



### **Improving the management and success of local MPAs**

CCC's Project Scientist, Alix Green, was pleased to be invited to attend a very important focus meeting at the University of Philippines, held in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (the German Society for International Co-operation - GIZ) a German NGO working in Southern Leyte. This work shop was held in an effort to understand the issues faced by local stakeholders regarding successful management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) throughout the region.

Following a brain storm session 5 key issues were identified: The need for improved capacity, policies and their interpretation, 'parks on Paper' (MPAs that are designated but not properly enforced), the balance between protection and ensuring livelihoods and lastly, local acceptance of MPAs.

As successful MPA implementation is a key aspect of CCC's work, it was an invaluable opportunity for us to learn about the obstacles that can hinder their success. The meeting was a great chance to hear the concerns of the disparate local communities in the area. It also offered us a chance to voice some concerns we have and suggestions to overcome these issues prompting people to think about ways they can begin to improve their management. We look forward to continuing this process and hope to be able to see Southern Leyte as a flagship for well managed and well enforced MPAs in the future!



The winning team work hard on their posters.



The employees of Montserrat Tourist Department

## Philippines

Education Officer, Tracy MacKeracher, was recently lucky enough to be able to attend Liloan National Technical Vocational High School's (LNTVHS) Environmental Day, excitingly titled - Raising Earth Warriors! LNTVHS have been undertaking CCC's environmental awareness 'Sea Star' program for the past 6 months and this day heralded the culmination of all of those efforts!

The day was opened in true Filipino style with the students singing a wonderful rendition of Michael Jackson's 'Heal the World'. What followed was an energetic and fun filled day of dancing competitions, obstacle courses, poster making and a whole lot more besides! The day finished with a coastal clean-up and the school was presented with their Gold Award from CCC in recognition of their commitment to improving the local environment. Good job LNTVHS! Check out CCC's [Blog](#) for even more details.

## Montserrat

Shawn Daniel, Project Scientist, took the opportunity to increase awareness of the fauna and flora found in Montserrat by delivering a workshop for employees of the Montserrat Tourist Department. With a fairly recent restructuring and merger of the Tourist board with the Montserrat Development Corporation (MDC), launch of a new website and increased attempts to market Montserrat as an "off the beaten track" destination for holidaymakers, Director of the Tourist Department, Anita Nightingale, asked CCC to deliver a presentation to her and her employees.

With so many endemic and interesting species found on the island of Montserrat it was a great chance to engage the tourist board and get them enthused about using the fantastic bio-diversity as a key attraction. This is a great first step in helping to achieve one of the key aims of the CCC's project in Montserrat – to enhance eco-tourism on the island.

### The Lifesigns Group

Coral Cay Conservation is part of the [Lifesigns Group](#), a group of companies specialising in expeditions, medical training & hostile environment solutions.



Ian Forbes, the Lifesigns Group's Training Director has been putting all of his medical training to good use by working as the medic on Bear Grylls: Mission Survive! Switch your TV to ITV on Friday evenings at 9pm if you would like to see Ian hard at work providing health, safety and medical support in the jungles of Costa Rica!

### Offer of the month!

We are feeling very generous this week so why not book on for a 4 week expedition on either our Montserrat or Philippines site and we'll give you the fifth week for free! Just mention 'Mar 2015 Offer' when you book!

NB: Subject to availability. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer expires on 20th April 2015. Individual must be on site before the end of 2015.