

March 3rd 2008
Issue 1



ReefComm

A bi-monthly bulletin of the Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management project

Project Notices:

- Distribution of the People and Corals Resource Pack to primary schools across the island.
- Preparation for the Junior Coral Reef Ambassador Programme

In this issue:

Welcome	1
A successful workshop	1
Raising awareness	1
Programmes for kids	2
MPA: ME at Folkestone	2
Community Reef Watchers	2
In the spotlight	3

Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of the ReefComm newsletter, a bi-monthly bulletin of the Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management project. This project was initiated by the Caribbean Conservation Association in 2006. The aim of the project is to promote responsible behaviour and also to improve management of the coral reefs through participatory community involvement. Recognising the importance of reaching the wider coral reef community and also the sharing of

A successful workshop

Back in 2006 the People and Corals-Teacher training workshop engaged participation from 22 teachers from various primary schools across the island. The workshop was facilitated by Mrs. Cherrie Paris-Bourne who introduced teachers to the concepts of environmental education and education for sustainable development. She demonstrated the use of the CCA's People and Corals Workbook and briefed the teachers on coral reef ecology and conservation efforts. At the end of the workshop, each participant was

Raising awareness

Schools across the island will be provided with a project package which will include: a copy of People and Corals Resource Pack, the project flyer and a list of useful links on coral reefs and their associated

information, the ReefComm newsletter will be a vital part of the project's communication strategy.

The newsletter will be produced every two months capturing achievements of the project until its termination in September 2008. This first issue will take you back in time showcasing what has been done thus far and what is yet to come. Also look out for some additional highlights relating to the Folkestone Marine Reserve. Enjoy!

given a copy of the People and Corals Education Resource Pack which they could incorporate into their teaching programme. The workshop was highly successful due to the enthusiastic level of participation and the number of teachers attending.



habitats. These links will provide booklets, brochures, posters, videos and activities suitable for teaching purposes.

Programmes for kids



“Education is crucial in communicating information about the coastal and marine management through increasing levels of awareness”



“Community involvement is key!”

The children of today are the future managers and resources users of the marine environment. Thus to promote long term responsible environmental decision-making, it is imperative that children are engaged in activities to increase their awareness of the intrinsic value of the marine environment. The development of the two children-oriented programmes: The Junior Coral Reef Ambassador Programme and the Folkestone Marine Reserve Summer Programme will do just that. For the JCRA programme, ambassadors will go through specialized training and complete the manual in order

to graduate. The aim of the programme is to reinforce positive environmental practices. The JCRA Programme will be a pilot project in 4 public schools. The Folkestone Marine Reserve Summer Programme which will be implemented next year will be designed to be an annual activity of the reserve. The programme will involve coral reef ecology, field trips on Atlantis submarines and glass bottom boats, turtle walks and so much more.

MPA: Management Effectiveness at Folkestone

Marine Protected Areas have struggled due to the inadequate capacity to manage the MPA. According to WWF, “in order for park managers to improve MPA management, they must be able to measure the effectiveness of their work so that they can adapt and improve their techniques.” In a one-day inception workshop hosted by CERMES in July 2008, stakeholders will be trained in Marine Protected Area: Management

Effectiveness using the methods in the WCPA /WWF “How Is Your MPA Doing?” guidebook. The guidebook offers an easy-to-follow, step-by-step process for the evaluation of management. Its methodology was tested in 18 MPAs around the world (e.g. Hol Chan Reserve, Belize) to ensure that it met the needs of modern day MPA managers.

Community Reef Watchers

As we know community involvement is essential to successful coral reef management and the Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring Regime will provide the perfect opportunity for this. Scuba divers in the community will be able to contribute to on-going efforts to safeguard the reefs around the reserve. A Reef Check training workshop is tentatively scheduled to be held in April 2008. This will build the capacity of divers to be

monitor reefs for the Reef Check programme and also to conduct annual monitoring of the four reef sites around the reserve. In addition a coral reef database will be established for the reserve to allow the staff to monitor the status of the reefs over time.



In the spotlight

More than a park

"To provide educational opportunities" is one of the objectives of the Folkestone Marine Reserve. The park has made a tremendous effort increasing the level of awareness through various public outreach activities. One such activity that should be highlighted is the Folkestone Museum Open Day held on May 18th 2007 which is recognized by ICOM (International Organisation of Museums) as the International Museum Day. Last year the theme was "Museums and Universal Heritage" and schools from all over the island visited the Interpretive Centre at Folkestone. They were given an ideal tour that engaged them

to learn more about coral reefs and their local marine environment. They were also given a chance to explore the underwater world on the glass bottom boat tour. So look out on May 18th, this year the International Museum Day's theme will be "Museums as agents of social change and development".



Hawksbill: The endangered turtle

The Hawksbill marine turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, is considered a keystone species in the coral reef and sea grass ecosystems feeding on various invertebrates, e.g. sponges. Like other marine turtles, human interference has threatened their survival and as a result they have been protected under CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). The Hawksbill turtle can be seen both foraging on the reefs and nesting on the beaches within the Folkestone Marine Reserve.

Unfortunately over the years the nesting success of these turtles has been constrained for a number of reasons: the beaches are narrow due to coastal development; pedestrian activity on the beach can crush

embryos and prevent hatchling emergence; there is also excessive beachfront lighting and the installation of shoreline defences has resulted in shallow sand-covered beaches. The Barbados Sea Turtle Project aims to recover local sea turtle populations using scientifically-sound conservation measures and monitoring programmes and through public outreach activities to gain support from stakeholders. Learn more about sea turtles by visiting the website of the Barbados Sea Turtle Project (www.barbadosseaturtles.org). So, how will you help protect them?



We'll be on the web

Shortly the project's website will be launched. It will provide information on the projects background and provide access to all the publications of the project. An announcement will be made via the e-group.



ReefComm newsletter

The Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management is a project of the Caribbean Conservation Association in collaboration with:
National Conservation Commission
and
Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies



The project has been funded by GEF/SGP UNDP.

