

Project Update: October 2011

Our last visit was to Gaua Island to the villages Ontar and Dolab. The villages are located in the Pwetevut Bay on the south-west Coast of Gaua Island in Torba province. This was the first visit by OceansWatch to this community. The people on this island were very friendly and seemed very interested in OceansWatch and finding out about their reefs and how they could manage them better.

Overall while in Vanuatu this time we worked with nine communities and gave six school lessons on the marine environment. We also held eight film nights in the villages where we showed marine documentaries and children's films. To monitor the reefs we carried out twelve Reef Check surveys. However, where we make the most difference in these communities is in empowering the people and in building their capacity to manage their own resources and so become more sustainable for the future.

