

### 3rd ICRAN Newsletter – March 2004

At the end of March 2004 the White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) Conference was held in Miami to focus on the role of partnerships like ICRAN to achieve the best results in management and conservation of marine and freshwater ecosystems. WW2BW provided an excellent opportunity for NGOs, the private sector and Caribbean governments to form new linkages and partnerships as well as renew existing ones to address the critical issues which the Caribbean region faces. The ICRAN partnership featured highly in the Conference and notably was mentioned as an important partnership in the Caribbean region in the opening keynote address of Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, Under-secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the NOAA Administrator.

In a number of the sessions at WW2BW, ICRAN partners presented the Mesoamerican Reef Alliance (MAR) project as one of ICRAN's major regional partnerships and initiatives, which will lead to further collaboration and connections with the region, its stakeholders and existing initiatives.

The official signing of the MAR project was held in Belize City in February 2004, involving the Deputy Prime Minister of Belize and United States Ambassador to Belize, Minister of Environment of Guatemala, as well as senior representatives from the United Nations Foundation and US Agency for International Development's Guatemala-Central America Programmes Office, and will soon begin its implementation stage.

ICRAN continues to feature and is recognised at high governmental levels and by many international fora such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Small Island Developing States. However, despite this exposure and the tremendous success highlighted in this newsletter there is still much to achieve as a partnership, which can only be done with support and collaboration at all levels, including yours. Only then can we hope to make a difference to the coral reefs and the communities who depend on these reefs for their livelihoods.

*Kristian Teleki, ICRAN*

## ICRAN News

### Jamaica Trains Local Sandals Staff in Reef Check Monitoring

The Jamaica Coral Reef Monitoring Network (JCRMN) partnered with Reef Check and Sandals International to conduct a training workshop in February 2004. The workshop, in which 15 members of the local 'Sandals International' dive team were trained and certified in Reef Check coral reef monitoring, was co-ordinated by Malden Miller, the ICRAN coordinator for the Caribbean, and facilitated by the UNEP Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit, and Noylis Amair, Director of Watersports for Sandals and Beaches Resorts.

Team scientists from the Centre for Marine Sciences and University of the West Indies, were assisted by JCRMN members from the Centre for Marine Sciences and the University Sub-Aqua Club, the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), Caribbean Coastal Area Management (CCAM) Foundation and the Nature Conservancy (TNC).

PowerPoint and video presentations were given on the Reef Check methodology, data collection and the importance of information management before a "dry run" of the monitoring technique. Links with

the Blue Flag Certification Program were presented by Krishna Desai of NEPA.

Fully trained, the participants went on to conduct a full Reef Check survey, collecting data from both shallow and deep sites at Boscobel West (Channel Edge). The workshop culminated with a practical data entry session using the information gathered. The data will be analysed and used to report on the status of the reefs at this site.

The workshop was heralded a success and has generated great enthusiasm among trainees who are now looking forward to collecting data from their respective locations.

*Dulcie Linton – Caribbean Coastal Data Centre (CCDC)*



## Tokelau Marine Conservation Project

Community workshops and marine resource surveys were carried out by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) between 18 October-14 November 2003 on each of the three atolls in Tokelau whose Marine Conservation Areas make up the ICRAN Tokelau Marine Conservation Project. The programme aimed to provide information on the status of the marine conservation areas, lagoons and outer reefs and to make recommendations for management and conservation actions.

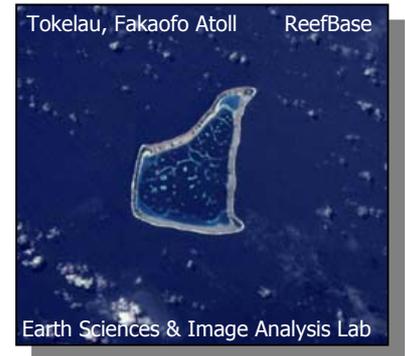
The project team, with two representatives from each atoll, undertook marine surveys and a series of workshops to engage the community and traditional leaders. These focused on concerns regarding the status of resources, identified key species and sites through resource mapping, problem identification and documented aspirations for their marine environment.

Activities were also conducted in villages such as school visits, presentations, snorkelling lessons, household surveys on fishing activities and interviews to assess community perceptions on resource use and conservation issues.

Survey observations revealed a low diversity of reef species with some regionally common species being extremely rare or absent from all atolls. Little

difference was observed in species diversity or abundance inside and outside conservation areas, which was accredited to poor awareness and a lack of regulation enforcement. Public concerns focused on the decline in fish species and the common problem of waste disposal. These findings were compiled and reported back to the community at meetings and also broadcast live on the local radio.

Preliminary recommendations for a more focused approach to management and a review of current closure systems and waste management strategies are currently being drawn up along with a list of follow up activities.



*Mary Power, SPREP*

*Foua Toloa, a stakeholder from Tokelau, said in response to the overharvesting of marine resources 'I would recommend an awareness programme that targets companies, boat owners, national fisheries and all other stakeholders involved'*

## 4th Training of Trainers Course in Spanish



The 4th Training of Trainers course for marine park managers took place from the 27 January – 10 February 2004 at the Florida Keys Marine Laboratory, and was conducted in Spanish. Coordinated by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the course was part of the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network (CaMPAM) capacity-building activities organised by the UNEP Caribbean Coordinating Unit (CAR/RCU) and funded by ICRAN and the United Nations Foundation.

Seventeen trainees from 12 countries took part in the course, which involved lectures, interactive

exercises and field trips, using the 8-module training manual produced by UNEP.

Several organisations contributed resources facilitating two boat trips for participants; one with the NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS), to examine the marine habitats and resource usage at the Rock Key Special Preservation Area, and another using 4 patrol boats of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to visit the Indian Key State Park for a regulation inspection exercise.

The involvement of representatives from local organisations (also, Florida Marine Research Institute, The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Environmental Defense, TNC, Institute of Oceanology, Cuba) allowed for excellent information exchange and networking opportunities.

The course was very successful and Florida showed, once more, its commitment to Latin American and Caribbean people and the conservation of their marine resources.

*Georgina Bustamante, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)*

## IUCN Assessment of MPA Management Effectiveness in the Western Indian Ocean

Following the two day training workshop held in Malindi in April 2003, it was determined that a comprehensive assessment of MPA management effectiveness would be a valuable activity in the Eastern African Region. An experimental project was undertaken at eight MPA sites including ICRAN sites from Kenya and the Seychelles, using an approach based on the World Heritage Site methodology. This involved the completion of a set of worksheets and tables to identify gaps in management, and to help prioritise activities.

The project was coordinated by The World Conservation Union East African Regional Office (IUCN EARO) as one component of the NORAD funded Jakarta Mandate Programme, and was carried out in conjunction with the Eastern African Group of Experts on Marine Protected Areas (GEMPA-EA).

Assessments were carried out in a participatory manner, involving managers, MPA staff and all stakeholders and included assessment of



biological, social, cultural, economic and management issues. Exchange visits were also organised between MPAs to facilitate information sharing.

Although there were some problems with worksheet completion and adherence to the work plans generated, the exercise provided a valuable insight into management shortfalls. It is hoped that the information gained from the assessment can be used to generate positive change and help improve MPA management practices, influence policy and raise awareness. A draft report of the outcomes has been produced.

*Sue Wells, Consultant, IUCN EARO*

## Raising Public Awareness in East Asia

South East Asia has been very successful in its efforts to educate communities and raise awareness of the importance of conserving coral reefs, and printed materials and publications are essential for achieving this success.

The monitoring manual has now been translated into four languages, Vietnamese, Thai, Khmer and Chinese, and so far manuals have been printed and distributed in Vietnam and Cambodia. These are useful for the monitoring workshops frequently held in this region, many using Reef Check monitoring methods, e.g. in Vietnam, Cambodia, China and Indonesia.

Other materials include a tourist brochure and guide to tourist behaviour, posters on 'Community Based Coral Reef Monitoring' and reef ecology, and a children's activity booklet with puzzles and games from Apo Island in the Philippines, with a poster and leaflet about the project from their paired site in Ninh Thuan, Vietnam. Bunaken in Indonesia has published guidelines for sustainable tourism and diving practices, whilst their paired site, Gili Matra has produced a leaflet and co-management strategy booklet.

*Connie Chiang, ICRAN Coordinator, South East Asia*



## Dive In To Earth Day 2004

Dive In To Earth Day is an international Earth Day celebration of coral reef and marine conservation activities that take place during the week of April 22 and are focused on a common theme: to remind the public that more than 70% of our planet is covered by water and our marine resources need to be protected.

In the past four years, Dive In organisers have held 874 marine conservation events in 83 countries and territories around the world! They have removed trash, installed mooring buoys, educated children and communities, helped marine protected areas, and brought the focus of Earth Day to the underwater world.

This year CORAL have introduced the Coral Park Buddy Program, which allows the public to directly sponsor a coral park (including three ICRAN sites) for a specific management activity and become a 'Coral Park Buddy'. These activities span installing mooring buoys in the Hol Chan Marine Reserve in Belize and in Namena, Fiji, to help prevent anchor damage, buying patrolling and monitoring

equipment for Cozumel in Mexico and Southeast Cebu in the Philippines, ranger training in Bonaire and interpretative signs in the Rock Islands, Palau.

ICRAN sites are also Diving In To Earth Day this year, with events currently organised in 13 places including Belize, Bonaire, St Lucia, Jamaica and Venezuela in the Caribbean, Kenya and the Seychelles in East Africa, the Philippines and Cambodia in East Asia, and Palau and Fiji in the South Pacific.

[www.coralreefalliance.org/divein](http://www.coralreefalliance.org/divein) *The Coral Reef Alliance -CORAL*



## ICRAN Site Successes

### Caribbean

- Capacity building activities within the **Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve (SKBR), Mexico**, are now mostly completed, including the coastal marine signposting programme, the SKBR bibliography and the domestic waste management project in the Javier Rojo Gomez community (Punta Allen)



- The **SKBR** publication "Socio-economic Assessment of Punta Allen: A Tool for the Management of a Coastal Community" is now available and being disseminated regionwide, whilst the environmental monitoring program and fishers exchange programme with San Blas, Panama, are underway

- Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP)** continue to implement their upgraded user fee system for both commercial and private boat owners and a management plan for the Lac

Bay Area has now been drafted

- Workshops to build fundraising capacity in Bonaire were held at the **BNMP** in December 2003, in conjunction with The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL), for staff of BNMP and 10 other local NGOs
- In the **Hol Chan Marine Reserve (HCMR), Belize**, a successful volunteer program has commenced with school children and dive/tour operators, teaching over 180 Ambergris Caye students about coral reef ecology, marine protected areas and conservation issues in presentations by HCMR staff. 13 individuals have also been trained in SCUBA diving, coral reef ecology, marine life identification and reef etiquette
- HCMR** is planning a "Reef Festival" in San Pedro, with educational activities on the beach, glass bottom boat rides, posters and presentations for children and a night of lectures with regional MPA Managers

- The **Soufriere Marine Management Area (SMMA), St. Lucia** documentary "Small Activities, Big Impacts" showing links between terrestrial activities and marine systems has been used to produce 5 Public Service Announcements (PSAs) - 3 of which were aired 72 times on Radio Caribbean International in August 2003 in English and Creole
- **SMMA** conducted over 30 public awareness activities between July and October 2003, including visits to schools, churches and Reef Check volunteer organisations

## East Africa

- In the **Dar es Salaam Marine Reserves (DMRS), Tanzania**, two visitor centres have been constructed at Bongoyo Island Marine Reserve and Mbudya Island Marine Reserve, designed to provide outreach materials and information for tourists, students, and other local and international stakeholders



- **DMRS** Honorary Rangers have now formed their association registering in the name of 'Dar Es Salaam Island And Beach Environmental Conservation Association' and are fully responsible for giving informative tours to tourists at the visitor centres
- A set of hand radios for communication and a boat with a 40HP engine have been provided to **DMRS** to strengthen and simplify communication and enforcement activities by the Honorary Rangers
- A total of 42 joint patrols between communities, Marine Police and MPRU staff were conducted around the **DMRS** during the last six months with four incidences of non-compliance, two of which resulted in conviction of the offenders, and two are still pending

- Ten community members from four villages around **DMRS**, accompanied by Marine Park Reserves Unit (MPRU) staff, visited existing MPAs in Kenya and Mafia, Tanzania, to observe conservation management strategies and exchange ideas on activities that could be replicated and applied around the **DMRS** area
- Consultants from the Zanzibar Institute of Marine Science and University of Dar es Salaam have been engaged to undertake biophysical surveys and social economic assessment around **DMRS**
- As part of the initial stages of community engagement for the **DMRS** General Management Plan, three awareness meetings have taken place on effective community participation in the sustainable use of marine resources. Fishermen were selected from surrounding villages based on their knowledge of **DMRS**, fishing technique and influence on the community, so they too can help to engage others in the area
- **Chumbe Island** Environmental Education Programme, which has run coral reef ecology excursions and teachers seminars for schools for several years (involving 500 students in 2003), has now received ICRAN funds to further integrate coral reefs into the syllabus of all secondary schools and teacher training colleges in Zanzibar

## East Asia

- The Singapore International Foundation (SIF) collaborated with **Mu Koh Surin, Thailand** to assist in monitoring the reefs of the National Park, with a group of 25 youth volunteers from Singapore carrying out monitoring activities at the major snorkelling and dive sites of the park in December 2003. Plans for follow-up monitoring over the next 2 years will track coral reef health and provide information for management
- The ICRAN Project Coordinator found **Mu Koh Surin** to be well managed and a good learning model for the paired target site **Sanya (China)** during an assessment of park management also undertaken in December. Suggested future activities included carrying capacity studies to gauge the impact of increasing numbers of tourists and development of a self sufficient monitoring programme
- **Komodo National Park, Indonesia**, is carrying out a community-based fish growout activity, whilst it's paired site, **Koh Rong, Cambodia**, is continuing to increase public awareness, training teachers to include coral reef conservation in the curriculum, and practising monitoring skills learned at workshops



- Over 900 participants attended 10 training workshops on coral conservation held at **Vinh Hai and Nhon Hai communes, Vietnam**, in collaboration with Department of Fisheries and local people's communes. Each commune set up a protection station to coordinate volunteer teams undertaking ICRAN activities, who signed an agreement stating their understanding and intent to help out with the project
- Algae farming is being tested as a source of alternative income **at Thai An and Nhon Hai Communes, Vietnam**
- Two tourism impact studies were undertaken on the **Apo Island reef system, Philippines**, to examine coral damage in relation to tourist numbers and activities, and as a result of direct diver contact
- **Bunaken and Gili Matra, Indonesia** continue to undertake activities for monitoring, testing alternative livelihoods, conservation education and tourism carrying capacity studies

## South Pacific

In August a regionwide meeting of all country members of the **Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) Network**, was held in Suva and the Coral Coast, the first since the network's official opening in Bali in 2000. Amongst 80 participants from nine countries, representatives from ICRAN sites (Samoa, Marshall Islands, Palau, Fiji) attended the meeting, achieving the major objectives of sharing and learning from each others LMMA experiences, planning future directions, training and reporting in biological and socio-economic monitoring, and introducing the LMMA monitoring and evaluation guide and the Learning Framework

- The **Rock Islands Southern Lagoon Management Project, Palau**, has continued its stakeholder consultation to inform the community of its Management Plan by interviewing, amongst others, sports/commercial fishermen, scientists, the tourism industry and subsistence groups
- Good use has been made of local media in the **Rock Islands, Palau**, such as newspaper, radio, e-mail list serves and community meetings, to inform the public of new laws, legislation and regulations concerning issues from fishing and jet ski use, to conservation, protected areas and health threats (SARS)
- The **Tokelau Marine Conservation Project** held community workshops and a marine resource survey in October and November 2003 to assess the status of marine conservation areas, engage the community and traditional leaders and draft management plans
- A US university study tour of the **Aleipata and Safata MPAs, Samoa**, was successful in creating a 75% profit for the MPAs and local communities who provided services for the trip. Two are now planned each year as a positive income generating and pride building experience for the MPAs and villages involved
- SamoaTel has launched a new phone book for 2004 featuring the **Aleipata** MPA logo on the front cover
- At the **Jaluit Atoll Conservation Area (JACA), Marshall Islands**, subcommittees have been established to oversee activities such as public awareness raising visits, workshops on management plans and mangrove restoration, for which volunteer students replanted over 1,700 seedlings in their community
- All five ecotourism guesthouses are in operation on **Jaluit Atoll** with solar lights, freshwater and toilets, and a colourful eco-tour promotion brochure has been distributed at hotels and the airport. **JACA** is promoting Jaluit as an eco-tourism destination by working with the Outrigger Hotel and BAKO Dive Operation, who are providing in-kind contributions for the venture
- Influenced by ICRAN **Coral Gardens Solomon Islands** awareness raising meetings, communities of the Marau Sounds are considering solutions to problems affecting their marine resources, including temporal reef closures to harvesting activities, bans on destructive fishing methods, and the creation of 'tabu' areas and permanent MPAs, and have already noticed a reduction in dynamite fishing in the Leitongo community
- A Coastal Resource Management and Training Workshop was held for the Komukomu community, **Solomon Islands**, where an action plan was drawn up, and results showed increasing concern for declining resources, efficient technologies and natural hazards



Komukomu marine resources awareness and management workshop © J. Kinch, 2004

## Partner News



**The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL):** produce educational tools and resources online at [www.coralreef.org](http://www.coralreef.org), including briefing papers for policy/decision makers. CORAL have also hosted two-day workshops focusing on coral ecology and sustainable tour-business practices, training dive operators and the tourism sector in Komodo and the Coral Coast, Fiji, and providing a forum for participants to voice concerns, collaborate and develop solutions to current management problems



**Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN):** are coordinating a Socio-economic Monitoring Initiative for Coastal Management, through which two regional specific manuals have been produced, SocMon Southeast Asia (March 2003) and SocMon Caribbean (October 2003), providing standardised guidelines and priority indicators for assessment. The new GCRMN Regional Coordinator for the East Asian Seas, Dr Karenne Tun has taken up her appointment in the WorldFish Centre offices, Penang



**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 Negril, Portland Bight & Drunkenman's Cay in Jamaica, Haiti, and Redang Island and Tioman Island in Malaysia, raising awareness and enhancing capacity for global reef health monitoring



**The Nature Conservancy (TNC):** have entered a co-operative agreement with WRI for data sharing and collaboration on modelling approaches for the Caribbean, and work to further expand the area of protected coral reef systems, and improve the resilience, effectiveness and financial security of MPAs



**South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP):** are currently revising the first draft of a 'white paper', providing a background into marine resource management in South Asia, existing work and established programmes and identifying the needs of the region



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



**The WorldFish Center:** has completed a collaborative project with NOAA, to display ReefBase coral bleaching data together with NOAA's thermal anomaly data (degree heating weeks) in user definable maps on ReefBase. A joint ReefBase, Reef Check, and GCRMN meeting was held at the WorldFish Center in December 2004 to determine the structures for national databases that would be compatible with ReefBase and a standard structure for National Status of the Coral Reefs reports



**United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):** is sponsoring consultants' studies for the extension of ICRAN to ROPME and PERSGA regions and a report highlighting the lessons learned of sites presented at the ICRAN session at ITMEMS2 in March 2003, and is developing a regionally based proposal focused on People and Reefs for ICRAN.

**UNEP Regional Seas Offices (CAR, EAF, EAS):** are responsible for implementing ICRANs on-the-ground coral reef activities in the Caribbean, East Africa and South East Asia

**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 its mapping and database management activities, and produced The World Atlas of Seagrasses, launched in October 2003 at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London



**World Resources Institute (WRI):** has completed the first full draft of the reefs at Risk in the Caribbean report, which includes maps of estimated threats to coral reefs, an economic valuation of Caribbean coral reefs and policy recommendations. WRI are currently working with partners to improve the mapping of MPAs for the region and develop an indicator of management effectiveness and continue with detailed analysis of land-based sources of pollution in the Caribbean



**World Wildlife Fund (WWF):** co-hosted a dinner and roundtable discussion with ICRAN and TNC at the CBD CoP7 in Kuala Lumpur in February 2004, on Sustainable Financing Options for Marine Protected Area Networks. ICRAN are also consulting closely with the WWF East African Marine EcoRegion and key stakeholders to develop an MPA project in the East African and Western Indian Ocean region, and are collaborating on other site based activities such as those in Vietnam

## ICRAN Diary Dates

- **(CSD) PREPCOM for SIDS (Barbados +10)**, New York, 14-16 April, 2004
- **ICRI UK Stakeholders Meeting, Cambridge**, UK, 16 April, 2004
- **Earth Day, CORAL**, 22 April, 2004
- **Nairobi Convention CoP4**, Madagascar, 8-10 June, 2004
- **World Environment Day – Wanted! Seas and Oceans – Dead or Alive?** – 5 June, 2004
- **10th International Coral Reef Symposium**, Okinawa, Japan 28 June-2 July, 2004
- **ICRI Coordination and Planning Committee**, Okinawa, Japan, 3-4 July, 2004
- **Barbados +10 meeting on SIDS**, Mauritius, 30 August – 4 September 2004
- **IUCN World Conservation Congress**, Bangkok, 17-25 November 2004

## Other ICRAN Business

### Events

- ICRAN attended the ICRI CPC meeting in Turks and Caicos in November 2003, updating participants on ICRAN's progress in implementing the ICRI Framework for Action
- ICRAN attended the White Water to Blue Water Conference in Miami in March this year and took part in sessions addressing best practices in donor-project relationships
- Dr Karenne Tun took up her appointment as GCRMN East Asian Seas Regional coordinator in February 2004, at the World Fish Center offices, Penang, assisting countries with regional workshops, monitoring, training and database development and management

### ICRAN Expansion

- The Mesoamerican Reef Alliance project contract was officially signed by UNF, USAID and Mesoamerican government ministers in February 2003. Sub-contracts have been finalised with UNEP, workplans have been submitted to USAID and are currently under review, with implementation planned on their completion
- ICRAN is working with PERSGA and ROPME to develop ICRAN activities in the Arabian seas. Terms of Reference have been drawn up based on those used in South Asia and a consultant engaged by UNEP to ensure ICRANs expansion momentum in this region continues

**Corals@UNEP-WCMC have produced a brochure explaining the links and complementary roles the different units play in the unique collaboration for coral reef conservation worldwide - [www.unep-wcmc.org](http://www.unep-wcmc.org)**

**Other achievements include the production of posters on ICRI and ICRAN in English, Spanish, French and Japanese**

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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](http://www.coralreeffund.org)

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