



PATA[®]
Pacific Asia Travel Association

PATA NEW TOURISM FRONTIERS FORUM 2015

"ECOTOURISM-TRANSCENDING CLIMATE CHANGE"

NOVEMBER 25-27

THE ORIENTAL HOTEL

LEGAZPI, ALBAY, PHILIPPINES

Supported by





ENVIRONMENTALLY
FRIENDLY
DIVING

A regional initiative for
managing the impacts of diving
and snorkelling activities on
coral reefs



“To protect and conserve coral reefs by establishing and implementing environmentally friendly guidelines to promote a sustainable diving and snorkelling tourism industry.”

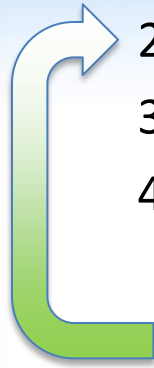




Membership Process



1. Dive / Snorkel Centre signs Membership form
2. They receive training / materials (Assessors)
3. Assessment carried out (Assessors)
4. Certification



Annual training and assessment / re-evaluation

No improvement = suspension from Green Fins

Green Fins Membership Form

MISSION STATEMENT
"To protect and conserve coral reefs by establishing and implementing environmentally friendly guidelines to promote a sustainable diving and snorkelling tourism industry."

1. Adopt the Green Fins mission statement
2. Display the adopted Green Fins agreement for the public to see
3. Adhere to the 'Green Fins' Friendly Diving and Snorkelling Guidelines and act as a responsible role model for guests
4. Participate in regular underwater cleanups at dive operator selected sites
5. Participate in the development and implementation of a mooring buoy program and actively use moorings, drift or hand place anchors for boats
6. Prohibit the sales of corals and other marine life at the dive operation
7. Participate in regular coral reef monitoring and report coral reef monitoring data to a regional coral reef database
8. Provide adequate garbage facilities on board facility's vessel and deal with responsibility
9. Operate under a 'minimum discharge' policy
10. Abide by all local, regional, national and international environmental laws, regulations and customs
11. Provide guests with an explanation of Green Fins' Friendly Diving and Snorkelling Guidelines in pre dive briefings
12. Provide training, briefing or literature for employees and guests regarding good environmental practices for snorkeling, diving, boating, marine wildlife interaction and other marine recreational activities
13. Provide staff and guests with public awareness and environmental materials (ID books, pamphlets etc)
14. Provide guests with information on local Marine Protected Areas, environmental rules and regulations
15. Promote a strict 'No Touch' policy for all reef diving and snorkelling.

"I agree to abide by the Green Fins Code of Conduct and understand that my company will allow Green Fins onboard to carry out environmental assessments. I realise that a failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in a warning being given and after several warnings it may lead to my removal from the scheme."

NAME _____ COMPANY _____
SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____
EMAIL _____ TEL. NO. _____
ADDRESS _____
NAME AND TYPE OF ALL BOATS: _____

Adapted from The Coral Reef Alliance (CORA) "Environmentally Friendly Standards for Dive Operators"
An initiative of the United Nations Environmental Programme and supported by The Reef World Foundation

www.greenfins.net





Membership Process



Certificate of Participation

This certifies that

Example Dive Centre

has participated in Green Fins training on environmentally friendly diving and snorkelling and undergone an assessment of compliance with the Green Fins Code of Conduct.

This company is now recognised as a Green Fins accredited member and is entitled to the associated privileges.

This certificate, issued on the 1st November 2015, is valid for a period of one year

Jerker Tamelander
Head, Coral Reef Unit
Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems Branch
United Nations Environment Programme

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vo Si Tuan
Director

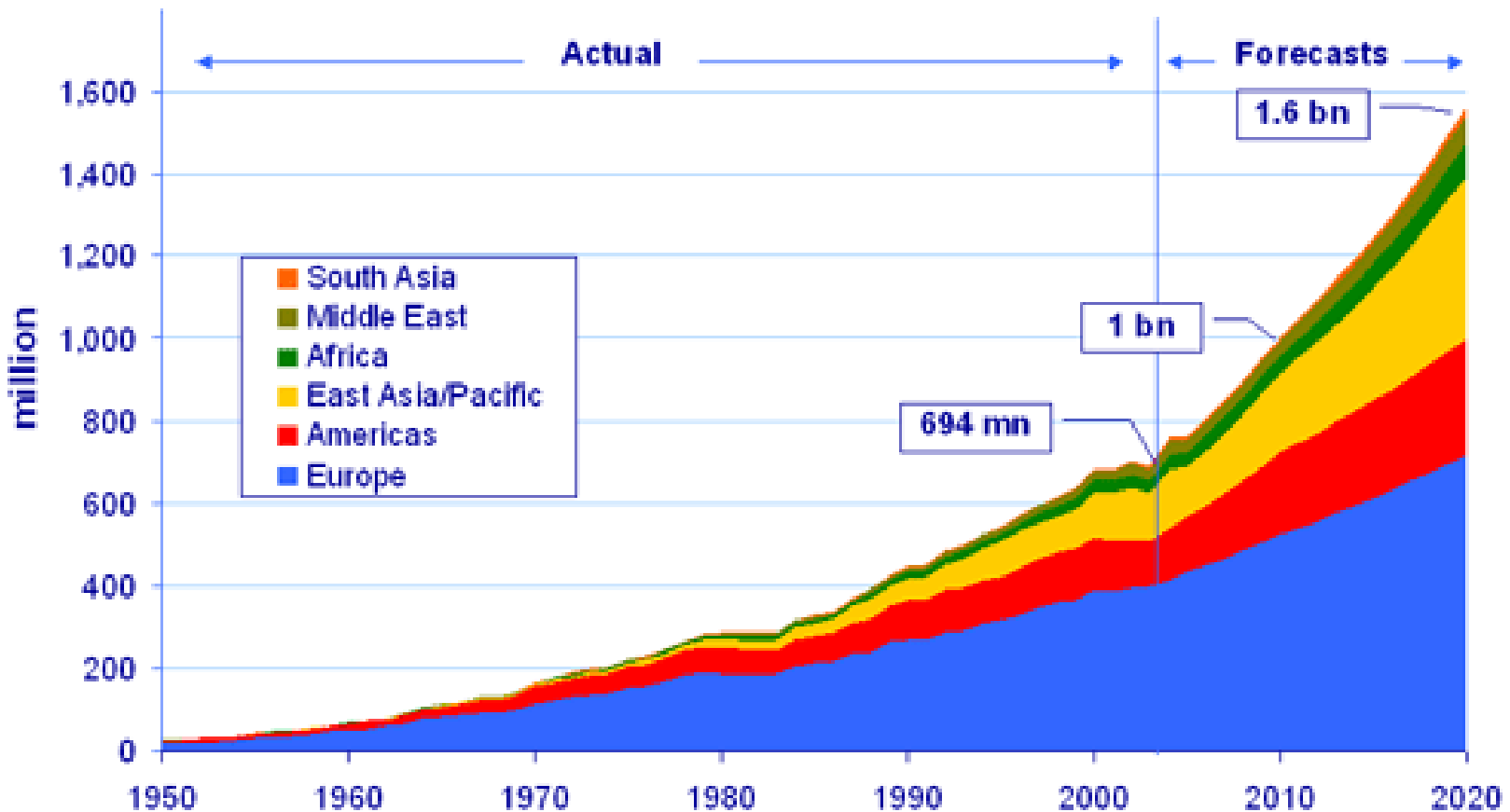
Institute of Oceanography
Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology



Example certificate from Vietnam

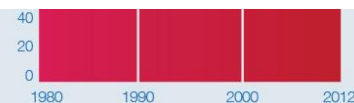


Global Tourism



NOT SPECIFIED 1%

INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS



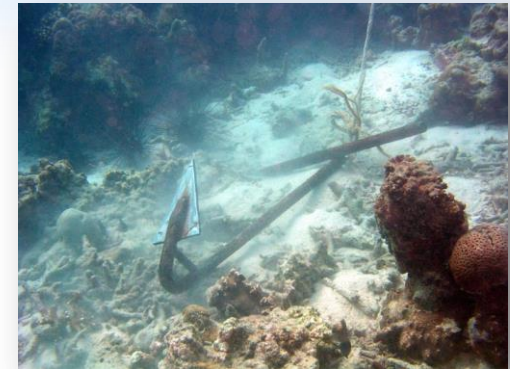
©UNWTO 2



Marine Tourism



- Presents a threat and an opportunity
- Reducing local threats through best practice will increase the resilience of coral reefs to withstand the long term effect of a changing climate





Critical Aspects 1/6



1. Applying best practice

- 15 Point Code of Conduct / Best Practice
- Annual environmental assessments
- Certification
- Promotion





Critical Aspects 2/6



2. Capacity building

- i. Training for Green Fins Management Teams (local and national authorities and NGOs)
 - Green Fins Assessor Training Programme
 - National and local implementation support





Critical Aspects 2/6



2. Capacity building

- i. Training for Green Fins Management Teams (local and national authorities and NGOs)
- ii. Dive businesses to implement effective policies to reduce risk
 - Staff training
 - Environmental awareness materials
 - Toolkits





Critical Aspects 3/6



3. Revising and strengthening regulatory frameworks and existing conservation initiatives



DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 2013 - 12

20 FEB 2013



Target 10

By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

Pursuant to Republic Act No. 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Law; sections 4 and 5 of Executive Order No. 192, Series of 1987 or the Reorganization Act of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources; and consistent with Executive Order No. 533, Series of 2006 or "Adopting the Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Strategy to Ensure the Sustainable Development of the Country's Coastal and Marine Environment and Resources and Establishing Supporting Mechanisms", and

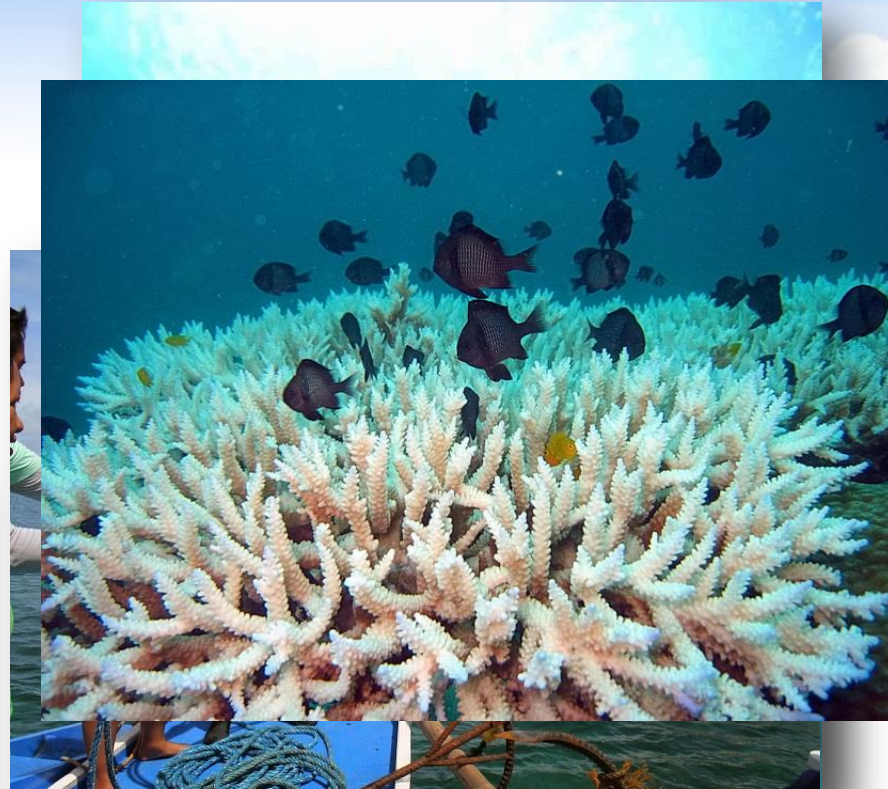




Critical Aspects 4/6

4. Public private partnership

- Data collection - citizen science
- Alert Networks
- Clean ups
- Mooring buoy programmes





Critical Aspects 5/6



5. Broker for integrated coastal zone management

- Holistic approach
- Strategic local solutions
- Outreach and education campaigns





Critical Aspects 6/6



6. Proven approach

- Green Fins members implement effective and lasting environmental policies after contact with the Green Fins systems

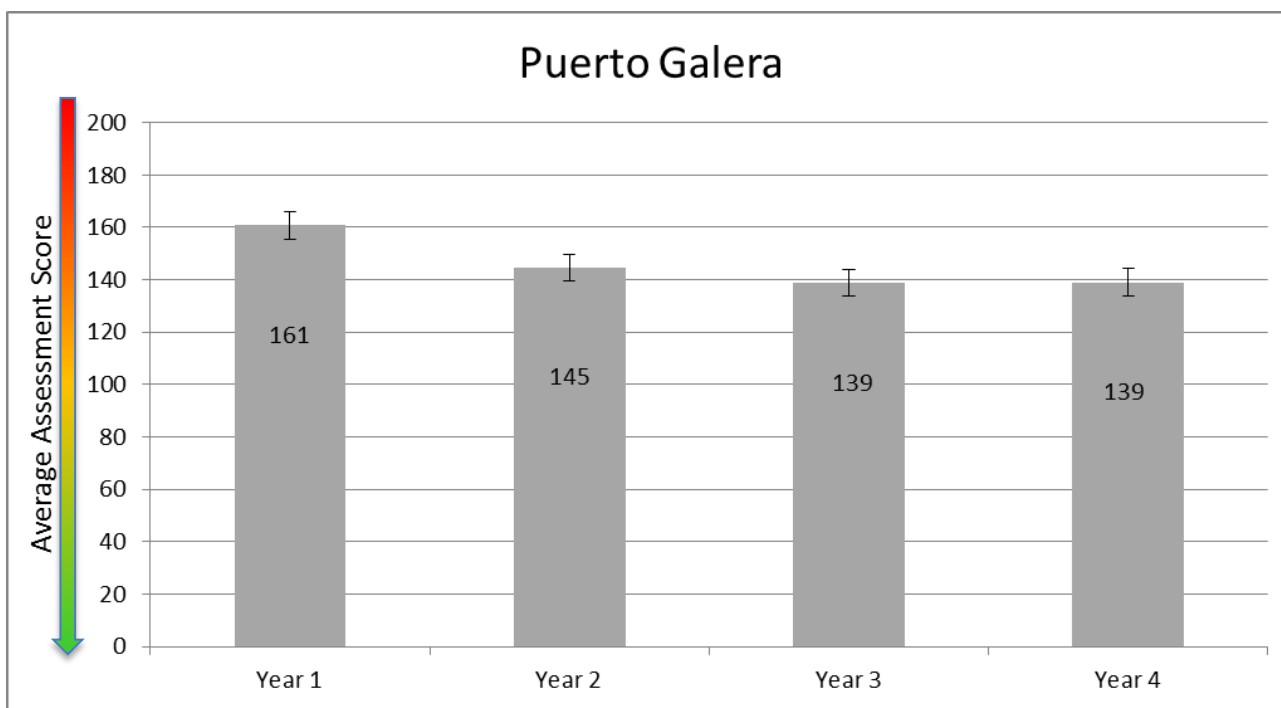


Fig 1. Mean dive centre assessment scores (weighted) for Puerto Galera from assessments over four year of Green Fins implementation (2012), n = 31, error bars represent SE.



Critical Aspects



6. Proven approach

- Green Fins results in dive businesses implementing effective policies and practices to reduce environmental risk
- Replicable





Next Steps



1. Continued development and implementation of Green Fins – Europe ?
2. Enhancing the long-term sustainability and replicability of Green Fins
 - Building incentives for businesses to join
 - Environmental and economic impact assessment
3. Sustainable consumption and production in the growing marine tourism sector
 - Targeted awareness campaigns to influence consumer choice
 - Provision of supply chain incentives
 - Partnering with tour operators and travel agencies, diver certification agencies, equipment supply etc





Thank you!