

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

Philippines Asia and the Pacific natural Marine & coastal 653bis 1993, 2009


1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park	8.953 / 119.868	130028	0	130028	1993
Total (ha)		130028	0	130028	

Comment

TRNP no-take zone: 97,030 hectares TRNP buffer zone: 349,509 hectares

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Tubbataha Reefs National Park - inscribed extension	29/01/2008	

Comment

Title: Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park - inscribed extension

1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

Comment

The Tubbataha Protected Area Management Board through the Tubbataha Management Office 41 Abad Santos Street, Puerto Princesa City 5300, Palawan, Philippines

1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- Angelique Songco
Tubbataha Reef Protected Area Management Board
Park Manager

Comment

Tubbataha Protected Area Management Board Angelique Songco Park Superintendent New Address: 41 Abad Santos Street, Puerto Princesa City 5300, Palawan, Philippines New email address: tubbataha88@gmail.com

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

1. www.tubbatahareef.org
2. [Natural site datasheet from WCMC](#)

1.8 - Other designations / Conventions under which the property is protected (if applicable)

Comment

Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief Synthesis

Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park lies in a unique position in the centre of the Sulu Sea, and includes the Tubbataha and Jessie Beazley Reefs. It protects an area of almost 100,000 hectares of high quality marine habitats containing three atolls and a large area of deep sea. The property is home to a great diversity of marine life. Whales, dolphins, sharks, turtles and Napoleon wrasse are amongst the key species found here.

The reef ecosystems support over 350 species of coral and almost 500 species of fish. The reserve also protects one of the few remaining colonies of breeding seabirds in the region.

Criterion (vii): Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park contains excellent examples of pristine reefs with a high diversity of marine life. The property includes extensive reef flats and perpendicular walls reaching over 100m depth, as well as large areas of deep sea. The remote and undisturbed character of the property and the continued presence of large marine fauna such as tiger sharks, cetaceans and turtles, and big schools of pelagic fishes such as barracuda and trevallies add to the aesthetic qualities of the property.

Criterion (ix): Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park lies in a unique position in the middle of the Sulu Sea and is one of the Philippines' oldest ecosystems. It plays a key role in the process of reproduction, dispersal and colonization by marine organisms in the whole Sulu Sea system, and helps support fisheries outside its boundaries. The property is a natural laboratory for the study of ecological and biological processes, displaying the ongoing process of coral reef formation, and supporting a large number of marine species dependant on reef ecosystems. The presence of top predator species, such as tiger and hammerhead sharks, are indicators of the ecological balance of the property. The property also offers a demonstration site to study the responses of a natural reef system in relation to the impacts of climate change.

Criterion (x): Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park provides an important habitat for internationally threatened and endangered marine species. The property is located within the Coral Triangle, a global focus for coral biological diversity. The reefs of the property support 374 species of corals, almost 90% of all coral species in the Philippines. The reefs and seas of the property also support eleven species of cetaceans, eleven species of sharks, and an estimated 479 species of fish, including the iconic and threatened Napoleon wrasse. The property supports the highest population densities known in the world for white tip reef sharks. Pelagic species such as jacks, tuna, barracuda, manta rays, whale sharks and different species of sharks also are common here and the property is a very important nesting, resting and juvenile development area for two species of endangered marine turtles: green turtles and hawksbill turtles. There are seven breeding species of seabirds and Bird Islet and South Islet are breeding grounds to seven resident and endangered breeding species of seabirds. The critically endangered Christmas Island Frigatebird is a regular visitor to the property.

Integrity

The property comprises two atolls (North and South Atoll) and an emergent coral cay, Jessie Beazley Reef. It includes open sea with an average depth of 750 m and still displays a well preserved marine ecosystem with top predators, and a large number and diversity of coral reef and pelagic species. The property also hosts an important population of resident, nesting and feeding seabirds. The area is free of human

habitation and activities and is of a sufficient size to maintain associated biological and ecological processes. The property is of an adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the key features and processes of the reef systems within it, although the maintenance of these values also requires measures to be taken outside the boundaries of the property in relation to some migratory species and the buffering of the property from threats to the marine environment that could occur in the wider area. A key aspect of the integrity of the property is the low level of fishing pressure, due to the no-take policies which are in place throughout its area.

Management and protection requirements

Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park is legally protected through national protected areas legislation and a range of other environmental legislation which enable action to be taken against a wide range of threats. The implementation of the legislation is assisted by clear delegation to the management authority for the property. This is a remote property and its management is therefore a significant logistical challenge, requiring a well-equipped team with operational boats, well trained and well equipped staff and a sufficient operating budget for fuel, maintenance and accommodation to ensure a strong and responsive presence on the water. Tourism visitation requires careful planning and management to ensure the values of the property are maintained, and to respect the capacity of the property, as well as visitor safety and to ensure income is returned to both site management and local communities. There are threats to the property from shipping, marine litter, fishing, marine pollution and oil exploration. Thus effective buffer zone arrangements are needed, and internationally supported legislation to protect the property from shipping threats, and greater enforcement of marine litter regulation on the High Seas by the appropriate international organisations would be a significant benefit to the property.

Comment

360 species of corals representing 80 out of 111 genera of corals found in the world over 600 species of fish

2.2 - The criteria (2005 revised version) under which the property was inscribed

(vii)(ix)(x)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

For Criterion (vii): TRNP contains excellent examples of pristine reefs and includes extensive reef flats and dramatic drop offs/perpendicular walls reaching over 100 meter depth, as well as large areas of deep blue waters whose vividness and aesthetic appeal captivates imagination of composers, artists and photographers the world over. For Criterion (ix): TRNP is one of the oldest ecosystems. For Criterion (x): It is the world's most important habitat for threatened and endangered marine species.

2.4 - If needed, please provide details of why the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should be revised

If needed, a new SOUV could incorporate the new species counts which have been updated by recent studies. Likewise, a new legislation specifically focusing on the protection of the property has been passed since its renomination in 2009.

2.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

The old SOUV follows requirement of UNESCO related to its format however, new specie counts and recent updates on the values of the property may have to be incorporated into the SOUV.

3. Factors Affecting the Property

3.14. Other factor(s)

3.14.1 - Other factor(s)

No additional factors identified.

3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

Name	Impact						Origin
3.1	Buildings and Development						
3.1.5 Interpretative and visitation facilities							
3.2	Transportation Infrastructure						
3.2.4 Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure							
3.3	Services Infrastructures						
3.3.2 Renewable energy facilities							
3.3.3 Non-renewable energy facilities							
3.3.4 Localised utilities							
3.4	Pollution						
3.4.1 Pollution of marine waters							
3.4.5 Solid waste							
3.5	Biological resource use/modification						
3.5.1 Fishing/collecting aquatic resources							
3.5.8 Commercial hunting							
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric						
3.7.3 Temperature							
3.7.8 Micro-organisms							
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage						
3.8.2 Society's valuing of heritage							
3.8.6 Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation							
3.9	Other human activities						
3.9.1 Illegal activities							
3.9.5 Terrorism							
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events						
3.10.1 Storms							
3.10.5 Changes to oceanic waters							
3.10.6 Temperature change							
3.10.7 Other climate change impacts							
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events						
3.11.5 Erosion and siltation/ deposition							
3.11.6 Fire (wildfires)							
3.12	Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species						
3.12.4 Invasive / alien marine species							
3.12.5 Hyper-abundant species							
3.13	Management and institutional factors						
3.13.1 Low impact research / monitoring activities							
3.13.3 Management activities							
Legend	Current	Potential	Negative	Positive	Inside	Outside	

3.16. Assessment of current negative factors

3.16.1 - Assessment of current negative factors

	Spatial scale	Temporal scale	Impact	Management response	Trend
3.2 Transportation Infrastructure					
3.2.4 Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure	restricted	frequent	significant	no capacity and / or resources	static

		Spatial scale	Temporal scale	Impact	Management response	Trend
3.4	Pollution					
3.4.1	Pollution of marine waters	extensive	on-going	significant	medium capacity	increasing
3.5	Biological resource use/modification					
3.5.1	Fishing/collecting aquatic resources	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	high capacity	decreasing
3.5.8	Commercial hunting	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	decreasing
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric					
3.7.3	Temperature	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	low capacity	static
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage					
3.8.2	Society's valuing of heritage	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	decreasing
3.9	Other human activities					
3.9.1	Illegal activities	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events					
3.10.6	Temperature change	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.10.7	Other climate change impacts	extensive	intermittent or sporadic	significant	high capacity	decreasing
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events					
3.11.5	Erosion and siltation/ deposition	localised	on-going	significant	medium capacity	static
3.12	Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species					
3.12.4	Invasive / alien marine species	extensive	intermittent or sporadic	significant	high capacity	decreasing
3.12.5	Hyper-abundant species	restricted	frequent	minor	medium capacity	increasing

3.17. Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to factors affecting the property

3.17.1 - Comments

Most of the threats are beyond management's control but management constantly aims to enhance its capacity to mitigate or cope with the threat. Crown of thorns infestation erupted 3 years ago. It currently shows signs of waning but research results suggest another flare-up in the next 2-3 years. Red-footed boobies have increased in number such that it threatens the vegetation and the dependent tree-nesting species in the islets.

4. Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Property

4.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

4.1.1 - Buffer zone status

There is a buffer zone

4.1.2 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.1.3 - Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.1.4 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property known?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are known by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

4.1.5 - Are the buffer zones of the World Heritage property known?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are known by the management authority but are **not known by local residents / communities/landowners**.

4.1.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage property

The buffer zone was established by a national law passed in 6 April 2010 which was after the renomination of the property.

4.2. Protective Measures

4.2.1 - Protective designation (legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and / or traditional)

The Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park was established in 1988 under Presidential Decree No. 705, Proclamation No. 306. In 2006, the park was extended to an area of 96,828 ha to encompass the Jessie Beazley Reef by Presidential Proclamation 1126 and the park

was renamed the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (TRNP). The property is classified as an IUCN Management Category II protected area as a National Park. TRNP operates as a 'notake' protected area as provided for in the original decree of 1988, as well as the subsequent decree extending the park in 2006.

Comment

The Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park Act (Republic Act No. 10067) was passed into law on 6 April 2010 which recognizes the expansion to include Jessie Beazley Reef in the no-take zone and establishes a 10-nautical mile buffer zone around the perimeter of the property.

4.2.2 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides an **adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

4.2.3 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides an **adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

4.2.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone is **inadequate** to ensure the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the property

4.2.5 - Can the legislative framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) be enforced?

There is **acceptable** capacity / resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property but some deficiencies remain

4.2.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to protective measures

The management of Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park is currently working on gathering information that will feed its application for designation as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) by the International Maritime Organization. Until such designation, the property will continue to suffer the effects of shipping traffic adjacent to its boundaries.

4.3. Management System / Management Plan

4.3.1 - Management System

The management of TRNP has evolved since it was first declared a protected area in 1988, and its inclusion on the World Heritage List in 1993. Despite continuing pressures, it is a relatively effectively protected coral reefs for its size in the region. The management regime is focused on strict protection, and delivered through a management

consortium consisting of the Philippine central, provincial and municipal level of government, NGOs and some private sector donors. Administratively, TRNP falls under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government of Palawan. In 1999, the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development established the Tubbataha Protected Area Management Board (TPAMB). The TPAMB replaced the Presidential Task Force as the managing authority of the TRNP (although the membership of the authority remained similar). The 2006 decree further established the TPAMB as the sole policy making and permit-granting body for the TRNP.

A Management Plan was approved in 1999 and updated in 2002, 2004 and 2007.

The management operations of the TRNP are carried out by the Tubbataha Management Office (TMO) based in Puerto Princesa.

Comment

Administratively, TRNP falls under the jurisdiction of the Tubbataha Protected Area Management Board which is co-chaired by the Chairman of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and the Regional Executive Director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as designated by the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park Act (Republic Act No. 10067).

4.3.2 - Management Documents

Comment

Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park Management Plan
Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park Business Plan

4.3.3 - How well do the various levels of administration (i.e. national / federal; regional / provincial / state; local / municipal etc.) coordinate in the management of the World Heritage Property ?

There is coordination between the range of administrative bodies / levels involved in the management of the property but it could be improved

4.3.4 - Is the management system / plan adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value ?

The management system/plan is only **partially adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?

The management system is being **fully** implemented and monitored

4.3.6 - Is there an annual work / action plan and is it being implemented?

An annual work / action plan exists and **many activities** are being implemented

4.3.7 - Please rate the cooperation / relationship with World Heritage property managers / coordinators / staff of the following

Local communities / residents	Fair
Local / Municipal authorities	Fair
Indigenous peoples	Fair
Landowners	Not applicable
Visitors	Fair
Researchers	Good
Tourism industry	Fair
Industry	Not applicable

4.3.8 - If present, do local communities resident in or near the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Local communities directly **participate** in all relevant decisions relating to management, i.e. co-management

4.3.9 - If present, do indigenous peoples resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Indigenous peoples directly participate in **all relevant** decisions relating to management, i.e. co-management

4.3.10 - Is there cooperation with industry (i.e. forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.) regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone?

There is contact but only **some cooperation** with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone

4.3.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

The new management plan is currently undergoing its final stage of editing and layout while the business plan is still under review.

4.3.12 - Please report any significant changes in the legal status and / or contractual / traditional protective measures and management arrangements for the World Heritage property since inscription or the last Periodic report


The Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park Act was passed into law on 6 April 2010 and clearly established a 10 Nautical Mile Zone around the property.

4.4. Financial and Human Resources




4.4.1 - Costs related to conservation, based on the average of last five years (relative percentage of the funding sources)

Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc)	0%
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	21%
Governmental (National / Federal)	2%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	20%
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	0%
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	9%
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	48%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	0%
Other grants	0%

4.4.2 - International Assistance received from the World Heritage Fund (USD)

Title	Year	Amount	Link to source
N, Tubbataha Reef Marine Park	1996	20000.00	

Periodic Report - Second Cycle

N, Tubbataha, projet de conservation	1997	20000.00	
N, Tubbataha, formation personnel,	1997	30000.00	
Training of a core-group of personnel on Human scientific dimensions of managing Tubataha Reef as a natural WH site	1997	30000.00	
Total		100000	

Comment

US\$ 17,012.22 2004-State of Conservation Report US\$ 29,816.00 2006-National Conference on the Management of Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park and the Greater Sulu Sea US\$ 18,488.00 2008- Nomination Dossier for the Expanded Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park US\$ 29,996.00 2010- State of Conservation Report

4.4.3 - Is the current budget sufficient to manage the World Heritage property effectively?

The available budget is **acceptable** but could be further improved to fully meet the management needs

4.4.4 - Are the existing sources of funding secure and likely to remain so?

Existing sources of funding are **not secure**

4.4.5 - Does the World Heritage property provide economic benefits to local communities (e.g. income, employment)?

There is **some flow** of economic benefits to local communities

4.4.6 - Are available resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure sufficient to meet management needs?

There are **some** adequate equipment and facilities, but deficiencies in at least one key area **constrain** management at the World Heritage property

4.4.7 - Are resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure adequately maintained?

There is **basic** maintenance of equipment and facilities

4.4.8 - Comments, conclusion, and / or recommendations related to finance and infrastructure

Park revenues have not been sufficient to cover all operational costs, thus there is still a dependency on funding from various partners and sources. Key financial goals have been identified in the business plan : increase tourism revenues through more active marketing and promotions, develop linkages with donors to secure external funding and, secure a Php10M reserve fund to build up savings in contingency.

4.4.9 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Full-time	60%
Part-time	40%

4.4.10 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Permanent	60%
Seasonal	40%

Section II - Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (653)

4.4.11 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Paid	80%
Volunteer	20%

4.4.12 - Are available human resources adequate to manage the World Heritage property?

A range of human resources exist, but these are **below optimum** to manage the World Heritage Property.

4.4.13 - Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	Fair
Promotion	Non-existent
Community outreach	Fair
Interpretation	Fair
Education	Fair
Visitor management	Poor
Conservation	Good
Administration	Fair
Risk preparedness	Fair
Tourism	Non-existent
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Good

4.4.14 - Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	Medium
Promotion	Low
Community outreach	Low
Interpretation	Low
Education	Low
Visitor management	Not available
Conservation	High
Administration	Low
Risk preparedness	Low
Tourism	Low
Enforcement (custodians, police)	High

4.4.15 - Do the management and conservation programmes at the World Heritage property help develop local expertise?

A capacity development plan or programme is in place and **partially implemented**; some technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally **but most of the technical work is carried out by external staff**

4.4.16 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

For the past years the management focus has been on capacity building in conservation values and enforcement techniques. The management is currently working on training the staff for marketing and promotion strategies.

4.5. Scientific Studies and Research Projects

4.5.1 - Is there adequate knowledge (scientific or traditional) about the values of the World Heritage property to support planning, management and

decision-making to ensure that Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Knowledge about the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient** for most key areas **but there are gaps**

4.5.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme of research**, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.5.3 - Are results from research programmes disseminated?

Research results are **shared widely** with the local, national and international audiences

4.5.4 - Please provide details (i.e. authors, title, and web link) of papers published about the World Heritage property since the last Periodic Report

Alava, M. N. (2010). Preliminary report on the inventory of sharks and rays in the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, Cagayancillo, Palawan, Philippines. Anda, D. (2006). An Institutional Analysis of the Integrated Protected Area Fund (IPAF) in the Philippines. Quezon City: Resources, Environment and Economics Center for Studies. Aquino, M. T., & Alarcon, R. (2010). Monitoring the Cetacean populations

4.5.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to scientific studies and research projects

Most researches are expensive to conduct in the property given the large area to cover and its remoteness and inaccessibility during most parts of the year. Thus there is a huge hurdle in attempting to address information gaps. List of studies and authors limited. Could only fit in 3 of the more than 15 studies done since 2006.

4.6. Education, Information and Awareness Building

4.6.1 - At how many locations is the World Heritage emblem displayed at the property?

In one location, but **not easily visible** to visitors

4.6.2 - Please rate the awareness and understanding of the existence and justification for inscription of the World Heritage property amongst the following groups

Local communities / residents	Poor
Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property	Average
Local Indigenous peoples	Poor
Local landowners	Not applicable
Visitors	Excellent
Tourism industry	Average
Local businesses and industries	Poor

4.6.3 - Is there a planned education and awareness programme linked to the values and management of the World Heritage property?

There is a planned education and awareness programme but it only **partly meets the needs** and could be improved

4.6.4 - What role, if any, has designation as a World Heritage property played with respect to education, information and awareness building activities?

World Heritage status has been an **important influence** on education, information and awareness building activities

4.6.5 - How well is the information on Outstanding Universal Value of the property presented and interpreted?

The Outstanding Universal Value of the property is adequately presented and interpreted **but improvements could be made**

4.6.6 - Please rate the adequacy for education, information and awareness building of the following visitor facilities and services at the World Heritage property

Visitor centre	Not needed
Site museum	Not needed
Information booths	Not needed
Guided tours	Not needed
Trails / routes	Not needed
Information materials	Adequate
Transportation facilities	Not needed
Other	Adequate

4.6.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building

Others include mooring buoys found in strategic locations all over the park. Information materials are distributed and briefings are conducted prior to the departure of the visitors for Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park.

4.7. Visitor Management

4.7.1 - Please provide the trend in annual visitation for the last five years

Last year	Minor Increase
Two years ago	Decreasing
Three years ago	Minor Increase
Four years ago	Decreasing
Five years ago	Minor Increase

4.7.2 - What information sources are used to collect trend data on visitor statistics?

Entry tickets and registries
Tourism industry
Visitor surveys

4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

Comment

The property managers maintain a database on visitor profiles, including demographics and visitation trends.

4.7.4 - Is there an appropriate visitor use management plan (e.g. specific plan) for the World Heritage property which ensures that its Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is managed but **improvements could be made**

4.7.5 - Does the tourism industry contribute to improving visitor experiences and maintaining the values of the World Heritage property?

There is **limited co-operation** between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry to present the Outstanding Universal Value and increase appreciation

4.7.6 - If fees (i.e. entry charges, permits) are collected, do they contribute to the management of the World Heritage property?

The fee is collected, and makes **some contribution** to the management of the World Heritage property

4.7.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to visitor use of the World Heritage property

no additional comments.

4.8. Monitoring

4.8.1 - Is there a monitoring programme at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme** of monitoring, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.8.2 - Are key indicators for measuring the state of conservation used to monitor how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained?

Information on the values of the World Heritage property is sufficient and key indicators have been defined but **monitoring the status of indicators could be improved**

4.8.3 - Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups

World Heritage managers / coordinators and staff	Excellent
Local / Municipal authorities	Excellent
Local communities	Excellent
Researchers	Excellent
NGOs	Excellent
Industry	Average
Local indigenous peoples	Excellent

4.8.4 - Has the State Party implemented relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee?

Implementation is **underway**

4.8.5 - Please provide comments relevant to the implementation of recommendations from the World Heritage Committee

The recommendation to expand the property area has been acted upon through the enactment of the TRNP Act of 2009. Through this national law, a 10-nautical mile buffer zone has been established. The property managers are already in the process of preparing the State of Conservation report which is due on 1 February 2011.

4.8.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to monitoring

No additional comments

4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs

4.9.1 - Please select the top 6 managements needs for the property (if more than 6 are listed below)

Please refer to question 5.2

5. Summary and Conclusions

5.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property

5.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property

	World Heritage criteria and attributes affected	Actions	Monitoring	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment	
3.2	Transportation Infrastructure						
3.2.4	Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure	Criteria (vii), (ix), (x). all marine wildlife are affected by pollution emanating from shipping traffic in varying degrees.	Initial steps have been undertaken by the property managers towards having the property designated as a particularly sensitive sea area (PSSA).	Marine park rangers regularly record the presence of passing vessels in and around the property using a radar.	continuous	Tubbataha Management Office and the Philippine Coast Guard - collection of data needed to have the property designated as PSSA Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs - filing of application for PSSA	no additional comments
3.4	Pollution						
3.4.1	Pollution of marine waters	Criteria (vii), (ix), (x).	Researchers noted the presence and type of trash encountered during surveys. Trash that find its way to the islets and sand bars are collected by the marine park rangers regularly and brought back to mainland Palawan for proper disposal.	Marine park rangers constantly collect debris landing on the islets and the sandbar in front of the ranger station. Attempts to quantify collected garbage have already been initiated.	On-going	Tubbataha Management Office	none
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events						
3.10.7	Other climate change impacts						
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events						
3.11.5	Erosion and siltation/ deposition	Criteria (ix), (x).	Area eroded is measured annually. Recommendations from seabird and sea turtle consultants are currently being weighed.	Measurement of the affected areas are conducted annually.	every year at generally the same month	Tubbataha Management Office	Retainer wall on the South Islet is scheduled to be repaired by the Philippine Coast Guard soon. Tubbataha Management Office discussed the wall design with said agency to ensure that it will not hamper the nesting of both seabirds and sea turtles.
3.12	Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species						
3.12.4	Invasive / alien marine species	Criteria (vii), (ix), (x).	Regular removal of crown-of-thorns is being conducted by the marine park rangers.	Population densities, population structure and habitat distribution are noted annually to monitor population trends.	ongoing	Tubbataha Management Office	no additional comment
3.12.5	Hyper-abundant species	Criteria (ix), (x).	The hyper-abundant red-footed boobies are prevented from colonizing the South Islet following the recommended actions given by the seabird consultant.	Population densities, population structure and habitat distribution are noted annually to monitor population trends.	ongoing	Tubbataha Management Office	no additional comment

5.2. Summary - Management Needs

5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

4.1 Boundaries and Buffer Zones				
	Actions	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment

4.1.5	The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are not known by local residents / communities/landowners	Information on the buffer zone shall be included in the materials disseminated during the information, education and communications campaign of Tubbataha Management Office.	2011 onwards	Tubbataha Management Office	none
4.2 Protective Measures					
4.2.4	Inadequate legal framework	The management planning workshop identified measures to be implemented to mitigate gaps.	2011 onwards	Tubbataha Protected Area Management Board	The capacity to influence or establish a legal framework for the waters outside of the property is beyond the property management's control but it can make representations to the proper authorities.
4.4 Financial and Human Resources					
4.4.4	Existing sources of funding are not secure	The business plan that identifies strategies to secure funding is being reviewed. Management staff will be trained to handle marketing, merchandising and promotions in order to increase income of the property to finance management needs	2010 onwards	Tubbataha Management Office	none
4.6 Education, Information and Awareness Building					
4.6.1	World Heritage emblem not easily visible	Funds to install the emblem on the ranger station within the property is being sourced out.	2011 - 2012	Tubbataha Management Office	none

5.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity

Not applicable (for sites inscribed exclusively under criteria vii to x)

5.3.2 - Current state of Integrity

The integrity of the World Heritage property is intact

5.3.3 - Current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been maintained.

5.3.4 - Current state of the property's other values

Other important cultural and / or natural values and the state of conservation of the World Heritage property are predominantly intact

5.4. Additional comments on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.4.1 - Comments

no additional comments.

6. World Heritage Status and Conclusions on Periodic Reporting Exercise

6.1 - Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas

Conservation	Very positive
Research and monitoring	Very positive
Management effectiveness	Very positive
Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples	Positive
Recognition	Positive
Education	Positive
Infrastructure development	Very positive
Funding for the property	Positive
International cooperation	Positive
Political support for conservation	Positive
Legal / Policy framework	Positive
Lobbying	Positive
Institutional coordination	Positive
Security	No impact
Other (please specify)	Not applicable

6.2 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to World Heritage status

no additional comments.

6.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of this Section of the Periodic Report

Governmental institution responsible for the property
Site Manager/Coordinator/World Heritage property staff

6.4 - Was the Periodic Reporting questionnaire easy to use and clearly understandable?

yes

6.5 - Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

no suggestions.

6.6 - Please rate the level of support for completing the Periodic Report questionnaire from the following entities

UNESCO	Very good
State Party Representative	Very good
Advisory Body	Very good

6.7 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?

Most of the required information was accessible

6.8 - The Periodic Reporting process has improved the understanding of the following

The concept of Outstanding Universal Value
The property's Outstanding Universal Value
The concept of Integrity and / or Authenticity
The property's Integrity and / or Authenticity
Managing the property to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value
Monitoring and reporting
Management effectiveness

6.9 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities

UNESCO	Satisfactory
State Party	Excellent
Site Managers	Excellent
Advisory Bodies	Excellent

6.10 - Summary of actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee

• **Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance**

Reason for update: 360 species of corals representing 80 out of 111 genera of corals found in the world over 600 species of fish

• **Geographic Information Table**

Reason for update: TRNP no-take zone: 97,030 hectares TRNP buffer zone: 349,509 hectares

• **Map(s)**

Reason for update: Title: Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park - inscribed extension

6.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to the Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise

no additional comments.