

## Project Update: December 2015

ORC's Rufford project began in October 2015 with a stakeholder's meeting in the Silago local government unit, where barangay (neighborhood) captains, fisheries technicians from the Pacific Alliance for Marine Development Council, and the Silago Department of Agriculture gave their input on the project. Then, in October, the ORC dive team accomplished survey series in two Silago MPAs. We were glad to find that the coral, fish, and invertebrates communities were benefiting from protection, and observed a notable difference between the 10-year old Sudmon MPA and the 5-year old Balagawan MPA in terms of fish size. In November, ORC and its local facilitation team (in-training to be replicators of this project in other municipalities) conducted two participatory coastal resource assessments, covering five barangays in total, with a total of 50 participants from Silago communities. The PCRA included environmental education, community mapping, and habitat/resource/issues location verification by GPS.



Left: MPA Assessment in Barangay Balagawan (October 2015). Middle: Community members mapping their natural resources of their barangay (November 2015). Right: Local PCRA facilitators taking GPS points of coastal habitats (November 2015).