



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU

Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center, Quezon Avenue, Diliman, 1100 Quezon City
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MEMORANDUM

FOR : The DENR Regional Executive Directors
All Regions except CAR

FROM : The Director
In concurrent capacity as Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and
Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects

SUBJECT : **RESCHEDULING OF THE GREEN FINS CONSULTATION
AND UPDATING FROM ON 20-23 MARCH TO 25-28 APRIL
2023**

DATE : MAR 20 2023

DENR MIMAROPA
RECORDS SECTION
RECEIVED

MAR 27 2023
8-2023-10284-CDD

☐ INCOMING ☐ OUTGOING

BY: _____ DATE NO. _____

TIME: _____

This pertains to the attached Memorandum dated 14 February 2023 inviting representatives from the DENR regional and field offices to the **Green Fins Consultation and Updating** in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

Please be informed that the original schedule of the event is moved from 20-23 March to **25-28 April 2023**.

Slots for **four (4) participants** from **CALABARZON, MIMAROPA**, and **Region 7** regional/field offices are allotted for in-person attendance. Other participants may attend virtually via Zoom:

Meeting ID: 861 0092 4224
Passcode: gf2023

Attached is a copy of the updated activity briefer for your reference.

For information and consideration.


MARCIAL C. AMARO, JR.



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU



BMB202301342



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030



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MEMORANDUM

TO : The DENR Regional Executive Directors
All Regions except CAR and NCR

FROM : The Director
In concurrent capacity as Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects

SUBJECT : **INVITATION TO THE GREEN FINS CONSULTATION AND UPDATING ON 20-23 MARCH 2023 IN PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN**

DATE : FEB 14 2023

Green Fins is a recognized tool/strategy supporting the implementation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP), one of the top priority programs of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Green Fins provides the only internationally recognized environmental standards for marine tourism activities with a robust assessment system to measure compliance of diving establishments.

Through CMEMP, the Bureau oversees the development and expansion of the initiative in the Philippines. Capacity building activities for DENR regional and field counterparts have been done over the past years as well as technical assistance to address local problems when it comes to various marine tourism activities.

This year, the BMB is conducting a consultation and updating meeting with Green Fins focals, assessors and coordinators in the pilot regions (CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, and Region 7), non-pilot regions, and dive shop operators in Palawan, including representatives from the Reef World Foundation on **20-23 March 2023 in Puerto Princesa, Palawan**.

With this, may we request the **names of participants** from your respective regional/field offices who will attend the hybrid event. Kindly take note that **only pilot regions are invited in-person**. Other participants are requested to attend virtually via Zoom:

Meeting ID: 861 0092 4224

Passcode: gf2023

We hope to receive their names on or before **10 February 2023**. Please encode participants' details in this online matrix: <https://tinyurl.com/GFPax2023>.

Attached is a copy of the activity briefer for your reference.

For information and consideration.


MARCIAL C. AMARO, JR.



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BMB202300620



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030



**GREEN
FINS**

GREEN FINS CONSULTATION AND UPDATING

Puerto Princesa, Palawan

25-28 April 2023

I. BACKGROUND

Scuba diving, snorkeling and other forms of marine tourism are great activities to introduce people to the marine environment and create new ocean advocates. However, unmanaged, these activities can have acute negative impacts for fragile ecosystems like coral reefs.

Green Fins is a proven conservation management approach – implemented internationally by The Reef-World Foundation (RWF) and the UN Environment Programme – which leads to a measurable reduction in the negative environmental impacts associated with marine tourism. It aims to protect coral reefs through environmentally friendly guidelines promoting sustainable diving and snorkeling. It provides the only internationally recognised environmental standards for marine tourism and its robust assessment system measures compliance.

Green Fins encourages and empowers divers, snorkelers, the diving industry and coastal communities to reduce the pressures on coral reefs by offering marine tourism companies practical, low-cost alternatives to harmful practices – such as anchoring, fish feeding and chemical pollution – as well as providing strategic training, support and resources. (<https://greenfins.net/>)

II. RATIONALE

Green Fins is a recognized tool/strategy supporting the implementation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP), one of the top priority programs of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The Philippines, being an archipelagic country, is a cradle to a lot of marine tourism sites. Since 2010, the DENR, through its Biodiversity Management Bureau – Coastal and Marine Division (BMB-CMD), has been supporting the initiative.

BMB-CMD oversees the development and expansion of the project in the Philippines. Capacity building activities for select staff from the DENR regional and field counterparts have been done over the past years and technical assistance to address local problems when it comes to diving and snorkeling activities has been provided. At present, Green Fins pilot sites include: from CALABARZON (Mabini); MIMAROPA (Coron, El Nido, and Puerto Galera); and Central Visayas (Dauin and Zamboanguita, Mactan Island, Malapascua Island, Moalboal, and Panglao Island).

As such, the BMB is proposing to conduct a consultation meeting with Green Fins focals, assessors and coordinators in the pilot regions, non-pilot regions, Dive shop operators in Palawan, including representatives from the Reef World Foundation on 20-23 March 2023.

III. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the said activity are as follows:

- Present Green Fins 2023 work and financial plan (WFP) of BMB and regional offices;
- Consult with green fins regional teams and dive shop owners the updated draft DENR Administrative Order providing guidelines on the implementation of Environmentally-Friendly Diving and Snorkeling (EDS) Practices in NIPAS-Marine Protected Areas and other Conservation Areas;
- Facilitate the drafting of DENR-RWF Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for years 2024-2028; and
- Discuss roles and responsibilities of DENR regional/field offices in the implementation and monitoring of Green Fins Digital Membership.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The consultation will be conducted in a hybrid format, consisting of both a zoom session and a face-to-face setup. Pilot regions, namely CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, and Region 7, shall present their respective work and financial plans for 2023 for information and guidance of BMB.

DENR-RWF MOU

- A face-to-face discussion and writeshop with regional/field offices will be conducted to review provisions of existing DENR-RWF MOU (2021-2023) and discuss matters to be included in the next MOU;
- Afterwhich, an online consultation with RWF via zoom shall be conducted to initially discuss the proposed contents of the MOU

EDS DAO Consultation

- A hybrid session (face-to-face plenary and via Zoom) with DENR regional/field offices, and dive shop owners/operators in Palawan will be conducted to present and consult the updated version of the draft policy;
- Presentation and open forum shall be conducted/facilitated by the CMD

Green Fins Digital Membership

- A plenary session with participants (Green fins focals, assessors and coordinators) will be set to discuss tasks and responsibilities of concerned

regional/field offices in the monitoring and implementation of Green Fins Digital Membership

V. PARTICIPANTS

Regional/field office Green Fins focals, assessors and coordinators are expected to attend the training. Dive shop operators/owners in Palawan, and representatives from El Nido Foundation shall also be invited. Other staff from BMB, and the rest of regional/field office staff are requested to join online, via zoom.

VI. PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

| Time | Provisional Activity | In-charge |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Day 1 - 25 April 2023 | | |
| Before lunchtime | Travel time to Palawan / Arrival of Participants | Participants |
| 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Lunch | |
| 1:00 onwards | Preparatory activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check in / billeting • Technical setup | |
| Day 2 - 26 April 2023 | | |
| 7:00 - 8:30 AM | Breakfast | |
| 8:30 - 8:40 AM | Preliminaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Prayer • National Anthem • Introduction of Participants • Moodsetter Activities | CMD Secretariat |
| 8:40 - 8:50 AM | Welcome Remarks | PENRO Palawan |
| 8:50 - 9:00 AM | Opening Message and Rationale of the Activity | Armida P. Andres OIC Assistant Director and CMD Chief |
| 9:00 - 9:30 AM | Green Fins Philippines | BMB-CMD |
| 9:30 - 10:30 AM | The Reef-World Foundation: Green Fins international coordinators | Emma Levy International Coordinator, Reef-World Foundation |
| 10:30 - 12:00 NN | Presentation of 2023 Regional | Green Fins Focal |

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| | in the EDS DAO) | |
| 4:00 - 5:00 PM | Synthesis | |
| Day 4 - 28 April 2023 | | |
| 7:00 - 8:30 AM | Breakfast | |
| 8:30 - 9:00 AM | Recapitulation | Select participant |
| 9:00 - 10:00 AM | Other Matters: | BMB-CMD |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini Workshop: Updating of Green Fins Regional database • Discussion of updated Green Fins Brand Guidelines | |
| 11:00 - 11:45 AM | Overall synthesis and ways forward | BMB-CMD |
| 11:45 - 12:00 NN | Closing remarks | BMB-CMD |
| 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Lunch | |
| 1:00 onwards | Check-out | |