

## Week 5: Coral Site Visit & Content Creation | Bali, Indonesia



### WHAT WENT WELL?

This week marked my final dive day and coral site visit—a bittersweet milestone : ) Our main task was to record coral growth by photographing every meter of the restoration site and documenting the surrounding marine life to track health and diversity. It was meticulous work but also deeply rewarding to see the progress since my first dive. The reefs felt more alive, and noticing those subtle changes gave me a sense of continuity and impact. It was a reminder that conservation work often unfolds slowly, but every centimeter of growth can contribute to the bigger picture!

On top of the monitoring, I was responsible for capturing content for the NGO's social media. What I expected to be a solo responsibility quickly turned into a full team collaboration! Everyone wanted to pitch in ideas for photos and videos—some even volunteered to pose or film underwater shots! It made me realize how much energy and pride the team carries for this work, and how eager they were to help share that story with the world.

### WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE DIFFERENTLY?

Looking back, I realize I could have been more organized about the content plan. I went in with a general idea of what I wanted but ended up improvising a lot. Having a short list or story outline would have helped us capture everything more efficiently and ensure we had content tailored to different platforms (e.g., Instagram vs. TikTok). That said, the spontaneity gave us some really fun moments that might not have happened otherwise—like one team member pretending to “interview” a fish on camera, which had everyone laughing.

### WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT MYSELF WHEN WORKING WITH OTHERS?

I discovered that I naturally lean into making work feel fun and collective. Even though the monitoring tasks required precision and patience, I brought a lot of energy and encouragement that helped keep spirits high. I realized how much joy I get from blending creativity with teamwork—turning necessary tasks into shared memories. It reminded me that I contribute not just through output but also by shaping the tone of the group experience. I also noticed how much I value creating content that doesn't just document the work but makes it accessible and engaging for others—connecting people outside the dive site to the magic of what we were seeing.

### WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT LEADERSHIP?

Leadership this week was about stepping into initiative in a space that wasn't necessarily assigned to me. While the scientific monitoring was the “serious” task, I took ownership of the social media documentation, which in turn energized the whole team. It showed me that leadership often emerges not from formal roles but from seeing a gap and filling it with enthusiasm and direction. It also reinforced the idea that good leadership includes creating joy in the process, not just pushing toward results. Watching the team get excited about contributing to content reminded me that people rally around projects that feel purposeful but also fun.

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

I want to focus on improving my planning and project management skills, particularly when it comes to creative deliverables. A little more forethought could have made our content collection smoother and more strategic. Moving forward, I'd like to practice balancing structure with

spontaneity—having a clear plan while staying flexible enough to let creative moments unfold naturally. On a bigger level, I want to continue finding ways to bridge conservation science and storytelling, since both are critical for inspiring action!!!