

# Cambodia Reef Conservation Project (CRCP)



Ministry of Agriculture,  
Forestry and Fisheries  
Fisheries Administration

## Monthly Project Update

February 2013

### Location:

Prek Svey Village, Koh Rong, Sihanoukville, Cambodia

Project Manager - Sophie Clay

## CRCP Project Aim

**The Cambodia Reef Conservation Project (CRCP) is a collaborative project surveying the coral reefs of Koh Rong and Koh Rong Samloem Islands in the Municipality of Sihanoukville. The programme provides training and conservation education opportunities for local Cambodians as part of an integrated programme to develop local capacity, and to ensure the long-term protection and sustainable use of marine resources throughout the region. Coral Cay Conservation (CCC) is working at the invitation of and in partnership with the Fisheries Administration of the Royal Government of Cambodia.**

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## Latest News

This month we have had new volunteers and a new staff member arriving on site. We were pleased to welcome our new Science Officer, James Clark, who has worked on a number of marine and terrestrial conservation projects around the world. Along with the new volunteers, James has been hard at work preparing to conduct surveys of the reefs around Koh Rong. This month we have been developing educational games, one of Project Coordinator, Sok Sopheary's strengths! These games will be used by volunteers and staff to introduce concepts of marine conservation and sustainable resource use to the children of Prek Svey in a fun and interactive way. The first games we are developing are focused on learning different marine species commonly found in the waters of Koh Rong; and learning about the impacts of rubbish and pollution on the oceans. CCC volunteers have also been cleaning up some of the local beaches this month to make them safer for wildlife.



CCC volunteers with rubbish collected on a local beach

## Story of the month



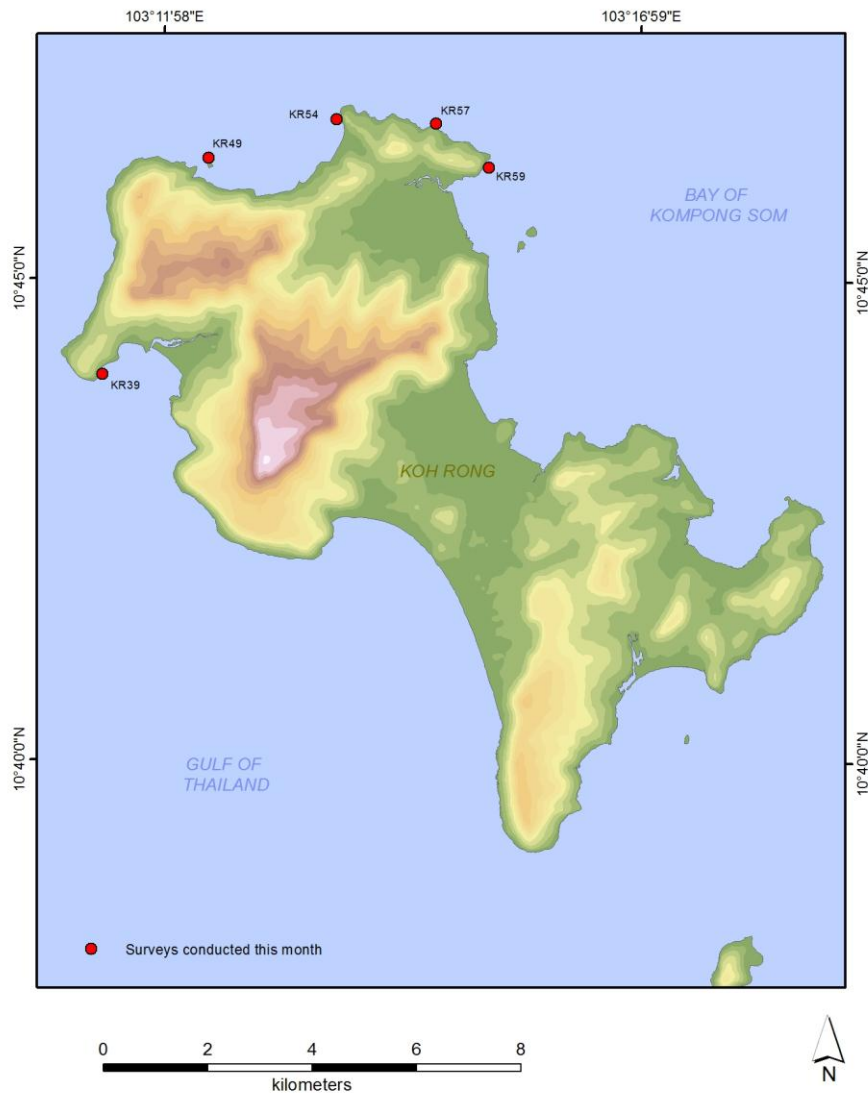
CCC volunteers and staff have taken part in an a local festival to honour spirits and protect homes and villagers. After making a clothed stick figure to watch over our project site we attended a blessing conducted by the monks of the island and made offerings of incense and food such as rice, sugar and other items. These offerings from the community were placed inside a special boat which was sent out from the island the following day for the spirits. This was a great occasion to experience the local customs and practices and be involved in the local community in Prek Svey.

## Survey Update

**Survey background:** Our baseline-surveying programme is designed to gather data about the biological and morphological standing of Koh Rong and Koh Rong Samloem Islands. This data is combined with information on human and natural impacts on the reefs, along with oceanographic data, to ultimately produce a Geographical Information System 'map' of the various habitats of the islands. It is like a 'stock-take' of the current marine resources. This will provide policymakers and concerned institutions with information necessary to effectively manage those resources. We are also monitoring the reefs for signs of bleaching, following the mass bleaching event in 2010.

February has seen the successful re-launch of our survey schedule with the new volunteers making good progress. We have begun conducting the second round of surveys around Koh Rong, with five northerly sites having been surveyed since completion of the Skills Development Program training. March is set to be a busy month for surveys with 3 long term volunteers aiming to be surveying every day, and two more volunteers arriving soon to join the team!

## Cambodia Reef Conservation Project February 2013



### Marine Creature of the Month

#### ***Flabellina rubrolineata*** **Family Flabellinidae**

February's marine creature of the month has been sighted in many survey sites around the north of Koh Rong. *Flabellina rubrolineata* is a beautifully coloured species of nudibranch (or sea slug) with characteristic tentacle-like growths covering their body. This species of *Flabellina* grows to 40mm but this critter was only about 7mm in length. *Flabellina* nudibranchs are interesting in that they take the stinging cells of their prey, hydroids, and incorporate these into their own body for defence.

