

2nd ICRAN Newsletter - October 2003

As this newsletter is compiled the Vth World Parks Congress draws to a close in Durban, South Africa. The emphasis of this congress was on "benefits beyond boundaries" and most notably the consensus across the congress was that the marine environment is grossly under represented in terms of the world's protected areas. The prominence given to marine protected areas (MPAs) and the communities that live there reinforces the importance of ICRAN's mission and the efforts of partners, collaborators and the ICRAN network of sites.

ICRAN is perfectly poised to deliver the 'fresh and innovative approach to protected areas' which the Durban Accord calls for. The depth and breadth of the partnership and its activities are having an impact and making a difference at the site level in places like Vietnam. In Ninh Thuan Province, a 68 year old fishermen, Tran Bong, is relieved to have support from his fellow fisherman who are now aware, thanks to ICRAN support, of the importance of coral reefs – a topic which Mr. Bong has been trying to get them to listen to for years.

In a recent email sent to ICRAN Mark Beauchamp, 16 years old writes: "I can't imagine why people would want to damage such a colourful and diverse habitat. I hope you can have a major impact in reversing the damage inflicted on the reefs in the next few years, and you already have made an impact which is a pleasure to see." ICRAN believes that small, simple efforts can have dramatic and widespread positive results, and that providing opportunities and encouraging the exchange of ideas and experiences will indeed lead to great benefits within and beyond the boundaries. As you read this newsletter I am confident that you will see what we mean.

Kristian Teleki, Acting Director, ICRAN

ICRAN News

Approval for Aleipata & Safata MPAs Sealed with a Stamp



The Management Plans of the Aleipata and Safata Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) have been fully endorsed by the government, featuring in a recent stamp issue for Samoa. The MPAs were initially adopted by the respective District Committees and villages and will also be given a head of power in the fisheries legislation.

Within the MPAs, all boundaries have recently been marked and both the MPA centres are hosting local and overseas schools for educational programs. The ecological

monitoring program is well established, based on permanent monitoring sites within planned zones. Rigorous surveys are carried out every 3 years, with community based monitoring of key indicators in the interim. The workplan for the socio-economic monitoring program has been developed and implementation will commence in September 2003.

In the community, a Marine Science Curriculum plan has been developed for Vaisuli Junior Secondary School (Aleipata) School Year 2003 for implementation in the district's secondary school. A basic course has been taught over the last year to introduce continuing students to the more advanced material in the new school year. This is hoped to communicate the issues of marine science and conservation to the local community through local students and prepare the next generation of district leaders for the environmental issues faced in Samoa.

Mary Power, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

ICRAN at ITMEMS2

The 2nd International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS2) was held in Manila in March 2003. Two informal sessions were hosted by ICRAN, one for introductions, and another for managers and practitioners from South Asia to discuss potential work for ICRAN in the region.

The formal session held by ICRAN enabled representatives from a number of sites to share their experiences, lessons learned, and discuss future learning opportunities where ICRAN can make a contribution. Presentations were heard from Sian Ka'an and Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserves in Mexico, the Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit, Jaluit Atoll in the Marshall Islands, Malindi and Watamu MPAs in Kenya, the Dar es Salaam Marine Reserves System in Tanzania, and Gilli Matra & Bunaken marine parks, Indonesia.

Discussion raised a number of common issues such as conflicting use of marine resources, destructive fishing practices still prevalent and a need for integration of traditional management systems with current management systems. Also highlighted was a general lack of awareness of the importance of MPAs, of management capacity, alternative income opportunities and of stakeholder involvement at all stages of management planning.

The workshop proposed recommendations:

- Donor agencies should recognise the need for long-term projects.
- Global initiatives should leverage funding for capacity building in local communities.
- Small investments can achieve good results.
- Don't become complacent with seed funding.
- International programs should recognise local communities' pride in working with them.
- Mechanisms should be designed to foster self-sufficiency and local counterpart involvement.
- Exit strategies are needed for self-sufficiency, e.g. transfer of projects to local communities.
- Exchange programs need continued support, e.g. community to community.
- Increase networking at all levels (managers, between communities) – establishment of a manager-dedicated network.
- Need for specific training for managers, e.g. Training of Trainers Program.
- Compilation & dissemination of lessons learned/best practices facilitated by networks.
- Evaluation of activities is needed to determine level of success, for donors and records.



The ICRAN session provided a forum for ICRAN global partners to showcase the successes and failures of a project implemented via a global network.

Agneta Nilsson, UNEP

Ninh Thuan Province Keeps up the Good Work

The last issue of the ICRAN newsletter reported on the success of the My Hoa community in Ninh Thuan Province in preventing a local cement company from harvesting corals reefs. Since then ICRAN has gained further notoriety and community efforts to conserve coral reefs are going from strength to strength.



Under the influence of ICRAN's activities local communities have prepared their own regulation to protect coral reefs, such as Nhon Hai Commune, who held their legislation signing ceremony on the 16th Sep.

In Ninh Thuan, fishermen are now listening to the advice of community elders, reinforced by the ICRAN project. Realising the importance of coral reefs for the fisheries, the fishermen are forming volunteer patrols to protect their coral reefs.

Similarly the site exchanges in East Asia continue to be a success. The Apo-Ninh Thuan pair carried out their third site visit, with a delegation from Ninh Thuan visiting Apo Island for a week in April 2003 to attend a workshop on 'Capacity Building in Community-Based Coastal Resources Management'.

Connie Chiang, ICRAN Coordinator, East Asian Region

Malindi Resource and Training Centre Trains the Trainers



In Malindi, a training and education network is being developed through the Malindi Resource and Training Centre, which has been upgraded to include a reference library, conference room, and computer facilities for those attending workshops, seminars and community meetings.

From 30th June-4th July 2003, the Centre hosted a workshop on "Training of Trainers for Voluntary Monitoring of Coral Reefs" for 25 individuals from East Africa and Western Indian Ocean Island States. Marine Protected Areas (managers, rangers and boat handlers), scientific institutions and the tourism sector participated in the workshop, co-organised by the Western Indian

Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) and Reef Check.

The workshop consisted of classroom-based lectures and discussions, and practical training on setting up and conducting coral reef surveys using Reef Check survey methods and indicator species for the Indian Ocean. All participants were awarded with a Reef Check certificate for successfully completing the course.

Workshop participants from all areas agreed that Reef Check methods provide them with an inexpensive monitoring tool and the opportunity for local analysis of results without depending on external experts. Kenya Wildlife Service intends to adopt Reef Check as one of its methods to regularly survey coral reefs in all Kenyan MPAs. Reef monitoring activities are expected to expand in this region, as the workshop has increased awareness of the value of long-term scientific reef monitoring activities in the Western Indian Ocean.

Neville Ash, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Coordinator & Reef Check Trainer

Dive In To Earth Day 2003 – ICRAN sites make a splash...

Dive In To Earth Day was a great success this year with over 255 events in more than 57 countries. Coordinated by the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL), an ICRAN Partner, 49 events took place in 41 coral reef protected areas, with over 25 activities conducted in 14 of the ICRAN sites.

Apo Island, Philippines • Bonaire • Bunaken, Indonesia • Coral Coast, Fiji • Cousin Island, Seychelles • Komodo, Indonesia • Moh Koh Surin, Thailand • Soufriere Marine Management Area, St. Lucia • St Anne, Seychelles • Koh Rong, Cambodia • Los Roques, Venezuela • Parque Nacional del Este, Dominican Republic • Providencia, Colombia • Sanya, China

Helping to make raising awareness of the marine environment fun, Dive In activities ranged from beach and underwater cleanups, surveys of coral reef health and snorkeling trips, to community festivals, "tracking" in the mangroves and underwater Easter egg hunts.

With the help of 20 regional representatives from 16 countries, CORAL gave information and



Mural Painting in Parque Nacional del Este, Dominican Republic



Learning about Bonaire National Marine Park

support to local dive and NGO communities. Around 250 Dive In Organisers received over 1000 of CORAL's tourism guidelines, supported by ICRAN, and distributed them to thousands of local people.

CORAL has promoted a Dive In Pledge for divers and snorkelers and, as of mid July, over 4500 signatures had been collected. Show your support for coral reef conservation and sign the pledge at <http://divein.coralreefalliance.org>

Sherry Flumerfelt, Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL)

Monitoring and Training in Haiti

This September a team of scientists visited Haiti (a GCRMN Northern Caribbean node country) to conduct Reef Check surveys and training.

Led by the Caribbean Coastal Data Centre (CCDC), Centre for Marine Sciences (CMS), and University of the West Indies (UWI), representatives from several Jamaican organisations (NEPA, TNC and CCAM) worked together to collect data from sites at Les Arcadins and the surrounding coastline.

A two member team from Haiti, Director of the Foundation pour la Protection de la Biodiversite Marine (FoProBIM), Jean Wiener, and Peace Corps volunteer, Mandy Karnauskas, were trained during the period, providing valuable skills that are rare in Haiti.

Visual surveys of the sites revealed generally healthy reefs, although the presence of nutrient indicating algae at some sites suggested some anthropogenic impact.



At all sites fish populations were low and fishing vessels were present, indicating high fishing pressure. Invertebrates were more abundant at shallow offshore sites, and no triton shells were found on the surveys, aside from those for sale on the beach.

Encouragingly, impacts on the reefs due to anchor damage, trash and destructive fishing practices such as dynamite were low. Coral disease and bleaching were also relatively low, even though seawater temperatures were high.

Malden Miller, ICRAN Coordinator, Caribbean Region

ICRAN Site Successes

Caribbean

- The coastal/marine signage programme of the **Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve (SKBR), Mexico**, is underway, including mooring and demarcation buoys for snorkeling, SCUBA diving and navigation
- The public education component of the domestic waste management programme in the Javier Rojo Gomez community of the **SKBR**, has involved a number of planning meetings by SKBR staff, a beach cleanup activity with schools and the community and documentation of the type of solid waste found
- In the **Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP)**, a Manager has now been hired, joining the Project Manager in implementing the private mooring project, updating the user fees/permitting system and developing the management plan for the Lay Bay Area



Dive Training for HCMR Staff & Volunteers, Belize

- In **Hol Chan Marine Reserve (HCMR), Belize**, information packets, brochures and posters using local materials and information have been produced with the help of a hired photographer
- **HCMR** Staff and local volunteers have been trained to PADI dive instructor level, and also in marine life identification and Reef Check monitoring methods
- The **Soufriere Marine Management Area (SMMA), Saint Lucia**, has made public presentations to schools and hotels and a newsletter has been prepared
- A documentary has been produced featuring only persons living or working in and around **Soufriere**, to be used for preparing public service announcements (PSAs)
- In the Caribbean, events to celebrate Dive In To Earth Day 2003 were held at five sites (**the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Colombia, St Lucia and Bonaire**), including community festivals, mooring buoy projects, beach and reef cleanups, mangrove tracking, surveys and an Underwater Easter Egg Hunt

East Africa



DMRS Honorary and Marine Park Rangers educate fishermen

- In the **Dar es Salaam Marine Reserves System (DMRS), Tanzania**, sixteen people, mostly community members (13), two Park staff and one university student have been trained in coral reef monitoring, snorkeling, rescue and life saving
- The Honorary Rangers of the **DMRS** have been assisted in their quest to form an association
- The purchase of a GPS and two sets of binoculars has enhanced monitoring and enforcement facilities in the **DMRS**. Regular joint patrols by the marine police and the community have resulted in several arrests, and dynamite fishing has been reduced from three blasts per week, to one or none
- Training is to be provided in boat engine maintenance for rangers and communities of the **Malindi and Watamu Marine Parks and Reserves, Kenya**, alongside guide training for around 20-30 rangers and local boat operators to enhance the quality of service to visitors and increase awareness
- Conflict data, maintenance data, visitor statistics, reserve fisheries data and biophysical data have been compiled for both the **Malindi and Watamu MPAs**
- In **Malindi** the Resource and Training centre has been upgraded with a reference library, conference room, and computer facilities, and a new information centre has also been constructed, complete with TV and VCR which play marine related videos for interested visitors
- A memorandum of understanding is now under preparation to support activities in the **St Anne Marine Park, Seychelles** and **Mohéli Marine Park, Comoros**
- For Dive In To Earth Day, sites in the **Seychelles** conducted a study on coral bleaching and reef fish on **Cousin Island** and turtle nesting beaches and invasive plants cleanups, presentations and a snorkeling trip in **St Anne Marine National Park**

IUCN Training Workshop on Management Effectiveness

The two-day workshop was held in Malindi in April 2003, with six pilot MPA sites attending: Mafia Island and Mnazi Bay-Ruvuma Estuary, Tanzania, Kisite/Mpunguti and Kiunga, Kenya, and the ICRAN sites, Cousin Island, Seychelles and Malindi/Watamu MPAs in Kenya

The workshop explained six components of Management Effectiveness: context, planning, process, inputs, outputs and outcomes, and site specific presentations were made. Major outcomes included formulation of site implementation teams, site workplans, and organisation of exchange visits. Finally, actions for pilot sites were prioritised as finalising implementation team members and site work plans and undertaking the actual assessment process

East Asia

- The **Apo Island, Philippines & Ninh Thuan, Vietnam** pair attended a workshop in April on 'Capacity Building in Community-Based Coastal Resources Management' covering community involvement, leadership skills, building public awareness and developing sustainable tourism
- The Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund is funding a project on coral mapping for management in **Ninh Thuan**, where the resulting maps will serve as tools to help develop coral reef management policies
- **Bunaken, Indonesia**, produced a leaflet on sustainable diving practices
- **Gilli Islands, Indonesia**, hosted 78 participants at a workshop on sustainable tourism in April in Lombok, held to develop a real contribution for community welfare and increase income in the Province, especially in the Gilli Matra Marine Park. Representatives from both **Bunaken** and **Gilli** gave lectures, followed by games to increase understanding of collaborative management
- Political tensions between Cambodia and Thailand in early 2003 resulted in new pairs between **Koh Rong, Cambodia & Komodo, Indonesia** and **Mu Koh Surin, Thailand & Sanya, China**



there was also a crown-of-thorns removal event. In **Mo Koh Surin** Chulalongkorn University conducted studies on coral recruitment in algal conditions. Target sites also participated with a Reef Check survey in Xipei reserve in **Sanya** and in **Koh Rong** where there was also a fundraising event, beach cleanup and night snorkel/party

- In May, **Koh Rong** carried out their site visit to **Komodo** in Indonesia, visiting Nature Conservancy activity sites such as fish grow out farms, pelagic fisheries alternative livelihood, mooring buoy program, fish monitoring training, a spawning aggregation site and a seaweed culture project
- The SARS outbreak prevented site visits between China and Thailand. However a socio-economic survey of stakeholders was carried out in **Sanya**, showing that tourism and locals are dependent on the reefs in part, and that there is a lack of public awareness, management capacity and funding
- Dive In To Earth Day 2003 was marked by beach and reef cleanups held in **Bunaken, Apo Island** and **Komodo**, where

South Pacific

- An expert has been helping local counterparts to install mooring buoys on **Jaluit Atoll, Marshall Islands**, to mark out the MOs (no-take areas) and sanctuaries in the marine conservation area
- Mangrove forests on **Jaluit** have been surveyed, inventoried and mapped. Young men from different communities attended a workshop to raise awareness of these ecosystems and the Jaluit Conservation Officer visited Kosrae Resort Ecotourism Project to learn project management skills
- The **Jaluit** Women's Handicraft Club has completed the handicraft shop on Jabor, established outlets in Majuro, and continues to conduct community beautification and cleanup activities on Jabor
- Endorsement of the **Aleipata and Safata MPAs, Samoa** has been featured in a recent stamp issue, all MPA boundaries have been marked, and educational and monitoring programmes are in place
- In the **Solomon Islands** a national training workshop and stakeholder consultation have been undertaken to develop workplans for the three project sites, Maravagi (Ngella), Marua (Central) and Langalanga (Malaita), where awareness raising programmes have also taken place
- A Train the Trainers workshop took place for the three **Solomon Island** coral garden sites at Maravagi on coral reef biology and ecology, coral gardening and management plan development

ICRAN is now formally partnered with the Fiji national and the regional Locally Managed Marine Area Network (LMMA)
Objectives are similar and the successful Fiji LMMA will be a useful model for ICRAN work. All ICRAN sites are also being integrated into the regional LMMA



Jaluit Women's Handicraft Club, Jabor

- In **America Samoa** permanent markers have been placed in many villages of the **Village Fisheries Management Programme** to assist with assessment of protected areas. A 'Community on Coral Reef Conservation' week was also held in April including song, poetry, art and slogan contests to increase involvement of local communities, government and private sector
- A management plan has been developed with stakeholder consultation for the new site at **Rock Islands MPA, Palau**. Key species and ecological systems have been identified, management issues prioritised and site presentations, baseline monitoring and threat assessment undertaken
- School children and villagers joined in the beach and reef cleanup held for Dive In 2003 on the **Coral Coast, Fiji**

Partner News



The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL): produce educational tools & resources online at www.coralreef.org, including briefing papers for policy/decision makers, a video for Continental Airlines reaching 2.8 million travellers and tourism guidelines now available in Spanish, Indonesian and Japanese. CORAL held extensive training in ICRAN sites Bonaire and Old Providencia, and successfully organised Dive In To Earth Day 2003, with over 255 events in 57 countries



Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN): followed up 'Status of Coral Reefs of the World, 2002' by producing 'Monitoring Coral Reef Marine Protected Areas' - monitoring case studies for the World Parks Congress, Durban, and negotiating funding with Japanese and French Governments for ICRAN



Marine Aquarium Council (MAC): works to ensure that the marine aquarium trade is responsible and sustainable, by creating standards and certification for those engaged in the collection and care of ornamental marine life from reef to aquarium



Reef Check: methods continue to be applied in training courses and workshops worldwide, including Haiti, Belize, China, Cambodia and East Africa, where participants agreed Reef Check provides an inexpensive monitoring tool and results that can be analysed locally without experts



The Nature Conservancy (TNC): through their vision, Transforming Coral Reef Conservation, work to expand the area of coral reef ecosystems under protection, improve the effectiveness and financial security MPAs, and build principles of resilience into MPA design and management



South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP): coordinates ICRAN's work in South Asia and is currently compiling a 'white paper' to identify needs and priorities for the region and form a strategic plan for South Asia, after which the original proposals will be revisited



South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP): supports the sustainable development of Pacific islands and their communities, and coordinates ICRAN's work in the region



The WorldFish Centre: provides coral reef resources on ReefBase, continuously updating the website (now with over 19,000 references and 3,000 images) and conducting database training in Penang for the Indonesian COREMAP project. The PISCES project co-hosted an ICRAN sponsored workshop on monitoring, the role of MPAs, research & conservation in the Mindanao Sea in May



United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): sponsored a teacher's resource guide for the IMAX film 'Ocean Wonderland', coral tourism guides and other material and consultants' studies for the extension of ICRAN to ROPME, PERSGA and SACEP regions

UNEP Regional Seas Offices (CAR, EAF, EAS): are responsible for implementing ICRAN's on-the-ground coral reef activities.

UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP DTIE): focuses on coral reef based tourism, with a view to creating environmentally, as well as economically, sustainable tourism industry through outreach and awareness campaigns



UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC): continues the seamless integration of remote sensing approaches into coral reef mapping work, and is helping to update the CaMPAM database. Recent publications are the Global Marine Assessments report, Field Guide to Western Atlantic Coral Diseases CD-ROM and 'From Ocean to Aquarium' report



World Resources Institute (WRI): through the Caribbean Reefs at Risk has implemented revised threat analysis for coastal development, overfishing, marine- and land-based sources of pollution, sent out maps of threats for review and are working on the analysis of relative resistance to coral bleaching, and a fetch data set for the region



World Wildlife Fund (WWF): works with ICRAN to support national and regional efforts to significantly increase the area of coral reefs ecosystems under protection and greatly enhance awareness and support for their conservation, recently publishing an updated 'Reefs & People.'

ICRAN Diary Dates

- **ICRI UK Stakeholder Meeting**, London, 17th Oct, 2003
- **ICRAN Board Meeting**, Washington, 23rd -24th Oct, 2003
- **Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands**, UNESCO, Paris, 12th-14th Nov, 2003
- **ICRI Coordinating and Planning Committee Meeting**, Providencia, TCI, 17th-19th Nov, 2003
- **GEO Marine and UNEP Regional Seas Meeting**, Nairobi, 19th-21st Nov, 2003
- **SIDS Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting**, Nassau, Bahamas, 26th-30th January 2004
- **(CSD) PREPCOM for SIDS (Barbados +10)**, New York, 14th-16th April, 2004
- **10th International Coral Reef Symposium**, Okinawa, Japan 28th June-2nd July, 2004
- **Barbados +10 meeting on SIDS**, Mauritius, Aug/Sep 2004

Other ICRAN Business

Events

- At the World Parks Congress in September 2003, ICRAN participated in a World Heritage Marine Site Workshop and WWF EAF Marine Ecoregion side event, and launched a CD for protected areas managers containing a wide range of coral reef materials, including many ICRIN, ICRAN and Partner products
- ICRAN has supported recent reports 'Monitoring Coral Reef Marine Protected Areas' - monitoring case studies produced by GCRMN, TNC, AIMS and IUCN and the 'World Atlas of Seagrasses', published by the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
- Questionnaires have been sent to all the Caribbean ICRAN sites this September to initiate the Caribbean Fisheries Restricted Areas Database project run by UNEP-WCMC
- The latest issue of UNEP's 'Our Planet', funded by the Better World Fund, includes three articles featuring coral reefs by Melinda Kimble, UNF and Mark Collins, UNEP-WCMC, seen at www.ourplanet.com

The UNEP Coral Reef Unit (CRU) and administration of the ICRI Secretariat have now joined ICRAN and the Marine and Coastal Programme at the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, UK, forming Corals@UNEP-WCMC - a unique collaboration for the conservation of coral reefs worldwide

ICRAN Expansion

- ICRAN is working closely with the UNEP Coral Reef Unit and SACEP, who are producing a 'white paper' with stakeholders to identify needs for the South Asian region and form a workplan for ICRAN, after which the original proposals will be reviewed.
- Similarly, ICRAN is working with PERSGA and ROPME to develop ICRAN activities in the Arabian seas.
- An agreement for ICRAN work in the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef region is soon to be signed by USAID and UNF, and an integrated workplan developed. Plans for a similar project in East Africa are under discussion.

ICRAN gratefully acknowledges the invaluable support of its funders, especially the United Nations Foundation (UNF), the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Goldman Fund

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This newsletter is available at www.icran.org

ICRAN is working to halt and reverse the declining health of the world's coral reefs

To help coral reef conservation and support ICRAN please visit www.coralreeffund.org