



SHARK & RAY CONSERVATION, PNG



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ABOUT CI

Mr Ian Gowrie-Smith a self made man whom now owns a number of properties around the globe, is the proud owner of one of the last freehold atolls in the world, [The Conflict Islands](#). These islands are an extraordinary rare jewel at the epicenter of the worlds best diving, and recognizing their ecological and environmental importance Ian, or IGS as he is known, decided to fund and set up Conflict Islands Conservation Initiative in 2017. He wished to preserve the islands for future generations to enjoy, and conserve the island' natural beauty and protection of its species.

"We dont have an option to do nothing, if we dont do anything, these islands will deteriorate to the point where the world class corals and bio-diversity will perish." Mr Ian Gowrie-Smith

On behalf of IGS and CICI we would like to welcome you as you enter an elite group of people who have dedicated their time to help conserve and protect the turtles of Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea is an incredible country with a rich history and incredibly diverse culture. There are more than a 800 cultural groups and languages in and some areas still relatively untouched by the western world. Milne Bay is known as a very peaceful province within. Once you arrive at the pristine Conflict Islands, you will be staying, either on the Undersea Explorer or camping on one of our uninhabited islands.

Located in the pristine waters of The Coral Sea, the Conflict Islands comprise of 21 untouched islands and boast one of the most extensive biodiversity and coral reefs in the world.

With a third of the world's species of marine fish, the Conflict Islands are home to everything from the tiny ghost pipe fish to the huge manta rays and pilot whales. The 21 **uninhabited** tropical islands surround a spectacular lagoon and are currently under consideration for a World Heritage Marine Site. Among the group of islands, Irai Island has been found to have the second-best coral in the world with the most number of species noted in a single dive – a diver's absolute dream!

The main island, Panasesa is open to travelers from cruise ships and features a Club House, six beach front bungalows and runway capable of landing short-haul flights (www.conflictislands.com). Cruise ships started visiting Panasesa Island in 2016. Activities on offer include diving, kayaking, sailing, boating and nature encounters.





THE RESEARCH

SHARK & RAY CONSERVATION IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA



PROJECT OUTLINE

This project is going to be used to assess shark and ray population and diversity at the Conflict Islands, through the development of a long-term survey program. This project will study the populations of different species of shark and rays to create a baseline dataset and to assess the effectiveness of our ongoing conservation and education efforts in the area. You will be assisting our team in deploying BRUV's (Baited Remote Underwater Video systems) and analysing the data collected. By counting the number of sharks that swim into the field of view, we can estimate shark abundance and compare the results between sites and across years. There have been sightings of hammerhead sharks as well as whale sharks, and we regularly see juvenile black tip reef sharks around our jetty which would indicate there is a pupping area somewhere in the vicinity which we are hoping to be to identify.

Manta's and white-tailed mangrove rays are some of the larger species of rays that we see on a regular basis as well as the lagoon or blue spotted ray. This internship is a great opportunity to gain experience in a range of areas and is ideal for anyone studying, or recently finished studying marine science.

In addition, the BRUV data we collect are part of the Global FinPrint project (www.globalfinprint.org), which is the largest standard survey of sharks and rays on the world's coral reefs. The Global FinPrint analysis will allow us to measure how the abundance and diversity of sharks and rays in Belize compares to reefs in other parts of the world. It will also enable us to determine what features of a coral reef determine how many sharks and rays live on it.

DEPLOYMENT OF BRUV UNITS IN THE FIELD

This involves maintenance of the units, transport by boat, deployment (using a rope and float), measurement of environmental data, and recovery of the units by rope and float. If time permits, BRUVs will be reviewed at the end of each sampling day. You will be trained in shark and stingray species identification.

RESEARCH AIMS

- Create a baseline dataset on the population of sharks and rays at the Conflict Islands
- Create a long-term comparison of shark and ray populations at the Conflict Islands, to assess the effectiveness of conservation efforts.
- Engage local communities through education sessions at neighboring island groups to show the effects of shark fishing and apex predators on the reef

IN THE FIELD

TIME IN THE FIELD

ITINERARY

- DAY 1** Arrive in Alotau and that night depart on Undersea Explorer for trip to Conflict Islands.
- DAY 2** Island orientation, gear familiarization and data summary and practice.
Species identification guide and methodology run through
Afternoon diving and activities!!!
- DAY 3–12** Deployment and analysis
- DAY 13-14** Community Education, Sunset speeches and certification, followed by a beach bonfire
- DAY 15** Departure Day Arrive Alotau 6am, Airport transfer 8am

WHAT TO EXPECT

THIS IS NOT A HOLIDAY! Expect to smell like bait, expect to spend a lot of time on the water, expect to get a lot of sun, and expect to have a lot of fun!!! Your days will be filled with either bating setting and recovering the BRUV units or doing data analysis of the footage all ready recorded. This will include detailed species identification. You will have free time to enjoy yourself, go diving and snorkeling or just relax on the islands.

You will get a chance to visit our Turtle Conservation Nursery on you island visit. We will also spend a day in a village doing community awareness where you will have access to local tours, sightseeing activities and possibly get a ride in a traditional outrigger sailing kenu. Please ensure to bring small denominations to buy local produce, souvenirs and gifts to help support these villages.

During your internship you will be asked to assist the staff and will be given a cleaning and cooking roster.



ACTIVITIES

On rostered days off interns will have access to the following activities:

- Snorkelling
- Kayaking
- Stand-up paddleboards
- FREE Diving with our local dive master, for certified divers (must be arranged the day before)
- PADI diving courses available for anyone wanting to learn how to dive.

ACCOMMODATION

ABOUT YOUR HOME IN THE FIELD

For most of your time you will be based aboard the Undersea Explorer, a 24m long, 8 cabin

There will be times where the ship will be needed to do supply runs into Alotau and will not be present at the site. On these occasions the camp will be based on one of the Island in a basic tented camp. There are pit toilets and no fresh water to shower in only borewater or washing in the sea. There will be a basic camp kitchen and a sometimes a generator for power at nights. This is NOT glamping, and is a very basic base camp.

Please make sure you are comfortable with this before booking.





POWER

On board the Undersea Explorer, there is 240/220 voltage, using the Australian style power point as pictured. If you move on to the islands, you will not have access to power unless there is a generator provided, which is not guaranteed.

Outages are common. *Please keep in mind that we are on an island and both internet and electricity can be interrupted based on weather conditions.



SIDE NOTE ON ALCOHOL

Strictly no alcohol or illicit drugs permitted on the islands. You are not permitted to bring your own alcohol. Anyone found to have brought their own alcohol or to be in possession of illicit drugs will have their internship position cancelled immediately.

FOOD

SPECIAL NOTE TO VEGANS AND VEGITARIANS: *Please be aware that it is often difficult to accommodate strict vegans. It may be possible to get meatless meals but vegans may have a problem avoiding animal products altogether.*

Food is also basic, please be aware we try to cater for specific dietary requirements, but this is difficult given our remote location. If you do have gluten or other requirements we suggest that you bring a supply of suitable foods with you. We will provide 3 basic meals a day. All food is provided throughout your internship, soft drinks will be available for purchase for \$3aud a can. Any islands expenses can be placed onto a tab and can be paid by eftpos at the end of your trip.

TYPICAL MEALS

BREAKFAST cereals, toast and a selection of fruit

LUNCH & DINNER

Buffet Style, stews, curry and rice, pasta dishes, wraps salads, bbq, and stirfrys, on occasion local dishes.

BEVERAGES

Water, tea, instant coffee and juice are provided
Soft drinks and coconuts are also available for purchase

INCLUSIONS

Airport transfer between Alotau airport and our boat
Travel between Alotau to the Conflict Islands
Travel to research sites
All food
All accommodation on the Island
Laundry facilities (once a week)
Research Equipment
All activities (except diing)
In-country orientation and training
Boat travel between islands and to neighboring Islands
groups Use of kayaks, SUP's, snorkeling equipment
End of trip bonfire
Certificate of completion

NOT INCLUDED

Return flights to Alotau
Accommodation in Port Moresby or Alotau (if you have a long layover)
Travel Insurance
Soft drinks
Scuba Diving and Courses
Additional tours
Souvenirs
Any additional food, for dietary requirements
Entry Permit/Visa

COMMUNITY AWARENESS & EDUCATION

HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

One of our main goals here at CICI is to help create a better future for all.

On each internship that CICI runs, we visit to a different community group to present our donations and our education programs. Part of your internship will be to design an activity for either children or adults to take part in on this awareness day. We will spend one full day visiting a local village where you will have the opportunity to pass on any donations, take part in traditional activities like weaving, coconut husking or climbing as well as presenting your own informal presentation.

Depending on the island we visit you may have the opportunity to go on a local tour. This may be on a traditional sailau, visit a skull cave (part of PNG headhunting history), snorkel on a sunken plane wreck from WWII, or do a traditional cooking weaving or cooking class. Our goal on these visits is to provide education about what our project is doing and our cause, and get the community involved, interested and engaged. Without their support our conservation efforts will not work. We need to show our support for the local communities by undertaking these awareness days where we can talk, tell stories and discuss with the community what is important to them and to us. Together we can make a difference!!



TRAVEL, SAFETY & VISA

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL TIPS

PNG FACT FILE

COUNTRY: Papua New Guinea Capital City: Port Moresby Area: 462,840 km²

POPULATION: (2011) 7,059,653

LANGUAGES: Papua New Guinea has over 300 languages spoken through out the country, within our staff we have 5 different languages, not including English and Tok Pisin (Pigeon)

CURRENCY: Papua New Guinea Kina (PGK)

TIME ZONE: AEST (UTC+10, +11)

INTERNATIONAL CALLING CODE: +675

HUMIDITY: 70%–90%

TEMPERATURE RANGE: 26-38° C)

RAINFALL: 0–500 mm



CULTURAL AWARENESS

Do your research about Papua New Guinea and the Milne Bay region before arrival. Learn about the Papua New Guinea culture and habits, for example the chewing of Beetle Nut is very common throughout Papua New Guinea, causing the red teeth that locals are known for.

Be respectful of other people and their culture at all times and be a good ambassador for your country, this means dressing appropriately and not showing too much skin especially when in swim wear. Papua New Guinea is predominantly Christian in religion, but traditional religious and ancestral worships still exist in some places, especially the villages of Milne Bay.

Papua New Guinea is an incredible country with a rich history and incredibly diverse culture. There are more than a 800 cultural groups and languages in Papua New Guinea and some areas still relatively untouched by the western world.



VISA REQUIREMENTS

You can now get your visa online via www.ica.gov.pg/
If you are staying for more then 30 day, then you need to apply for your visa before entering. You are considered as a tourist entering on a planned itinerary. You need to send your passport off with the application form as attached to your nearest embassy so they can grant the entry and place your entry permit sticker into your passport for arrival. This also makes transition at the airport alot smoother.

DISCLAIMER: This information is provided for general information only and does not constitute an offer of insurance or any other financial product. The information is subject to change without notice. Please contact your broker for more information.

SAFETY

If you are required to spend a night in Port Moresby, do NOT take a taxi from the airport. Arrange an airport pickup with your hotel prior to arrival. Most hotels in Port Moresby offer this service free of charge.

The Conflict Islands are located 80 nautical miles away from the main town of Alotau, so you will spend minimal time in town on the day of your arrival and departure, but like all places, theft can be an issue. You should also take caution when walking around, and if we are in town at night don't walk alone and stay on the main streets and beware of pick pockets. The level of major crimes in Alotau is much less than in other areas of Papua New Guinea, and is known for its people being kind and peaceful. For women, it is best to dress conservatively while on the mainland, try to avoid very short shorts and tank tops.

Once you arrive at the pristine Conflict Islands, you will be very far from any of the troubles of the mainland.

Please check with your doctor about vaccinations for Papua New Guinea but it is recommended that all your routine vaccinations are up to date. There is malaria on the mainland of Papua New Guinea, **however not on the Conflict Islands**, it is up to you if you choose to take anti-malarials during your internship.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

You will not be able to participate in the Conflict Island Conservation Initiative, until you have provided a copy of your current personal travel insurance covering you for Papua New Guinea. Any divers who wish to participate in scuba diving during their time need also to have dive insurance. We recommend DAN Diving insurance.

The reason we insist on medical coverage and travel insurance is due to the remote area in which we are located. We are 100kms from our nearest town and 5 hours by speed boat. In a life threatening emergency you will need to be evacuated by helicopter which is expensive.

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

We advise you to get online and find out as much about PNG and the Milne Bay history before embarking on your travel. Learning about the culture before your arrival will help you get involved and be more aware of the experiences you can have on your time here. We will be able to help you learn some of the more common phrases however as PNG has over 800 different languages from all of the different regions so we don't expect you to learn them all.

Environmental sensitivity:

Take only photos, leave only footprints and kill nothing but time...

When living on our remote islands, please consider the type of cleaning products for personal and dishes, you are using. Make sure you take all rubbish (and then some more) from the island on every trip you make. We have only pit style toilets so only biodegradable products are to be put inside, all other items are to be taken off the island and rubbish bins will be provided for this in the toilet area.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Your volunteer program will begin in Alotau, in the Milne Bay Province. You will be required to make arrangements to Alotau. Daily flights are available from Port Moresby to Alotau.

When booking flights, we recommend that you book using Air Niugini www.airniugini.com.pg to depart from Sydney, Brisbane or Cairns on **FRIDAY'S** as there is a connecting flight through to Alotau from Port Moresby. This means no layover in Port Moresby! If there is a delay Air Niugini, will cover the cost for you to be put up overnight in Port Moresby and cover all associated costs. This will not be the case if you use 2 different airlines for your flights, so we recommend you use Air Niugini, for all flights.

As all our programs begin on a FRIDAY and finish on a FRIDAY, it is the most convenient travel arrangement. The airline to book with is Air Niugini, and you have an international baggage allowance of 23kgs + 16kgs of dive equipment.

You will be met by one of our staff members at Gurney Airport in Alotau, where our bus will transfer to our boat, the Undersea Explorer. If you need to do any shopping locally or wish to walk into the main town this can be arranged.

You will be allocated your air-conditioned cabin on the Undersea Explorer, where you will be sharing with another intern.

An EFTPOS machine is also available on the island so you can draw your kina (local currency) for the trip on the island.

Once you have booked your flights, please send us your travel itinerary so that we can arrange your airport pickup. If you require any assistance in booking flights or travel arrangements please email us.

DATES & PRICES

2019 - 2020 TRIP DATES

This is designed as a 2-week or 4-week internship, run during the turtle nesting period (November- January). The total trip cost is **\$2000** per person for **14 days**. There is a maximum of 14 interns on each trip. You will require to put down a **\$400 non-refundable deposit** to secure your placement in the program after acceptance. The balance is required to be paid in full one month prior to commencement.

The available internship dates are:

TRIP	DATES
1	7th February 2020 – 21st February 2020
2	21st February 2020 – 6th March 2020
3	6th March 2020 – 20th March 2020
4	17th April 2020 – 1st May 2020

HOW TO BOOK

BOOK NOW!!

Go to www.cici.net.au/shark-application fill out the application form and submit with your CV for the best chance of getting selected for this unique experience.

SCUBA DIVING



Costs

Discover Diving: \$150 for first dive \$100 every dive after

Open water course: On island \$625, with e-learning prior to arrival \$495

Advanced Open water course: On island \$525, with e-learning prior to arrival \$395

Dive in Deeper Package: with e-learning prior to arrival \$720

Dive rented gear \$80 per dive

Dive own gear: \$60 per dive

e-Learning: \$220 fee straight to PADI online. Must have credit card to pay.



All participants undertaking diver training, get FREE gear hire and FREE diving for the duration of your internship

Now you can do your **PADI** certification here with CICI as part of your internship. Through The Conflict Islands PADI 5 Star Resort, you can do your **PADI Open Water Course** or if you are already certified you can take your skills to a new depth with the **PADI Advanced Open Water Diver Course**. You can also package them up and do them both during your internship with our **Dive In Deeper Package** including both the open water course and the Advanced open water courses.

INTERNSHIP PACKING LIST

SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT TO BRING

EXPEDITION PACKING CHECKLIST

GENERAL

Photocopies of your passport, flight itinerary, and credit cards in case the originals are lost or stolen; the copies should be packed separately from the original documents

Passport and/or visa (if necessary)

Copy of all Travel Insurance Details

Diving Certifications

CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR FOR FIELDWORK

Reef shoes, booties, or sandals (corals can be sharp and cut your feet)

Casual shoes

Bathing suits

Fishing or Gardening type gloves

Quick-drying, lightweight shorts (two or three pairs)

Loose-fitting, quick-drying, comfortable pants

Quick-drying, lightweight shirts (two to four) Lightweight, long-sleeved, quick-drying shirts to prevent sunburn (one or two)

Rain gear

Hat with wide brim

Thin socks for mosquito protection

Neck gaiter or light scarf for sun protection

FIELD SUPPLIES

Small daypack to keep your personal items together and dry or dry bag

Insect repellent spray with DEET for mosquitoes

Sunscreen (waterproof with SPF 30+)

Lip balm with SPF

One water bottle able to hold at least one liter Polarized sunglasses with a strap

Alarm clock or watch/phone

Headlamp or flashlight or torch with extra batteries

MUST HAVE RED LIGHT

PERSONAL SUPPLIES

Personal toiletries

Hydrolytes

Antibacterial wipes or lotion

Band-aids

Personal first aid kit and medications

Spending money

DIVE/SNORKELING EQUIPMENT

2 or 3mm wetsuit

mask, fins snorkel

BCD

Dive computer

Regulator

Tank and weights will be supplied and it is recommended you bring your own gear. Snorkeling gear will be provided free of charge

CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR/GOODS FOR DONATION

We ask that you bring with you that one t-shirt that has been in your cupboard for the last 6 months that you haven't touched, or the old pair of sneakers that you have replaced with you as a donation for our local communities.

The local people of PNG do not have very much and do not ask for hand outs, they will always want to give you something in return, so if you have anything that you could see someone else needing or wanting, please do not hesitate to bring it along for donation.

Suitable items:

sunglasses

footwear

clothes

old phones

school equipment

reading books

sports equipment

games

speakers

coloring in books

PLANNING CHECKLIST

PLANNING CHECKLIST

IMMEDIATELY

- Make sure you understand and agree to the Conflict Islands Conservation Initiative [Terms and Conditions](#) and [Participant Code of Conduct](#).
- Make your application through CICI's website www.cici.net.au/turtleapply
- On acceptance pay your deposit.

6 MONTHS PRIOR TO EXPEDITION

- Email in your completed paperwork.
- If traveling internationally, make sure your passport is current with 6 months until its expiry and, if necessary, obtain a visa for your destination country.
- Complete any diving certificates you wish to use on internship program

90 DAYS PRIOR TO EXPEDITION

- Pay any outstanding balance for your expedition.
- Book travel arrangements (see the Travel Planning section for details).
- Email through all flight and travel insurance details.
- Join face book group to meet other people who have been on the program and those who may be your new travel buddies

30 DAYS PRIOR TO EXPEDITION

- Review the packing list to make sure you have all the clothing, personal supplies, and equipment needed.
- Leave copies of your photo ID and flight reservation number with a parent, relative, or friend.

READ THIS EXPEDITION BRIEFING THOROUGHLY. It provides the most accurate information available at the time of your *Conflict Islands Conservation Initiative* project planning, and will likely answer any questions you have about the project. However, please also keep in mind that research requires improvisation, and you may need to be flexible. Research plans evolve in response to new findings, as well as to unpredictable factors such as weather, equipment failure, and travel challenges. To enjoy your expedition to the fullest, remember to expect the unexpected, be tolerant of repetitive tasks, and try to find humor in difficult situations. If there are any major changes in the research plan or field logistics, *CICI* will make every effort to keep you well informed before you get into the field.

FINAL CHECKLIST

- Registration form
- CV and Cover Letter
- Copy of Passport
- Police Clearance
- Current travel Insurance
- Current Dive Insurance (if applicable)
- Signed copy of PADI Waiver
- Signed copy of CICI Waiver
- Signed Copy of Code of Conduct
- Flight and hotel details

FYI

YOUR RESOURCES AT HOME

RESOURCES

PROJECT-RELATED MEDIA

- CONFLICT ISLANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE: <https://www.cici.net.au>
- GLOBAL FINPRINT: <https://globalfingerprint.org/>
- THE CONFLICT ISLANDS: <https://www.conflictislands.com>

IDENTIFICATION GUIDES

- NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES: http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/264775/Identifying-sharks-and-rays.pdf
- BIOLOGY OF SHARKS AND RAYS: <http://www.elasmo-research.org/index.html>
- SHARK TRUST: https://www.sharktrust.org/en/shark_taxonomy

VISA INFORMATION

- PNG IMMIGRATION & CITIZENSHIP SERVICE AUTHORITY: <https://www.immigration.gov.pg/>
- PERMIT ENTRY FORM: http://immigration.gov.pg/images/documents/newforms/Application_for_entry_permit_form_new_savable.pdf (and attached)
- ONLINE APPLICATION: <https://www.ica.gov.pg/>

SOCIAL MEDIA

- FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/CICIPNG/>
- FACEBOOK GROUP: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cicipng/>
- INSTAGRAM: https://www.instagram.com/cici_png_/