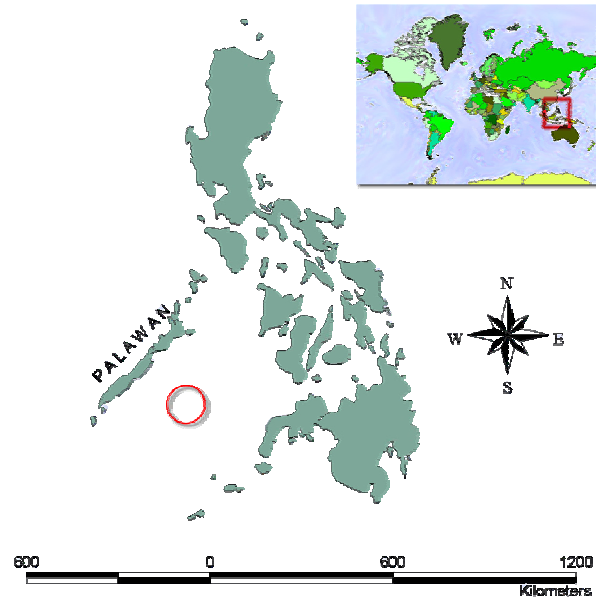


Report on Disbursement of Global Giving Donations Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park & World Heritage Site Tubbataha Management Office

GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION. The 33,200-hectare Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park and World Heritage Site is located in the Philippines, 92 nautical miles southeast of Puerto Princesa City, the capital of the Province of Palawan. Situated in the heart of the Sulu Sea, it is composed of two uninhabited atolls separated by a 5-nm wide channel and surrounding waters.



Aerial view of the South (above) and North Atolls (below) of the Tubbataha Reefs in the heart of Sulu Sea.



NATURAL HERITAGE. Tubbataha is the only purely marine World Heritage Site in Southeast Asia. As of 2005, it is known to harbor 379 species of corals, representing 85% of all coral species in the Philippines, 461 species of fish, 9 species of cetaceans, 2 nesting species of marine turtles, and seven species of resident breeding seabirds. Tubbataha serves as a nursery for fish and coral larvae, enriching fisheries in the greater Sulu Sea area.



The TPAMB meets four times every year. Its Executive Committee meets monthly.

PARK MANAGEMENT. The Park is managed under a no-take policy by the 17-member multi-sectoral Tubbataha Protected Area Management Board (TPAMB). The Tubbataha Management Office (TMO) manages the day-to-day affairs of the Park. Four management programs are implemented by the TMO. These are: Conservation Management, Conservation Awareness, Ecosystem Research and Monitoring, and Sustainable Resource Management in the Municipality of Cagayancillo, which has political jurisdiction of the Park.

The composite law enforcement team is made up of Philippine Navy, Philippine Coast Guard and TMO staff. A total of eight marine park rangers reside in the concrete ranger station all year round on three-month rotations. Provisions for the duration of their assignment are brought by the rangers to the station, including water supply. Aside from regular patrols around the 10,000-hectare coral reefs, a radar system enables the conduct of targeted patrols, helping to save on fuel.



The Styrofoam-reinforced concrete ranger station is home to park rangers during their 3-month tour of duty.



Divers descend the walls Tubbataha Reef is known

Park Ranger duties, apart from law enforcement and resource management, include visitor management. This responsibility is mostly highlighted during the dive season which, in Tubbataha, begins in late March until the early June. These are the favorite months of marine park rangers and park staff because re-supply is easier with the help of dive operators. Regular weekly trips are conducted by ten dive boats, whose staff willingly transports supplies and equipment for the ranger station. The US\$57 conservation fee charged to visitors is used to cover management expenses.

The number of visitors to the Park has increased to 1,422 this year, a hundred percent increase from 2001 visitations. A number of these visitors are repeat divers who come almost yearly, apparently never tiring of the attractions of the Park.

The annual core cost of managing the Park is US\$120,000. This includes administration, enforcement and the continuous activity of building capacity for effective enforcement, field operating expenses, and capital outlay. Broken down into specific budgetary items, the budget is allocated as follows:

Administrative Cost (staff salaries, office rental, utilities, supplies, etc.)	17%
Field Operating Cost (fuel/oil, repairs, personnel cost, supplies and materials)	63%
Capacity Building (basic training for rangers, study trips, mgmt meetings, etc)	14%
Capital Outlay (for equipment that cannot wait another year, OBM, binoculars, printer)	6%

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES. Staffing consistency is a perennial problem at the Park. Personnel from the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Coast Guard are occasionally reassigned to other parts of the country. As a result, there is an invariable need to train new personnel who will be assigned to the Park. There is also the pressing need to secure sustained financing for Tubbataha to ensure its long-term conservation and protection. Tourism revenues are inadequate to meet recurrent management costs. The heavy reliance on outside funding does not provide the security required to protect this marine jewel into perpetuity. Mechanisms for the establishment of an endowment fund are now under study.

Furthermore, the isolation and seasonal access to Tubbataha affects effectiveness in its management. It has been observed that the volume of marine debris is increasing. Regular surface water and coastal clean-ups are inadequate to contain non-biodegradable wastes that find their way in the two islets located in each atoll.



Angelique Songco

Black noddies have resorted to using garbage as nesting material. The proliferation of marine debris is a growing concern of the Park.



Segundo Conales

The 100hp 4-stroke engine of this 25-footer patrol boat was donated by CI-Philippines. Repairs were undertaken in Puerto Princesa.

REPORT ON DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM GLOBAL GIVING.

The donations from Global Giving enabled the TMO to effect repairs and maintenance of its patrol boat. WWF-Philippines turned over its speedboat and outboard motor to the TMO for use in the Park, increasing to two the number of patrol boats in the field. This was refurbished prior to transport to the Tubbataha Reefs this season. Conservation International-Philippines donated a new outboard motor this year. Global Giving donations covered installation expenses and purchase of other accessories for this engine. Other repairs were accomplished including that of the inverters for the solar power and minor repairs on the ranger station.



Terry Aquino

A 27-footer patrol boat powered by a 90hp 4-stroke engine from WWF-Philippines was repaired prior to transport to Tubbataha.

Enforcement expenses included the cost associated with the filing of cases, provision of enforcement incentives to the marine park rangers in the amount of US\$28/person for every case filed in court, the cost of transfers to the municipal trial court during hearings, the cost of ensuring the proper condition of the vessels under custody while the cases are being heard, and the cost of coordination with legal advisers and prosecutors.

Other expenses to be funded under the Global Giving donations are, enforcement equipment, such as handheld radio and marine band radio. These equipment became necessary when the much-needed second patrol boat was acquired from WWF-Philippines. A 25hp outboard motor will be acquired for the dinghy in the Park because 25hp the engine donated by WWF-Philippines is now beyond economical repair. This dinghy is very useful in ship-to-shore movement. A 5-man tent will be purchased for overnight patrols, and the ranger station will be repaired for cracks and weak foundations.



Jürgen Freund

The 17-footer dinghy in need of an engine. The rangers were out at sea when a squall hit.



Terry Aquino



Jürgen Freund

The floor of this section of the Ranger Station was replaced during the diving season.

Most of the marine park rangers from the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Coast Guard who were trained in the maintenance and trouble shooting of outboard motors have been reassigned to other areas in the Philippines. There is now a need to train a new batch of rangers in Tubbataha to extend the life of the outboard motors in the Park. The isolation of Tubbataha and the seasonal access to it does not allow for the regular servicing of the engines by technicians, hence the need to develop in-house expertise. WWF-Philippines has been spearheading information, education and communications (IEC) initiatives for the TMO since 2001. Through Global Giving donations, in-house expertise in public education and communication will be developed. An orientation on the installation of the embedment system of mooring will also be conducted for park staff in preparation for upgrading the concrete blocks currently used as mooring.



"Buknoy", a female green sea turtle is the most regular marine turtle visitor to the Ranger Station during high tide.

The 58% increase in fuel prices since 2005 has limited the capability of the Philippine Navy to conduct all four relieving trips for marine park rangers in the Tubbataha Reefs. From 2-month rotations, rangers are now assigned to the Park on 3-month rotations, decreasing the number of relieving trips in response to the price increases. Extending the rangers' tour of duty in a very isolated and inaccessible location will surely affect morale and performance of functions, hence, park management will have to ensure that rangers are rotated on time and cover the cost of one of the trips.

WWF-Philippines received the funds from Global Giving in April 2006. Below is the statement of expenditures and proposed disbursement items for the fund in the amount of US\$11,405.48 which was received by the Tubbataha Protected Area Management Board (TPAMB) from WW-Philippines.

	In US \$	
Total Fund received from Global Giving		\$11,405.48
Expenses April 15-June 23, 2006		
Field Equipment		
Repair/Maintenance	\$1,780.18	
Enforcement Expenses	<u>\$1,493.81</u>	
Total Expenses (April 15-June 23, 2006)		\$3,273.99
 OTHER EXPENSES TO BE FUNDED:		
Equipments/Capital Expenditures:		
25HP OBM	\$1,825.47	
Handheld Radio	\$245.83	
VHF Marine Band Radio Base	\$283.02	
Tent (5-man capacity)	\$141.51	
Repair of Ranger Station	<u>\$1,886.79</u>	
		\$4,382.62
Trainings:		
OBM repair/maintenance	\$1,603.77	
IEC Training	\$471.70	
Mooring buoy	<u>\$730.00</u>	
		\$2,805.47
Fuel		
Fuel for 1 relieving trip to TRNMP		943.40
Total Expenses (Spent & to be funded)		11,405.48
Variance against Funds Received		.00