



## PRESS RELEASE

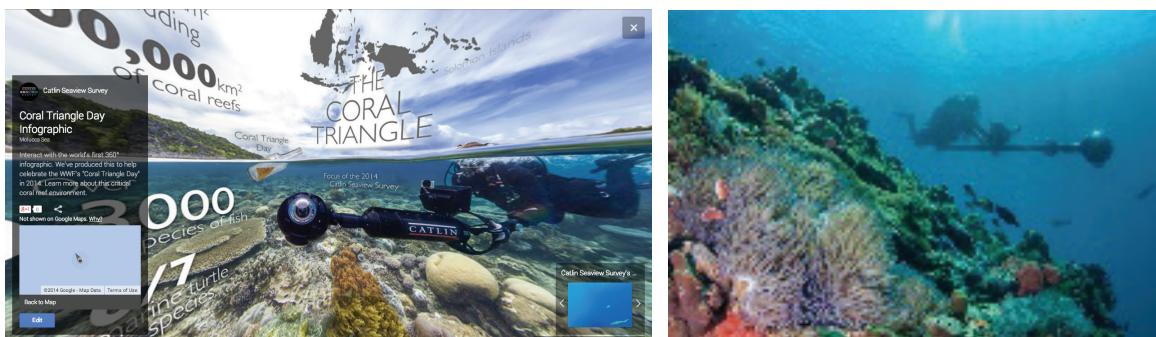
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# CATLIN SEAVIEW SURVEY ANNOUNCES A FOCUS ON THE CORAL TRIANGLE REGION – ON CORAL TRIANGLE DAY

**Panoramic images & world's first 360° infographic released for Coral Triangle Day.**

**Year of science surveys capture essential data about the health of coral reef ecosystems in the Coral Triangle and reveal their unique beauty in remarkable images.**

**Information from Catlin Seaview Survey can help coastal people and communities.**



*The world's first 360° infographic (l) & new imagery (r) released today by the Catlin Seaview Survey to celebrate Coral Triangle Day. Full infographic here: [http://bit.ly/CT\\_info](http://bit.ly/CT_info) and full imagery gallery here: <http://catlinseaviewsurvey.zenfolio.com/coraltriangleday2014>*

*June 9<sup>th</sup>, Singapore. The [Catlin Seaview Survey](#), sponsored by international insurance company [Catlin Group Limited](#), has today released a series of stunning panoramic images and the world's first '360-degree photo infographic' to celebrate [Coral Triangle Day](#). The first panoramic photos from [Tubbataha](#), Philippines, have just been published in Street View on Google Maps, giving anyone with internet-access an unrivalled view of this World Heritage*

recognized ecosystem. The [Coral Triangle Infographic](#) can be viewed in the Catlin Seaview Survey's [Google Views page](#) and will also be shared by [thecoraltriangle.com](#).

"This is a chance to experience a virtual exploration from the comfort of your own home" says [Richard Vevers](#), Project Director for the Catlin Seaview Survey. "Few people, even local communities, have ever seen what a reef looks like."

Using a revolutionary 360-degree panoramic camera, the [SVII](#), the Catlin Seaview Survey team captures images every three seconds as it moves along the reef. The thousands of images it takes at each location are then analyzed by cutting edge 'image recognition' software to produce a baseline record which is openly available at [www.catlinglobalreefrecord.org](#).

The Catlin Seaview Survey is [undertaking surveys throughout 2014 in the Coral Triangle](#) as part of its global scientific programme to create an extensive baseline study of reefs. The data will help in local reef management and to identify how coastal communities can continue to benefit from the rich marine world around the coral reefs.

"The Catlin Seaview Survey is a potential game-changer for the conservation of the Coral Triangle's reefs and for the people who live near them" said Richard Vevers. "There is an obvious link between the health of the reefs and the health of local people. If our images can help people to see the value of these very special natural wonders, it will be much easier to get support for conservation efforts to maintain the coral reefs' health. The project will not only reveal these sites, it will also show changes over time. Positive and negative impacts from how we use our oceans will be plainly visible for all to see. It's an exciting time for marine science and conservation in the region."

[Paolo Mangahas](#), Senior Communications Manager of the [WWF Coral Triangle Programme](#), said: "Whilst coral reefs may be hidden from view below the ocean surface, they are a rich resource. They are important for people's livelihoods and as a source for food, provide some protection from storms and boost economies by bringing tourists to the region and supporting fisheries. But they are highly vulnerable to pollution and over-fishing."

Mark Newman, Chief Executive in Singapore for international specialist insurer [Catlin Group Limited](#), said: "If there is damage to coral reefs from extreme weather, climate change and human activity there could be economic consequences for coastal populations. Where there are potential risks like these, we need to understand the ecosystems better."

Leading the scientific programme for the Catlin Seaview Survey is [Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg](#) Director of the [Global Change Institute](#) at The [University of Queensland](#). Other partners include the [Scripps Institute](#) in San Diego, the US [National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration](#) and the international conservation organization, [IUCN](#).

"We live in a rapidly changing world in which Marine World Heritage sites have come under increased pressure from human activities. Science-based evidence forms a crucial link in protecting these sites," said Professor Hoegh-Guldberg. "Our project is laying down important baseline information for understanding and responding to the changes - it is a vital part of the strategy for protecting these wonderful areas in perpetuity."

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#### MEDIA PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS:



Media photos of the underwater survey can be downloaded at:

<http://catlinseaviewsurvey.zenfolio.com/coraltriangleday2014>

Infographic Link:

[http://bit.ly/CT\\_info](http://bit.ly/CT_info)

Please credit all images as listed in media gallery. (Free use with credit to Catlin Seaview Survey, no on-pass)

## **About the Catlin Seaview Survey**

The Catlin Seaview Survey is a pioneering scientific expedition revealing more than ever before the impact of environmental changes on the world's coral reefs. The Survey aims to significantly expand the data available to scientists about global coral reef systems. The Catlin Seaview Survey is currently focusing on the Coral Triangle having previously completed ground-breaking scientific studies of the Great Barrier Reef and Caribbean region. The images it captures are being used to create a vital scientific baseline study of the reef that can be used to monitor change, as well as being used to reveal it to the world through Street View in Google Maps - in partnership with Google.

More information about the Catlin Seaview Survey can be found here:

<http://www.catlinseaviewsurvey.com>

You can also engage with the Catlin Seaview Survey and its 3.3 million followers on Google+ here: <https://plus.google.com/+CatlinSeaviewSurvey/posts>

## **About Catlin**

Catlin Group Limited is a global specialty property/casualty insurer and reinsurer operating worldwide through six underwriting hubs: London/UK, Bermuda, the United States, Asia Pacific, Europe, and Canada. The Catlin Seaview Survey is the second major scientific project Catlin has sponsored. The Catlin Arctic Survey (2009-2011) investigated the impact of environmental changes in the Arctic. Catlin believes that insurers must take a leading role in improving the understanding of potential changes to our environment, changes that could affect how risks are managed in the future. Catlin's contribution is to sponsor independent, impartial research that is freely distributed to the world's scientific community.

<http://www.catlin.com/>

## **About Coral Triangle Day**

June 9 was officially recognized as the Coral Triangle Day at the 4<sup>th</sup> Coral Triangle Initiative Ministerial Meeting held in Putrajaya, Malaysia in November 2012. This has proven to be a critical impetus for national governments, local communities, private establishments, and individual supporters to take action on this special day and express their support for this region's valuable marine resources through varied activities around the Coral Triangle region. This year's theme is healthy corals, healthy people – making a clear connection between the wellbeing of coastal communities and the health of coral reefs.

<http://www.coraltriangleinitiative.org/>

## **About the Global Change Institute, The University of Queensland**

The [Global Change Institute](#) at The University of Queensland, Australia, is an independent source of game-changing research, ideas and advice for addressing the challenges of global change. The GCI advances discovery, creates solutions and advocates responses that meet the challenges presented by climate change, technological innovation and population change. Measured through a combination of three key global university rankings — The Times Higher Education, Shanghai Jiao Tong and QS World University — [The University of Queensland](#) is currently ranked in the top 100 of all universities worldwide.