

Project Update: September 2012

This RSG assisted The Reef-World Foundation to support ongoing environmental training, activities and assessments of dive centres in a number of popular diving destinations in the Philippines through the Green Fins approach. Analysis of assessment data shows that out of the 26 dive centres involved in the Green Fins initiative in Puerto Galera, 17 (65 %) reduced their scores after the first year of becoming Green Fins members, whilst nine (35 %) showed an increase. Four dive centres (15 %) reduced their environmental threat category from high (red) to intermediate (yellow) between 2011 and 2012. It was concluded that the Green Fins approach can be an effective tool for managing an environmentally sustainable diving industry.

In addition to this, a major stepping stone has been achieved by the national government providing funds to a local management team to support ongoing management of Green Fins in Anilao, Mabini. The local management team were previously been trained by The Reef-World Foundation through RSG support in 2011. This accomplishes the first target for project sustainability and it is intended that this support will continue for this management team and for the growing network of local management teams trained by Reef-World across the Philippines.

Environmental activities have included mooring buoy programmes, environmental training for local Green Fins Ambassadors (local dive guides to champion environmental education within their local diving communities), beach clean ups, environmental training for divers, fishermen and boat drivers.

