



November Newsletter



Greetings!

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We have a lot to be thankful for here at IRC including the addition of a new board member, the upcoming launch of our new Puerto Rico database, and the completion of a new sea level rise page on our main website.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

-The Institute for Regional Conservation

IRC Welcomes New Board Member, Dr. Kingsley Dixon

IRC is pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Kingsley Dixon to our board of directors. Kingsley has over 30 years experience with Australian native plants and ecosystems and has served on the board of the Society for Ecological Restoration with IRC's Chief Conservation Strategist, George Gann. To read Kingsley's full biography, click on the link below.



[Link to Board of Directors Page »](#)

IRC to Launch Puerto Rico Database in San Juan on 12/15

George Gann, Jorge Carlos Trejos Torres, and Craig van der Heiden will be traveling to San Juan, Puerto Rico for the release of IRC's newest floristic inventory database on December 15th.


This bilingual website, 15 years in the making, will provide detailed information on 3,500 species of plants on the island. The website focuses especially on the hundreds of rare plants known from the island, more than 200 of which are found nowhere else in the world.

The database will be made available on IRC's main website after its official release.

Sea Level Rise Webpage Added to IRC Website

Using aerial photography dating back to the 1940's, IRC staff Michael Barry and Craig van der Heiden have created GIS maps highlighting the drastic changes in vegetation at Rookery Bay.

These data are now available on our newly added Sea Level Rise page. Once you are on the page, click on a shaded area within the map to see a comparison between 1940 and 2010.



Sea Level Rise


Rising sea levels are a global threat to conservation and biodiversity as shore erode and saltwater intrudes into previously freshwater systems. Sea level rise is of particular importance in Florida where there is approximately 1200 miles of coastline. For up to date information, check out the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) website [here](#).

IRC has a long history of monitoring the effects of sea level rise in Florida. Specifically, IRC has documented vegetation shifts caused by rising sea levels in Everglades National Park and Rookery Bay. We plan on continuing to make sea level rise a top priority as we continue to evolve and expand as a non-profit organization.

The Effects of Sea Level Rise on Vegetation:

Using aerial photography dating back to the 1940's, IRC staff Michael Barry and Craig van der Heiden have created GIS maps highlighting the drastic changes in vegetation at Rookery Bay.

Click on a shaded area in the map below to compare the vegetation composition from the 1940's to 2010.



[Link to Sea Level Rise Page »](#)

Upcoming Events:

End of 2015 Fundraising Event: IRC is currently fundraising for \$5,000 to help run our free online databases and environmental education programs in 2016. Thank you to those of you that have already contributed! To donate, click [here](#).

Delray Volunteer Day on Saturday January 31, 2016:

IRC will be holding a volunteer day at Atlantic Dunes Park on Saturday, January 31st. The goal of this event is to remove exotics throughout the park and replace them with threatened native dune species. For more information on this event, contact IRC's Education and Outreach Coordinator, Cara Abbott (305-304-6610; abbott@regionalconservation.org).