

## Project Update: March 2016

Through Rufford support, Reef-World trained a core team of Green Fins Assessor in Tioman, Malaysia in 2014. Green Fins has been adopted as a national programme of the Ministry of Natural Environment and Resources, and is implemented through a partnership between the Department of Marine Parks Malaysia and Reef Check Malaysia. The activities in Tioman sparked a lot of interest within the Malaysia diving industry with dive centres across the country requesting membership.

In response to this Reef-World and their national partner Reef Check Malaysia, instigated a partnership with Sabah Parks, the environmental authority for the Sabah State to establish Green Fins in Sabah. Reef-World conducted an Assessor Training Programme in Kota Kinabalu between March 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> 2016 supported jointly by Rufford and Sabah Parks. The result was five newly qualified Green Fins Assessors and one Green Fins Coordinator. New Assessors include the three Dive Marshals in charge of monitoring the diving behaviour above and below the waters of the Sipidan National Park – one of the top dive destinations in the world – as well as two Reef Check staff working across Sabah.

A solid action plan was developed by the new team of Assessors and the Sabah Park Management, and next steps will focus resources on Semporna; to provide membership and evaluate environmental performance of dive centres in line with the Green Fins approach. It is expected that once the programme is well established in Semporna, their efforts may spread to other diving destinations in Sabah.



Left to right: Green Fins Assessor Trainees work together to use the Green Fins assessment criteria to grade dive centre environmental practices; Newly qualified Green Fins Assessors jumping for joy & Reef-World Trainers take the Green Fins Assessor Trainees on a skills development dive.