



Regional Southeast Asia Reef Check “Trainers’ Training”

Mactan Island, Cebu, Philippines
October 5 – 11, 2003

Overview of the Training: Building on the success of regional trainings conducted in 2001 and 2002 at the Phuket Marine Biological Lab, Thailand, similar trainings are now being organized. Supported under Reef Check’s USAID / State Department-funded East Asia and Pacific Environment Initiative, or EAPEI, the initial training is planned to be held during October 5 – 11, 2003, in Cebu, Philippines, with subsequent trainings expected to follow.

These trainers’ trainings will focus on highly qualified and dedicated participants from Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines as well as other participating SE Asia countries.

Objectives of the Training: The objective of the training is to share regional Reef Check training and survey experiences to continue to increase the number and quality of available Reef Check instructors and teams. The overall objectives of the training include:

- To share experiences in Reef Check and coastal management within the region and respective countries, including a global perspective;
- To reinforce needed training skills of regional trainers in the Reef Check methodology, including its recent updates;
- To equip the trainers with the knowledge and skills required to establish or expand their own Reef Check groups in their respective countries; and
- To help prepare Reef Check action plans for each country attending the workshop.

Introduction to the Training Facilitators: These regional RC trainings are being conducted by the Coastal Dynamics Foundation (www.cebudive.com), Reef Check’s coordinator for the Cebu area. Additional training expertise will involve representatives from the USAID Coastal Resource Management Project (CRMP) / Philippines, the University of the Philippines, Marine Science Institute (UPMSI) and other key Reef Check Philippine partners.



Summary of the Training Site: The Philippine coral reefs are recognized as being among the most diverse (Veron 2000) as well as perhaps the most threatened reefs in the world (World Resources Institute 1998; Wilkenson 2000). The Regional Reef Check Training is within the country’s second largest metropolitan area, with

over 2 million residents. This area includes Mactan and Olango Islands, one of the country's premier coastal tourism and diving destinations which includes an estimated 500 hectares of prime reef habitat within its' political jurisdiction.

Over the years, coastal and diving tourism have provided one of the few viable livelihood alternatives to destructive fishing practices, including dynamite and cyanide fishing. The close proximity of extensive and highly diverse coral reefs to such a major urban center is unique on a global scale. Unfortunately, these highly valuable and unique reef resources have lacked proper management to date and their various uses are often in conflict. Reef Check, through the Coastal Dynamics Foundation and our many local partners, is working hard to better monitor and manage these valuable and unique "urban" reefs



Qualification of Training Participants: The selection of proposed training participants will be lead by the respective Reef Check coordinator(s) in each country to help best meet and respond to their current training needs. Preferred qualifications of participants include:

- Must be an experienced and certified scuba diver interested in Reef Check;
- Have a demonstrated interest in coral reef management and the related marine ecosystem. Prior Reef Check, or similar reef survey experience, is preferred;
- Preferably be employed or involved in marine science, government agencies or non-government organizations involved in reef monitoring and/or conservation;
- Be willing to spend a week in Cebu, Philippines, learn the training / team leader approaches and become a trainer / team leader in your country, and
- Commitment to conduct follow-on Reef Check trainings and surveys, with a target to train some 10 local new "Reef Checkers" and conduct some 5 Reef Check surveys per year in their respective countries

What the Training Provides to each Participant: Project funding will cover all direct costs of each selected training participant, including round trip, economy airfare to/from Cebu, Philippines; land transportation to/from airports; airport terminal fees and "exit taxes"; hotel accommodations (double occupancy); meals and basic drinks; training and diving costs.

Materials Required of each Participant:

- Personal diving and Reef Check survey equipment if available. If not available, this equipment will be provided during the training at no extra cost;

- A “powerpoint” / overhead acetate presentation of your Reef Check experience in your country for the first day introductions (presentations should be a maximum of 10 minutes in length)
- Personal spending money and emergency medical insurance during training period.

Summary Schedule of Activities:

Day 1: October 5 (Sunday)

- Arrival of participants via Mactan-Cebu International Airport, Cebu
- Check in to the Vistamar Beach Resort, Mactan Island
- Registration and distribution of training kits
- Actual activities will vary with time of flight arrivals, so early arrivals can go for an orientation snorkel or dive.



Vistamar Beach Resort – Reef Check Partner and Training Venue

Day 2: October 6 (Monday)

- Opening program and welcome remarks by local officials and facilitators
- Introduction and presentations of participants
- Lecture – The global, regional and national status of coral reefs
- Lecture – The local situation in the venue area of Lapu Lapu City
- Lecture – Reef Check in the context of coastal resource management (CRM)
- Workshop – Status of coral reefs in your country and Reef Check activities – opportunities, threats, strengths and weaknesses
- RC website and “start-up” activities – team registration, liability forms, and site profiles
- Video showing / introductory socials



Day 3: October 7 (Tuesday)

- Safe diving practices and useful planning and survey skills
- Reviews and training demonstrations – substrate, invertebrates and fish
- Snorkelling skills check / underwater identifications
- Underwater substrate identification (exam)

Day 4: October 8 (Wednesday)

- Site profile demonstration and comparison of observations, Talima Marine Sanctuary
- GPS demonstration and testing
- Water skills survey demonstration, snorkel survey and transect placement
- Team skill and training demonstrations
- Inputting the data into Reef Check forms, checking and quality control



