

Project Update: July 2013

Puerto Galera - A Philippines hotspot.

This small but important location is both a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve and also winner of the The Most Beautiful Bays in the World scheme that attracts thousands of divers each year. Green Fins was first implemented here in 2010 and since has gone on to tackle many threats to the local reefs. The scuba diving centres who are Green Fins members (about 74% of total) have undergone their annual environmental training to keep them up to date and help them to protect coral reefs. This year, their annual assessments helped the dive centre managers identify areas for improvement and allow Reef-World and the national government identify industry wide problems with the help of the Green fins database.

Local education and outreach programmes have also taken place including awareness raising sessions for local fish vendors about the importance of shark conservation, boat captains learned about the impacts of oil and marine litter and a series of underwater and beach clean-up events over 3 days removed 943.5 kg of rubbish with the support of over 250 people from the local government units, the police, local schools and residents and the private sector.

Meanwhile, Reef-World have managed to further anchor Green Fins within the national government processes through meetings and support. New educational posters for project members across the entire country have also been produced by the national government. Expansion of Green Fins to other biodiversity hotspots is planned for a greater project impact.

Outside of the Philippines, Reef-World have managed to develop and approve final agreements with WWF Malaysia to train them as the Local Management Team for Green Fins in Semporna and the surrounding islands in Borneo Malaysia.

