RESEARCH / CONSERVATION

EDUCATION / LOMBOK



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2019-20

Our first year of field programmes.

1 June 2019 - 31 May 2020

Welcoming our first participants

We welcomed our first visitors to Sekotong in July 2019. By January our first Marine Science A-Level was under way. Two months later, the pandemic changed how we could teach and work with our neighbours.

A first operating year

During our first summer, visitors stayed for varying lengths of time, from one-week tasters to eight-week expeditions. We spent much of that summer getting to know our neighbours and field partners.

Our first Marine Science A-Level

In January 2020, we launched our first Marine Science A-Level with four students from the UK, Australia, Germany and Denmark.

Science and restoration together

Baseline surveys focused on coral reefs and mangroves. Coral nurseries, restoration partnerships and waste collection created opportunities for learning as well as conservation activity.

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A sudden change in conditions

From March 2020, travel disruption and social-distancing measures affected participants and outreach.



The field centre | 2019-20 archive

Foundations of an active programme

In our first operating year we established nurseries, worked on reef restoration and welcomed our first participants and students.

4



initial coral nurseries

Coral trees held fragments that we cared for as they grew, with damaged reefs in mind for later planting.

10



Spider frames at Gili Goleng

We planted the frames with Pokmaswas Deep Blue Sea, laying the foundations for the Gili Goleng Coral Garden.

3



local people trained and employed

The Gili Asahan project offered local people free training in reef restoration and coral biology as well as employment.

4



first A-Level students

Students from the UK, Australia, Germany and Denmark made up our first Marine Science A-Level group.

6



local people received coral restoration training

A separate group interested in diving for conservation received introductory coral restoration training.

100%



A-Level pass rate

All four students passed through teacher assessment in May 2020, with two achieving A* grades.

Learning at the field centre

Our first university interns arrived in October to study plastic pollution and coral restoration. Visiting participants learned survey techniques, species identification and coral biology.





Coral nursery work and preparation | 2019-20 archive

CORAL RESTORATION

Establishing our coral nurseries

Nurseries and long-term plans

We set up four nurseries using coral trees, stocked them with fragments and regularly maintained and monitored them as the corals grew. Once the colonies are large enough, we plan to take small fragments to restore reefs damaged by blast fishing and anchors.

In 2021, we plan to use modular artificial reef structures (MARS) to stabilise loose reef slopes and plant them with corals grown in the nurseries.

Working with local partners

At Pearl Beach Resort on Gili Asahan, we cleared debris and dead corals from neglected metal frames and replanted them with fragments broken off in storms (corals of opportunity).

Three local people were trained and employed through this restoration project. Following free training in reef restoration and introductory coral biology, we worked with Pokmaswas Deep Blue Sea to plant ten frames at Gili Goleng, starting the Gili Goleng Coral Garden.



Preparing coral nursery structures | 2019-20 archive



Coral restoration training | 2019-20 archive



Participants at the field centre | 2019-20 archive

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

A field centre becomes a place to learn

Academic and practical learning

The first Marine Science A-Level course began in January with four students from the UK, Australia, Germany and Denmark. All passed with high grades, including two A* results.

In October our first university interns joined us for placements planned to last six months. We supervised their plastic pollution research. Visiting participants also learned survey techniques, species identification and coral biology.

Local exchange

Children joined us for beach cleans and conversations about plastic waste. In weekly English practice sessions, people from Siung could practise with visiting students. It was one of the ways we got to know each other and built trust.

Restoration training also reached six local people interested in diving for conservation. Further school and mangrove programmes were discussed but paused when pandemic restrictions began.



Eco-venturers at SORCE | 2019-20 archive



Together at sunset | 2019-20 archive





Reef survey | 2020-21 archive; rescued hawksbill eggs | 2019-20 archive

RESEARCH AND MARINE MANAGEMENT

Research and marine park management

Understanding a young protected area

The marine protected area had only been established in 2018. Regulations were scarcely enforced, and there was little long-term information about the condition of reefs, seagrass and mangroves.

We began baseline surveys and recorded fishing activity, including breaches of park rules. Talks with communities and government laid the groundwork for a network to share information and discuss patrols. The pandemic delayed several of those plans.



Mangrove monitoring (left) and reef shark (right) | 2019-20 archive

Turtle conservation planning

We were brought in as external consultants on a government turtle conservation proposal because of our expertise in marine conservation and endangered species protection. The original farming and rearing plans risked harming wild turtles, so we revised the proposal. The approved version included visitor education, rehabilitation for injured turtles, managed hatcheries and releases, egg relocation when necessary, and turtle and market patrols. Its planned March launch was put on hold.

Training had already begun. When Pokmaswas Deep Blue Sea members found hawksbill eggs at a market, they brought them to us and we set up an emergency hatchery in the hope of saving them.

Learning through conservation

The emergency hatchery gave Pokmaswas Deep Blue Sea members and our students a practical training opportunity, applying what they had learned as we tried to save the eggs.





Marine debris and collection | SORCE archive and illustrative library images

WASTE AND PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Keeping conservation moving forward

Developing a waste pathway

Debris was collected during beach and ocean activities, then cleaned, sorted and stored for future processing. University projects on plastic pollution supported the wider initiative.

Recycling solutions are planned for 2021. Until we can implement them, material that cannot be reused is kept in storage.

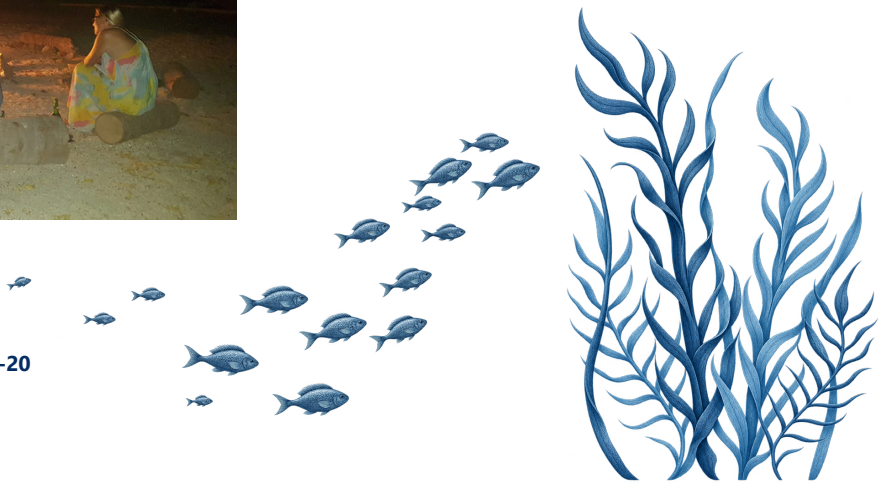


Evenings at SORCE | 2019-20 archive

Continuing through disruption

Some participants returned home as the pandemic spread. A-Level teaching continued online for them and in person for students remaining at SORCE, with assessment completed in May.

We invited people already in Indonesia to join us, filling the site for several weeks. We added coral trees and bushes at the house reef and Pearl Beach, and discussed protection for Tenggolong's reef and seagrass with village and district leaders.



Illustrative library photography

Our first field partnerships

Local communities, conservation groups, researchers and businesses helped us get our first field programmes running.

Local field relationships

Yayasan and Pokmaswas Deep Blue Sea; Pokmaswas Baywatch and LB; Pearl Beach Resort; Oceanway Dive Resort; Two Fish South Gilis; Wild Scuba Indonesia; the communities of Tenggolong and Siung.

Research and conservation relationships

University of Mataram; Shark Stewards; Gili Eco Trust; Gili Shark Conservation; Blue Corner Conservation; National University of Singapore. Shark Stewards founder David McGuire visited to discuss future shark projects.

Looking ahead to 2021

We plan to broaden our expeditions, develop workshops and update our website, while hoping to restart paused projects. Six students have booked for the 2021 A-Level course.

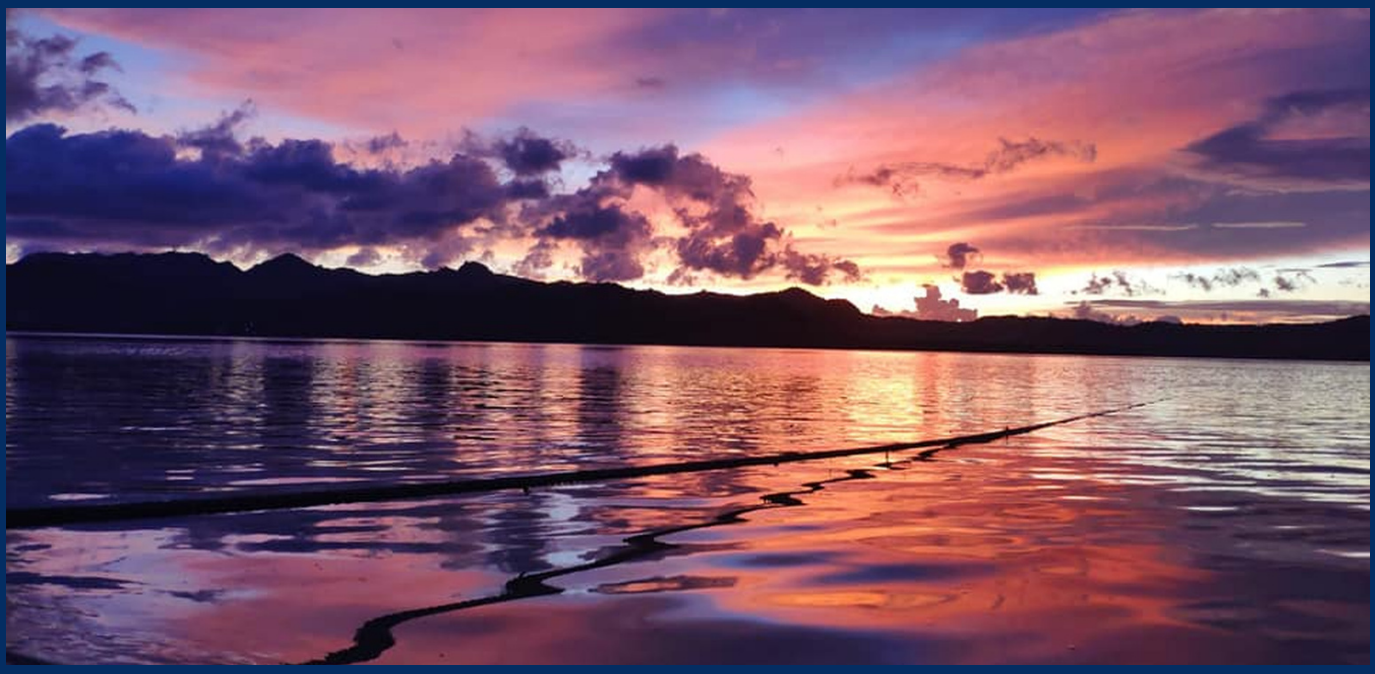
We ended the year facing the uncertainty of the pandemic, with nurseries established, our first students taught and local partnerships in place.



Together at SORCE | SORCE archive

Thank you for being part of the work.

Thank you to our team, local communities, students and partners for the time and knowledge you shared with us.



View the statutory filings on Companies House

Photographs from the SORCE archive and image library. Illustrative images are identified where used.

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