

**THE PLANNING WORKSHOP FOR “GREEN FINS” LOCAL NETWORK LEADERS  
7 – 8 JULY 2004  
PHUKET, THAILAND**

**WORKSHOP SUMMARY**

1. The objective of the workshop was to gather the local network leaders from Thailand, Philippines, and Indonesia to agree on the implementation plan for the pilot phase of the “Green Fins” Project. The workshop opened on 7 July 2004 with an introduction to UNEP, particularly the East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit (EAS/RCU), and its current activities, as this was the first time for all but one participant to be involved with UNEP’s activities.
2. After the self introduction of all participants (see Annex I for list of participants), an overview of the “Green Fins” project and workshop’s desired outputs were presented. Each local network leader then gave a presentation on his organization, current activities related to environmentally-friendly diving, and suggestions for “Green Fins” implementation. In addition, Dive Master Company from Thailand, gave a presentation on the company’s current activities in coral reef protection, and public awareness materials used to brief their customers before each dive.
3. The remainder of the workshop focused on discussions pertaining to the implementation of “Green Fins.” The details and agreements are listed in this document under the respective sections.

**Incentives for Membership**

4. The first item for discussion was how to attract dive operators to join “Green Fins.” A brainstorming session was held to list incentives that would attract members. The list below contains the ideas proposed.
  1. Certificate of participation
  2. Flag or pennant of participation
  3. Certificates of excellence or levels of achievement
  4. Levels of recognition (e.g. mooring buoy program participants, beach cleanup participants, etc.)
  5. Free/sponsored advertising through dive associations, networks, and regional media
  6. International recognition and inter-governmental cooperation
  7. Increase in competitiveness of business
  8. Corporate sponsorship
  9. Website advertising (initially on UNEP EAS/RCU’s pages)
  10. Share scientific resources
  11. Training of staff (basic marine biology, mooring buoy programs, monitoring)
  12. UNEP’s support in establishing programs (underwater cleanups, mooring buoy programs, ReefCheck, Reef Watch)
  13. UNEP Collateral Support (handouts, multimedia, posters, education, advertising materials)
  14. Preservation of valuable dive sites
  15. Preservation of coral reefs

**Mission Statement**

5. A “Green Fins” mission statement was composed as follows:

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

## **Membership Code of Conduct**

6. Participants agreed on the following list of criteria (code of conduct) for members.

Dive operators that join "Green Fins" should agree to:

1. Adopt "Green Fins" mission statement.
2. Display adopted "Green Fins" agreement for dive operators.
3. Adhere to "Green Fins" 'Friendly Diving and Snorkeling Guidelines' and act as 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 sale 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 vessels and deal with responsibly.
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 Snorkeling Guidelines' in pre-dive briefings (UNEP Multilingual pre-dive briefing handouts, multimedia, posters, videos).
12. Provide training, briefings or literature for employees and guests regarding good environmental practices for snorkeling, diving, boating, marine wildlife interaction, and other marine recreation activities.
13. Provide staff and guests with public awareness and environmental materials (books, pamphlets, fish ID books, etc).
14. Provide guests with information on local marine protected areas, environmental rules and regulations.
15. Promote strict "no touch" policy for all reef diving and snorkeling.

## **Guidelines for Diving and Snorkeling**

7. Following the discussion on membership criteria, participants reviewed and finalized the pre-dive briefings for "Green Fins" 'Friendly Diving and Snorkeling Guidelines.' These documents are attached as Annexes II and III.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

8. To evaluate the project and adherence to the code of conduct, three types of assessments were prepared: (1) a dive operator self assessment; (2) guest assessment of the dive operator; and (3) network leaders assessment of each dive operator and the overall project. The evaluation criteria for the assessments are based on the code of conduct.

9. It was agreed that guests would complete the assessment form before each dive. Dive operators would assess themselves twice a year, during the middle and end of the project, and network leaders would also assess the project twice a year. The network leaders will be responsible for doing an assessment of each participating dive operator, as well as compiling all the scores from self and guest evaluations. The following tables show the different assessment forms that will be used.

**Table 1. Self Assessment Form For Dive Operators**

1. Have you adopted the GREEN FINS mission statement?	yes					no
2. Have you displayed the adopted GREEN FINS agreement for the public to see?	yes					no
3. How well do you adhere to Green Fins 'Friendly Diving and Snorkeling Guidelines' and act as responsible role model for guests?	excellent	very good	good	fair	poor	never
4. How do you rate your participation in regular underwater cleanups at your selected sites?	> 10 times / yr	8 to 10 times /yr	5 to 7 times / yr	2 to 4 times /yr	1 time / yr	never
5. Have you set up a mooring buoy program?	yes	no, but intend to	learning or plan to learn	don't know about it	no, and not interested	
If available, how often do you use mooring buoys?	always	frequently	often	sometimes	rarely	never
6. Do you prohibit the sale of corals and other marine life at your shop?	yes					no
7. Do you participate in regular coral reef monitoring?	yes					no
Do you report coral reef monitoring data to a regional coral reef database?	always	frequently	often	sometimes	rarely	never
8. How well do you deal with on-board garbage and solid waste responsibly?	excellent	very good	good	fair	poor	never
9. How well do you implement your operation under a "minimum discharge" policy?	excellent	very good	good	fair	poor	never
10. Do you abide by all local, regional, national and international environmental laws, regulations and customs?	absolutely	Where possible	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	no
11. Do you provide guests with an explanation of "Green Fins" 'Friendly Diving and Snorkeling Guidelines' in pre-dive briefings (UNEP multi-lingual pre-dive briefing handouts, multimedia, posters, videos)?	always	frequently	often	sometimes	rarely	never
12. How often do you provide training, briefings or literature for employees and guests regarding good environmental practices for snorkeling, diving, boating, marine wildlife interaction, and other marine recreation activities?	always	frequently	often	sometimes	rarely	never
13. Do you provide staff and guests with public awareness and environmental materials (books, pamphlets, fish ID books, etc.)?	always	frequently	often	sometimes	rarely	never
14. Do you provide guests with information on local marine protected areas, environmental rules and regulations?	always	frequently	often	sometimes	rarely	never
15. Do you promote strict "no touch" policy for all reef diving and snorkeling?	yes					no

**Table 2. Guest Assessment of Dive Operators**

1. How well did the dive operator adhere to Green Fins 'Friendly Diving and Snorkeling Guidelines' and act as responsible role model for guests?	excellent	very good	good	fair	poor	never
2. Did the dive operator use mooring buoys on every dive, when available?	always	frequently	often	sometimes	rarely	never
3. Did the dive operator sell or allow others to sell corals and other marine life at the shop?	yes				not sure	no
4. How well did the dive/boat operator deal with garbage and solid waste?	excellent	very good	good	fair	poor	never
5. Did the dive/boat operator abide by all local, regional, national and international environmental laws, regulations and customs?	absolutely	Where possible	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	no
6. Did the dive operator provide guests with an explanation of "Green Fins" 'Friendly Diving and Snorkeling Guidelines' in pre-dive briefings?	always	frequently	often	sometimes	rarely	never
7. Did the dive operator provide other public awareness and environmental materials (books, pamphlets, fish ID books, etc.)?	yes					no
Did the dive operator provide information on local marine protected areas, environmental rules and regulations?	yes					no
8. Did the dive operator promote a strict "no touch" policy for all reef diving and snorkeling?	yes					no

**Table 3. Network Leader Assessment Form of Each Dive Operation**

							Overall Score
1. Adopted the GREEN FINS mission statement	yes					no	
2. Displayed the adopted GREEN FINS agreement for the public to see	yes					no	
3. Did the dive operator adhere to Green Fins 'Friendly Diving and Snorkeling Guidelines' and act as responsible role model for guests?	excellent	very good	good	fair	poor	never	
4. Participate in regular underwater cleanups at selected sites	> 10 times / yr	8 to 10 times /yr	5 to 7 times / yr	2 to 4 times /yr	1 time / yr	never	
5. Participate in a mooring buoy program	yes	no, but intend to	learning or plan to learn	don't know about it	no, and not interested		
Actively use mooring buoys	always	frequently	often	sometimes	rarely	never	
6. Prohibit the sale of corals and other marine life at the dive shop	yes					no	
7. Participate in regular coral reef monitoring	yes					no	
Report coral reef monitoring data to a regional coral reef database	always	frequently	often	sometimes	rarely	never	
8. Provide adequate garbage facilities on board facility's vessels and deal with responsibly	excellent	very good	good	fair	poor	never	
9. Operate under a "minimum discharge" policy	excellent	very good	good	fair	poor	never	
10. Abide by all local, regional, national and international environmental laws, regulations and customs	absolutely	Where possible	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	no	
11. Provide guests with an explanation of "Green Fins" 'Friendly Diving and Snorkeling Guidelines' in pre-dive briefings (UNEP Multilingual pre-dive briefing handouts, multimedia, posters, videos)	always	frequently	often	sometimes	rarely	never	
12. Provide training, briefings or literature for employees and guests regarding good environmental practices for snorkeling, diving, boating, marine wildlife interaction, and other marine recreation activities	always	frequently	often	sometimes	rarely	never	
13. Provide staff and guests with public awareness and environmental materials (books, pamphlets, fish ID books, etc.)	always	frequently	often	sometimes	rarely	never	
14. Provide guests with information on local marine protected areas, environmental rules and regulations	always	frequently	often	sometimes	rarely	never	
15. Promote strict "no touch" policy for all reef diving and snorkeling	yes					no	

**Certificates, Flags, Logo**

10. Participants agreed that two types of certificates would be presented to the network members: (1) a certification of membership; and (2) a certificate of excellence. All participating dive shops are automatically eligible to receive the first certificate. The second certificate will be presented to dive operators after one year of evaluation, and based on additional activities/criteria in the Code of Conduct that the member has fulfilled. In addition, a Founder’s certificate was suggested. These would be presented after the first year, to all original or founding members of each local network. The certificates are being designed, and are not included in this workshop summary report.

11. A “Green Fins” logo and flag or banner will be designed. The flag/banner will be displayed outside the dive shops.

**Action Points**

12. The final item discussed was the delegation of responsibilities in implementing “Green Fins.” The list of action points agreed at the workshop is listed below in Table 4.

**Table 4. List of Action Points and Responsible Parties**

<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible Group(s)</u>
Design certificates, logo, banner	Philippines
Contact dive operators to establish network	All network leaders
Form letter to introduce “Green Fins” to dive operators	UNEP
Inform inter-government group about “Green Fins” launch	UNEP
Printing public awareness materials, pre-dive briefings	UNEP
Advertise “Green Fins” on internet	UNEP
Create public awareness VCD	Indonesia, UNEP
Prepare work plan, budget	All network leaders
Contact PADI or other dive associations	UNEP
Training in monitoring, teaching guidelines for mooring buoy program, underwater cleanups, marine biology	Thailand
Contact sponsors	Everyone

## ANNEX I – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### INDONESIA

Mr. Aditya Nur IMAN  
Biology Diving Club  
Jl. Belimbing No. 17  
Jagakarsa – Jakarta Selatan  
Indonesia

Mb no: (62-856) 112-6092  
Fax: (62-21) 7279-3956  
E-mail: aditni@hotmail.com

Mr. Hendri D. BERRI  
Jl Raya Bogor no 13  
RT 003/RW08  
Jakarta Timur 13540  
Indonesia

Tel: (62-21) 641-0080 ext. 244, 816-188-2909  
Fax: (62-21) 7279-3956

### PHILIPPINES

Mr. Jeff ARCHER  
Director of Aquarium & Marine Eco System  
Ocean Adventure  
Camayan Wharf  
West Ilanin Forest Area  
Subic Bay Freeport Zone  
2222 Philippines

Tel: (63-47) 252-9000 ext 231  
(63-919) 843-9046  
Fax: (63-47) 252-5883/9000  
E-mail: jeffarcher@hotmail.com  
jarcher@oceanadventure.com.ph

Mr. Scott SHARPE  
Director of Marine Research & Development  
Ocean Adventure & Camayan Beach Resort  
Camayan Wharf  
West Ilanin Forest Area  
Subic Bay Freeport Zone  
2222 Philippines

Tel: (63 47) 252 9000 ext. 216  
R&D Ctr. (63 47) 252 1653  
(63-920) 970 3228  
Fax: (63-47) 252-5883/9000  
E-mail: oascotty@cs.com

### THAILAND

Mr. Nipon PHONGSUWAN  
Phuket Marine Biological Center  
P.O. Box 60  
Phuket 83000  
THAILAND

Tel: (66-76) 391-128  
Fax: (66-76) 391-127  
E-mail: niphonp@hotmail.com

Ms. Pornchan CHANKAJORN  
Dive Master Co., Ltd.  
16 Asoke Court  
Sukhumvit 21 Road  
Wattana, Bangkok 10110  
THAILAND

Tel: (66 2) 259-3191  
Mob: (66 1) 831-4574  
Fax: (66 2) 259-3197  
E-mail: info@divemaster.net

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
Regional Coordinating Unit for East Asian Seas  
(EAS/RCU)**

Mr. Yihang JIANG  
Senior Expert EAS/RCU &  
UNEP GEF Project in the South China Sea  
United Nations Environment Programme  
United Nations Building, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Block A  
Rajdamnern Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Tel: (66-2) 288-2084  
Fax: (66 2) 281-2428  
E-mail: [jiang.unescap@un.org](mailto:jiang.unescap@un.org)

Ms. Connie CHIANG  
Programme Officer  
United Nations Environment Programme  
East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit  
United Nations Building, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Block A  
Rajdamnern Avenue  
Bangkok 10200, THAILAND

Tel. (66-2) 288-1905  
Fax. (66-2) 281-2428  
E-mail: [connie@un.org](mailto:connie@un.org)

Ms. Krittika KLEESUWAN  
Secretary  
United Nations Environment Programme  
East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit  
United Nations Building, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Block A  
Rajdamnern Avenue  
Bangkok 10200, THAILAND

Tel. (66-2) 288-1889  
Fax. (66-2) 281-2428  
E-mail: [kleesuwana.unescap@un.org](mailto:kleesuwana.unescap@un.org)



## "GREEN FINS" FRIENDLY DIVING

*Please follow these simple guidelines and be a "Green Fins" diver*

### BEGIN WITH YOURSELF

Support coral conservation by choosing a resort and dive operator with care, and be a "green consumer" with your money.

- Choose dive operations that are environmentally-friendly, such as those displaying the "Green Fins" certificate
- Choose environmentally-conscious hotels and dive resorts
- Strive to improve your diving skills
- Practice skills away from coral reef areas
- Learn about coral reefs and other animals that live in the reefs
- Adopt environmentally-friendly practices

### ON THE BOAT

- Choose dive operators that make use of available moorings. Anchors can destroy fragile marine life.
- Prevent the introduction of garbage, solid waste, and toxic substances into the marine environment by ensuring all garbage is well-stowed and disposed of responsibly.

### IN THE WATER

- Do not touch, stand or rest on corals and other marine life even when wearing gloves, booties, and fins. Some are very delicate animals; you may cause them harm, and some can hurt you.
- Take nothing live or dead out of the water
- Do not chase, harass, ride on, feed, or handle marine life
- Enter and exit the water away from reefs
- Make sure your equipment is secure at all times
- Maintain neutral buoyancy; practice good finning to avoid accidental contact with the reef and stirring up sediments

### TAKING PICTURES

- Photography and video equipment are cumbersome and affect a diver's mobility and buoyancy in the water. It is easy to touch and damage marine life when focusing on the objects. Develop advanced skills to prevent contact with marine life.

### ON LAND

- Support conservation projects through:
  - Paying user fees for recognised programs and areas that support coral conservation, if applicable
  - Filling in wildlife sighting forms when available
  - Volunteering your skills in beach cleanups and other marine environmental activities
- Do not purchase souvenirs made from corals and other marine life – this is usually illegal and environmentally-unfriendly
- Spread the word – tell your dive buddies these simple, but important conservation practices



## "GREEN FINS" FRIENDLY SNORKELING

*Please follow these simple guidelines and be a "Green Fins" snorkeler.*

### BEGIN WITH YOURSELF

Support coral conservation by choosing a resort with care, and be a "green consumer" with your money.

- Choose dive operations that are environmentally-friendly, such as those displaying the "Green Fins" certificate
- Choose environmentally-conscious hotels and dive resorts
- Practice your snorkeling skills away from coral reef areas
- Make sure your equipment fits properly – it may be difficult to adjust in the water
- If you feel uncertain, wear a life jacket while snorkeling
- Adopt environmentally-friendly practices

### ON THE BOAT

- Choose dive operators that make use of available moorings. Anchors can destroy fragile marine life.
- Prevent the introduction of garbage, solid waste, and toxic substances into the marine environment by ensuring all garbage is well-stowed and disposed of responsibly.

### IN THE WATER

- Do not touch, stand or rest on corals and other marine life even when wearing gloves or booties. Some are very delicate animals; you may cause them harm, and some can hurt you
- Maintain a comfortable distance from the reefs to avoid contact. Be careful where you enter and exit the water to avoid destroying corals
- If wearing fins, be aware of where your fins are, and don't stir up sediments or damage corals
- Do not chase, harass, ride on, feed, or handle marine life
- Take nothing live or dead out of the water
- Look, but do not touch!

### TAKING PICTURES

- Photography equipment can affect a snorkeler's mobility and buoyancy in the water. Do not hold onto corals when taking pictures.
- Develop advanced skills to prevent contact with marine life.

### ON LAND

- Support conservation projects through:
  - Paying user fees for recognised programs and areas that support coral conservation, if applicable
  - Filling in wildlife sighting forms when available
  - Volunteering your skills in beach cleanups and other marine environmental activities
- Do not purchase souvenirs made from corals and other marine life – this is usually illegal and environmentally-unfriendly

### WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

- Learn about coral reefs and other marine animals that live in the reefs
- Spread the word – tell your snorkeling buddies these simple, but important conservation practices