

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Chloe Hunt
Project title	Capacity Building of the Green Fins Regional Network – the Philippines
RSG reference	8928-1
Reporting period	November 2010 – November 2011
Amount of grant	£5965
Your email address	hunt.chloe@gmail.com
Date of this report	26 th August 2011

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Capacity building for Philippine National Team			✓	Three day training events for the National Team conducted at the two sites (Puerto Galera and Anilao). Activities included recruitment of dive centres, Green Fins Better Environmental Practice for Scuba Diving and Snorkelling and Green Fins Assessment training. Three key individuals within the Government are fully trained to manage the project nationally and 11 additional individuals qualified to support locally by conducting environmental assessments of dive centres.
Two Regional Workshops to Launch Green Fins			✓	Two workshops held at the two sites for all stakeholders (dive centres, local and national governments, local NGOs and community groups) involving a total of almost 100 individuals to whom Green Fins was introduced, awareness of local and wider environmental issues was raised and development of methods for tackling these issues discussed
Marine Environmental Activities			✓	Beach and underwater clean up organised in partnership with the local government and dive centres in Puerto Galera involving over 80 people from the local community removing 240 Kg of rubbish. Supported "Eco Dive" in Anilao in partnership with local dive centres, national Government, private sector and international NGOs including Conservation International. "Shark Awareness" educational campaign launched and conducted in local schools to support efforts to make Puerto Galera a Shark Sanctuary, which has now been approved. Gained the express permission of the Mayor of Puerto Galera to lift restrictions on the installations of Mooring Buoys for dive centres operating in the area to reduce the

				impacts of anchoring.
Scuba Dive Centre recruitment and training			✓	A total of 38 Scuba Dive Centres were recruited (agree to abide by the Green Fins Code of Conduct) from the two sites. 121 dive and boat staff and customers from 32 of these dive centres received training on Green Fins better practice for dive centres in the form of a 1 hour presentation in their dive centres.
Environmental Assessments of Dive Centres			✓	32 dive centres were fully assessed by a trained Green Fins Assessor to encourage and support them to abide by the code of conduct and provide data for project monitoring. Feedback provided to dive centre management following the assessment outlining three clear areas to improve on to reduce their impact to the local marine environment before the next annual assessment. For each assessment, a documented feedback e-mail and report was generated.
Educational Materials			✓	Each dive centre received a member pack consisting of a cloth bag, educational posters, a flag for the dive boat, stickers, t-shirts and a presentation folder to be used in future environmental training. Additional t-shirts and cloth bags were produced and handed out in conjunction with the environmental activities within local communities.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

There were two unforeseen difficulties tackled throughout the duration of this project:

1. Involvement of Korean owned and managed dive centres

During the workshop to launch Green Fins in Puerto Galera it was noted that Korean managed and owned dive centres were not well represented. Subsequent planning discussions with all stakeholder groups highlighted that historically it was rare for Korean managed dive centres to be involved in environmental initiatives. Furthermore, it was suggested that a vast majority of this group may pose a high threat to the local marine environment through bad environmental practice. The Green Fins approach is to encourage voluntary participation and promote a sense of ownership to create lasting changes to people's behaviour through education. It was clear that without the Korean managed dive centre's participation the conservation impact of the project would be reduced.

In cooperation with the local Green Fins team, Reef-World personally visited each of these dive centres to introduce Green Fins and took the time to build relationships with a number of very passionate individuals. This led to the translation of the core Green Fins materials into Korean which were then printed and distributed. A workshop specifically for Korean managed dive centres with a translator present was then held and five out of a possible 10 dive centres attended the session and subsequently four enthusiastically joined Green Fins and agreed to abide by the code of conduct. Each dive centre was assessed by a trained Green Fins Assessor and a quote from one of these business owners sums up the impact; *“I knew we were not very good (environmentally) but I had no idea how to begin to improve, following my assessment and the feedback I now know where to start.”*

It became clear that cultural differences had made this group feel ostracised from past environmental initiatives; our sensitive and open approach encouraged a sense of stewardship and subsequently enhanced participation.

2. Reef Watch – Reef Health Monitoring

It was intended that training would incorporate training in the Reef Watch methodology. A different reef monitoring method targeting non-specialised individuals had previously been adopted by the Philippine Government and efforts to introduce another volunteer based reef monitoring method would create issues politically. The Green Fins approach encourages reef monitoring and whilst it does not favour any methodology implementing the one previously used in the country was not logistically or financially realistic. As an alternative Green Fins dive centres were trained to collate and submit data for the Philippine Coral Bleaching Watch (<http://phcoralbleaching.crowdmap.com/>). This included training on basic coral reef ecology and biology and on the causes and impacts of coral bleaching. It effectively engaged recreational scuba divers as a valuable resource for collating scientific data which would otherwise have been wasted.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

1. **Outstanding level of dive centre involvement.** A total of 38 dive centres joined Green Fins and participated in the programme, our initial target was 20. In Puerto Galera over 75% of all the dive centres voluntarily participated in the programme and agreed to abide by the code of conduct. This is an accurate representation of involvement from all stakeholder groups. This project targeted multiple stakeholder groups at each level of project development which removed any feeling of exclusion and promoted a sense of ownership. This pilot has proven that there is certainly a need, demand and enthusiasm to Green Fins in the Philippines.

After joining Green Fins and receiving environmental training, the assessment and consultation session a dive centre manager said, *“We have had a lot of conservation projects come here, but no one has ever worked with us (the dive industry) and we are really keen to help. This is great because we now have everything we need to keep this project going for ourselves; we just need to make sure we keep the cooperation of the government.”*

II. **Safe disposal of used oil.** Item number 9 of the Green Fins Code of Conduct encourages dive centres to implement a minimum discharge policy for discharge such as chemical cleaning products, batteries, toilets and used oil. Prior to the Green Fins launch in Puerto Galera the boat crew for the dive boats were not aware of the environmental impacts of used oil on the marine environment and did not know how to dispose of it responsibly. Therefore, old oil from two stroke engines was sometimes poured into holes made on the beaches subsequently leaching into the marine environment. This was identified through the environmental assessments and often came as a surprise to the dive centre management during the feedback sessions. Reef-World discovered that the local petrol station collected used oil to be transported to Manila and sold. As a outcome of discussions with the petrol station manager, Reef-World distributed this information around the dive centres and encouraged them to implement a policy that all used oil must be collected and taken to this petrol station. This is one example of how Green Fins can offer simple and low cost solutions to a threat posed by the diving industry to the local marine environment. The follow up annual assessments at the beginning of next year (to be conducted by the trained Assessors) will show how successful the dive centres have been in implementing these policies into their businesses.

III. **Commitment and participation of two government departments.** The National Team is managed by the Philippine Commission on Sport Scuba Diving and Department of Environment and Natural Resources. These two departments have raised and committed the budget to support Green Fins in the two sites where Green Fins has now been introduced. This includes support for material production, conducting environmental activities and stakeholder meetings and for the team of Green Fins Assessors to conduct next year's environmental assessments of the Green Fins dive centres. While they still request ongoing support from Reef-World to expand Green Fins nationally, we see this as a sign of the Government's commitment to the programme long term and an excellent outcome of this project.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project (if relevant).

In its essence Green Fins acts to strengthen the conservation, sustainability and wise management of coral reefs and associated coastal ecosystems for the wellbeing of those communities who rely on them. It also raises awareness amongst the stakeholders groups and the wider community to local, national and international environmental issues. This has had the effect of empowering a network of stakeholders including local communities, in the sites it has been introduced during this project, to tackle marine environmental issues on a local level using Green Fins.

Dive centres, in partnership with local communities, have been encouraged to partake in a number of educational and informational activities aimed at reducing adverse impacts of human activities such as regular beach and underwater clean ups and reef monitoring. The beach clean up in Puerto Galera funded by RGSF engaged about 20 scuba divers and the other 60 volunteers were from the local community. Green Fins Cloth bags and t-shirts were given out as incentives to participate and a prize for the individual who guessed the closest

total weight of rubbish collected. A Shark Awareness educational campaign in the local schools helped to rally overwhelming support for making Puerto Galera the first Shark Sanctuary in the Philippines.

Most of the dive staff are locals, some of whom have dived for many years and are extremely passionate about marine life and protecting it. The Green Fins training in Better Environmental Practice for Dive Centres gives these dive guides, boat crew and admin staff an opportunity to further their knowledge through the teaching of biological processes and local and global threats to the environment and offer them simple and practical ways in which to reduce their impact; messages which are then taken back to their families and friends. These training sessions are very relaxed and interactive and Reef-World and the Green Fins National Team have also learned a lot about local environmental threats and developed realistic ways in which to tackle them in partnership with the local communities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

All stakeholders plan to continue to implement the Green Fins Code of Conduct in Puerto Galera and Anilao. As already mentioned the finances for the continued management of Green Fins in these sites has been included in the budgets for next year of the managing government departments. This will cover future material production, ongoing training in partnership with dive centres, assessments of dive centres and environmental educational activities. Assessor Training programmes and material development and distribution carried out during this project has ensured the National Team has the capacity to manage the project in the absence of Reef-World. The next annual assessments of the dive centres recruited throughout the duration of this project will be due by the first quarter of next year. Each Green Fins dive centre has been advised on how to improve their environmental practices in accordance with the Code of Conduct and many have since take the steps to implement these changes. Next year's annual assessments will offer tangible data to support this. Additional funding for Reef-World's would pay to continue to offer the national team technical support and human resources to expand the project to another major diving destination in the Philippines, further establish the environmental standards within the diving industry and feed the momentum of the project to enhance future successes and participation.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

As Reef-World works with different dive centres we build a portfolio of best practice and circulate this around the Green Fins network in the region. Various successes of this project in the Philippines have already been promoted through social media and in newsletters to dive centres across the SE Asian region. This has included innovative methods to secure diving kit to avoid damage to fragile corals, and novel techniques for installing mooring buoys with minimum damage to the environment. By using the growing International Green Fins network we can also involve the wider global marine conservation and diving community in this sharing of lessons learnt in best practice.

Assessment data has been uploaded and stored on a secure section of the www.greenfins.net website and is being used for project monitoring and adaptation by Reef-World and the National Team.

Each Green Fins dive centre, Assessors and members of the National Team were given a toolkit on a memory stick containing all the training presentations and educational materials on it. This will allow continued in-house training for dive staff and guests and promotion of environmentally sustainable diving practices through the Green Fins project.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

All activities outlined in the application for funding were completed within the timescales specified. Efficient channels of communication between all key individuals were identified at the project's outset. Because of this the reporting period has taken much less time than expected. This report will be submitted to RSGF about 2 months early.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Travel	1750	1401	349	Reef-World relocated to reduce travel costs and carbon footprint
Subsistence	1370	1470	-100	Budget made available from cost saving was used to support the living costs of project personnel
Meeting Facilities	360	135	225	Costs were reduced by using Government facilities for meetings free of charge
Diving	290	332	-42	
Materials	1340	1748	-408	Budget made available from cost saving was used on additional educational materials to raise awareness
Equipment	555	571	-16	
Comms	300	307	-7	
Total	5965	5965	0	

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

With the introduction of cheap flights from the "mainstream" travel routes in Asia (Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong) comes a booming tourism industry in the Philippines. The lack of environmental responsibility displayed by some dive centres in Puerto Galera and Anilao highlights the need for environmental standards to raise awareness to and mitigate the threats posed by the diving industry. Furthermore, the growing network of dive staff and

tourists are also a powerful tool with which to promote the positive impact people can have in conserving the marine environment. Green travel is becoming increasingly popular which will enhance the financial incentive for dive centres to participate in projects such as Green Fins. After joining a training session on Better Environmental Practices for Dive Centres at a new Green Fins dive centre, one of their guests (Laurel Whillock from Hawaii) said *“as a paying customer I would definitely choose a Green Fins dive centre to dive with”*. With this trend, it is imperative that the quality of training and assessments is maintained to prevent “green washing” (businesses only projecting the image of being environmentally responsible but actually not applying this) which will be done by ongoing management and support from Reef-World.

The project is currently successfully established in Puerto Galera and Anilao, two diving locations which make up one major diving destination in the Philippines. It now needs to be fully established nationally. The central Government in the Philippines is managed as Regional units. This project has developed the capacity of the National Team and dive centres in the Region where the project has been introduced. The National Team (Government Departments) have requested Reef-World’s continued support to expand the programme to the other major diving destination in the Philippines (Central Visayas). This area is more commonly visited by International Tourist and is main area for Tourism in the country as a whole. This will include capacity development for relevant individuals in this Region’s Government units, dive centre recruitment and project promotion to establish Green Fins as a national project. It is important to continue the momentum created by the introduction of Green Fins in the Philippines last year and begin this phase now. It is intended that Reef-World will request a 2nd Grant from the RSGF to support this phase of the project.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

The RSGF logo was used on most materials we distributed and on all presentations we gave over the duration of this project as outlined below. Photos of these being used and displayed as well as the actual files themselves have been attached with this report.

- The Green Fins Code of Conduct poster – displayed in each Green Fins dive centre
- The Green Fins Guide to Environmentally Friendly Diving (ICONS) – also displayed in each Green Fins dive centre and used as guidelines to environmental briefings for tourists involved in diving
- T-Shirts – two T-shirts given to each Green Fins dive centre, each trained Assessor and also handed out to general public at environmental events
- Presentation Folders – plastic folders containing all Green Fins educational materials, guidelines and forms
- Stickers – handed out to dive centres and general public
- Presentations – in each presentation the support from RSGF was explained and the logo was pointed out

- Green Fins Guide to Better Environmental Practice – given to each Green Fins dive centre’s staff and guests (121 individuals)
- Green Fins Assessor Training – Given during the two Assessor Training Programmes to over 40 individuals of which 14 qualified as Assessors
- What is Green Fins – given to over 100 individuals during the two workshops and at a meeting with local businesses (50 people) to encourage funding
- Large Green Fins banner – displayed at each workshop, environmental activities and assessor training event
- Websites and online promotion
 - Links to RGSF on both the Green Fins (http://www.greenfins.net/links_-35.aspx) and the Reef-World websites (<http://www.reef-world.org/networking.htm>)
 - Support from RSGF promoted through social networking (Facebook, Twitter, e-newsletters).

11. Any other comments?

On behalf of The Reef-World Foundation, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Rufford Small Grant Foundation for this support and amazing opportunity for Reef-World, Green Fins and marine conservation as a whole. We were very pleased with the outcomes of this phase of the project and feel that we have a fantastic basis on which to now build.