



SULU FUND FOR MARINE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, Inc.

NEWSLETTER
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In Collaboration With:



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Sulu Fund for Marine Conservation Launches Projects in Batangas and Palawan

The Sulu Fund for Marine Conservation Foundation, Inc. ("Sulu Fund") is doing well. Supported by a grant from the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) based in Berkeley, California, two field projects in Batangas and Palawan are beginning strategic activities to improve the status of coral reefs in those areas. In both cases, Sulu Fund board members are coordinating the activities (with no salary, by the way) and providing technical guidance to several field personnel supported by Sulu Fund. Updates on these projects follow.

"Mabini Batangas Marine Sanctuary Extension"

Daniel Ocampo joined Sulu Fund in August as the Mabini Project coordinator and field worker. He is living in the area and is very dedicated to marine conservation.

Accomplishments so far in Mabini include a survey of the area to determine the most appropriate means of supporting conservation and initiating communication with other organizations working in Mabini. Coordination with De La Salle University (DLSU) (Dr. Al Licuanan), with the support from Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas (KKP) and the Haribon Foundation, has started with two joint stakeholder meetings. The survey and meetings helped us decide on two major thrusts for the area:

- To help the community of Balanoy to improve their management of the existing marine sanctuary which is a popular dive site with revenue earning potential if fees are collected from users. This activity will include upgrading such as signs and mooring buoys as well as improving the local community management organization.

- To collaborate with DLSU, KKP and Haribon Foundation in compiling a coastal environmental profile with good maps to provide data for planning for the wider Mabini area. This will also include the municipality of Tingloy where many of the best reefs and dive sites are located and where there is strong interest on the part of the town mayor.

Our action plan is predicated both on the need for very localized village management of reefs through marine sanctuaries, and the need to do large scale preventive planning for reef use, shoreline building and pollution. The coastal profile will provide information needed to involve all stakeholders in more integrated planning.

"Tubbataha Reefs National Marine Park Educational Campaign for Stakeholders"

This project is intended to raise awareness of at least 2000 Palawan-based fishermen and 5 tourism operators about the need to conserve Tubbataha Reefs National Marine Park. The project is developing one slide show, one video, and one flip chart presentation which will be used to educate at least 10 Palawan based fishing communities about the importance of the park for fisheries health, and how they can help protect the park. In addition, all Palawan based tourism operators will be given various educational materials about the value of the park and how to protect it in the course of normal diving operations. Angelique Songco is coordinating this project and has employed several persons to undertake the art work and to make presentations to the fishing communities and the diving tourists.



What is Sulu Fund?

The Sulu Fund for Marine Conservation Foundation, Inc. ("Sulu Fund") was incorporated on January 21, 1998 in Cebu City under Security and Exchange Commission No. C 199800056. The first annual board meeting was held February 27, 1998.

Sulu Fund intends to address the following serious Philippine coastal problems:

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

The Sulu Fund's primary goal is to channel financial and technical support to practical, implementable and effective coastal and marine conservation projects in selected coastal locations.

1. Themes of support include:
2. Marine reserves and sanctuaries;
3. Sea watch groups;
4. Research and monitoring to inform management activities;
5. Training and education; and,
6. Community organization for conservation and management of resources.

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

- A. Mabini and Tingloy, Batangas, 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 areas.

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
- Provision of key technical support

The Sulu Fund channels financial and technical support into its three coastal focus locations and its national learning program. The field activities and national learning projects 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

Employees:

Treasurer/Secretary: Evangeline White
Batangas Field Worker, Researcher: Danny Ocampo
Marine Biologist/Research Assistant: Carmel Aguilar

Presently Sulu Fund has 23 regular members and 16 honorary members. Honorary membership was given to Earthwatch Volunteers of 1997 who gave much time and financial support to Sulu Fund.

Information Projects

"Tales of Tubbataha" being revised

Yasmin Arquiza and Alan White have almost completed updating and rewriting "Tales of Tubbataha, Natural History, Resource Use, and Conservation of the Tubbataha Reefs Palawan, Philippines." "Tales of Tubbataha..." 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 Inc. a publisher and bookstore in the Philippines which is actively supportive of environmental projects and especially concerned about the plight of marine life in the country. The book should be out by mid-1999-HOPEFULLY! Assistance in this project was provided by Francis Freire, a researcher from University of San Carlos, who left us early for a graduate program in Japan. Ms. Jennifer Murphy, student intern from University of Washington also assisted with editing.

"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 White is revising the book in his spare time (not much of that!). We have received excellent underwater photos of Philippine marine life from Dave Cook, a well known fishery biologist from Australia who has worked in the Philippines, as well as from several other contributors.

Ms. Carmel Aguilar, a Marine Biologist from University of San Carlos, Cebu City is currently helping update technical details of the book. Her dedication and skill are much appreciated!

Of course, more volunteers are welcome. As with all such projects of the Sulu Fund, the proceeds from the eventual book publications will be used to support field projects. We do not feel bad about asking for photo contributions since they are for a good cause and will help keep the cost since they are for a good cause and will help keep the cost of publication within reason.

Earthwatch Returns to Philippines in May 1999

Sulu Fund, jointly with the Coastal Resource Management Project of USAID Philippines and Silliman University, will conduct another Earthwatch Scuba Diving Expedition in May 1-10 and 13-22, 1999 in the Panglao, Bohol area. The volunteers will be based on Balicasag Island and will survey six reef sites on nearby islands. For more information, please contact Sulu Fund or Earthwatch, Inc. at 680 Mt. Auburn Street, PO Box 403, Watertown MA 02272, USA, phone (617) 9268200.

We are looking for a dive master to help with this scuba diving expedition. A qualified diver who has interest in reef research and who knows Bohol, Philippines is preferred.

What can you Do as a Sulu Fund Volunteer?

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

- a. 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;
- b. If you are a writer or editor, we have ongoing writing projects which can use your expertise-please contact us;
- c. If you are an educator, there are many possibilities to teach children and adults about our marine environment-we can discuss your interest; and,
- d. If you want to contribute financially, you can join or make a grant to support a specific or core project of the Sulu Fund.



1993 Earthwatch Divers, Mabini, Batangas

Revenue Sources

Our product sales provide access to all important Philippine publications on marine life, marine conservation, and a few other items such as VHS tapes. These sales are intended as a service while generating some revenue for the Sulu Fund. The product list is shown on the last page.

The US\$ 7,000 grant from the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) based in California, is keeping the Batangas and Palawan projects going. This much appreciated grant is catalyzing key conservation activities in both sites as described above.

Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas (KKP) has also provided a grant of Pesos 87, 600 in exchange for some assistance with the finalization of the Tubbataha Park Management Plan. This grant has contributed to the revision of the book, "Tales of Tubbataha".

Financial Report of the Sulu Fund

The Sulu Fund was financially started in June 1997 with a major Earthwatch Expedition conducted in the Mabini, Batangas area. The financial summary which follows, reflects the revenues up to the present.

SULU FUND Income Statement For Period June 1, 1997 – June 30, 1998 (For both US and Peso Accounts)			Grand Total in US\$
	Transactions in US\$ Account	Transactions in Peso Account	(38=1US\$)
Operating Revenue			
Sales (Books and Products)	205.00	53,616.93	1,695.42
Membership Fee (Paid in Pesos)		10,000.00	250.00
Honorarium Received by Alan White	1,580.68	14,650.00	1,946.93
Earthwatch Expeditions Fund	270.00	400,140.00	10,273.50
Earthwatch Liquidation-Reimbursement	765.00		765.00
Earthwatch Volunteer (Local)		4,500.00	112.50
Membership Fee (Paid in US dollars)	510.00	215.00	510.00
Coral Reef Alliance (less bank charges)	6,990.00		6,990.00
Cash from US\$ Account		62,550.00	1,563.75
KKP		87,500.00	2,187.50
Net Operating Revenue	210,320.68	638,956.93	26,294.60
Operating Expenses			
Earthwatch Trip Expense		342,820.50	8,570.51
Earthwatch Report Expense		3,622.75	90.57
Salaries Expense		48,025.13	1,200.63
SEC Registration		2,433.75	60.84
Office Overhead		9,078.25	226.96
Books for Sale		54,311.25	1,357.78
Coral Reef Book Writing Expense		5,610.00	140.25
Tales of Tubbataha Writing Expense		25,000.00	625.00
Batangas and Palawan Project	1,500.00		1,500.00
Batangas Expenses		52,176.50	1,304.41
Palawan Cash Advance and Expenses		30,154.00	753.85
Total Operating Expense	1,500.00	573,232.13	15,830.80
Net Income from Operations (Cash in Bank)	8,820.68	65,724.80	10,463.80

Note: 1 US\$ = 40 Pesos

How to join Sulu Fund?

Simply complete the membership form, enclose membership fee and mail to:
Sulu Fund for Marine Conservation Foundation, Inc.

No. 2 Topaz Street, Saint Michael Village, Banilad, Cebu City 6000 Philippines
Telephone (6332) 231-1521 Fax (6332) 232-1825 Email: avwhite@cebu.pw.net.ph