

## **Project Update: December 2007**

The 1st fieldtrip has been carried out in October 11 to October 25 at the central provinces of Ninh Thuan Province (Ca Na, My Hung and Vinh Trung fishing village), Khanh Hoa Province (Vinh Truong, Cau Da fishing village, Dam souvenir central market and Nha Trang whole sale wet market), Phu Yen Province (Phu Hoa and An Dong Fishing village). The field staffs spent the time to deliver the questionnaire form to ask the reef users filling up (they are fishermen, and traders of the reef animals such as coral, giant clam, live reef food fish and marine aquarium fish). Several local authorities in 3 provinces belonging to the Department of Fisheries have contributed the statistical data in recent years about the exploitation status of reef in their vicinity for further review and promise to have close collaboration with the project activities when needed.

In this fieldtrip the field staffs did the survey in depth about how the coral reef resources have been depleted in recent years at the central provinces based on examination of several damaged fishing practices such as diving with the compressor (harvest all the things that diver can see underwater), coral digging for production of cement and souvenir purposes, three layer reef net with very small mesh size to hunt the reef aquarium species. In addition with that the field staffs also tried to explore the trading network of the coral reef animal at the study sites. After finishing the trip, the project members will spend the time for data analysis and prepare the materials for the public awareness programs that expect to carry out on March, 2008.