

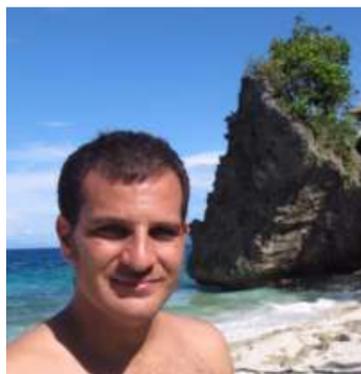


Getting out and about in the Philippines!

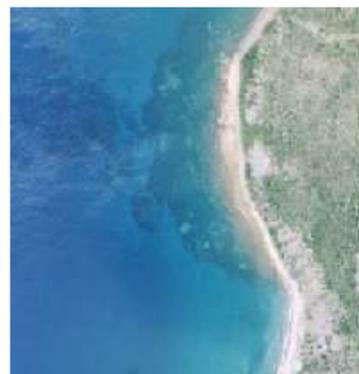
Coral Cay Conservation is always eager to offer our expertise and assist local governments in the planning and designation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). CCC were recently called in by the Municipal Agricultural Office of Catig, Liloan, who are hoping to secure funding from the organisation 'Promoting Child Rights to End Child Poverty' (PLAN International) to designate an MPA. After a preliminary visual assessment at Catig, it's looking like a prime location for an MPA. We're crossing our fingers and toes that the funding gets approved!

The area assessed is in much need of protection after historical compressor fishing and overfishing. Although the coral diversity is low there is an abundance of hard coral and therefore the opportunity for more coral to propagate and grow is similarly high. If CCC are given the opportunity to assist we hope to be able to conduct a full range of MPA surveys to ensure the MPA boundaries are designated appropriately, and to provide a baseline to monitor the MPA in the future.

CCC still has room on its summer programs so [book on](#) now to contribute to the creation of Marine Protected Areas!



Oliver McGuinness takes over as FBM on Philippines site.



A high spec aerial view of the reefs at Little Bay and Rendezvous. Courtesy of the Dept of Planning.

Philippines

It's time to say farewell to our fantastic Field Base manager (FBM), Rob King. This will have been Rob's eighth expedition with CCC and he will be joining us again as FBM on our Montserrat site at the end of this year. Rob will be replaced by Olly McGuinness who knows the Philippines site well after joining us as a Scuba Instructor in 2014.

In addition to his diving career Olly has been active in the world of conservation for nearly 10 years, having worked for Turtle research and conservation projects in Guatemala, as well as other research expeditions in the Caribbean and Mexico. He holds a diploma in Marine Biology and is in the final stages of completing a degree in Natural Sciences. Good luck Olly, we're sure you will have a successful stay!

Montserrat

The survey methodology will be having a makeover this month as we will be tailoring the way we collect our data to better suit the topography of Caribbean reefs. Unlike Filipino reefs which can have up to 80% coral cover, Caribbean reefs are typically patchier with between 10-15% cover separated by sandy areas. This means that many surveys end up being held on areas of sand which gives an inexact impression of what the reefs are actually like.

We are now planning to use the Department of Planning's 2010 aerial survey of Montserrat to create a more targeted surveying plan, rather than evenly spaced transects at 500m intervals (a methodology perfect for the Philippines but not for Montserrat). We can't wait to get stuck in!

The Lifesigns Group

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



Our Head of Operations, Tristan, was exploring the lands of Vlad and Bram recently when he grabbed the opportunity to join a recce to Romania with Kenny (previous CCC Field Base Manager). Safety is always of the utmost importance so before Lifesigns' expedition groups head out this summer it was Kenny and Tristan's job to test out all of the hiking routes, accommodation and markets. Along with their guide, Ciri, they enjoyed the beautiful views at the peak of Omu in the Bucegi Mountains, visited a monastery built into the rock and feasted on local goat stew. Not a bad week's work really! This summer's groups are in for a treat!

Offer of the month!

One for our diving enthusiasts this month! **Book** for a stay of at least 6 weeks on a marine expedition and we will gift you with a **free rescue course!** Just mention 'RescueMay' in the comments section of the booking form. T&Cs apply.

Offer applies to both the Montserrat and Philippines site. Expedition start date must be within 2015. Offer applies to PADI Rescue training only. Offer does not include Rescue manual or PIC. Offer expires 15th June 2015. Cannot be combined with any other offer.