals, local and regional stakeholders) and contributes to sustainable tourism development. To deal with any technical issues within the sector, CCC seek advice through the [Scientific Advisory Committee](#), particular Dr. Carl Carter.

- g. Is your organisation involved in activities to raise awareness and encourage action to support communities reliant on coral reefs?** Please include details below.

*Yes, all the above.*

#### **Theme 4 – Help to reduce anthropogenic threats to coral reefs, particularly those that occur at a global or regional scale**

- h. What activities is your organisation involved in to elevate awareness of the global nature of the threat of climate change to coral reefs?** Please include details below

CCC undertake a three-tiered approach to all conservation projects; provision of scientific data, education and capacity building. As such, raising awareness of pressures faced by coral reefs are integral to CCC's approach whilst increasing knowledge on the fundamentals of reef ecology, sustainability and pressure mitigation. These initiatives include CCC's Sea Star Awareness programmes (SEAS) which, in combination with supplying critical educational resources, encourages autonomous thinking and implementation of conservation practices amongst schools and pupils. CCC also operate a Reef Rangers initiative which provides first-hand practical experience of the marine environment, aiming to inspire and raise awareness. In addition, CCC are active within local Barangays around Sogod Bay, Southern Leyte, undertaking 'Community Days' in which data are disseminated and topics such reef ecology and conservation on introduced to the wider demographic (including fisherfolk).

- i. Has your organisation made any progress in dealing with destructive fishing and trade?** Please include details below.

Yes, CCC have been able to target the use of destructive fishing activities through education and capacity building whilst also recording a decrease in reported destructive practices, specifically dynamite fishing and cyanide fishing. To further challenge their use, CCC provide Bantay Dagat (MPA Guard) training to nominated officials in local communities, ensuring that the correct enforcement of the use of these practices is in place by local communities and that authorities have the correct understanding and capacity to deal with incidents.

j. **Has your organisation made any progress in dealing with marine debris?**

Please include details below.

CCC have conducted numerous large-scale beach cleans with LGUs resulting in the removal of >1,000kg of marine debris. Furthermore, CCC are an advocate for Eco-Bricks (detailed above) and as such are working with the local user group to reduce the amount of point-source marine debris and plastic pollution.

3. **Would you like to report on your activities during the ICRI GM?** Please give details below.

Y / **N**

4. **International events.** Please list any upcoming international events relevant to ICRI which someone from your organisation plans to attend in 2018-2019.

ICRI GM, Monaco, 5-7 Dec 2018

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 3-14 Dec 2018

Reef Futures 2018: A Coral Restoration and Intervention-Science Symposium, Florida, 10-14 Dec 2018

Global World Heritage Marine Managers meeting, Alaska, US, 26-31 May 2019

Other:

5. **Publications.** Please list relevant publications and reports you have released during this reporting period.

6. **ICRI Member Feedback.** What do you find most valuable about the ICRI member reports? If you have any ideas for improvement please list below:

7. **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>.)

Member type (Country / Organisation):	Organisation
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*Thank you very much for sharing your valuable experiences and information with ICRI.*