Project Update: January 2018

The Reef-World Foundation (RWF) has continued work to mainstream the Green Fins (GF) initiative into national government frameworks in Malaysia and the Philippines. A key success from 2017 was the issuance of a Technical Bulletin by our national partners the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the Philippines. The document, issued on 22 September 2017, is a crucial legal tool to mobilise both funding and manpower for capacity building, production of materials for outreach, and manpower to implement the Green Fins environmental standards for diving and snorkelling at key tourist hotspots across the country.

RWF continues the work with national partners to implement GF at a site level. Under this grant 96 environmental risk assessments of GF members have been conducted in the Philippines and Malaysia across five and six sites respectively. Across both countries, 998 dive and snorkel staff have received environmental training and 60 packs of outreach/awareness raising materials have been disseminated.

The first quarter of 2018 will see RWF conducting an assessor training programme in Bali, Indonesia with key partners, the Coral Triangle Center. A functional assessor team will be created, as well as action plans that firmly establish GF in Bali and identify key steps and recommendations to mainstream GF across Indonesia and secure funding to support GF operations long term.

Sam Craven from RWF and the GF Philippines National Team after a project meeting

GF Member in Tioman, Malaysia receives their member pack