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SIGNATURE PHUKET CRUISE

Welcome fireworks at Phuket Boat Lagoon

SAILING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Regattas and rides that give something back to society

MOONCAKE AND OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATIONS

Eat, drink and be merry with specially crafted menus



Hang On To Your Moorings

by Abigail Alling

The fringing coral reef surrounding Menjangan Island is one of the loveliest reefs in Indonesia. It lies off the coast of NW Bali, is bathed in currents flowing from the NE and is sometimes frequented by Mola mola, Brydes whales, black tipped reef sharks and spinner dolphins. For centuries it has been a sacred island of the Balinese and in 1984 it was declared a Marine Protected Area under the jurisdiction of Bali Barat National Park.

In 2011, Biosphere Foundation with Wildlife Conservation Society and Dr Phil Dustan at the College of Charleston, conducted a baseline study of the reef and compared it with similar data collected in 2002. Our findings suggest that live coral cover has increased over a decade (simultaneously destructive fishing, such as dynamite and cyanide, has decreased along its shores); but the damage to the reefs from small boat anchors is escalating. While the area is still protected under Indonesian law, there are no resources for enforcement of "no-take" fishing regulations. There are no patrol of the island to ensure boats, carrying fishermen, tourists, and local people visiting the island to pray at its temples, stop anchoring on the fragile reef.

In response to this situation which could decimate the live corals in the matter of a few years, Biosphere Foundation and a local NGO named Yayasan Dwi Asih Sejahtera, initiated a community-based stewardship programme called "Friends of Menjangan." This year, the crew of sailing ship *Mir* returned to Bali (April through July) and one of our projects was to implement a mooring buoy maintenance programme. This programme is led by Nono, our Coordinator for Friends of Menjangan, with support from Biosphere Foundation and Villa Flow from NE Bali (Serge and Inge van Zon). Mimpi Hotel has also joined this movement and provides the diving bottles for the effort; and Gatot, a local dive operator, provides food and water.

We were buoyed up with joy and especially pleased when Nono involved Sutama and Engkol who are skilled divers and boatmen. These three men expertly took us around Menjangan Island and together we installed 14 new mooring buoys over the course of a few months. In the year ahead, this team will go out twice a month to maintain all of the buoys and add more where it is critical to keep boats off anchors.

You could see the sparkle in our eyes when it all fell into place; we knew this time was different and together we are making a difference to the health of the reefs. The mooring buoy programme is not carried out with lots of money nor by a single institution. It is a community effort involving the hearts and skills of many. It is a project that is led by local leaders, with approval from Bali Barat National Park and support from international goodwill. We have finally jumped into a new paradigm of multi-stakeholder collaboration and action. Come join us!

www.biosfirindonesia.org



The Mooring Team (Left to Right: Budi, Sutama, Engkol, Nono with *Mir* crew member Robert Thoren)



Gail after a morning dive (photo by Charley Hildt)



Friends of Menjangan Balinese flag