Management issues of 20 MPAs in the Philippines

Amy Milman (2006/07)

I went to the Philippines for my summer placement. I looked at the level of management of 20 MPAs, performed community perception surveys and investigated school children’s knowledge of the marine environment.

During this placement I spent a lot of time with local communities and developed some fabulous friendships. My visits to the schools were really interesting and enjoyable – the children all speak English there and although they were very shy the fact that I was a foreign visitor meant I was warmly received.

This was a brilliant summer placement as it allowed me to explore a foreign developing country which relies heavily on the fishing industry for food. This reliance is increasing despite decreased municipal fish catches.

Working in a developing foreign country is always a challenge, the language, traditions, pace of life and even the weather can work against you sometimes. The welcoming Filipino culture always made these adjustments easier to deal with. I had a wonderful time there and I learnt much more than reading papers could never have taught me. There’s nothing like experiencing it all for yourself!