

UNDP

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**GEFSEC Project Tracking System**

***Response Due Date: 04/25/98***

**Correspondence Description**

Addressed to: <u>Mr. Kenneth King</u>	Correspondence Date: 04/16/98
Date Received: 04/16/98	Organization: UNDP
From: Rafael Asenjo	

***Assigned To: K. Kumari***

***Status: Open***

Type: Fax
Topic: PDF A: PHILIPPINES: Conservation of the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park

**Action Instructions**

- For Bilateral meeting
- For information only. No action needed.
- Please handle/respond on behalf of Mr. Kenneth King and provide a copy.
- Please handle/respond on behalf of Mr. Mohamed El-Ashry and provide a copy.
- Please prepare a draft response and return to Program Coordinator
- Please reply directly and provide a copy.
- Please review and/or technical comments

**Special Instructions**

Response before April 22 is requested.

**Information Copies Sent To:**

M. Ramos

***Projects File Room Location:***

**Note: A copy/original of the document is being sent directly to your attention.**

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<b>Block A PDF</b>	
<b>PART I - ELIGIBILITY</b>	
<b>1. PROJECT NAME:</b> Conservation of the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park	<b>2. GEF IMPLEMENTING AGENCY:</b> UNDP
<b>3. COUNTRY OR COUNTRIES IN WHICH THE PROJECT IS BEING IMPLEMENTED:</b> Philippines	<b>4. COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY:</b> Ratification of the CBD 8 October 1993 Notification of participation in re-structured GEF on 16 June 1994
<b>5. GEF FOCAL AREA(S) AND/OR CROSS CUTTING ISSUES:</b> Biodiversity	<b>6. OPERATIONAL PROGRAM/SHORT TERM MEASURE:</b> Coastal, marine, freshwater ecosystem
<b>7. PROJECT LINKAGE TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES, ACTION PLANS, AND PROGRAMMES:</b>  The project contributes to the achievement of the objectives of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), namely: the conservation of biodiversity through improved knowledge and management systems; research and development; better information available and institutional support mechanisms; the sustainable use of biodiversity; and the equitable sharing of the benefits of biodiversity.  The strategies of the NBSAP relevant to the project are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.1 Expanding and improving knowledge on the extent, characteristics, uses and values of biological diversity,</li> <li>7.2 Enhancing and integrating existing and planned biodiversity conservation efforts with emphasis in in-situ activities, and</li> <li>7.3 Advocating stronger international cooperation on biodiversity conservation and management</li> </ul> The project is also linked to Philippine Agenda 21 and the National Integrated Protected Areas Systems (NIPAS) Act of 1992.	
<b>8. GEF NATIONAL OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT AND DATE OF COUNTRY ENDORSEMENT:</b>  Letter of 25 February 1998, Mr. Delfin Ganapin, Undersecretary for Environment and Programme Development, Department of Environment and Natural Resources	

## 9. PROJECT RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES:

The overall objective of the proposed conservation initiatives in the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park is to assist in the establishment of a permanent, sustainable, and effective management regime so as to conserve the globally significant biological diversity, ecological processes, and other aspects that make Tubbataha a valuable world heritage site.

The Western Pacific is home to the greatest diversity of corals in the world, with the world's highest rate of species richness concentrated in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas. These seas have over 450 species of corals whereas the entire Caribbean Sea has only 50 species (Miller, 1994). Approximately 379 species of fish belonging to 40 families, 104 species of birds, six (6) of the world's eight (8) species of sea turtles, 22 species of marine mammals, seven (7) species of seagrass and 71 species of algae attest to the biodiversity of this area.

The Tubbataha Reef Complex, at the center of the Sulu Sea, is one of the world's richest and most diverse marine ecosystems, and was declared in 1988 as the Philippine's first National Marine Park and in 1993 as a World Heritage Site. The 33,000-hectare reef complex harbors at least 260 species of corals belonging to 36 genera.

Scientific research has suggested that Tubbataha is a major source of coral and fish larvae that radiate out to populate the reefs of the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas and the Western Pacific. Fish and invertebrate larvae coming from the reefs supports the marine life on the coral reefs of mainland Palawan and nearby islands. Additionally, biogeographical studies have indicated that the Sulu Sea, with Tubbataha at its center, is the epicenter of marine faunal diversity for the Western Pacific (and for that matter the World) with declining species numbers as you move East or West from this core of diversity.

A broad range of groups at the local, national and international level have initiated various conservation efforts since 1989. However, most of these have very limited success, if any at all. A Presidential Task Force on Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park was created in July 1995. The Task Force is chaired by the Department of National Defense and its members include the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary, the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Chairman, Department of Tourism Secretary, Department of Budget and Management Secretary, Governor of Palawan, Mayor of Cagayancillo, Naval District IV Commander and two NGO representatives. WWF-Philippines is an NGO member of the Task Force's Executive Committee and Technical Working Group. The work of the Task Force, however, has been restricted to limited activities including some patrolling, management planning, scientific research, and biological monitoring activities.

Despite these efforts, the conditions of the coral reefs are deteriorating and fish stocks and other marine invertebrates are declining. Immediate threats to the loss of the ecological integrity of the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park can be attributed to the following:

1. Unsustainable and destructive fishing practices damage the reefs. Fishermen from the Philippines, as well as nearby Taiwan and Hong Kong, frequent the reef and gather fish using destructive fishing methods such as cyanide and dynamite fishing.
2. Sea turtles are killed and turtle eggs, giant clams and magnificent shells are collected for trade.
3. The enforcement of pertinent laws against illegal fishing is weak. Associated with this is the lack of logistical support to effective patrolling.
4. There is lack of scientific-based research on the reefs ecology and socio-economic conditions of communities or local groups who depends on the reefs for survival.
5. Only a limited monitoring program has been implemented thus far.

**10. EXPECTED OUTCOMES:**

The project will work to ensure the integrated conservation and development of the Tubbataha coral reef ecosystem by developing and implementing conservation activities as well as providing alternative livelihood options. These will be developed so as to decrease the threats by providing economic benefits to various consumers of the reef's resources including fishermen, turtle egg and other marine life gatherers, divers and dive operators. Outcome will include:

1. An effective management plan to address destructive fishing, exploitation of marine species such as sea turtles and giant clams, and other threats to Tubbataha (addresses threats 1 and 2).
2. Legislation in support of the sustainable management of Tubbataha. During the implementation of the project, there will be strong lobby activities to have this legislation approved and implemented (addresses threats 1, 2, and 3).
3. A functioning and effective Marine Law Enforcement System and its logistical support (addresses threats 1,2, and 3).
4. Increased and ongoing knowledge of the biological and socioeconomic situation in Tubbataha (addresses threats 4 and 5).
5. Raised awareness among stakeholder groups of the importance of effectively managing the outstanding resources of Tubbataha (addresses threat 6).
6. Rules and Regulations for the operations of dive tourism in Tubbataha (addresses threat 7).
7. Several functioning alternative livelihood activities undertaken by local communities, each with clear linkages to the conservation of the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park (addresses threat 8).
8. Increased Government and other support for Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park including establishment of a functional management body and an annual appropriation that reflects a commitment to finance the recurring costs of the sustainable management of the park (addresses threat 9).
9. Increased capacity of relevant stakeholders to sustainably manage the resources Tubbataha Reef's National Marine Park (addresses threat 10).

**11. PLANNED ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVE OUTCOMES:**

The project will support initiatives to effectively manage the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park through a participatory integration of conservation and development. The project will:

1. Develop and carry out integrated conservation and development activities which are suited for the Tubbataha reefs and which will provide economic benefits to various consumers of reef resources, including fishermen, turtle egg and other marine life gatherers, divers and dive operators (supports all outcomes).
2. Strengthen the enforcement of pertinent laws and effective patrol programme (supports outcomes 2 and 3).
3. Develop and implement a strategy to increase the capacity for more effective and sustained biological and socioeconomic research and monitoring (supports outcome 4).
4. Formulate and execute an ecological research and monitoring programme for the reef complex (supports outcome 4).
5. Develop and implement an information, education and communication programme on the Tubbataha Reefs National Marine Park that will capture a wide range of audience at the local, national and international levels (supports outcome 5).
6. Formulate and implement guidelines in regulating tourism activities in the area, including the accreditation of dive tour operators and installation of monitoring buoys (supports outcome 6).
7. Develop a GIS database on the Tubbataha Reefs National Marine Park, which will include data on the environment and ecology (supports all outcomes).
8. Through participatory methods identify and address stakeholder needs in terms of sustainable development activities (supports outcome 7).
9. Develop and implement an alternative livelihood strategy with local communities (supports outcome 7).
10. Assist in the creation of the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park Management Board (supports outcomes 8 and 9).
11. Develop and implement a strategy to build the capacity, participation, and support of relevant institutions and communities to develop and implement resource management strategies and adapt these to the area's needs in the long-term (supports outcomes 8 and 9).

The PDF Block A grant will initiate the development of a management plan for the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park that will undertake the above mentioned activities in an effort to achieve the outcomes discussed.

**12. STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN PROJECT:**

Members of the Presidential Task Force for Tubbataha and members of the Executive Committee, academic and research institutions such as Silliman University and Marine Science Institute UP Diliman, people's organizations, non-government organizations such as KKP and SAGUDA and others to be identified by the PDF Block A.

## **PART II – INFORMATION ON BLOCK A PDF ACTIVITIES**

### **13. ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED BY THE PDF-A:**

The GEF Block A grant will be used to prepare a project brief and draft project document for implementation of activities to address the threats to the Tubbataha Reef National Park. The PDF A will also be used to identify sources of co-financing.

13.1 Stakeholder Analysis: Stakeholders who are directly or indirectly affecting the Tubbataha Reef Complex need to be identified. Consultations, workshops and meetings with stakeholder groups will be carried out. The PDF Block A will produce the following:

- Report on stakeholder analysis
- Consultative workshops attended by the stakeholders' group.
- Project mapping (problem and objective analysis) for the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park

13.2 Development of a preliminary integrated management plan for the Tubbataha Reef National Park: A preliminary integrated management plan for the Tubbataha Reefs will be developed through consultations, consolidation of secondary information including research, and assessment of conservation and development strategies suitable to the Tubbataha Reef National Park. The preliminary management plan will be finalized through consultations under the full project and submitted to the DENR for approval.

13.3 Identification of co-financing arrangements: Financial requirements to implement the management plan would come from diverse sources. It is important to identify and contact other sources of funding aside from GEF to support the implementation of the management plan.

13.4 Estimation of incremental cost: A consultant will be hired to estimate the incremental cost of implementing the Tubbataha Reef National Park Management Plan.

13.5 Preparation of full project brief and draft full project document for GEF using incremental cost approach.

### **14. EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND COMPLETION DATES:**

14.1 Report on the stakeholder analysis and workshop. This will include the nature and degree of stakeholders' influence on the Tubbataha conservation efforts, impacts of the project on the stakeholders, problems and potentials in working with different stakeholders, relationships between different stakeholders, recommendations to improve the functioning of the stakeholders' network. July 1998.

14.2 Preliminary Tubbataha Reef National Park Management Plan. September 1998.

14.3 Estimation of the incremental costs associated with the alternative GEF project. November 1998

14.4 Potential co-financing arrangements. December 1998.

14.5 Full project brief and draft project document prepared using the incremental cost approach for submission to GEF. December 1998.

<b>15. OTHER POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTORS/ DONORS AND AMOUNTS:</b>	
GEF: US\$ 25,000. WWF-Philippines: US\$ 10,000	
<b>16. TOTAL BUDGET AND INFORMATION ON HOW COSTS WILL BE MET (INCLUDING THE BLOCK A GRANT):</b>	
Project staff and consultants: US\$ 7,000 (GEF)	
Stakeholder analysis: US\$ 6,000 (GEF)	
Development of integrated management plan: US\$ 12,000 (GEF)	
Project staff time, consultants for incremental cost calculation, workshop venue and facilities: US\$ 10,000 (WWF-Philippines)	
<b>PART III- INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANT INSTITUTION</b>	
<b>17. NAME:</b>	<b>18. DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT, MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP:</b>
Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas (World Wildlife Fund – Philippines) (KKP)	9 July 1996; individual and corporate membership; President, Celso Roque; Chairman, Jaime Zobel de Ayala.
<b>19. MANDATE/ TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	
KKP is one of the 26 national organizations of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). KKP aims to conserve nature and ecological processes by preserving genetic, species and ecosystems diversity; ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable both now and in the longer term; and promoting actions to reduce pollution and the wasteful exploitation and consumption of resources and energy.	
<b>20: SOURCES OF REVENUE:</b>	
Donors include the Ayala Foundation, A.Soriano Jr. Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Citibank, N.A., WWF-US, WWF-UK, WWF-Int., DGIS (Netherlands) and DFID (formerly British ODA).	

**21. RECENT ACTIVITIES/ PROGRAMMES IN PARTICULAR RELEVANT TO THE GEF:**

KKP has been focusing on the marine environment with its principal mandate to undertake model projects in biodiversity conservation in marine, coastal, and small islands in the Philippines. Its marine programme is almost entirely concentrated in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas.

Examples are:

- The ecological studies of the Turtle Islands.
- Research and monitoring of the Tubbataha Reef Marine National Park.
- Dugong, research and conservation.
- Whale Shark, Manta Ray research and conservation program.
- Development of management strategies for the kapiz shell industry.
- Pamilacan whale watching village development program.
- Sustainable livelihood systems for ornamental and live fish.

KKP is:

- The only NGO member of the Presidential Commission for the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas.
- Member of the Core Team in the WWF Endangered Seas Campaign.
- The only NGO member of the Inter-agency Task Force on Marine Mammal Conservation.
- Member of the Mindanao Marine Wildlife Watch.
- Member of the Palawan NGO Network.
- Member of Bantay Kalikasan.

**PART IV - INFORMATION TO BE COMPLETED BY IMPLEMENTING AGENCY****22. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:**

PHI/97/A05

**23. IMPLEMENTING AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:**

Kevin Hill, Technical Advisor, UNDP/RBAP/GEF



**24. PROJECT LINKAGE TO IMPLEMENTING AGENCY PROGRAMME(S):**

The UNDP Country Cooperation for the Philippines embodies a clear recognition of the continuing concern for sustainability of the resource base and the quality of the Philippine environment. The regeneration of the environment is seen as strategic to sustained poverty alleviation and development efforts. The proposed project will support Philippine Agenda 21, the country's response to the UN Conference on Environment and Development, which uses a people-centered and ecosystem-based approach to protect and regenerate the environment while ensuring synergy between environmental, social, political and economic considerations. The project will also contribute in achieving the biodiversity conservation objectives of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) through improved knowledge and management systems, better information and institutional support mechanisms and equitable sharing of benefits of biodiversity. Through integrated conservation and development approach in Tubbataha coral reef ecosystem, the project will implement conservation activities and will provide alternative livelihood options for the communities. UNDP will provide cost-sharing support from its TRAC resources in the implementation of the full project particularly with respect to capacity building efforts of the government and the communities. The Philippine Government will likewise provide counterpart contribution (in-kind) in the implementation of the project in the form of personnel and counterpart logistic support.

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APR. -15' 98 (WED) 11:55 UNDP/RBAP

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February 25, 1998

MS. SARAH I. TIMPSON  
Resident Representative  
United Nations Development Programme  
NISDA on Makati Bldg.  
Amaroso Street, Legazpi Village  
Makati City

UNDP MANILA	
FILE No	PRO 900 M. S. Prop
MAR - 6 1998	
ACTION	INFO
PR	DRB

Dear Ms. Timpson

We would like to endorse herewith a proposal entitled "Addressing the Immediate Threats to Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park and World Heritage" submitted by one of World Wide Fund for Nature's (WWF) national organizations, the Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas or KKP. The proposal is being submitted for possible GEF Block A support for various activities leading to an approved Management Plan for the protected area. The proposal was developed as an offshoot of discussions made between KKP and UNDP-GEF representatives in NEW York.

The project site will be in Philippines' first Marine Park and World Heritage Site, the Tubbataha Reefs found Southeast of Palawan Province. Documented reports the biodiversity significance of this 33,000 - hectare reef complex as one of the World's largest and richest assemblages of marine life.

We would appreciate your favorable consideration and endorsement of this proposal for GEF support.

Very truly yours

DELFIN J. GANAPIN, JR  
Undersecretary for Environment  
and Programs Development

Dr. Celso R. Roque  
KKP