

An aerial photograph of a tropical island, likely in the Kerama Islands National Park. The image shows a vibrant blue and turquoise coral reef extending from the island into the deep blue ocean. The island itself is lush with green vegetation and has a small settlement or village visible on the right side. The sky is clear and blue.

# Community-based Approaches to Conserving Coral Reef Ecosystem and Using its Resources Sustainably for Local Development in Kerama- shoto (Kerama Islands) National Park

**Masashige Zamami**

**Mayor of Zamami Village, Okinawa Prefecture**

29 June 2014, Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology

Expert Conference on Development of Island's Sustainable Societies

Sectional Meeting 1: Conservation of Coral Reef and Sustainable Local Development



# Coral Reef Ecosystem and Biodiversity in Kerama



**Marine Invertebrates: 1,640 species, Sea algae: 220 species, Fishes: 360 species**



**Spawning of Coral (May – June)**



**Green Sea Turtle**



# Whale Watching

January - April



# Diving



Diving Spots



# Bonito Industry in Kerama Islands



## Bonito Fishery

Introduced in 1900s

Went to Southeast Asian sea in 1930s



**Produced dried bonitoes**

Development of the bonito industry owed to rich coral reef





# Capturing of the crown-of-thorns starfish

Explosive increase of the starfish in 2001 caused enormous damages to coral in Kerama.



Council for Control of the Starfish established in 2002 .

→ Developed research on the starfish distribution, identification of the most important marine areas for coral protection and a framework for the control.



# Cooperative Coral Conservation Activities by Tokashiki Village, Tokashiki Diving Association and National Okinawa Youth Friendship Center



School excursion students and other visitors at NOYFC



**Coral Transplanting**  
**Environment Education**



# Conservation of Coral Reef Ecosystem and Local Development

Appropriate conservation of natural and cultural resources and their sustainable use



Disseminating an idea of eco-tourism

Development of rules

