



Member's report on activities related to ICRI

The Reef-World Foundation

Reporting period November 2016 – November 2017

1. **Contribution to the ICRI Plan of Action 2016-2018.** *Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the current ICRI Plan of Action (<http://www.icriforum.org/icri-secretariat/current>)*

Theme 1 – “Help raise awareness of how coral reefs and related ecosystems help to fight climate change”

- *Goal 1-1: highlight the contribution of coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses to mitigate and adapt to climate change and its impacts*

Question: Do you have examples of solutions provided by coral reefs and coastal systems to mitigate and adapt to climate change?

Under a successful grant application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), The Reef-World Foundation are further supporting the implementation of the Green Fins initiative in the Philippines at sites that have been specifically highlighted as sites of climate refugia. The project titled, ‘*Managing a sustainable marine tourism industry in the Philippines using the Green Fins approach*’ will be implemented between September 1, 2016 to August 30, 2018. Using state-of-art information on climate vulnerability that uses downscaled climate model projections in relation to the onset of annual severe bleaching is used to target actions that reduce stress on reefs caused by human activities. This project focuses on meeting this best-practice standard in the Philippines and will focus on building capacity of managers to support a sustainable marine tourism industry within Apo Reef, Marinduque, Ticao Island and Bantayan Island. State-of-art downscaled climate modelling indicates these locations are have the best chance of persisting as disturbance frequencies increase. Consequently, management actions in these locations have the greatest chance of being effective long-term; i.e. a greater impact on site and system resilience relative to locations that are not refugia. Marine tourism industries are currently rapidly expanding in these areas, which are all protected under the National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) or are locally managed MPAs. Under this approach, building the capacity of resource managers specifically on how implementing best practice within marine tourism activities can help to build the resilience of coral reefs to wider scale threats such as raising sea temperatures and subsequent bleaching events.

As part of the Green Fins initiative, all staff at businesses that are taking part as active members undergo an annual training session by training Green Fins Assessors who provide an in-depth training session at the business premises that provides information on the importance of healthy and functioning marine habitats (coral reefs, seagrasses and mangroves) that can help protect coastlines against the increase in severity and frequency of storm caused by climate change. This information helps to inspire and empower resources managers and those in a position to act and help protect and conserve these habitats whilst ensuring tourism related businesses are using them in a sustainable manner.

Question: Are you planning to add in your NDC the importance of coral reefs / mangroves?

As a non-country member of ICRI, this question is not specifically relevant to The Reef-World Foundation.

Theme 3: “Help to reduce human threats to coral reefs and associated mangroves and seagrasses, by making greater use of regulatory tools”

- *Goal 3-1: promote legal frameworks for the protection of coral reefs and associated mangroves and seagrasses, with quantified targets and effective enforcement to protect these ecosystems*

Question: What are the legal frameworks for the protection of coral reefs and associated mangroves and seagrasses in place in your countries? If you already replied to the previous request, you don't need reply.

Reef-World encourages active Green Fins member countries (through a National Management Team) to incorporate Green Fins into national management frameworks to support the implementation and development of the Green Fins initiative within participating countries. This also extends to international commitments including multilateral environmental agreements (MEA's). Specific country examples of this are:

Philippines - The Green Fins approach has been integrated into the national Sustainable Coral Reef Ecosystems Management Program (through DENR Administrative Order 2013-12 Item 5.2e). This builds on the development of local Municipal Ordinances that target specific local issues. This has already been very successful in two Municipalities where local laws have been passed to: ensure mandatory environmental training for dive guides (Moalboal), restricting diver numbers at popular sites (Moalboal), and include the Green Fins Code of Conduct as a local regulation for tourism operators (Panglao, Bohol). Plans are underway to develop site specific ordinances in other active and future Green Fins implementation sites within the Philippines. Green Fins Philippines is further supported through working under "National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) framework, where implementation is prioritised in sites that are Marine Protected Areas.

Malaysia - Green Fins Malaysia has developed a strong management structure, maintained through a partnership between the national government authority and a national environmental NGO, Reef-Check Malaysia. Regular funding is provided by the national government for Green Fins activities as Green Fins is helping the national government to achieve a number of international agreements, namely Aichi Target 10.

Maldives – Since 2013, Green Fins has been supported through the development of a Green Fins National Management Team of staff from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who have allocated financial and other resources to support the Green Fins initiative. The Green Fins Code of Conduct has been incorporated in the Protected Areas Regulations which is currently undergoing approval and gazetting by the Ministry of Environment. This will further embed the initiative within national frameworks allocating further funding and administration support.

Palau – Under the Palau Responsible Tourism Framework (RTF), Green Fins has been identified as a suitable approach to help mitigate impacts to the corals reefs of Palau from businesses that provide snorkelling and SCUBA diving activities. This has been recognised by the formal adoption of the initiative through the signing of an MOU by the Ministry of Natural Resource, Environment and Tourism, State government of Koror, Bureau of Tourism (BOT), Belau Tourism Association (BTA), Palau Visitors Authority (PVA), Palau Conservation Society (PCS), Palau International Coral Reef Centre (PICRC) and the National Tourism Coordination Board (NTCB).

Thailand – The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) has formally adopted the Green Fins initiative since 2008 and are providing regular funding to support the roll out of the programme under frameworks that focus on awareness raising programmes and coral reef monitoring using the Reef Watch method. This is directly supported through the Phuket Marine Biological Centre (PMBC) that work under a national framework of coral reef research and education.

Vietnam – The Institute of Oceanography (IO) was identified in 2013 as the appropriate government department to oversee the development and implementation of the Green Fins approach focussing on the popular tourist location of Nha Trang where SCUBA diving and snorkelling activities are prevalent within the nearby Hon Mun National Park. Recently in 2017, the approach has been further supported though IUCN Vietnam who have provided resources to help spread the approach to the area of Phu Quoc in Khanh Hoa province. Green Fins is a key initiative in the delivery of annual commitments of the Nha Trang Bay Management Board, the government department responsible for the management of the Hon Mun MPA.

Indonesia – Efforts are currently underway with the Coral Triangle Centre, who are an official partner to the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) and are tasked with implementing the various actions and decisions of the CTI-CFF MPA Technical Working Group (Regional). One of the actions is to help implement sustainable marine tourism frameworks and guidelines which Green Fins has been identified as a suitable approach. CTC will take on the role of a Local Management Team with Assessor training scheduled for January 2018 for Green Fins implementation in Bali.

Question: Did you to set quantified targets to protect their coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses? And are you able to provide a % of what is currently protected in your country? Please define what you mean by protection?

As a non-country member of ICRI, this question is not specifically relevant to The Reef-World Foundation.

- *Goal 3-2: encourage a ban on plastic microbeads in cosmetic products*

Question: How did you implement the recommendation to reduce plastic microbeads pollution in marine environment?

As part of the Green Fins Code of Conduct #9 - *Operate under a minimum discharge policy*, Green Fins teams in active countries provide information and recommendations to businesses on best practices to limit or reduce the use of harmful chemicals or products that could harm the marine environment. As well as information on the damaging effects from the poor disposal of batteries and oil, and other more well-known damaging chemicals, information on cosmetic products that contain microplastics is now also being provided to enhance awareness to the issue and where possible, less damaging alternatives are provided to businesses.

The Reef-World Foundation have also supported the awareness to the negative impacts arising from the use of microbeads through online education through the use of social media, providing information on the harm from microbeads, how to reduce their use and eco-friendly alternatives.

- *Goal 3-3: improve regulation and enforcement to reduce direct anthropogenic damage due to dredging and physical alteration of reef structures*

Question: are you working on this topic? If yes, could you please share with us your work. Please note that the information provided will help us to develop a recommendation for the next ICRI General Meeting. Please send us information as soon as possible,

Green Fins Maldives, overseen and implemented by the Environment Protection Agency, are the regulated authority to ensure that sand pumping and similar alterations to atolls is limited or restricted in its entirety. Through the implementation of the Green Fins approach, EPA staff are required to visit participating businesses providing the chance to improve regulations and enforcement of appropriate legislation that is in place that otherwise might not have been possible.

As Green Fins is a public private partnership, the enhanced collaboration and communication between private businesses and the EPA (and where relevant other government bodies) allows for better reporting of issues such as illegal coral channelling, a common issue with resorts that require better access for boats to islands with shallow surrounding fringe reefs.

Site visits also allow EPA staff to better inform resort staff who are interested in coral propagation techniques on the correct legal and appropriate process required before alterations to coral reefs are allowed to commit.

- *Goal 3-4: promote the deployment of mooring devices limiting the mechanical destruction of coral reefs and seagrasses*

Question: are you working on this topic? If yes, could you please share with us your work. Please note that the information provided will help us to develop a recommendation for the next ICRI General Meeting. Please send us information as soon as possible,

Through the Green Fins Code of Conduct #5 (*Participate in the development and implementation of a mooring buoy program and actively use moorings, drift or hand place anchors for boats*) governments responsible for the protection and sustainable use of coral reefs are working alongside scuba diving businesses to help install mooring buoys. As government departments usually lack the skills, training and equipment needed for installing mooring buoys, the Green Fins approach has helped to forge new relationships with businesses who are able to provide resources and assistance in these areas. Private sector businesses are commonly not legally allowed to install mooring buoys at dive sites and acquiring the correct permission and authority to do so is often a major limiting factor due to complicated bureaucratic systems in place. Enhanced communications channels between public and private sectors establish through the Green Fins initiative allow for better cooperation, removing barriers to enable to installation of mooring buoys at dive sites leading to an overall reduction in damage from anchoring.

Reef-World have recently developed a series of two-minute videos that have received a large online uptake with one of the videos specifically addressing this threat. The [How to Use Alternatives to Anchoring](#) video has been viewed over 30,000 times since its release in August 2017.

- *Goal 3-5: review issues related to the impact of sunscreens and other endocrine disruptors on coral reefs, and encourage the production of sunscreens that are proven not to damage coral reefs*

Question: are you working on this topic? If yes, could you please share with us your work. Please note that the information provided will help us to develop a recommendation for the next ICRI General Meeting. Please send us information as soon as possible.

Through the Green Fins initiative, The Reef-World Foundation actively raise awareness to the issues associated with the use of sunscreens in coral reef areas, advocating the restricted use of sunscreen during snorkelling and diving activities and instead where possible promoting the use of eco-friendly alternatives to marine tourism businesses. The charity is currently not engaged in any specific academic research but has carried out its own literature review into current research that has identified the specific compounds and active ingredients that are considered harmful to coral reefs and other marine life in order to better educate Green Fins members and provide alternatives. Reef-World would be interested in knowing more information based on scientific findings to enhance current awareness raising activities.

The Reef-World Foundation successfully acquired consumer discounts for Green Fins members interested in purchasing coral reef ‘safe’ sunscreen that does not have any active ingredients that have been identified as being harmful to corals or other marine life. Through collaborating with www.humanhearthnature.com based in the Philippines, The Reef-World Foundation were able to provide a discount code specifically for Green Fins members based in the Philippines who were interested in purchasing sunscreens for re-sale purposes to their customers or guests.

Theme 4: “Monitor the state of reefs in order to better manage them”

- *Goal 4-2: better monitor the phenomena of coral bleaching*

Question: How did you implement the recommendation on addressing the decline in coral reef health due to global bleaching events?

Green Fins members are provided with an annual in-house training session for all staff involved in diving and snorkelling operations. As part of this training, they receive information on what coral bleaching is, how to report it via the use of existing mechanisms and provided with information on how to avoid encouraging bleaching through site specific best practice such as alternatives to chemical cleaning products, actions to reduce deliberate and accidental contact and alternatives to other negatively impacting actions from divers and snorkelers that could reduce the resilience of coral reefs to coral bleaching events.

Theme 5: “Progress via education”

- *Goal 5-1: prepare for the 2018 International Year of the Reef (IYOR)*

Question: How did you implement the Recommendation designating 2018 as the third International Year of the Reef? Please let us also know what are you planning to celebrate IYOR2018.

Please also list the educational material that you’ve developed in the past, so we can share it on the IYOR website.

Question: Would you like to report on one of your activities during the ICRI GM meeting?

The Reef-World Foundation are planning on specifically working alongside ICRI and UN Environment to promote and enhance awareness to IYOR2018. Plans are underway to develop specific awareness raising campaigns to be released throughout the year alongside established partners and networks in conjunction with regular Green Fins activities. Current initial ideas include:

- 4 action points / campaigns will be evenly promoted throughout the year for a 3 month period per action point with the aim to focus on each problem and associated solution.
- GF testimonials/ coral reef values

- GF film to be developed
- TED talk: using IYOR 2018 as a focus + collaborating with other partners
- Partner with Dive.in who have offered to create infographics for the IYOR2018 campaign
- Partners such as Divebooker and Deepblu have expressed interest in supporting our campaigns
- Advertisement (social media, magazines, etc)
- Use hashtags to monitor action

2. **Publications.** Please list relevant publications/reports (related to the ICRI plan of action) you have released during this reporting period.

Title (incl. author and date)	Website URL if available	Type of publication (Paper, report, etc.)
Green Fins - No Touch poster - Asian market	http://greenfins.net/a/img/cms/Green%20Fins%20Toolkit/GreenFins_NoTouchENG.pdf	Electronic poster
Green Fins - No Gloves poster - Asian market	http://greenfins.net/a/img/cms/Green%20Fins%20Toolkit/GreenFins_NoGlovesENG.pdf	Electronic poster
Green Fins - No Litter poster - Asian market	http://greenfins.net/a/img/cms/Green%20Fins%20Toolkit/GreenFins_NoLitterENG.pdf	Electronic poster
Video series – How-to-videos		
Green Fins Pre-Dive Environmental Briefing	https://youtu.be/0ibuD1QhV6A?list=PL-EDhf0_cxGZkUgTP5CZ4-nkHh_bHIY-	Online video
How To Manage Underwater Photographers	https://youtu.be/rAs-222XCPw?list=PL-EDhf0_cxGZkUgTP5CZ4-nkHh_bHIY-	Online video
Implement Good Garbage Management Practices On Boats	https://youtu.be/ScrNlNaBqE8?list=PL-EDhf0_cxGZkUgTP5CZ4-nkHh_bHIY-	Online video
How To Give An Environmental Boat Briefing	https://youtu.be/m9go7nNA3A4?list=PL-EDhf0_cxGZkUgTP5CZ4-nkHh_bHIY-	Online video
Guiding Divers Towards Best Environmental Practice	https://youtu.be/PslbEjVNiv0?list=PL-EDhf0_cxGZkUgTP5CZ4-nkHh_bHIY-	Online video
How To Use Alternatives To Anchoring	https://youtu.be/tLL0etNH9qk?list=PL-EDhf0_cxGZkUgTP5CZ4-nkHh_bHIY-	Online video
Implement Good Garbage Management Practices	https://youtu.be/KBZCxF1p2k8?list=PL-EDhf0_cxGZkUgTP5CZ4-nkHh_bHIY-	Online video
How To Make Reusable Tank Caps	https://youtu.be/Sd05WcrCNWQ?list=PL-EDhf0_cxGZkUgTP5CZ4-nkHh_bHIY-	Online video
Video Series - Green Fins - I DIVE FOR CHANGE		
I DIVE FOR CHANGE - Adrian Dizon (Interview with a Dive Guide)	https://youtu.be/fuc8VX8VioQ?list=PL-EDhf0_cxHSUVWv15Yqqad9XsR8umnK	Online video
I DIVE FOR CHANGE - King Ramos & Ole Emnace	https://youtu.be/napvXw2nMAO?list=PL-EDhf0_cxHSUVWv15Yqqad9XsR8umnK	Online video
Video Series - World Oceans Day 2017		
Green Fins Members for World Oceans Day - Sara and Gavin	https://youtu.be/SQNmHEKs6d4?list=PL-EDhf0_cxFAYqjAUpKkiaMOHAP9AAPP	Online video
Green Fins Members for World Oceans Day - Paulyne and Mac	https://youtu.be/rLi4o8dCOc0?list=PL-EDhf0_cxFAYqjAUpKkiaMOHAP9AAPP	Online video
Green Fins Members for World Oceans Day - Dave and Gino	https://youtu.be/24-xnxWvptc?list=PL-EDhf0_cxFAYqjAUpKkiaMOHAP9AAPP	Online video

3. **General Information.** (Note that this information will be posted on the ICRI website on your member page: <http://www.icriforum.org/about-icri/members-networks>.)

Member type (Country / Organization):	Organisation / NGO
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Thank you very much for sharing your valuable experiences and information with ICRI.