

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Regeneration rates of coral communities in Roatán, Honduras
Country	Honduras
Organisation	Coral Cay Conservation
Project Ref. No.	11/017
Report date	<i>April – October 2003</i>

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if the project was started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

The field co-ordinator Steve Box arrived on Roatán, Honduras in April 2003. Since that time a successful community education and training programme has been developed and the targeted research has been implemented.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

The table below outlines the participation to date in training and education programmes conducted from the CCC project base.

Programme	In-country Counterpart Organisation	Target Group	Total Number of Participants to date	Comments
SCUBA diving and Science Training	Honduras University	Undergraduate students	6	A two week residential course which includes gaining PADI diving qualifications, lectures and practical sessions to identify important reef species and learning underwater survey techniques for reef monitoring
Coral Reef Awareness Days	Native Bay Islanders People and Labourers Association	Local Tour Guides	75	By training and educating this stakeholder group (identified by NBIPLA) in simple reef conservation practices the information is disseminated to a wide audience of reef users through their work with tourists visiting Roatán.

Coral Education Workshops	Reef	Local Schools	School children aged 8 – 14 and their teachers	60 children 10 teachers	Using a special half day programme developed by CCC, the aim is to inspire and educate Roatanian youth about their coral reefs. Days include one to one snorkelling sessions, interactive games and talks.
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Relevant Publication Output:

Walker, R & Taylor, J. In Press. Environmental Education for all: A community based coral reef education programme from Roatán, Honduras. International Society for Coral Reef Studies.

Through ever strengthening links with in-country counterpart organisations and the local community, the planning of additional training programmes targeted at new stakeholder groups has been conducted over these six months. It is hoped that in addition to the programmes already underway these additional courses will enable the project to reach a wider spectrum of stakeholder groups and that this can be implemented during the second half of the year.

In addition the student internship programme to train university students has another 12 places allocated to it during December 2003 and January 2004 the organisation and planning for these internships was primarily conducted during these first 6 months.

RESEARCH

The research into coral algal competition and reef regeneration has also progressed well. The first experiment involving caging coral recruits is now fully set-up and is under regular monitoring. The second experiment into algal patch dynamics is nearing the completion of the initial set-up phase and will be monitored regularly for data acquisition. Raising awareness of this research has been accomplished by conducting seminars with the local dive communities and the publication and distribution of a poster (in English and Spanish) which is displayed by all the local dive shops and other relevant businesses (See attachment)

In addition a digital photographic species list is being compiled for fish, coral and invertebrate species from photos taken by Steve Box during his research dives. These images will be used in the identification training programmes and will be incorporated into reef awareness posters, specialised identification posters and other printed and electronic educational materials for display and use in schools universities and dive shops.

Attached are a selection of photos showing participants in our training and education programmes in addition to some of the underwater photos for the educational materials.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments, that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will effect the budget and timetable of project activities. Have any of these issues been discussed with the Department and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Since the original alterations to timeframe and methodologies have been made and implemented after the approval by the department (see Annual Report April 2003) there have been neither notable problems nor unexpected developments.

One small change to the administration of the problem is that Lucy Gallagher left CCC in May 2003. However her departure has not effected the smooth running of the project as the field co-ordinator Steve Box, who is still based in Roatán, and Ryan Walker, the Caribbean Science Co-ordinator for CCC London have incorporated her role into their positions.

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures.

None

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Project Manager, Email: stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk