



GREEN FINS

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 2

What is Green Fins Assessment?

The Green Fins Project is the first and world's only assessed environmental set of standards for SCUBA diving and snorkelling centres. Those centres who agree to follow the Code of Conduct have to undergo a training session followed by an assessment of their dive centre at least once a year to ensure that they are minimising their environmental impact. This process simply requires allowing a fully trained Green Fins Coordinator to come to the dive centre and carry out a 1 hour training presentation during a time that suits the staff. Following on from this, an Assessor, who can be recognised through having a valid Green Fins Assessor ID, then joins one of their dive trips to observe staff and customers. This allows the assessor to provide three focus areas for the dive centre to improve on before their next assessment.

This website also allows the trained assessors to log in and upload their assessment data onto our secure and private database. It allows industry wide problems such as poor briefings or lack of guidelines for guests, anchoring or issues with garbage collection to be highlighted allowing Green Fins to work more closely with government departments to address these issues.

This assessment system was developed and is maintained by The Reef-World Foundation who are the only organization able to carry out the training of new Assessors to maintain industry wide standards. The assessment system is part of the Green Environmental Assessment Rating System (GEARS) that combined with the database allows specific threats to be targeted in collaboration with the National Management Teams. This unique and ground breaking technique for monitoring threats from the scuba and snorkel tourism industry has been in action since 2008 and has had effective



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and successful results. You can see more on this Assessment process on the scientific paper that was published in Ocean and Coastal Management in July 2013.

Membership Status

ACTIVE (Colour details on website) – This member has been trained to follow the Green Fins Code of Conduct and has been assessed within the last 18 months. They have successfully reduced their environmental impact and score or maintained the same as last year but have not increased their environmental impact or threat.

INACTIVE (Logo and Member details 'greyed out' on the website) – This member has previously been trained on the Green Fins approach and assessed but has not been assessed in the last 18 months. This could be due to a lack of cooperation on their part, change in management, or a lack of resources to enable a Green Fins Assessor to access them.

INTERESTED (Member is not on display on the public website) – This member has filled out a membership form but has not been assessed or trained.

SUSPENDED (Member is not on display on the public website) – This member has not managed to effectively reduce their threat to the marine environment in line with the Code of Conduct within 2 years, or has been involved in an activity that is seen as seriously detrimental to the marine environment.

The Reef Waorld Foundation published The Green Fins approach for monitoring and promoting environmentally sustainable scuba diving operations in South East Asia at Ocean & Coastal Management Volume 78, June 2013, Page 35-44. DOI: 10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2013.03.004 Please see an abstract at

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0964569113000719>

Source: <http://www.greenfins.net/assessments>

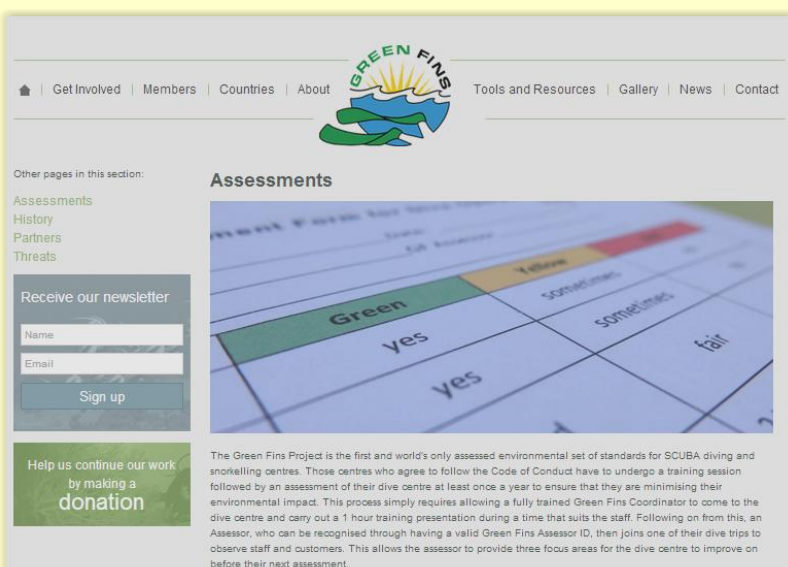


Figure 1: Green Fins Assessment system

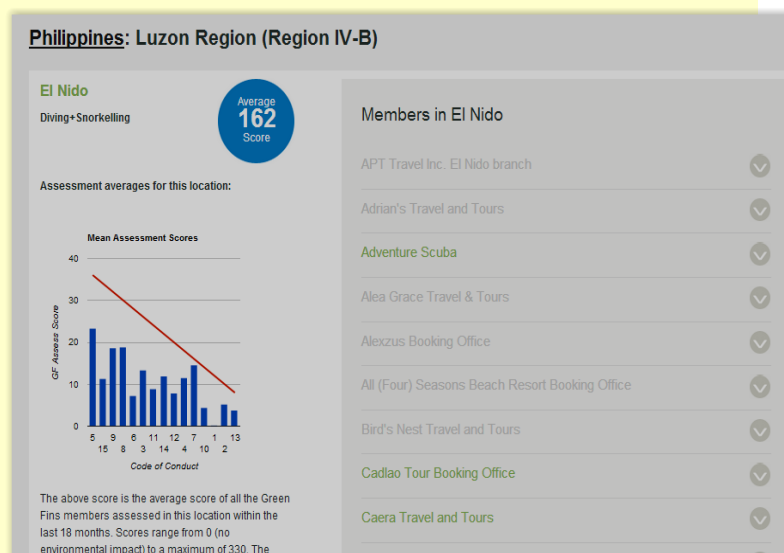


Figure 2: Overall assessment results in Luzon Region, Philippines

Voice of Volunteer

Green Fins Thailand proud to present the Project Abroad Thailand who helps us conduct Reef Watch monitoring in Krabi province since 2007, of which over 250 data online submission.

Diego Fernandez, the Conservation Coordinator of Project Abroad Thailand gave us an information about his organization: Projects Abroad (www.projectsabroad.net) is the world's leading global authority on volunteering. We operate in 28 countries in the developing world, employing over 600 staff worldwide and placing 10,000 volunteers in worthwhile programs annually. Projects Abroad Thailand has been cooperating with important International Conservation Organizations, Researcher Centers and the local Government in order to develop conservation programs and generate scientific data which could support the improve of the management plan of the area.

How Project Abroad get involved in this voluntary work?

Projects Abroad is a Green Fins Member since 2006. Following the Green Fins Code of Conduct completely and conducting the Reef Watch Survey for all the time.

The Reef Watch monitoring is a simple method and user friendly. The survey analyzes globally and holistically the health of the reef because it focuses on many different features of the environment: physical features to classify the reef, percentage cover and common type of corals, abundance of indicator species, damage to the reef and the opinion of the reef's health. Due a roving technique is used to conduct the survey volunteers are able to dive along the all reef making the survey enjoyable.

Volunteers how cooperate with Projects Abroad receive a complete marine biological training to be able to conduct the surveys properly what includes theory presentations, field practice training, and exams to make sure the data collected are right.





Activities



Raya Father Tour



Raya Princess Tour



Rak Talay Travel

Greenfins volunteers had conducted the assessment of skin diving entrepreneurs in Phuket by joining one day trip with six skin diving entrepreneurs. The assessment consists of observing , data collecting, interviewing tour guides and tourists about problems occurred from Marine tours operation and heeding the dive entrepreneurs' advice so Greenfins will improve its performance to the better level.

Greenfins joined the dive trip with Raya Father on May 28, 2014 at Raya Island. Thereafter, Greenfins joined the dive trip with Raya Princess Tour on June 4, 2014 at Raya Island. On June 11, 2014, we also joined the dive trip with Rak Talay Travel at PP Island and Koh Kai Nai. On June 14, 2014, we also had a chance to join the dive trip with Bungalow Raya Resort at Raya Island. On the next day, June 15, 2014, we joined the dive trip with Andavaree Travel at PP Island and Koh Kai Nai. And on the last day of assessment, June 18, 2014, we joined the dive trip with Golden Region Travel at Raya Island.



Bungalow Raya Resort



Golden Region Travel



Andvaree Travel



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