



PRESS RELEASE

19 January 2005

EXCLUSIVE CONSERVATION LIVEBOARD

The Coral Cay Conservation (CCC) Trust, the UK's only charity dedicated to protecting coral reefs and tropical forests and the livelihoods of the people who depend on them, has announced its first members event- a unique week-long Conservation Liveboard to the Red Sea this May.

On charter through the award-winning holiday company Regaldive, the conservation liveboard will depart out of Hurghada (Northern Red Sea) on the 6 May 2005 for a week. A qualified tropical marine biologist will guide the educational dive trip. Divers will be given the opportunity to develop their Indo Pacific coral reef species identification skills at the same time enjoying a full diving programme in the company of like-minded individuals. The program includes structured lectures and discussions on tropical marine biology, ecology and the threats facing these delicate and biodiverse environments.

The week's activities will contribute to Coral Cay Conservation's Science Programme and *PADI Aware*. Divers will have the opportunity to collect data on *key indicator organisms* and contribute to the global *Earthdive* database. By the end of the course Members will be able to identify fish, coral and other species for assessments of biodiversity and will have acquired a broad knowledge of reef biology that will make their future diving more enjoyable.

Membership to the CCC Society is open to any individual/group wishing to become involved with CCC's important charitable work to enhance the livelihoods of those that are dependant on the conservation of reefs and forests. In addition to live-aboard educational dive trips, members of the Society are also able to sign-on for marine and terrestrial expeditions to the Philippines, Malaysia, Fiji and Honduras.

Note to Editors

1. For further information on the Coral Cay Conservation Trust and the Red Sea Liveboard visit www.coralcay.org or contact Ms. Tanya Blackburn (Director of Public Relations) via e-mail at tb@coralcay.org or telephone on +44 (0)20 8545 7718.

CORAL CAY CONSERVATION

Providing resources to help sustain livelihoods and alleviate poverty through the protection, restoration and management of coral reefs and tropical forests.

Coral Cay Conservation (CCC) is a non-profit organisation at the cutting edge of ecotourism. We send teams of volunteers to survey some of the world's most endangered coral reefs and tropical forests. Our mission is to protect these crucial environments by working closely with host countries and the local communities who depend on them for food and livelihood. Anyone can be a CCC volunteer. Anyone can help make the difference.

Aims & Principles

Coral Cay Conservation provides resources to help sustain livelihoods and alleviate poverty through the protection, restoration and management of coral reefs and tropical forests. We achieve these aims by:

- providing technical and financial support that countries need in order to produce conservation management plans for threatened reefs and forests;
- training international volunteers and host-country partners to gather, interpret and monitor the data that's so crucial for effective conservation;
- working with host-country governments and other organisations to encourage education and sustainable livelihood opportunities in local communities.

Brief History

- 1986-1998: CCC supports the Belize Government's drive to create numerous marine reserves and a World Heritage Site along the Great Atlantic Barrier Reef.
- 1995-present: CCC works with the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation Inc (PRRCFI) to safeguard Danjungan Island and other key areas.
- 1996: CCC expeditions survey Sulawesi's Banggai Islands.
- 1998: CCC's East Kalimantan Reef Conservation Project.
- 1998-present: The Bay Islands of Honduras – CCC's second Caribbean programme.
- 2001-present: CCC's Fiji Coral Reef Conservation Project
- 2002: CCC assists with a project to help the Tobago Cays (St Vincent and the Grenadines) become a World Heritage Site.
- 2003: Six-month pilot project to assess natural resources within the Perhentian Islands, Malaysia. Three-month marine project in the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Mexico.
- 2004: Malaysia Tropical Forests Conservation Project and the Malaysia Coral Reef Conservation Project commenced in March.

CCC Charitable Trust (UK Charity no. 1025534)

President: Sir Bruce MacPhail, P&O Group.

Coral Cay Conservation donates all profits to the CCC Charitable Trust, the UK's only charity dedicated to protecting coral reefs and tropical forests – and the livelihoods of the people who depend on them. The CCC Trust:

- funds conservation diving scholarships for local people;
- produces education resources for schools;
- raises awareness of conservation issues through events and displays;
- supporting alternative livelihood schemes and other local community projects.

CORAL CAY CONSERVATION

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