

## Week 2: Sanur & Nusa Penida | Bali, Indonesia



### **WHAT WENT WELL?**

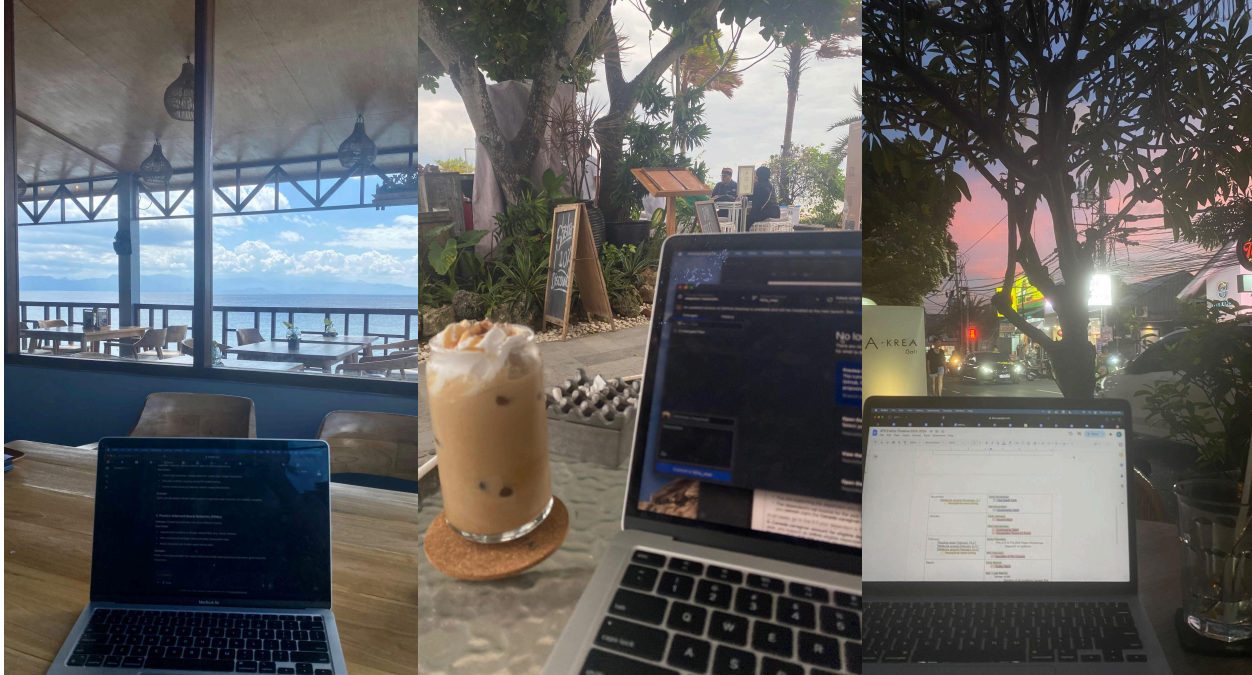
This week was super fun because I got to lean into the creative side of things! I worked on making social media content to help spread awareness about ocean careers and conservation work, especially with younger audiences in mind. It was such a shift from the hands-on restoration work, and it felt really good to engage a different part of my skillset! I loved editing videos, playing around with trends, and trying to figure out how to make educational content feel fresh, relatable, and interesting to scroll past!



I also had the chance to do a few interviews with local divers from different NGOs. We talked about what got them into ocean conservation, what keeps them passionate, how the ocean makes them feel. It was so moving to hear their stories; each person had such a different path but shared this deep connection to the sea. It reinforced my increasing understanding of conservation work not just being about ecosystems or data—but about people, too!

### **WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE DIFFERENTLY?**

This week was a bit of a shift; since the organization I'm working with doesn't have a central office or main location, most people were working remotely from different areas, so I ended up spending a lot more time on my own. As a result, I definitely felt the loneliness creeping in a bit more than usual. I'm still adjusting to being in such a different environment and being this far from home, and not having the usual team energy around made that feeling stand out more.



What helped was pushing myself to leave my accommodation and explore more of the area I was staying in. I started working from cafés and walking around new neighborhoods, which really helped me feel more connected and less isolated! If I could do it over, I think I would've tried to shake up my routine a little earlier in the week rather than waiting to feel that dip. If anyone else is going through this in their LiA, I would say that it is important to stay curious and explore when you can!

### **WHAT DID I Learn ABOUT MYSELF WHEN WORKING WITH OTHERS?**

Even though this week didn't involve a ton of direct collaboration, it still made me reflect on how I relate to others in less structured settings. Without the usual in-person teamwork or shared tasks, I noticed how much I value being in an in-person team setting—even just casually chatting or exchanging quick updates. It's not that I can't work independently (in fact, I got a lot done!), but I realized that being around others, even in small ways, really helps my sense of belonging and purpose within a project.





I also realized that in quieter, more solo working time like this, I tend to turn inward more than I expected. Without natural moments of group interaction, I can fall into my own little bubble. This week made me more aware of that tendency and how important it is for me to stay intentional about engaging with others whether that's through messaging, checking in, or just sharing what I'm up to! It doesn't always come naturally in remote settings, but it's something I'd like to work on more : )

## WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT LEADERSHIP?



This week, I learned a lot about leadership just by listening!! In the interviews I did with community divers, I loved hearing about how personal their relationships to the ocean were, and how that shaped the way they lead. It wasn't about being the loudest voice or the most experienced diver; it was about care, and this deep sense of responsibility to the ocean, environment, and the planet's future & well-being!!

What stood out to me was how leadership showed up in really practical, everyday ways, like mentoring newer divers, taking time to explain things clearly, or just being someone others could count on. No

one was trying to be impressive or take charge, yet their actions carried weight because they were consistent and came from real care for the work!

## WHAT DO I WANT TO DEVELOP OR FOCUS ON NEXT?



Something I want to keep working on is building more confidence in creating connections during quieter, more solo weeks. Throughout this reflection I have emphasized that I really thrive in and am used to environments where collaboration and interaction are definite; things like group planning, fieldwork, or even just casual check-ins between tasks. But in weeks like this one, where there isn't a shared workspace or obvious team structure, I tend to go quiet. Not because I don't want to engage, but because I'm not always sure how to initiate it, or whether it's needed.

I think part of it is still feeling like a guest in this space; navigating new dynamics, not always knowing who to reach out to or what's appropriate to ask. There's a small voice in my head that wonders if I'm interrupting or taking up space when I do reach out, though I'm starting to realize that staying in that mindset doesn't actually serve me, or the work I'm here to do. I want to start pushing past that hesitation and trusting that curiosity and initiative are welcome, even when things feel unstructured.

So next, I'd like to focus on being a little more proactive in creating those moments of connection.

Whether that's reaching out to ask someone what they're working on, sharing a bit about what I'm doing, or just checking in, I want to get more comfortable being the one to start the conversation instead of waiting for someone else to reach out!

**That's all for this week!**

