

Cambodia Reef Conservation Project (CRCP)

Monthly Project Update

May 2013

Location:

Prek Svey Village, Koh Rong, Sihanoukville, Cambodia

Project Manager - Sophie Clay



Ministry of Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries
Fisheries Administration

CRCP Project Aim

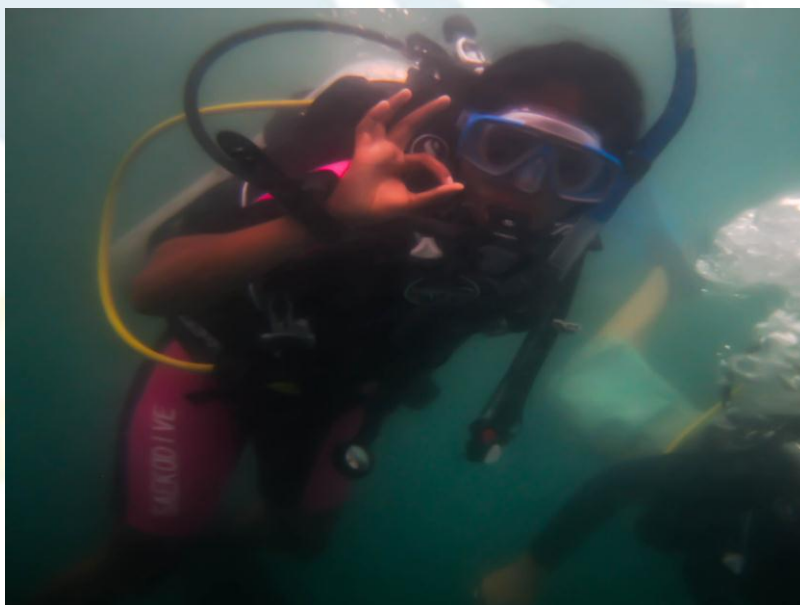
The Cambodia Reef Conservation Project (CRCP) is a collaborative project surveying the coral reefs of Koh Rong and Koh Rong Samloem Islands in the Municipality of Sihanoukville. The programme provides training and conservation education opportunities for local Cambodians as part of an integrated programme 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 has seen our first Khmer national scholar certified as an Open Water diver. Huge congratulations to Ret for all the hard work she has put in, from learning to swim in January to becoming a certified diver just a few short months later! We also had a visit from Neil Furey of Fauna and Flora International and the Royal University of Phnom Penh to work together with CCC staff and Ret to finalise her research objectives for her Master's thesis. We had a productive few days with Neil on site, discussing data collected by CCC and the interesting analyses that Ret will undertake.



CCC's Cambodian scholar, and now Open Water Diver, Thaung Ret gives the 'OK' sign on a dive

Story of the month

During May we have launched our education program with CCC's Project Coordinator, Sok Sopheary, giving the first lessons to students in grade 7 at Prek Svay Secondary School. The age range in grade 7 is from 12 to 17 years old. The education program will run for 3 months and cover topics related to environmental issues, biodiversity conservation, sustainable fishing, pollution and water. Both terrestrial and marine environmental issues and challenges will be addressed through activities, songs and games. The program will focus in on marine issues in greater depth over the coming months.



Students from Prek Svay Secondary school participate in CCC's environmental education programme with CCC's Project Coordinator, Sok Sopheary (right)

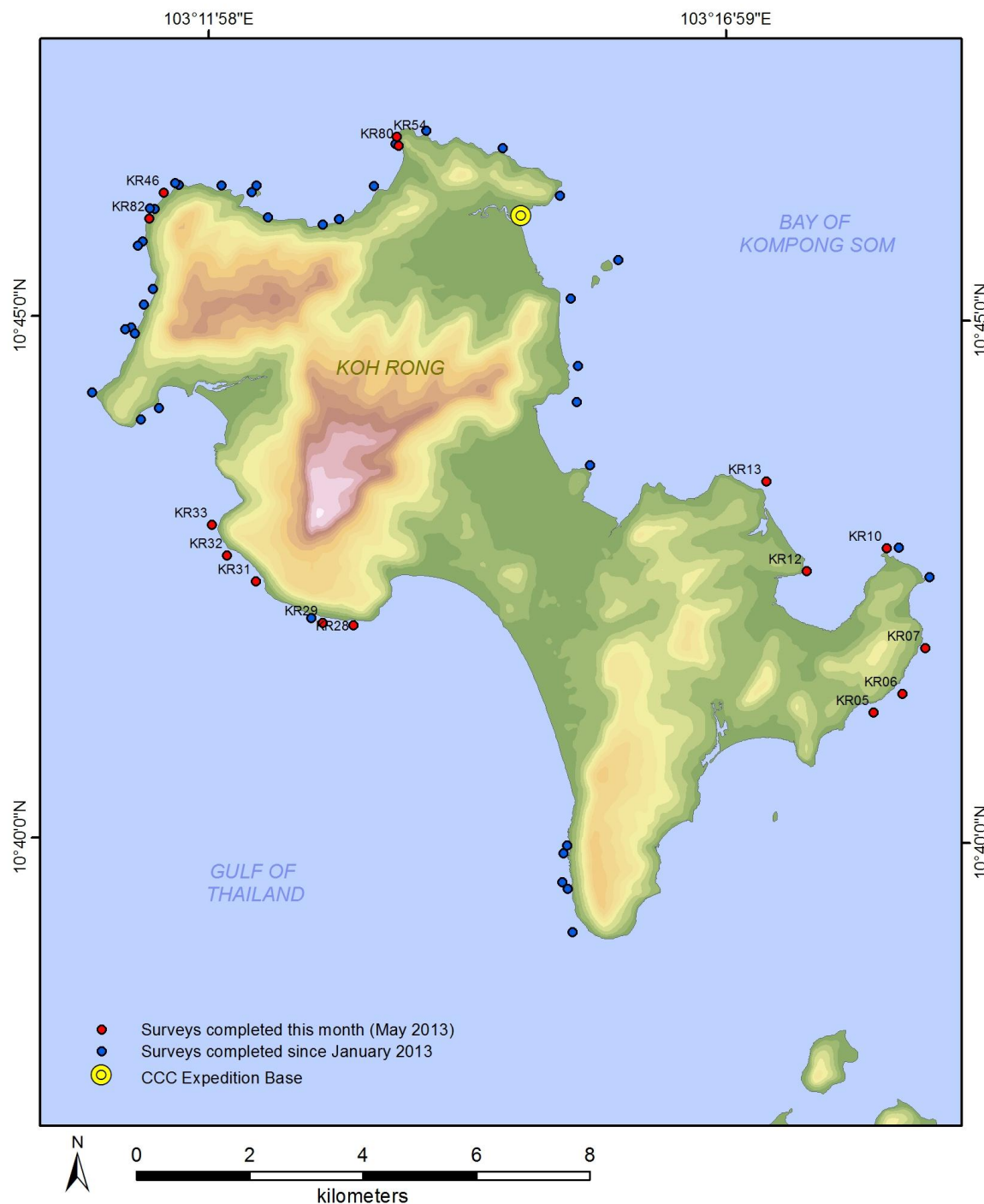
Survey Update

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.

Cambodia Reef Conservation Project May 2013



May has seen continued progress on the survey front with sixty per cent of our Koh Rong survey sites now completed. In addition we have been strengthening our baseline data by surveying extra sites in between previous survey points. This is ideal when we are facing challenges due to the weather and helps provide yet more comprehensive data on marine resources surrounding Koh Rong.



Marine Creature of the Month

Gymnothorax thrysoideus
White eyed moray eel
Family Muraenidae

The white eyed moray eel is the most commonly seen moray around Koh Rong. Often we find more than one in the same location! Morays are known to exhibit cooperative hunting behaviour, often seen hunting with fish such as groupers. This is the only example of interspecies cooperative hunting known to occur!!



Learn More!

To learn more about CCC's Cambodia project, to join the expedition, or to find out about local Marine Scholarship opportunities, visit www.coralcay.org or email cambodia@coralcay.org.