



# SULU FUND FOR MARINE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, Inc.

NEWSLETTER  
(bi-annual)

In collaboration With



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Issue no. 1

## Sulu Fund for Marine Conservation Launched

Sulu Fund for Marine Conservation Foundation, Inc. ("Sulu Fund") was incorporated on January 21, 1998 in Cebu City under Security and Exchange Commission No. C199800056. The First annual board meeting was held February 27, 1998 the results of which are discussed below.

Philippine coasts and marine areas are being degraded by a variety of serious problems which include:

- Coral reef, mangrove and other habitat destruction
- Over exploitation of most coastal resources
- Pollution of near-shore waters
- Poorly planned shore-front development
- Poverty among coastal residents
- Few and weak management organizations
- Poor technical and social leadership

In response to this deterioration of coastal resources in the Philippines, the Sulu Fund has been formed by a group of concerned and talented individuals with foresight about how to address some critical marine conservation needs of the country. The Sulu Fund's primary goal is to efficiently channel financial and technical support to practical, implementable and effective coastal and marine conservation projects in selected coastal locations.

Themes of support to address key coastal habitat protection and management needs and other issues include:

1. Marine reserves and sanctuaries;
2. Sea watch groups;
3. Research and monitoring to inform management activities;

4. Training and education; and
5. Community organization for conservation and management of resources.

The Sulu Fund will focus initially on three coastal and marine settings where one or more of the support themes are ongoing. These three coastal project areas are:

- A. Mabini, Batangas, Municipal Marine Reserve and management area;
- B. Tubbataha National Marine Park and World Heritage Site, Sulu Sea, Palawan; and,
- C. Cebu and Bohol Islands marine reserves and management area.

The Sulu Fund also supports nationwide learning and leadership building for marine conservation through:

- Publication of relevant books
- Provision of reference materials for management planning and implementation
- Providing key technical support

The Sulu Fund efficiently channels financial and technical support into its three coastal focus locations and its national learning program. These activities will be accomplished with financial contributions and revenue obtained through:

- Open grants to the Sulu fund
- Project specific grants for one location, activity or product
- Sales of books and other educational materials
- Sales of environmentally friendly products
- Provision of technical services or materials.

## **The Elected officers and their roles are:**

President and Coordinator: Alan T. White  
Vice President and Publication Coordinator: Jose Lorenzo Tan  
Treasurer and Secretary: Evangeline White  
Mabini, Batangas Coordinator: Albert Salamanca  
Cebu-Bohol Coordinator: Captain Gaudencio Peña  
Palawan Coordinator: Angelique Songco  
Journalism/Writer: Yasmin Arquiza

Presently we have 17 regular members and 16 honorary members. Honorary membership was given to Earthwatch Volunteers 1997 who have given much time and financial support to Sulu Fund.

## **Ongoing and New Projects**

### **"Tales of Tubbataha" being revised**

Yasmin Arquiza and Alan White are updating and rewriting "Tales of Tubbataha, Natural History, Resource Use, and Conservation of the Tubbataha Reefs Palawan, Philippines." This book was first published in 1994 by the Bandillo ng Palawan with support from the Foundation for the Philippine Environment. It will be newly published by Bookmark a publisher and bookstore in the Philippines which is active and supportive of environmental projects and especially concerned about the plight of marine life in the country.

Francis Freire, a researched for the University of San Carlos was recently contracted to assist with data analysis for the book. Francis will complete his work by the end of July and we hope to complete the book by the end of 1998. We have allocated a small budget of about 25, 000 Pesos to cover preparation costs for the book.

### **"Philippine Coral Reefs: A Natural History Guide" being revised**

This book, first published in 1987 by New Day Publishers, is long overdue for improvements and reprinting. Alan is revising the book in his spare time (not much of that!). We are currently looking for excellent underwater photos taken within the Philippines to complement the photo section of the book. Several good photographers have agreed to donate their photos for use since the Sulu Fund and the book publisher cannot afford to buy photos. All photos used will be properly credited to their source.

Toni Paras a research intern from the University of Miami working with the Coastal Resource Management Project has also been assisting to shoot excellent photos for the book. A scuba dive trip to Mabini, Batangas with Alan, Vangie and Toni last April resulted in many nice photos and good times too!

As for such projects of the Sulu Fund, the proceeds from the eventual book publication will be used to support the field projects of the Sulu Fund. Thus, we do not feel bad about asking for photo contributions since they are for a good cause.

## **Product Sales**

Our product sales provide access to all important Philippine publications on marine life, marine conservation, and a few other items such as T-shirts. These sales are intended as a service while generating some revenue for the Sulu Fund. If you have not seen the product list, please see the last page.

## **New Funding**



The Coral Reef Alliance or CORAL for short, based in Berkeley, California is granting Sulu Fund \$US 7,000. The grant will support activities in two project sites and will commence in August 1998. This much appreciated grant will support the following activities:

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

This project will raise the awareness of at least 2000 Palawan-based fishermen and 5 tourism operators about the need to conserve Tubbataha Reefs National Marine Park and about why the Park sanctuary (no fishing area) is essential for the continued health of coral reef fisheries of the larger Sulu Sea. The project will develop one slide show, one video and one poster presentation which will be used to educate at least 10 Palawan based fishing communities and how they can assist to protect the park. In addition, all Palawan based tourism operators will be given various educational materials on the value of the park and how to protect it in the course of normal diving operations in the park. Angelique Songco will coordinate this project.

## “Mabini Marine Sanctuary Extension and Support through Community Participation”

This project will employ one community organizer from a small fishing community which currently supports and manages a small marine sanctuary to extend the relative success of this sanctuary to neighboring communities in the Mabini, Batangas area. The community organizer will facilitate a series of workshops in the nearby villages of Mabini to show the results of the original sanctuary area based on improved coral cover, fish abundance and fish catch of the fishermen. The series of workshops will result in the establishment of at least one new coral reef and fish sanctuary in the area. The sanctuaries (original and new) will also be used by scuba divers to the area who are willing to pay a small fee for diving and thus contributing funds for maintenance of the sanctuary. This project, once started, will require continuing funds which will be sourced after the initial six months of operation. Albert Salamanca is the coordinator for this project.

### How to join Sulu Fund?

Simply fill up the membership form, enclose membership fee and mail to Sulu Fund, No. 2 Topaz Street, Saint Michael Village, Banilad, Cebu City 6000 Philippines.

### Financial Report of the Sulu Fund

The Sulu Fund began in June 1997 with a major Earthwatch Expedition in the Mabini, Batangas area. The financial summary which follows reflects the revenues and expenses of this Expedition as well as all activities up to the present. The new grant from CORAL is not yet reflected in the report. A simple income statement follows.

SULU FUND			
Income Statement			
For Period June 1, 1997 – June 30, 1998			
(For both US and Peso Accounts)			
			Grand Total in US\$
Operating Revenue	Transactions in US\$ Account	Transactions in Peso Account	(38=1US\$)
Sales (Books and Products)	125.00	53,406.93	1,530.45
Membership Fee (Paid in Pesos)		7,000.00	184.21
Honorarium Received by Alan White	1,580.68	14,650.00	1,966.21
Earthwatch Expeditions Fund	270.00	400,140.00	10,800.00
Earthwatch Liquidation-Reimbursement	765.00		765.00
Earthwatch Volunteer (Local)		4,500.00	118.42
Membership Fee (Paid in US dollars)		215.00	215.00
Net Operating Revenue	2,955.68	479,696.93	15,579.28
Operating Expenses			
Earthwatch Trip Expense		342,820.50	9,021.59
Earthwatch Report Expense		3,622.75	95.34
Salaries Expense		23,522.82	619.02
SEC Registration		2,433.75	64.05
Office Overhead		3,433.00	90.34
Books for Sale		42,065.00	1,106.97
Coral Reef Book Writing Expense		5,610.00	147.63
Total Operating Expense		423,507.82	11,144.94
Net Income from Operations (Cash in Bank)	2,955.68	56,189.11	4,434.34

## Outlets for Sulu Fund Volunteers

Many people ask us what they can do to assist with marine conservation in the Philippines. The answer to this question mostly depends on the situation of the potential volunteer and what he or she is willing to do or contribute! A few ideas on WHAT YOU CAN DO are:

If you want to get involved in field work please contact one of our field coordinators listed elsewhere in this newsletter about their activities or call our Cebu office;

If you are a writer or editor, we have ongoing writing projects which can use your expertise - please contact us;

If you are an educator, there are many possibilities to teach children and adults about our marine environment-we we can discuss your interest; and,

If you want to contribute financially, you can join or make a grant to support a specific or core project of the Sulu Fund.