Field Projects in Palawan and Batangas

Ranger Station in Tubbataha, Palawan

In December 1999 the foundation of a new ranger station was finished. The entire structure will be done in March 2000. Funds granted by the Marine Parks Center of Japan of US$11,500 have been utilized to supplement cost of the construction of the ranger station in Tubbataha as designed by the Philippine Navy and other partners in the management of the park. In addition, the funds have been used to raise awareness of visitors to the park and for monitoring of the area.

The old ranger station (photo below) was collapsing and the Philippine Navy needed a stable place to reside in to protect the only national marine park of the Philippines. Our appreciation for support goes to the Marine Parks Center of Japan, the Province of Palawan under Governor Socrates, SAGUDA Palawan and of course our board member Angelique Songco for coordinating the construction with the Navy.

It is to the credit of the Armed Forces of the Philippines through the Western Command in Palawan that Tubbataha is being guarded from illegal fishing activities. The new ranger station will make it easier to maintain a presence there and provide improved living conditions for Navy personnel and others visiting the station.
Tubbataha Reefs National Marine Park Educational Campaign

This project supported by the CORAL Reef Alliance has been successfully completed. Through the efforts of Angelique Songco and her staff, this project has helped increase awareness of Palawan-based fishermen and tourism operators about the need to conserve Tubbataha Reefs National Marine Park. A video based on the existing footage of Tubbataha reef ecology and management, dubbed in Tagalog, was shown in ten fishing communities. A flip chart about Tubbataha reefs in English and Tagalog was used to educate fishing villages, communities and divers on board the various live-aboard dive boats. A follow-up activity to this project will be continued briefings for divers visiting Tubbataha.

Reef Management in Tingloy, Batangas

Funds from the Coral Reef Alliance, Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas (KKP) and donor Richard Hirsch amounting to P423,000 are supporting this project. Activities started in late 1998 with an initial dissemination of information on the need for marine conservation in the area. Ongoing activities this year (2000) include: 1) installation of several anchor buoys using appropriate, practical and cheap designs and involving local residents in their installation; 2) supporting community management of marine sanctuaries; and 3) the development of an integrated plan for the Mabini-Tingloy tourism and traditional use area.

In December 1999, Daniel Ocampo, the project field worker, organized an exhibit “Ang Kalayaan ng Ating Yaman-Dagat” in Barangay Santo Tomas together with KKP and Haribon Foundation. It was well attended and the exhibit is still on display in the house of the Barangay captain (see photos).

In February 2000, Daniel Ocampo organized a study tour for about 10 members of the Santo Tomas community to visit San Salvador Island, Zambales and Bolinao, Pangasinan. It is hoped that this trip will catalyze interest on the part of the barangay group to initiate a marine sanctuary in their area to protect important reef resources.

This project site is also an expansion area of the Coastal Resource Management Project (CRMP) supported by the United States Agency for International Development. Mayor Atienza of Tingloy, late last year, signed a memorandum of agreement with CRMP, Sulu Fund and KKP to work together on coastal management activities. The mayor’s enthusiasm for protecting coral reefs in this area is encouraging so that it is expected that year 2000 will be productive for improving coastal management in Tingloy Municipality.
Other Field Projects

Bohol Marine Triangle

The Sulu Fund together with the Coastal Resource Management Project were asked by the Foundation for Philippine Environment to assist in the design of a large marine conservation program for the Bohol Marine Triangle which includes Panglao, Balicasag and Pamilacan Islands off southern Bohol Island. Thomas Bayer and Alan White have been working on this project design together with the Silliman University Marine Laboratory and the Bohol Integrated Development Foundation (BIDEF). The project proposal will be submitted for final review by the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Environment Facility in March 2000. If all goes well with the review and it is approved, it is possible that funding could be made available of US$750,000 by the end of this year. The ultimate project will be implemented by the Foundation for Philippine Environment with assistance from its partners in the design process along with the local governments and communities of the area.

Saving Philippine Reefs

Tubbataha Expedition on May 21-30, 2000

We are preparing for this upcoming research expedition (May 21-30, 2000 in Tubbataha). We will conduct the expedition in cooperation with CRMP to update baseline data on Tubbataha Reefs collected in 1984, 1989, 1992 and 1996. Paying volunteers are mostly the past Earthwatch divers. Angelique Songco will be one of the divemasters on board. Jonathan Apurado of the University of San Carlos will be the technical divemaster. Any interested party please contact Sulu Fund. Two slots are still available.

Board Members for year 2000

President Alan White
Vice President Lori Tan (Publication Coordinator)
Treasurer/Secretary Evangeline White
Batangas Coordinator Albert Salamanca
Palawan Coordinator Angelique Songco
Journalism/Writer Yasmin Arquiza (Publication)
Research Support Maria Carmel Meyer

We would like to welcome Mrs. Maria Carmel Meyer as our newly elected board member. Maria has been very active both in research and financial support to Sulu Fund. She is a Filipino by birth and resides in New York, USA and is very enthusiastic about becoming a board member of Sulu Fund.

Information Projects

Bookmark (publisher) is printing The "Tales from Tubbataha, Natural History, Resource Use, and Conservation of the Tubbataha Reefs Palawan, Philippines" book (Authors are Yasmin Arquiza and Alan White). The book will be launched in Manila on February 29, 2000 and again in Puerto Princesa in late March 2000.

"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.

We would like to thank in advance the following people who have donated their wonderful slides to the revised edition.

David Cook, (Australia)
Lynn Funkhouser, (Chicago, USA)
Eduardo CuUnjieng, (Philippines)
Christy Gavitt, (Arizona, USA)
Toni Paras, (Miami, USA)
Mike Ross, (Cebu City, Philippines)
Stephen Castillo, (Cebu City, Philippines)
Louella Dolar-Perrin, (California, USA)
Nida Calumpong (Negros, Philippines)
Teodulo Luchavez (Negros, Philippines)
John Randall (Hawaii, USA)
Steven Leatherwood
Myron Wang (Kansas, USA)
William Perrin (California, USA)

Ms. Gel Alvarado, our research assistant is cheerfully assisting with the photo captions and editing among many other chores. Since the layout process is beginning, we hope to finish all by year 2000. As with all such projects of the Sulu fund, the proceeds from the book publication will be used to support field projects in marine conservation.

Lori Tan (also Sulu Fund board member and owner of Bookmark) is assisting to publish the two books. We intend to submit to the Publisher by April 2000.
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.

### Financial Report of the Sulu Fund

#### Operating Revenue

- **Sales**
  - **Peso Account**: 86,586.93
  - **US$: 3,757.67
- **Membership**
  - **Peso Account**: 14,000.00
  - **US$: 1,973.00
- **Honorarium received by Alan White**
  - **Peso Account**: 14,650.00
  - **US$: 5,612.33
- **Marine Parks Center of Japan**
  - **Peso Account**: 1,035.00
  - **US$: 400,140.00
  - **US$: 11,038.50
- **Earthwatch (EW) Expedition Fund, 97**
  - **Peso Account**: 5,246.08
  - **US$: 14,730.00
- **Others (EW volunteer local), 97**
  - **Peso Account**: 4,500.00
  - **US$: 1,055.50
- **Earthwatch (EW) Expedition Fund, 99**
  - **Peso Account**: 24,750.00
  - **US$: 24,750.00

#### Operating Expenses

- **Earthwatch (EW) Trip Expense ‘97**
  - **Peso Account**: 313,920.50
  - **US$: 7,848.01
- **Earthwatch Report Expense ‘97**
  - **Peso Account**: 3,622.75
  - **US$: 90.57
- **Additional Earthwatch Expense '97**
  - **Peso Account**: 28,900.00
  - **US$: 722.50
- **Earthwatch ’99**
  - **Peso Account**: 716,716.75
  - **US$: 17,917.92
- **Salaries Expense**
  - **Peso Account**: 212,179.58
  - **US$: 5,304.49
- **SEC registration**
  - **Peso Account**: 2,433.75
  - **US$: 60.84
- **Office overhead**
  - **Peso Account**: 43,408.65
  - **US$: 1,085.22
- **Books for sale**
  - **Peso Account**: 81,916.25
  - **US$: 2,047.91
- **Coral Reef Book Writing Expense**
  - **Peso Account**: 5,610.00
  - **US$: 140.25
- **Tales from Tubbataha Writing Expense**
  - **Peso Account**: 25,000.00
  - **US$: 625.00
- **Batangas Project**
  - **Peso Account**: 245,014.00
  - **US$: 6,125.35
- **Palawan Educational Project**
  - **Peso Account**: 113,238.75
  - **US$: 2,830.97
- **Tubbataha Ranger Station Project**
  - **Peso Account**: 250,000.00
  - **US$: 6,250.00
- **Indonesian Study Tour**
  - **Peso Account**: 9,066.75
  - **US$: 9,066.75
- **US$ Fund transfer to Peso Account**
  - **Peso Account**: 39,500.00
  - **US$: 39,500.00
- **Bohol Marine Triangle Project**
  - **Peso Account**: 3,471.60
  - **US$: 86.79
- **Bank charges**
  - **Peso Account**: 24.00
  - **US$: 986.40
  - **US$: 48.66

#### Summary

- **Net Operating revenue**: 71,757.93
- **Net Income from Operations**: $23,167.18
- **Net Income (Cash in bank)**: $23,167.18
BOOKS

**Beneath Philippine Seas** 1997, Robert Yin, 135 pages, hardbound Pesos 1800; $US50 and softbound Pesos 1300; $US40 [A wonderful assortment of large underwater photos on each page by one of the most dedicated Filipino photographers residing in San Diego, CA]

**Philippine Coral Reefs in Watercolor** 1997, Rafael Cusi (artist), Bortles, L., White, A.T., and Cassey, C. (text), 128 pages, hardbound. Pesos 1800; $US50. [A stunning collection of watercolor paintings depicting Philippine coral reefs at their best in an extremely pleasing style. This unique book is enhanced by text which describes both the plight of coral reefs and the activities underway in the Philippines to conserve and manage this valuable resource.]

**Field Guide to the Common Mangroves, Seagrasses and Algae of the Philippines** 1997, Hilconida Calumpong and Ernani Menez, 197 pages, soft-cover. Pesos 500; $US17. [This is the first comprehensive and authoritative book on the common marine plants of Philippine shores and reefs. It facilitates identification to the species level with good, clear photographs.]

**A Field Guide to Whales and Dolphins in the Philippines** 1997, Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan, 250 pages, soft-cover. Pesos 600; $US20. [This is the most comprehensive guidebook to Philippine reefs in print with 240 photos and lists of the most common marine organisms with accurate descriptions.]


**Philippine Biodiversity** An assessment and action plan, 1997 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Pesos 1500 US$50.


**Tropical Pacific Invertebrate** Book by Patrick L. Colin and Charles Arneson, Pesos 2350; $US60.

Anilao 2000 by Eduardo CuUnjieng, hard bound Pesos 3,700 (US$93)

OTHER PRODUCTS

**Save Philippine Reefs T-Shirt** Design with reef fish on front, Small, Medium or Large, Pesos 300; $US10. 

**VHS Tape of "Philippine Coral Reefs-Resource at Risk"** Pesos 500; US$15

**VHS Tape of "Quiet Places"** Pesos 500; US$15 goes with "Ecotourism in the Philippines" Book Pesos 140; US$4

**Post cards** (various underwater designs) photo by R. Yin 12 pcs per pack for Pesos 100; US$3

**Map of Philippine Culture and Exosystems** Pesos 150

**Map, Decline of the Philippine Forest** 125

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Please send orders to Sulu Fund in Cebu and enclose payment by check payable to Sulu Fund in Pesos or US$. For mailing within the Philippines, please add Pesos 60 or $US2. For airmail outside of the Philippines please add Pesos 400 or $US13 to your order. Via Federal Express, please add US$40.

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Announcement

The "Tales from Tubbataha, Natural History, Resource Use, and Conservation of the Tubbataha Reefs Palawan, Philippines" book (Authors are Yasmin Arquiza and Alan White). The book will be launched in Manila on February 29, 2000 and again in Puerto Princesa in late March 2000.