



## PRESS RELEASE

5 September 2006

### **Coral Cay Conservation awarded Darwin grant**

Coral Cay Conservation (CCC) is recruiting volunteers for a 10-week expedition to Papua New Guinea, after being awarded a grant from the Darwin Initiative.

The Darwin Initiative is a grants programme that aims to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of resources around the world. The grant will enable CCC to undertake a three-year community based forest conservation project in Papua New Guinea.

The expedition, which begins in January 2007, will focus on developing alternative livelihood schemes for local people and their future generations. CCC will work closely with the people of the Waria Valley areas and in partnership with their development arm organisation, Morobe Bris Kanda (MBK) to assist them in furthering their aim to develop sustainable income through eco-tourism and eco-forestry. MBK was formed as a direct result of communities voicing their concerns about long-term environmental effects. The forests are home to an estimated 10,000 people who are solely dependent on natural resources of these forests for food and other daily uses.

Papua New Guinea is located in the south-western Pacific Ocean and forms part of the world's third largest block of unbroken tropical rainforest. The project will enforce environmental education and training programmes for local communities, plus biodiversity assessments of forest resources. Volunteers will help to make a positive impact on the conservation of a unique and beautiful habitat - a truly unforgettable experience for everyone.

Pete Raines MBE, founder and CEO of CCC commented: *"This project is located in one of the most breathtaking and remote tropical forests on earth. Joining one of the planned CCC expeditions to PNG will be the ultimate experience of a lifetime for those fortunate enough to be allocated a place."*

The Coral Cay Conservation offers expedition opportunities to suit groups and individuals. As a result, CCC expedition teams are made up of a diverse range of age groups, backgrounds and occupations.

This 10-week placement departs 17 January 2007 and is priced at £2000, which includes accommodation, food, plus expedition and research training.

To find out more call ++44 (0) 870 750 0668 or visit [www.coralcay.org](http://www.coralcay.org)

**Note to Editors**

1. For further information on Coral Cay Conservation please visit [www.coralcay.org](http://www.coralcay.org) or contact Laura Timms (PR and Communications Manager) via e-mail at [lt@coralcay.org](mailto:lt@coralcay.org) or telephone on +44 (0) 870 750 06682.
2. Imagery available on request: Email: [lt@coralcay.org](mailto:lt@coralcay.org)

# 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.

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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: The 2003 pilot project leads to the launch of the Malaysia Tropical Forests Conservation Project and the Malaysia Coral Reef Conservation Project
- 2005: At the invitation of the Royal Thai Government, CCC undertook a period of impact assessment resulting from the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami in the Surin Island National Park.
- 2006: CCC awarded a grant from the Darwin Initiative to undertake a three year Waria Valley Rainforest Conservation Project in Papua New Guinea, which begins in January 2007.
- 2006: CCC's Tobago Coastal Ecosystems Mapping Project begins in October for a minimum period of 3 years.

## **CCC Charitable Trust (UK Charity no. 1025534)**

**President: Sir Bruce MacPhail**

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;
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## **CORAL CAY CONSERVATION**

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**Website:** [www.coralcay.org](http://www.coralcay.org)



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**September 2006**

### **New Projects in Papua New Guinea and Fiji**

Coral Cay Conservation has launched 2 major conservation projects with pioneering exhibitions in Fiji and the Philippines.

Both expeditions will provide unique opportunities and an experience of a lifetime for adventurous volunteers from the UK and worldwide, whom will help to survey and help protect some of the world's most endangered coral reefs and rainforests.

#### **Note to Editors**

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- 2006: CCC awarded a Darwin Initiative Grant to undertake a community-based forest conservation project in Papua New Guinea. CCC invited by the Buccoo Reef Trust (BRT) and the Tobago House of Assembly (THA), to commence a reef survey programme in Trinidad & Tobago.

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**August 2006**

### **New Projects in Papua New Guinea and Palawan**

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Immediate Release**

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA RAINFOREST EXPEDITION CONCLUDES WITH EXCITING FINDINGS!**

The Coral Cay Conservation and Darwin Initiative's Waria Valley community-based conservation project in Papua New Guinea (PNG) has successfully concluded.

This project included the first ever rainforest surveys to be conducted in the Waria Valley and volunteers not only assisted with establishing alternative livelihood scheme, but also made important discoveries! The hard work and 16 hour days resulted in over 221 species of birds, bats, mammals, reptiles and amphibians being identified – a truly monumental effort from all those involved!

What's more exciting is that 10 of the frog species and 15 species of the reptiles require formal identification by experts, which could possibly mean the discovery of a new species.

The data collected provides an indication of what species are present in the lower Waria Valley and how their diversity and abundance differ between habitat types. The information gathered will now be analysed and habitat /species maps can be developed for measured and effective community lead conservation management in the area.

In addition to surveying, mapping and species identification, volunteers helped to implement a number of engaging and imaginative alternative livelihood projects. The projects included: building chicken houses for people to raise their own chickens for food, a tree nursery for reforestation, training people in pond construction for sustainable fishing and helping the St. John's women's group with baking and sewing projects, which would provide uniforms for local elementary schools. All of these activities will greatly help to reduce the locals' dependency on the rainforest, therefore contributing to its conservation, while giving local communities the skills and knowledge needed to improve their standard of living in a way that best suits them.

All of the hard work by the local community, CCC and JFA staff members has led to the development of an environmental management plan for the future. Part of this plan aims to have the Waria Valley Conservation Project registered as a local NGO, which will ensure the continued conservation success of the work ignited by CCC, The Darwin Initiative, JFA and most importantly the people of the Waria Valley!

*'The project... achieved successes on many fronts, in research, education, training and livelihoods, but... the challenge remains, to build on the fantastic foundation set by the Darwin Initiative project, and ultimately achieve local sustainable development based on benefits derived for local land owners from local forest biodiversity.'*

Dr. Craig Turner, Research Leader

*'The project brief and location provided many challenges, which, thanks to the support and hard work of my fellow international staff, local staff team, project partners and especially the local community we were able to overcome... without the local community's support throughout my time there, the achievements we made would not have been possible.'*

Jeff Dawson, Chief Scientist

**-ENDS-**

## Note to Editors: (Organisations involved)

### **Bris Kanda Inc. (BK)**



Bris Kanda Inc. (BK) acted as the main project partner for the Waria Valley Conservation Project. The Rural Business Development Officer of BK stayed at the project field house in Nero and visited small enterprises in the area, including the local women's group. He returned regularly to provide advice to local businesses. Bris Kanda was established in 2006, through a bottom-up approach, in to create links between rural communities and local private businesses. To find out more information about the work of Bris Kanda, visit, <http://www.nzaid.govt.nz/library/currents/archived-currents/currents-7-all-low-res-feb08.pdf>

### **Coral Cay Conservation (CCC)** ([www.coralcay.org](http://www.coralcay.org))



CCC is a UK-based not-for-profit NGO at the cutting edge of conservation. Established in 1986, Coral Cay's mission is to protect, manage and preserve coral reefs and tropical rainforests around the world by working closely with those communities who depend on them for food and livelihoods. At the invitation of governments and NGO's in host countries, CCC works to protect some of the most endangered reefs around the world.

### **Darwin Initiative** ([darwin.defra.gov.uk](http://darwin.defra.gov.uk))



The Darwin Initiative was announced by the UK Government at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. The aim of the Initiative is to assist those countries, which are rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) through the funding of collaborative projects, which draw on UK biodiversity expertise. The Darwin Advisory Committee consisting of experts from government, academic, science and the private sector, advises Ministers on development of the Initiative and makes recommendations on applications for funding.

### **Forest Research Institute, Papua New Guinea (FRI)** ([www.fao.org/DOCREP/003/X1576E/X1576E06.htm](http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/003/X1576E/X1576E06.htm))



The Waria Valley Conservation Project was officially launched at the Forest Research Institute in Lae (Morobe Province) at the end of September 2007 by the Hon Sasa Zibe, the former Minister for Environment. The FRI is responsible for researching and providing scientific information for the sustainable management of Papua New Guinea's forests.

### **Jacqueline Fisher Associates Ltd (JFA)** ([www.jfa.co.uk](http://www.jfa.co.uk))



JFA Ltd is a well-respected independent environmental consultancy, specialising in the UK in issues related to land use planning. Together with our sister company JFA Landscape they offer powerful and effective integrated solutions to contemporary development challenges. JFA are specialists in ecological surveys, environmental assessments and management and have overseen the biodiversity assessment and GIS development of the project. With a team of very experienced tropical forest specialists they were key to delivering the key objectives of this project.

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**Papua New Guinea University of Technology, (Unitech) Department of Forestry**



Ten third-year PNG Unitech forestry students attended a weeklong practical course on biodiversity and conservation run by WVCP staff during 2007. Unitech's Forestry Department is the only institution in the South Pacific region that offers training in tropical forestry at professional level. The forestry curriculum at Unitech was thoroughly revised in 1996 in order to produce graduates who would not only have attained necessary technical skills, but a liberal education as well.

**Village Development Trust (VDT) ([www.global.net.pg/vdt/](http://www.global.net.pg/vdt/))**



Village Development Trust (VDT) is an indigenous non-government organisation that has been working in PNG and throughout the South Pacific since 1990. It has become recognised as a leader in the fields of eco-forestry and conservation. Its work has evolved over this time to include a series of courses and workshops, professional field support services, education aids, and model projects that emphasise an integrated approach to the issues of conservation awareness, environmental protection, and the practical sustainable development of village resources.



## PRESS RELEASE

28 September 2006

### Coral Cay Conservation launches Papua New Guinea project at the Forestry Research Institute

The Papua New Guinea conservation project has officially been launched at the Forestry Research Institute in Lae (Morobe Province) today by the Hon Sasa Zibe, the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, and senior delegates from Coral Cay Conservation.

The project is a partnership between Coral Cay Conservation (CCC), the Waria Valley Community, Department for Environment and Conservation, JFA Ltd, Village Development Trust, Forestry Research Institute, Morobe Bris Kanda Association (MBK) and Unitech.

The project, which has received funding from the Darwin Initiative, will work closely with the Waria Valley community focusing on developing alternative livelihood schemes for local people and their future generations. This area forms part of the world's third largest block of unbroken tropical rainforest but is potentially threatened by the long-term environmental damage of large scale logging concessions. The forests are home to an estimated 10,000 people who are solely dependent on natural resources of these forests for food and other daily uses.

The project will provide environmental education and training programmes for local people, plus biodiversity assessments of forest resources. Ultimately this project's primary objective is to help local people and nongovernmental entities to manage and conserve Papua New Guinea's extensive forest reserves. While activities will continue year round with CCC staff on the ground volunteers will embark on a 10-week expedition in January 2007. The expedition base is located in small villages within the Waria Valley within the boundaries of the rainforest and volunteers will be accommodated in traditional village huts.

James Sawyer, CCC Operations Director commented: 'This is a unique project for Papua New Guinea and its peoples which offers an exciting multi party approach to conservation and development. It is truly a project where the objectives will evolve from community ideas and interests'

The launch involves talks from the Forestry Research Institute, Dr Craig Turner (Director Of Ecology and Sustainability, JFA Ltd) on project background and CCC Operations Director James Sawyer on Project Objectives.

Coral Cay Conservation is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation that trains volunteers to collect scientific data to aid conservation. Its aim is to provide resources to help sustain livelihoods and alleviate poverty through the protection, restoration and management of coral reefs and tropical forests.

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- 2005: At the invitation of the Royal Thai Government, CCC science staff undertook a period of research into the impacts on the corals reefs of the Surin Islands National Park resulting from the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.
- 2006: CCC awarded a grant from the UK-based Darwin Initiative to undertake a three-year project in Papua New Guinea. The project, which begins in January 2007, is called the Waria Valley Rainforest Conservation Project.
- 2006: CCC's Tobago Coastal Ecosystems Mapping Project is scheduled to start in the first quarter of 2007 for a minimum period of 2 years.

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