

Green Fins Regional Workshop

Fostering a balance between economic development and environmental
 sustainability with Green Fins for a Blue Economy
4-6 February 2026 | Bali, Indonesia

Information Note for Attendees



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Venue and Time

Location	Coral Triangle Center, Sanur, Bali (CTC)
Workshop Dates	Wednesday 4th February 2026 – Friday 6th February 2026 (3 Days)
Arrival date	Tuesday 3rd February 2026 (Day 0)
Departure date	Saturday 7th February 2026 (Day 4)

Purpose of Workshop

The central objective is to enhance regional capacity for managing the transboundary threats arising from marine tourism activities in the Philippines and Indonesia. The workshop aims to promote a sustainable Blue Economy that balances economic development with environmental stewardship across the South China Sea and Sulu-Celebes Sea region.

Specifically, the purpose is to:

- 1. Validate and Disseminate Transboundary Solutions**
 To share, validate, and build consensus around the findings of the joint review of Green Fins transboundary solutions. This provides national stakeholders with data-driven tools and policy options for effectively mitigating threats from the scuba diving and snorkeling tourism industry on marine ecosystems and species.
- 2. Harmonise Regional Strategy and Integration of Marine Tourism Standards**
 To align the strategic and operational needs of regional stakeholders, ensuring the co-development of a future strategy is integrated efficiently into existing national plans and programmes. This step is critical for securing long-term institutional buy-in and funding for the sustained implementation of Green Fins.
- 3. Advance Data-Driven Management via Citizen Science**
 To accelerate the uptake of citizen science and innovative monitoring tools (including AI applications) within Indonesia and the Philippines. This initiative aims to provide scalable, reliable data that strengthens the evidence base for policy decisions, joint enforcement efforts, and the adaptive management of transboundary threats within scuba diving and snorkeling operations.

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Outcomes

1. **Secure Policy and Strategic Integration of Green Fins**

Co-develop a Regional Roadmap based on the joint review findings that will be submitted to GEF SCS-SAP and relevant national ministries in Indonesia and the Philippines. This ensures the regional strategy is formally integrated into national planning and regulatory frameworks, securing long-term institutional buy-in and government support for sustainable marine tourism.

2. **Enhance Tourism Industry Resilience**

Equip participants with the knowledge and practical tools from Green Fins to immediately reduce operational risks, streamline environmental compliance, and improve marine resource health. This directly boosts the competitive advantage and marketability of the Philippines and Indonesia as premium, sustainable dive and snorkeling destinations, safeguarding the industry's economic future.

3. **Advance Data Capabilities and Cross-Border Expertise**

Establish a clear mechanism for sustained, cross-border cooperation and expert exchange, particularly through the adoption of new technologies. Participants will pilot the use of citizen science and innovative monitoring data to build a robust, shared evidence base that justifies policy intervention, validates compliance efforts, and leads to more efficient and targeted investment in transboundary threat management.

Background

The South China Sea and Sulu-Celebes Sea region, situated within the Coral Triangle, boasts exceptional marine biodiversity, supporting 76% of the world's coral species and 37% of all coral reef fish. This ecosystem is a crucial enabler of prosperity, generating over US\$ 24.7 billion in nature-based tourism and supporting the livelihoods of approximately \$140\$ million coastal inhabitants.

However, the region faces shared transboundary threats from marine tourism. Marine tourism activities, particularly diving and snorkelling will bring negative impacts to marine ecosystems including coral reefs if implemented not following environment friendly principles. In contrast, diving and snorkelling provide an opportunity to educate divers and snorkelers in support of marine conservation and coral reefs protection. As it is known that coral reefs ecosystems and marine life are vital assets for the diving industry. Indonesia has 2.5 million hectares of coral reefs with 569 species of coral (DG PRL – KKP, 2023). As the Philippines and Indonesia share direct access to the Celebes and Sulu Seas, they share a collective responsibility to ensure the sustainable development of these resources, especially for migratory species (like tuna, whales, and sea turtles) and coral larva dispersion.

While the management plans of marine protected areas and diving destinations recognise the financing mechanisms marine tourism can provide, it is important to also acknowledge that there is a risk of negative environmental impacts. Anchoring, direct contact or wildlife harassment, waste mismanagement or chemical discharge, to name a few, can all lead to coral cover loss or disease, and must be addressed as part of the management of dive destinations, especially protected areas. **Green Fins, a conservation management approach established in 2004, led by The Reef-World Foundation (RWF), leads to a measurable reduction in the negative environmental impacts associated with marine tourism. Green Fins provides the only internationally recognised environmental standards for diving and snorkelling, and has been adopted by 15 countries to date, offering strategic outreach and capacity building to governments and a robust assessment system for the marine tourism industry to measure compliance.**

This workshop is part of a current agreement that RWF has in place with the SCS-SAP under the project titled “Improving ecotourism standards in the region by mainstreaming Green Fins.” The project aims to integrate marine ecotourism standards in the marine tourism industry of the region to ensure transboundary collaboration for sustainable blue economic impact to local communities, marine ecosystems and species.

Workshop Agenda

3rd February: Arrival

Time	Activity	Location
14.00 - 18.00	Arrival and check in	Abian Harmony Hotel
18.00 - 19.00	Meet and greet with international participants / Travel to dinner	Abian Harmony Hotel Lobby
19.00 - 21.00	Dinner	Byrd House Bali

4th February: Workshop Day 1

Time	Activity	Location
7.00 - 8.00	Breakfast	Abian Harmony Hotel
8.30	Attendees meet to travel to the Workshop	Abian Harmony Hotel Lobby
9.00 - 9.30	Registration	CTC
9.30 - 10.00	Welcoming Remarks Setting the Agenda Opening Speeches <i>Facilitated by Erin Canto, The Reef-World Foundation</i>	CTC
10.00 - 10.20	Presentation: Indonesian MPA Vision 2030 <i>Speaker: Getreda Melsina Hehanussa, Balai Pengelolaan Sumberdaya Pesisir dan Laut, Indonesia (BPSPL)</i>	CTC
10.20 - 10.40	Presentation: Philippines participation in the ASEAN Blue Economy Framework and CTI initiatives <i>Speaker: Grick Cordero, Department of Natural Resources - Biodiversity Management Bureau, Philippines (DENR-BMB)</i>	CTC
10.40 - 11.00	Break	CTC
11.00 - 11.20	Presentation: SCS-SAP Regional Vision for Conservation <i>Speaker: Margarita Caballa, SCS-SAP</i>	CTC
11.20 - 12.00	Presentation: Marine tourism standards for a Blue Economy: Learning from the implementation of Green Fins in the region	CTC

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	<i>Speaker: JJ Harvey, The Reef-World Foundation</i>	
12.00 - 12.30	Country round table discussion: Solution identification based on Green Fins findings <i>Facilitated by Dev Albao, The Reef-World Foundation</i>	CTC
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch	CTC
13.30 - 13.45	Presentation: Addressing transboundary threats from marine tourism through policy frameworks and multi-stakeholder strategies <i>Speaker: Dev Albao, The Reef-World Foundation</i>	CTC
13.45 - 14.15	Regional Policy Dialogue <i>Facilitated by Dev Albao, The Reef-World Foundation</i>	CTC
14.15 - 14.30	Break	CTC
14.30 - 16.30	Group activity planning: Solution identification based on mock scenarios <i>Facilitated by Dev Albao, The Reef-World Foundation</i>	CTC
18.30	Meet at hotel / travel to dinner	Abian Harmony Hotel Lobby
19.00 - 21.00	Dinner	Three Monkeys Sanur

5th February: Workshop Day 2

Time	Activity	Location
7.00 - 8.00	Breakfast	Abian Harmony Hotel
8.30	Attendees meet to travel to the Workshop	Abian Harmony Hotel Lobby
9.00 - 9.30	Registration	CTC
9.30 - 9.40	Setting the agenda <i>Facilitated by Erin Canto, The Reef-World Foundation</i>	CTC
9.40 - 10.00	Presentation: Citizen science and engaging the tourism industry in coral reef and marine wildlife monitoring <i>Speaker: Emma Levy, The Reef-World Foundation</i>	CTC
10.00 - 10.20	Presentation: Citizen Science deep dive: Global, Wildlife Conservation Society's (WCS) Coral MERMAID	CTC

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	<i>Speaker: Muhidin Muhidin, WCS</i>	
10.20 - 10.40	Presentation: Citizen Science deep dive: Reef Check <i>Speaker: Alvin Chelliah, Reef Check Malaysia</i>	CTC
10.40 - 11.00	Break	CTC
11.00 - 11.20	Presentation: Citizen Science deep dive: Indonesia, Marine Megafauna Foundation (MMF) <i>Speaker: Janis Argeswara, MMF</i>	CTC
11.20 - 11.40	Presentation: Citizen Science deep dive: Global, Trash Hero <i>Speaker: Rima Agustina, Trash Hero Indonesia</i>	CTC
11.40 - 12.00	Presentation: Citizen Science deep dive: Coral Triangle Initiative <i>Speaker: Dr. Frank Griffin, CTI</i>	CTC
12.00-12.30	Q&A: All Speakers <i>Facilitated by Emma Levy, The Reef-World Foundation</i>	CTC
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch	CTC
13.30 - 14.30	Roundtable discussion: Application of citizen science <i>Facilitated by Dev Albao, The Reef-World Foundation</i>	CTC
14.30 - 14.50	Break	CTC
14.50 - 16.30	Group activity planning: Roadmaps refinement <i>Facilitated by Dev Albao, The Reef-World Foundation</i> or Green Fins Connect (Members only) <i>Facilitated by Erin Canto, The Reef-World Foundation</i>	CTC
18.30	Meet at hotel / travel to dinner	Abian Harmony Hotel Lobby
19.00 - 21.00	Dinner Byrd House Bali	Byrd House Bali

6th February: Workshop Day 3

Time	Activity	Location
7 - 7.30	Breakfast	Abian Harmony Hotel

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7.30	Attendees meet to travel to the Site Visit	Abian Harmony Hotel Lobby
8.00 - 16.00	Site Visit / Snorkelling Trip to Nusa Penida MPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snorkel Expedition (2 snorkel stops) • Observation of Green Fins best practice • Meet and discussion with Green Fins Member management and staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch and snacks • Debrief and processing of learnings 	All4 Diving, Sanur
18.30	Meet at hotel / travel to dinner	Abian Harmony Hotel Lobby
19.00 - 21.00	Dinner	Three Monkeys Sanur

7th February: Departure

Time	Activity	Location
7.00 - 10.00	Breakfast	Abian Harmony Hotel
11.00	Attendee check out from Hotel	Abian Harmony Hotel
All day	Attendee departure	Abian Harmony Hotel

Site Visit Key Information (Workshop Day 3)

Day 3 of the workshop includes a Site Visit to a local Green Fins Member (dive center) for a boat and snorkelling trip to Nusa Penida MPA.

We recommend packing the following items for the site visit:

- ☐ Swimsuit
- ☐ Rashvest
- ☐ Non-toxic sunscreen (see [Green Fins guidelines](#) for more information)
- ☐ Hat, sunglasses or other sun protection
- ☐ Waterproof bag for valuables

Snorkelling equipment and lunch will be provided by the diving center.

Action required! 🕒 Complete the [Snorkelling Booking Form](#) by 23rd January 2026.

All individuals who will join the boat and snorkelling trip on day 3 of the workshop must complete this form by the required deadline.

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Accommodation and Food

International attendees will be staying at the [Abian Harmony Hotel](#) in Sanur, Bali, between 3rd and 7th February 2026.

Address:

Abian Harmony Hotel Restaurant & Spa

Jl. Danau Tamblingan No.192, Sanur, Denpasar Selatan, Kota Denpasar, Bali 80229, Indonesia

Contact information:

fo@abianharmonyhotel.com

Check in time:

2pm

Meals offered during the workshop:

- Breakfast: Available on 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th February at Abian Harmony Hotel
- Lunch: Available on 4th, 5th and 6th February as part of the Workshop activities
- Dinner: Available in set locations on 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th February.

Action required! 🕒 Complete the [Dinner Selection Form](#) by 23rd January 2026.

An individual form must be submitted per attendee. You may submit multiple forms on behalf of others, but please write down each attendee's full name for question 1.

Visa and Entry Requirements

All participants are advised to check their passports are valid for at least six months upon arrival, and the passport should have enough space for sticker visa and entry-exit stamps. Some nationalities do not need to apply for a visa to enter the country, whereas some do. [Check your eligibility here](#).

Participants who need to apply for a visa can [pay online prior to arrival](#) to avoid queues at the airport. They should select the **B1 – Tourist (Visa on Arrival)** option, which includes entry to Indonesia for individuals “*attending as a participant in meetings, incentives, conventions, and exhibitions activities*”.

You may submit visa expenses for reimbursement. Please follow the instructions within this information note.

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Action required! 🕒 Complete the [Indonesian Arrival Card Form](#) by 1st February 2026.

All visitors entering Indonesia must complete the Arrival Card Form within 4 days of arrival into the country.

Transportation to and from Airport and Hotel

A taxi from Denpasar International Airport (DPS) to Abian Harmony Hotel will take between 30 minutes to 1 hour of transit. Attendees are responsible for booking their own airport taxis during arrival and departure. Taxi transfer options are as follows:

- Grab Car: you need to [download the App](#) on a device to proceed. Grab taxis are available at [specific pick up locations](#) at the airport.
- Airport Taxi: this is likely to be more expensive than a Grab Car, but may be used as an alternative if you are not able to use the Grab App.

You may submit travel expenses for reimbursement. Please follow the instructions within this information note.

Submission and Reimbursement of Expenses

National land travel to and from airports will be reimbursed by The Reef-World Foundation. Reef-World will not be able to reimburse additional meals purchased during travel.

The following protocols must be followed or Reef-World may not be able to reimburse:

1. Submit original item receipt and documentation of amount taken from bank account in local currency (e.g. screenshot of transaction receipt)
2. Provide bank details of the same bank you were charged from:
 - a. Full name as described on bank account
 - b. Personal address associated with bank account
 - c. Email
 - d. Bank name
 - e. Bank address
 - f. Account number
 - g. Sort code / BIC or SWIFT / routing number
 - h. IBAN

Example of Expense Submission and Reimbursement:

John Doe purchased a Grab taxi from Bali accommodation to Denpasar airport. The Grab receipt was in Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) but their bank account is Philippine Peso (PHP). They submit a copy of their receipt in IDR but also a bank statement showing the exact amount spent in PHP and the bank details for the same bank used for the transaction. Reef-World reimburses him the exact amount in PHP.

Reef-World will review all submitted expenses and aim to reimburse within 1 month of the workshop taking place, unless notified otherwise.

Contact Focal Point

Should you need any clarification or have further inquiries on the logistics, please do not hesitate to contact the following:

Emma Levy

Senior Programmes Officer, The Reef-World Foundation

Email: info@greenfins.net

Phone / Whatsapp: +63 956 681 6197

We look forward to your active participation in the upcoming event in Bali!