

Over one-half
of the world's population lives
within **100 kilometres**
of the sea.

Coral Reef Targeted Research & Capacity Building for Management Local Government Initiative

Compiling and disseminating reef friendly practices for local government



images: Priya Mathur

Implications for Coral Reef Management

- Better business models for running local government, in line with coral reef sustainability needs as interpreted by the scientific community.
- Introduction of more cost-effective management interventions targeting coral reefs and tropical marine ecosystems.

Goals

- To 'green' policies and business practices of local government so that they align with those factors essential to maintaining coral reef health and productivity.
- To develop the capacity of the Coral Reef Targeted Research & Capacity Building for Management (CRTR) Program's Centers of Excellence to partner with local governments throughout their target regions in the identification, dissemination and uptake of these good practices.

The Issues

- Unsustainable fishing (such as blast and cyanide fishing) and coastal management practices
- Lack of public awareness, limited acceptance of rules and low level of compliance
- Lax enforcement
- Lack of plans/ordinance for coral reef management
- Lack of alternative income generating activities to reduce human impacts on the reefs.
- Lack of funding

Progress to Date

1. Compilation of reef-friendly practices.

A compendium of good management practices for coral reefs, based on sound science and documented in the literature, has been compiled by the Research Institute for the Subtropics (RIS), a Japanese NGO. These practices range from Integrated Coastal Management, erosion management and waste water treatment, to Marine Protected Areas, tourism guidelines and restrictions on fishing and equipment. These practices, including the rationale, methods, results and lessons learned, have been drawn from coral reef management contexts around the world.

2. Pre-testing of good practices.

A representative sample of the coral reef friendly practices compiled above was vetted in stakeholder consultations with Philippine Mayors and other local government leaders in Alaminos City, Pangasinan, Philippines in early August 2006. Over 80 stakeholders attended the day long workshop, which included a briefing on the declining state of coastal and marine resources in the Philippines, estimates of economic loss from degraded coral reefs, and what some communities were doing in response.

Examples of field tested best practice for coral reef management in the Philippines were presented to stakeholders for discussion, along with those examples from other parts of the world. Local government leaders were both disturbed by the accelerated rates of coral reef degradation and consequent loss of resources rents in the Philippines (e.g., in the fisheries and tourism sectors) and hopeful that this could be turned around with decisive and appropriate actions.

3. Presentation of pilot results at ITMEMS 3.

The local government leaders representing coral reef communities from around the world (e.g., from Mexico, Philippines, Cook Islands, Tanzania, Fiji, PNG, Hawaii, Australia, Belize) discussed a compendium of coral reef friendly practices and the pre-test results in the Philippines.



The Commitment by mayors and other local government leaders to take on board several of these good practices in response to threats to coral reefs in their own communities is expected, along with a statement calling local government leaders to action and road map outlining key next steps that they can take to protect coral reefs in their communities.

4. Publication of Manual and Brochures in three languages for broad dissemination.

Feedback from the Local Government Leaders' Forum and plenary discussions involving a broad group of stakeholders will be incorporated into a final report. This will also be reviewed by the coral reef research community to ensure that recommendations are robust and based on good science. An illustrated brochure of these coral reef friendly practices will be published initially in English, Spanish and Tagalog for broad dissemination to local governments which depend on coral reef goods and services.

Outcomes

Anticipated outcomes include (1) better informed local government leaders who understand the implications of their development policies and business practices on coral reefs; (2) commitment by local leaders to change business as usual that threatens coral reef ecosystem health and productivity by adopting reef friendly practices; and (3) a demonstration effect which catalyzes the response of other local government officials to take action and champion needed reforms.



More information

The University of Queensland is the Project Executing Agency (PEA). More information about the CRTR Program can be obtained from the PEA:

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The CRTR Program is a partnership between the Global Environment Facility, The World Bank, The University of Queensland (Australia), the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and approximately 40 research institutes and other third parties around the world. The four sites or Centers of Excellence are **Southeast Asia**: Marine Science Institute of Bolinao, University of the Philippines; **East Africa**: Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Tanzania; **Mesoamerica/Western Caribbean**: Unidad Academica Puerto Morelos, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico; and **Australasia/South Pacific**: Heron Island Research Laboratory, Centre for Marine Studies, The University of Queensland, Australia.