

# CoralWatch Activity Summary 2014-2015



### **Overview CoralWatch mission**

## CoralWatch promotes healthy reefs by:

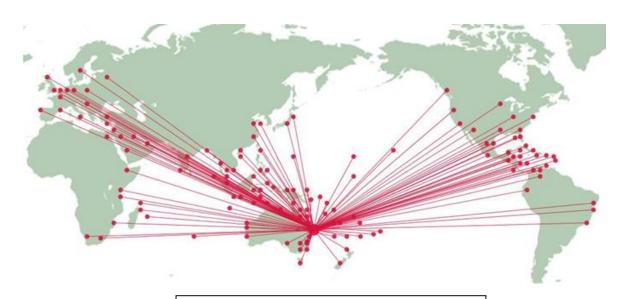
- Raising public awareness about importance of reefs, conservation, sustainability, and climate change
- Developing and distributing education materials for diverse audiences
- Engaging the global community in monitoring coral health and coral bleaching



# **Outputs of core activities**

# Citizen Science – Australia's leading coral reef citizen science program with >10 years of data

- >10,000 Coralwatch cards distributed
- Data collected by >3000 individuals
- 1849 CoralWatch members
- 4693 reef surveys
- 105183 corals measured
- 70 countries returning data
- Monitoring materials in 11 languages
- Web-based and Phone App data collection methods available in two languages
- >80 PADI diving instructors registered as CoralWatch Specialty providers
- Peer reviewed method: Marshall et al. (2012) CoralWatch: education, monitoring, and sustainability through citizen science. Front Ecol Environ 10(6): 332–334.
- Member of the Great Barrier Reef Citizen Science Alliance



Global distribution of CoralWatch materials

## Education – high quality educational products for schools and communities

- Online materials downloaded 97,000 times
- Products sold and distributed in 80 countries
- Books and Education packs available in English and Bahasa Indonesia
- 4000 copies of book "Coral Reefs and Climate Change" sold / distributed in 2 languages
- DVD to go with book launched 2013, > 1000 distributed
- Marine Science Year 11 and 12 curriculum-linked lesson plan: *Healthy Reefs from polyp to policy*. Developed and distributed to Australian secondary schools.
- In 2012, 800 education packs distributed in Indonesia
- e-book launched in 2013 on itunes

#### Workshops and Engagement – includes upcoming events for 2015

- Regular media coverage in Australia and Indonesia
- Social newsletter subscribed to by >3200
- 3,000 Facebook friends
- Teachers' workshops annually since 2002, 10 workshops in 2014 and accelerating on demand
- 2014/15 Reef Ambassadors program initiated
- 2014 Primary School guide program initiated
- May 2015 CoralWatch Seminar and Workshops in Indonesia
- May 2015 UQ Lecture and Field Workshop Corals at Your Doorstep
- August 2015 Workshop for international BrainBee competition
- August 2015 Science Week Workshop
- October 2015 Senior Science Biology teachers workshop Heron Island

## **Recent Highlights**

• Launch of CoralWatch Indonesia website (http://id.coralwatch.org) with all material in Bahasa Indonesia

CoralWatch has generated educational materials in the areas of marine science, reef monitoring and climate change that are in Bahasa Indonesia. The new CoralWatch website provides free access to these educational materials, including the Bahasa Indonesia edition of the book Coral Reefs and Climate Change, workbooks for educators, reef monitoring materials, presentations and videos.



This website and project were promoted via a series of lectures, workshops and other events in 2014 in North Sulawesi, Bali, Lombok and Jakarta. These events attracted more than **400 attendees** from diverse professional and community organisations. Since the launch of the website in March 2014, CoralWatch educational materials have been downloaded from the website more than 3000 times.

### • New CoralWatch Coral Health Chart data app and ebook for smart phones

Through an innovative grant from ISIF Asia, CoralWatch has developed a new data entry app to facilitate easier upload and download of data and resources from the CoralWatch website. The freely available app will officially be launched in May 2015 in both English and Bahasa Indonesia. The launch will be accompanied with workshops in Indonesia and Australia.

New 4-day in-depth professional development workshop for teachers at Heron Island

Research Station (Oct 2014, 12 participants).

Through academic lectures, snorkeling and reef walking sessions, we extended the teachers' knowledge of the biology, ecology and diversity of coral reefs and the threats they face. In addition to using the Coral Health Chart other reef monitoring techniques were taught and teachers discovered how to inspire students with CoralWatch resources such as the Virtual Reef, the Reef Education Package



and the curriculum-linked 'Healthy Reefs, From Polyp to Policy' unit plan.

CoralWatch became an official member of Great Barrier Reef
Citizen Science Alliance



(http://greatbarrierreefcitizenscience.org.au/)

The Alliance, initiated and funded by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, aims to support collaboration between citizen science groups across the reef, promote and raise the credibility of citizen science, optimize the use of citizen science data and raise general awareness of the reef environment.

Initiation of CoralWatch Ambassadors Program - Indonesian trial

CoralWatch has completed an initial feasibility trial of a CoralWatch Ambassadors' programme. We are now seeking funding to launch a full Ambassadors programme in Indonesia and Australia. The programme will provide training, resources and on-going mentoring to local citizens to become environmental leaders and reef stewards in their communities. Ambassadors will collect data from their local reefs and promote reef awareness and conservation by running events and giving CoralWatch presentations within their communities.