



# SULU FUND FOR MARINE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, Inc.

NEWSLETTER  
(bi-annual)

In Collaboration with:



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## Projects in Batangas and Palawan

The Sulu Fund for Marine Conservation Foundation, Inc. has now completed the year implementation period to utilize the US \$ 7,000 grant received on June 30, 1998 from the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL). The grant supported two projects, the Tubbataha Reefs National Marine Park Educational Campaign for Stakeholders and the Mabini Marine Sanctuary Extension and Support through Community Participation. These projects have achieved their objective within the given time frame. Some activities will continue with the involvement of Daniel Ocampo in Batangas and Angelique Songco in Palawan and with additional funding when available.

### Mabini, Batangas Marine Sanctuary Extension and Support Through Community Participation Project

This project started field activities in August 1998 with the hiring of Daniel M. Ocampo as the Mabini Project Coordinator and Field Worker. One major outcome is the completion of a draft environmental profile for the entire area with the newly digitized maps and a compilation of all existing data from past surveys and studies. This profile was generated after two major stakeholder meetings, which included participants from Mabini and Tingloy municipalities, De La Salle University (DLSU) and resorts among others. It will be used as a basis for more integrated planning in the area. Another major result of this association is the formation of the Mabini -Tingloy Coastal Area Development Council, which is now meeting and starting the process of developing a more integrated management plan for the larger area of concern. A study tour for the municipal council of Tingloy to several Coastal Resource Management Project (CRMP) sites in Southern Philippines was also conducted, among other accomplishments made by Sulu Fund.



*Tubbataha Conservation Briefing, on board Nautika April 14, 1999 by angelique Songco using Flip Charts prepared with support from CORAL*

This project has developed a focused approach that is contributing to the progress of marine conservation in the Mabini-Tingloy area at both the local village and broader municipal levels.

### Tubbataha Reefs National Marine Park Educational Campaign for Stakeholders

This project raised the awareness of Palawan-based fishermen and tourism operators about the need to conserve Tubbataha Reefs National Marine Park, through the efforts of Ms. Angelique Songco and her staff. Project objectives included a video based on the existing footage of Tubbataha, reef ecology and management needs dubbed in Tagalog and shown in ten fishing communities; a flip chart about Tubbataha Reefs in English and Tagalog used to educate fishing villages, communities and divers on board the various live-aboard dive boats; and passing on information on both CORAL and Sulu Fund in relation to conservation of the area. Production of a slide show was not completed due to unavailability of equipment in rural areas or on dive boats.

## **Sulu Fund Projects-President's Report**

The Sulu Fund is embarking on its second full year of operations and has many activities to report. The Foundation has attracted funding from a variety of sources for its rather focused conservation agenda in three important coral reef areas in the Philippines and to assist with its information and extension work. The Coral Reef Alliance funded two projects, one to support Marine sanctuary development in Mabini-Tingloy, Batangas and the other for education of stakeholders of the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park in Palawan. A second grant has recently been received through CORAL from an anonymous donor for continuation of the Batangas project for which we are very appreciative.

Our Earthwatch Expedition to survey the marine sanctuaries of southern Bohol in coordination with the Coastal Resource Management Project was a tremendous success. This expedition, with the assistance of 24 highly motivated diver-volunteers from all over the world, collected and analyzed a large quantity of high quality data on the status of the coral reefs, the management regimes and social context of the sanctuaries. This informative report is available upon request.

The Sulu Fund has branched out with the facilitation of a study tour of 18 participants from the Coastal Resource Management Project of the University of Rhode Island operating in Indonesia. This was a new experience for Sulu Fund staff and presented excellent learning opportunities for all concerned. The tour more than met expectations and will hopefully set the stage for future such activities of the Sulu Fund. Thanks to CRMP Indonesia for this opportunity.

The Marine Park Center of Japan has become another supported of marine conservation in the Philippines through the Sulu Fund and the Coastal Resource Management Project. The Marine Parks Center has contributed funding for the construction of a ranger station in Tubbataha Reef National Park. Construction is underway and coordinated by our partner in Palawan, Angelique Songco of SAGUDA Foundation.

Our membership is increasing and can accommodate many more. Volunteers are welcome to contribute in meaningful ways to coastal projects in the Philippines. The opportunities are unlimited! Please give us a call, send a letter or email or just stop by. Your ideas and feedback are always welcome!

### **Ranger Station in Tubbataha**

The Marine Parks Center of Japan donated US\$11,500 to supplement the cost of construction of the ranger station in Tubbataha as designed by the Philippine Nave and other partners in the management of the park. Any remaining funds will be used to conduct reef monitoring in the area and help with educational activities to support improved awareness among visitors to the park. The Sulu Fund through Angelique Songco, Sulu Fund Board Member is facilitating this project in Palawan.

"Philippine Coral Reefs: a Natural History Guide" is being revised. This book is overdue for improvements and reprinting. It was first published in 1987 by New Day Publishers and is now out of print.

Ms. Gel Alvarado, our new research assistant from Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro is cheerfully assisting with the photo captions and editing among many other chores.

As with all such projects of the Sulu Fund, the proceeds from the eventual book publications will be used to support field projects in marine conservation.

### **Information Projects**

HOPEFULLY the "Tales from Tubbataha, Natural History, Resource Use, and Conservation of the Tubbataha Reefs Palawan, Philippines" book will be out by the year end 1999. It is now with Bookmark, the Publisher for final layout and printing.

## Earthwatch Expedition conducted in Bohol, Philippines

Sulu Fund together with Coastal Resource Management Project (CRMP) with support from the Earthwatch Institute hosted the fifth "Saving Philippine Reefs" Earthwatch Expedition to the Philippines from May 1-10 and May 13-22, 1999 in southwest Bohol. The expedition was divided into two teams (see list of volunteers).

The project collected baseline data on the condition of the coral reefs inside and adjacent to marine sanctuaries in selected areas off southwest Bohol Island and including Sumilon Island, Cebu. It recommended conservation and management activities that should be conducted to improve the conditions of the coral reefs in the sites surveyed and the larger area.



The first day was devoted to training volunteers in the survey methods. Volunteers learned to identify common corals, algae, and other organisms, as well as how to lay transect lines. In the succeeding days, they followed a routine: gathering for a short briefing after breakfast, disembarking for survey sites on board the two-deck motor boat for diving and snorkeling, returning to Balicasag Island Dive Resort in the afternoon to transfer data from their slateboards to the data sheets, and finally relaxing with good food and stories of the day.

Dr. Alan White, the principal investigator, measured fish species richness and density. He was assisted by Jonathan Apurado of the University of San Carlos and who also served as divemaster of the group, and by Dr. Patrick Christie of the School of Marine Affairs,

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School of Marine Affairs, University of Washington. Maria Fe Divinagracia, a researcher from Silliman University Marine Laboratory studied the incidence of coral bleaching in the sites and provided much administrative help. Vangie White facilitated all logistical arrangements for food, lodging and boats and helped with the data collection and analysis. Angelita Alvarado interviewed local residents and assisted with logistics, field operations and data collection.

It was a productive, exciting and fun experience for all. Working with people from different cultures and backgrounds made it interesting. Some went night diving where they feasted their eyes on amazing nocturnal creatures. Others enjoyed the waters by snorkeling at night. Everyone said the expedition provided a great opportunity to learn many new things. One night, several volunteers even went to an island dance party in the village having made local friends as well! The final report on the scientific results of the Expedition is available upon request from the Sulu Fund.

### List of Volunteers:

#### Team 1

1. Breck Willcox (Maryland)
2. Brian Giles (Arizona)
3. Clarence Jan (Michigan)
4. Jane Jones (Hawaii)
5. Jeffrey Fillman (Connecticut)
6. Michael Flumian (California)
7. Moira McGrain (California)
8. Ragner Katerbau (Netherlands)
9. Sabine Isa (Netherlands)
10. Thomas Mueller (Maine)
11. Rebecca Rowe (Massachusetts)

#### Team 2

1. Patrick Christie (Washington)
2. Brian Giles (Arizona)
3. Deborah Zulliger (Switzerland)
4. E. Owen Jones (Massachusetts)
5. Jennifer Chase (Florida)
6. Larry Chiang (California)
7. Maria Meyer (New York)
8. Marilyn Sobwick (Ohio)
9. Masahiko Fujii (Japan)
10. Sandra Breil (Virginia)
11. Tom Mellor (Washington)
12. Vittoria Thornely (United Kingdom)
13. Mary Julia Cichowski (Massachusetts)



## Indonesian Study Group visits coastal projects in the Philippines

The Sulu Fund coordinated a study tour from July 11 to 17, 1999 on bay management planning in the Philippines participated in by eighteen Indonesians and two Sulu Fund representatives. This project was initiated and organized by the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center (URI-CRC), Coastal Resource Management Project-Indonesia, the Coastal Resource Management Project-Philippines, with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The objectives of the tour were to obtain an overview of Philippine coastal management experience and to gain lessons in bay planning and management from a range of programs of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Coastal Resource Management Project of USAID.

The group was comprised of Proyek Pesisir (Coastal Resource Management Project) field staff from the provinces of East Kalimantan and Lampung, officials from local partner institutions including the Provincial Regional Development Planning Boards, local government, local universities and NGOs, and one representative from a national university.

Sulu Fund's Danny Ocampo and Angelita Alvarez facilitated the 7-day trip. They first visited BFAR office in Quezon City where they were warmly received by Ms. Jessica Muñoz and Ms. Sandy Arcamo from the Fisheries Resource Management Program. They visited Dr. Chua Thia-Eng of the International Maritime organization who described experiences with the Batangas Bay project and shared lessons from their program while giving tips for a good management plan. The group traveled to Batangas City with Mr. Luis Awitan and a few others of the Provincial Government-Environment and Natural Resources Office (PG-ENRO). They visited Barangay San Pedro, the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA)-Batangas and PG-ENRO. In PPA, Engrs. Benito A. Camero and Victor A. Arellano presented their activities and development plan, while Engr. Evelyn Estigoy, Batangas ENRO Division Head and Mr. Sonny Saniano, Batangas Bay Demonstration Project Council Coordinator gave briefings on PG-ENRO and the Public Private Partnership process, respectively.

After three days in Manila and Batangas, the group came to Cebu and met with Dr. Catherine Courtney, CRMP Chief of Party, at the CRMP office.

Mr. Tom Bayer, Training Coordinator, Mr. Hermie Cabangon, Sarangani Bay Learning Area Coordinator, and Ms. Emma Melana made presentations on integrated coastal management. They went on to Silliman University Marine Laboratory and made courtesy calls to the mayors of Bais City and Manjuyod municipality where they discussed ecotourism, planning and management initiatives, problems and issues involved in the projects as well as solutions. On the last day, the participants made a summary report on lessons they learned from the Philippines and how these could be applied to Indonesia. They also presented their report to William E. Ablong Provincial Coordinator for Negros and to Atty. Arbon who both gave their comments and recommendations for the present and proposed bay management planning in East Kalimantan and Lampung.

Overall, the study tour was very successful with few problems. All participants indicated a positive response to most events and said they had many useful experiences and new ideas to take home.

## Coral Reef Monitoring Expedition to Tubbataha May 20-30, 2000

Sulu Fund in collaboration with the Coastal Resource Management Project, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Tristar Sea Ventures Corporation are organizing a Coral Reef Monitoring Expedition to Tubbataha Reefs National Marine Park.

## Sulu Fund Acknowledges

Nelia Forest who hand carried the last newsletter to the USA for mailing. And shouldered some of the postage as well.

Kristine Taylor of Cebu Tropic Island shop who sell our books at her store.

Jackie Lotsof of Cebu who provided some snacks on our way to Balicasag during the '99 Earthwatch Expedition.

Maria and Thure Meyer, Owen Jones, old and new members who have been our supporters. Tom Bayer who has helped us organize the Indonesian study tour.

Our staff: Angelita Alvarado, Daniel Ocampo, Evangeline White and volunteer board members Albert Salamanca, Angeliq Songco, Yasmin Arquiza and Alan White.

## Sulu Fund Members and Donors

1. CORAL Reef Alliance	12. Sachi Itagaki	23. Vilma Kohn	<b>Board Members:</b>
2. Maria Meyer	13. Richard Vokes	24. Bea Eklof	
3. Thure Meyer	14. Steven Nakashima	25. Benson Dakay	
4. Dorothy White	15. George Aiken	26. Owen Jones	
5. David Green	16. Dean White	27. Jane Jones	34. Alan White
6. Siona Bennet	17. Kris White	28. Vittoria Thornley	35. Lori Tan
7. Safia Bayer	18. Nelia Forest	29. Richard Tobin	36. Albert Salamanca
8. Tom Bayer	19. Aliaa Pollock	30. Carol Achabal	37. Angelique Songco
9. Edie Their	20. Stanley Mieth	31. Dale Achabal	38. Yasmin Arquiza
10. Al Their	21. Eleanore Mieth	32. Mary Gleason	39. Evangeline White
11. Joe Atchue	22. Patrick Christie	33. Mr. and Mrs Richard Hirsch	40. Gaudencio Peña
			<b>Honorary Members:</b>
			41. Mikhail Lee Maximo
			42. Stephen Colwell
			43. Shawn Reifsteck
			44. Catherine Courtney
			45. CRMP-Philippines
			46. CRMP-Indonesia
			47. Earthwatch Volunteers

## Financial Report of the Sulu Fund

The Sulu Fund began in June 1997 with a major Earthwatch Expedition conducted in the Mabini, Batangas area. The financial summary (Income Statement) which follows reflects the revenues and expenses of this Expedition as well as all activities up to the present.

Income Statement (Pesos and US Dollars)		Grand Total Transactions in	
Foe July 1, 1997-August 31, 1999	Transactions in US\$ Account	Peso Account	In US\$
			(37=1US\$)
<b>Operating Revenue</b>			
Sales	1,455.00	79,251.93	3,596.94
Membership	1,136.00	14,000.00	1,514.38
Honorarium received by Alan White	4,157.00	14,650.00	4,553.03
Earthwatch (EW) Expedition Fund, 97	12,536.00	400,140.00	23,350.69
Others (EW Volunteer local), 97	943.00	4,500.00	1,064.62
Earthwatch (EW) Expedition Fund, 99	23,543.50		23,543.50
Cash from US\$ account		1,485,750.00	40,155.41
KKP		175,000.00	4,729.73
Donation from Richard Hirsch		10,000.00	270.27
Donation from Richard Tobin	200.00		
CRMP Indonesia	12,866.75		12,866.75
Coral Reef Alliance, first grant	7,000.00		7,000.00
Coral Reef Alliance, second grant	5,000.00		5,000.00
<b>Net Operating revenue</b>	<b>68,837.43</b>	<b>2,183,291.93</b>	<b>127,845.32</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Earthwatch (EW) Trip Expense '97		313,920.50	8,484.34
Earthwatch Report Expense '97		3,622.75	97.91
Additional Earthwatch Expense '97		28,900.00	781.08
Earthwatch '99		716,504.00	19,229.84
Salaries Expense		155,333.36	4,198.20
SEC registration		2,433.75	65.78
Office overhead		26,349.30	712.14
Books for sale		73,391.25	1,983.55
Coral Reef Book Writing Expense		5,610.00	151.62
Tales form Tubbataha Writing Expense		25,000.00	675.68
Batangas Project		165,677.50	4,477.77
Palawan Educational Project		113,238.75	3,060.51
Tubbataha Ranger Station Project		250,000.00	6,756.76
Indonesian Study Tour	9,066.75		9,066.75
US\$ Fund transfer to Peso Account	39,500.00		39,500.00
Bank charges	24.00	986.40	50.66
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>48,590.75</b>	<b>1,875,967.56</b>	<b>99,292.58</b>
<b>Net Income from Operations</b>	<b>20,246.68</b>	<b>307,324.37</b>	<b>28,552.74</b>
<b>Net Income (Cash in bank)</b>	<b>20,246.68</b>	<b>307,324.37</b>	<b>28,552.74</b>