



Member's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by **Simon Harding, Head of Marine Science, Coral Cay Conservation**

Reporting period **July 2008 – April 2009**

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 ICRI Forum 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

Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Coral Cay Conservation
Focal Point 1:	Simon Harding
Focal point 2:	Jan-Willem van Bochove
Last meeting attended:	Fort Lauderdale, Florida, July 2008
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. 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 assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the Mexico-United States action plan. 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.

***NOTE:** The Secretariat will compile Members' responses to the below questions into a general presentation to be given during the April GM. The Secretariat will also request specific Members to highlight certain initiatives, should additional*

information be of interest to the full ICRI membership. Please keep this in mind when filling out this report and place special emphasis on calling attention to new initiatives/programs/projects of your government/organization which will be of interest to the ICRI Members.

- a. Please provide any lessons you have learned from your experiences of developing partnerships with the private sector that might be relevant to ICRI members?

Although the majority of CCC's project partners have been with Governments or in-country NGO's there have been smaller successful partnerships with tourism operators including resorts and scuba operators in countries such as Fiji and the Philippines. CCC has provided marine conservation management recommendations, training in marine assessment techniques and environmental 'best practise' guidelines for both staff and clients of these businesses.

- b. Are you aware of programmes or policies by your country/organization for implementing integrated ecosystem management from watershed to reef slope?

CCC advocates the use of ecosystem-based management practises on all of it's conservation projects. Although these projects are mainly focussed on the marine and coastal zone the inter-relationships between terrestrial and marine-based ecosystems are highlighted within our training and awareness programmes. CCC's current project in Tobago is also part of the Caribbean-wide Integrated Watershed and Coastal Areas Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWCAM) project funded by UNDP.

- c. Are there any monitoring or research activities you are either involved in or aware of aimed at improving understanding of adaptive management of coral reefs and related ecosystems that may be of interest to ICRI members?

Examples could include any efforts through workshops, environmental education programs, beach and underwater clean ups, etc. with coastal/local communities to promote understanding and recognition of the environmental services coral reefs provide

CCC is a strong advocate of environmental education and awareness (EEA) programmes which run alongside our marine survey programmes on all conservation projects. Two current examples are the EEA programmes running at:

- Panoan Island, Southern Leyte in the Philippines as part of the Southern Leyte Coral Reef Conservation Project (SLCRCP)
- Speyside, Tobago as part of the Tobago Coastal Ecosystems Mapping Project (TCEMP)

CCC regularly takes part in beach and coastal cleanups such as the annual Dive into Earth day and the International Coastal Cleanup events as well as organising more frequent clean-ups for coastal communities within our project areas. CCC also operates a scholarship programme for host-country nationals. 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 manpower for future monitoring and research programmes devised by the host nation government.

- d. Please indicate the effects of the Live Reef Food Fish Trade on your government/organization. Are you aware of any programs/policies in place to address these impacts?

In terms of a Live Reef Food Fish Trade in the current CCC project regions we have no records or accounts of this fishery being in operation in Southern Leyte, Philippines, although it is known to occur on neighbouring islands of Bohol and Samar and some other part of the Philippines such as Palawan. It does not occur in Tobago.

- e. What other new initiatives/programs/projects/progress, in particular since January 2008, has been made by your government/organization relative to Marine Protected Areas, Ramsar site designations containing coral reefs, integrated coastal zone management measures, policy changes influenced by economic valuation of coral reef ecosystem services, etc., which you believe would be of general interest to other ICRI Members?

Since January 2008 both CCC projects in Southern Leyte (Philippines) and Tobago have changed location within their regions, which has opened up a new coastline for marine assessment and conservation programmes. Since March 2008 the Philippines project (SLCRCP) has been based on the island of Panoan on the eastern side of Sogod Bay. CCC is working here to improve the management of existing community-based MPA's (fish sanctuaries) and generate interest in setting up new MPA's for communities through environmental education and stakeholder engagement. Community management is also the approach taken at the new site at Charlottesville in north-east Tobago. CCC have been working here in collaboration with the Buccoo Reef Trust since December 2008, to improve the health and status of the marine environment in the Speyside region of Tobago as part of the Community of Speyside Marine Environment Improvement Collaboration project (COSMEIC). Further details on both projects can be found on the CCC website (www.coralcay.org).

For any of the above questions, please provide links to further information. As appropriate, the Secretariat will compile such information to make it accessible to all Members on the ICRI Forum.

IYOR Reporting

There is a separate reporting template for IYOR which has already been distributed by Francis Staub to IYOR Focal Points. If you have not received the IYOR request for reporting, please contact Francis Staub at: fstaub@iyor.org.

ICRI and Other Meetings

Are your ICRI Focal Points considering attending any of the following meetings in 2009?

- IMCC, Washington DC - YES
- World Ocean Congress, Manado, Indonesia - NO

Other (please specify):
