

Project Update: January 2009

Since Feb 15, 2008, with RSG support, we had taken the following methods to realize our educational and conservational goals. A complete underwater survey of the existing coral reefs spanning about 8 kilo-meters along the eastern Hepu coast had been conducted to make a comprehensive video record of the current coral reef ecology and the video data of coral reefs had been used to make various educational materials such as posters and VCD for distribution among local communities consisting of 942 families covering fishermen and school students at all levels. Local communities have gradually been aware of the harm of their current breeding and fishing activities and learnt and grasped the technology and necessity of sustainable breeding and fishing under the direction of my team. Staffs from local governmental agencies of environmental protection had also been involved to make pertinent presentations of legal aspects of coral reef nature conservation to local communities.

Currently, we are helping the local communities to design an underwater ecological tourism industry plan, which can bring both economical benefits and environmental benefits to local people.