

What's Happening

Free

Spring 2009 | Volume 16, Issue 1



WOC Edition

Tourism Information For North Sulawesi

To Our Visitors

Thanks for grabbing our magazine at the airport or one of the resorts or hotels you are staying in! We hope that you find this issue a bit different than the rest (past issues available on line at www.manadosafaris.com) simply because we are now getting contributions from our readers!! We like this, "keep um commin this way"

As Manado approaches World Ocean Conference we would like to take our collective hats off to the government of Indonesian, central and provincial, for endeavoring to have a very large event in a very small town. We hope that our guests (meaning everyone that comes to North Sulawesi) will find our lovely province as nice as I do, after 12 years. We also hope those of you who are repeaters to this area will find some improvements in our infrastructure, services and all-around desirability as a leisure destination.

Lastly, what about after WOC? Our prediction, Manado will continue to grow and will become more and more a MICE destination especially in the local market. International visitor numbers will also grow. What does this mean for you, our guest, it means more competition which equals= more choices, better service, better value for money and an overall BETTER experience.

Sampai Jumpa Lagi (see you again)

Best regards,

Jeremy H Barnes

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Cover Photo

Nikon D2x,
105mm lens,
1/160 Nudi Falls
By: Cary Yanny,
Eco Divers

Special thanks to
Sekretariat WOC & WWF
for their support of this tourism publication.



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the World Ocean Conference (WOC) 2009 in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia. It is great to see the delegations here to discuss how to exploit marine resources optimally and remain focused on environmental sustainability. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Ministry of Marine and Fisheries RI for the appointment of BNI as a WOC 2009's Official Bank. BNI will provide all banking service transactions in accordance with the needs of the conference delegations. I know that many of you have travelled from a far, who need the convenience of all banking services.

BNI is one of the largest banks in Indonesia with the most knowledgeable network in the world. Let us assist you with all transactions, such as payments, remittance, traveler's cheque, credit card, electronic banking, internet banking and other transactions. This participation is also to express one of BNI's commitments as the pioneer of the concept of green banking in Indonesia.

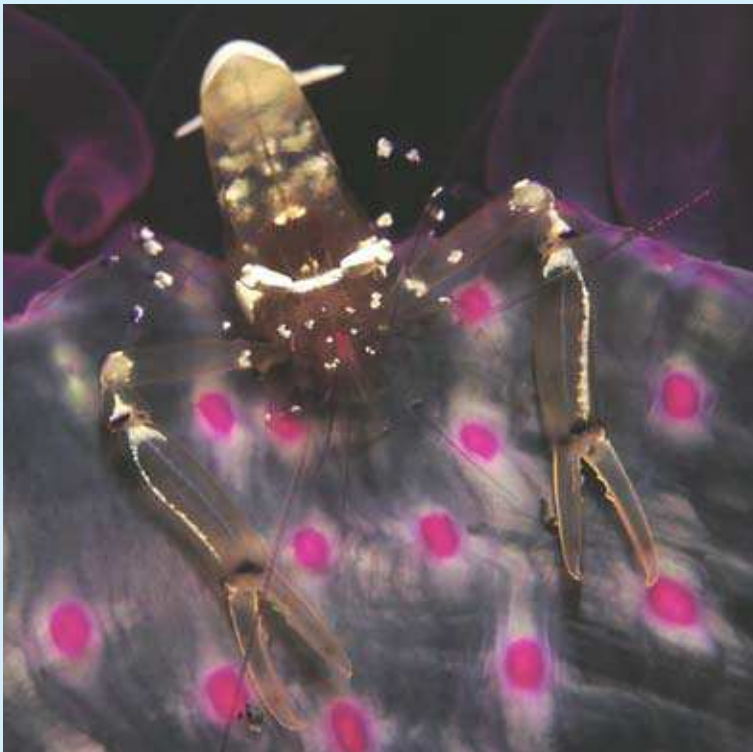
I wish you a most fruitful event with interesting and inspiring discussions and sharing of knowledge.

Thank you very much,
Gatot M. Suwondo, President Director of BNI



Being Kind to *Critters*

With North Sulawesi already established as a premier marine tourism destination, attracting divers from around the world, the challenge now is sustainability.



With resorts hosting a growing number of divers annually, the pressures on the environment from divers are considerable. In the past, pollution and anchor damage would be rated the most pressing threats, but with efforts to address these problems yielding rewards, the dive industry is undergoing efforts to further protect the dive sites from the very people who come to enjoy them.

Many divers enjoy underwater photography and wish to cultivate the best possible images or video from their dives. Their enthusiasm can often lead to damage to the environment as they poke critters into a more photogenic position, bend sea fans to better see pygmy seahorses, push framers into sensitive sponges, dig octopus out of their burrow, flash strobes relentlessly at critters who cannot escape or cause stress through other means. In the past this

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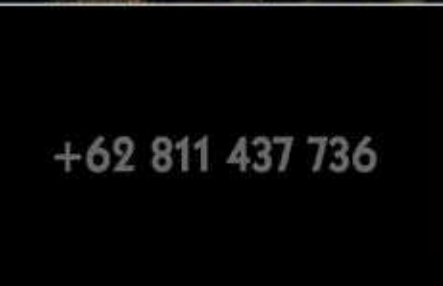
North Sulawesi Diversports Association



would happen from time to time, but with so many more divers descending on choice sites, the stress and damage caused can be too much. Dive centers want their guests to get the best possible experience. But the next group of divers should also be able to enjoy the same quality on the same site.

New sites are found with regularity, spreading out the load, but every site has a carrying capacity and some of the most popular sites in the Bunaken Marine Park (the Lekuan area) and in Lembeh Strait (Nudi Retreat, Nudi Falls, Hairball) are beyond the recommended limits over the course of any year. Overcrowding obviously drives

Being Kind to Critters



critters away. It does not mean the death of any particular site, but it does mean that extra care must be taken by guides to control their guests and by the divers themselves to show compassion for the critters and be mindful of their hands and fins. Many resorts forbid the use of gloves, but pointing sticks can be just as damaging if used carelessly. Divers who don't want to touch anything can also cause accidental damage with hands or fins as they try to look at something small, such as a shrimp or nudibranch, at close quarters. Most resorts have a maximum number of guests per dive guide ratio. Here in Lembbeh, this ratio is 4:1. There should not be too many boats or divers on any particular site. Boats should use moorings and not anchor. Guides must take care to avoid other groups on the same site. If an animal shows signs of stress, divers should leave it alone. Do not chase any creature that is trying to get away. If divers are harassing any animal or handling marine life, guides should immediately signal them to stop and lead them away, informing them after the dive that such behavior will not be tolerated. If guides are harassing any animal or causing damage, then guests should report them to management. Guides often want to make the guests happy but there is no situation in which it is acceptable to cause stress or damage just for the sake of a photograph or in order to more easily view marine life. Visitors should not dive with operators who do not follow these simple rules. Together, operators and guests are able to ensure that future visitors can enjoy the best possible dive experience in our extraordinary part of the world and thus allow North Sulawesi to maintain its reputation as one of the best diving destinations on Earth.

Submitted by: **Bruce Moore**
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traveling

South to North

I knew very little about Indonesia other than Sukarno, Suharto, and Bali but then a chance magazine article about Sulawesi crossed my radar and piqued some interest.



Safari Tours & Travel based in Manado offered a 12 day/11 night Trans Sulawesi driving adventure covering over 2,000 kilometers beginning in Makassar, South Sulawesi to Manado, North Sulawesi with extremely diverse sights along the way. There would be mountains, jungles, ancient rituals in Toraja Land, and endemic animals. Had to see at least one adorable Tarsier Spectrum, the world's smallest primate, found ONLY in Sulawesi.



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Studied the itinerary. Did a little research. Knew what we'd see but still never expected such never-to-be-forgotten trip. Highlights had to be: the cuddly-looking Tarsier with its big eyes; bizarre and eye-popping Torajan funeral practices; extremely unusual foods (think bats, dogs, rats); exuberant flowers growing everywhere; lush, green mountains throughout; and



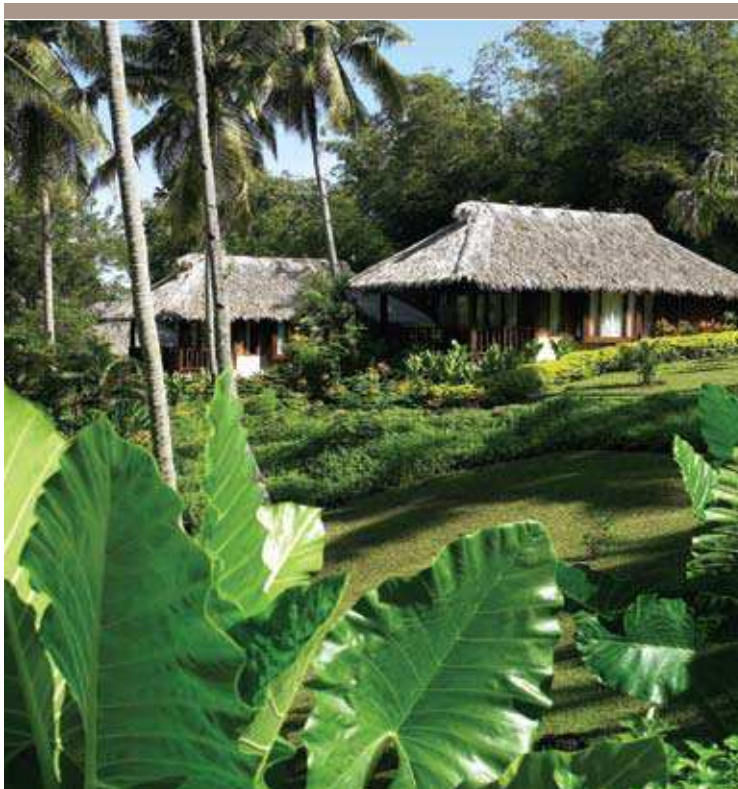
be the unbelievably friendly Sulawesi people. Surf over to <http://www.TravelsWithSheila.com> for all and photos jam-packed with information about Sulawesi, a "must see" destination. All the details will be posted

South to North



A hidden paradise of romance and excitement

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○ South to North

shortly. BUT, the videos are up and loaded on <http://www.YouTube.com>. Just enter [travelswithsheila](http://www.TravelswithSheila.com) in the search box and select from the 38 shorts videos (all under 3 minutes) covering the entire journey.

My ex-marine husband, Steve and I are already looking forward to a return trip. Who knows.. perhaps get PADI certified and take in the world-renowned diving and diversity at the northern tip of Sulawesi. Or just toast ourselves on a sparkling white beach, with occasional dunks in the crystal clear, warm water and put on a snorkeling mask and commune with the little "critters" found only in this area.

What about you?

**Contributed by: Sheila Simkin, Editor
Travels With Sheila**

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painting

Sonny's Gallery Revisited!!

A few months ago I decided to take a short drive up through the hills of Minahasa, as I passed the turn for one of my favorite resorts in Tomohon, Gardenia Country Inn, I remembered the invitation that I received announcing the opening of Sonny's Gallery II.



As we were out of town at that time (for the opening), we decided to turn up the hill and try and find the new location. Driving about 10 minutes past the resort's location, we were rewarded by green vistas, open fields, rice patties and forest, just minutes off of the main road that connects Manado to Tomohon and voilla, we found it.

Arriving in Kakaskasen a small Desa (part of Tomohon) the traditional house offers a spectacular foreground for the surrounding area. As we pull into the driveway we are welcomed by Sonny's entire family and immediately ushered upstairs and out to the porch where coffee, cookies and even clove cigarettes were forthcoming. I walked off and immediately started perusing the walls in the gallery.

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Before I continue, I need to preface this by saying I am not a connoisseur of fine art nor a fine arts critic, so keep this in mind if you decide to go to Sonny's and what you see is different than what I describe. The walls are chock full of paintings ranging from still life flower bouquets, some underwater scenes as well as some traditional motifs like cows pulling carts and Cakalele Warriors. The interesting technique that adds a splendid touch to Sonny's paintings is that he adds mud to the paint giving a 3-d texture to the canvas- quite different!!

We hope that if you do have the time (to enjoy a cup of coffee and Minahasan hospitality) and the inclination and want to bring something special back home as a reminder of the culture here in North Sulawesi, stop by Sonny's Gallery II (call first 081340055556 or 081340357999) and have a look. Please remember, that by supporting the cultural development (here) you are assisting the destination in its attempt to improve the overall visitors experience, resulting in more visitors and hopefully a higher overall standard of living to the North Sulawesi population.

Written by : BHJ



Newest!



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From a *Young Age*



Arriving here 12 years ago, I never saw the interest in art that slowly seems to be emerging and the good news is, government is pushing it. Without government support, this would be impossible!

Going back many years, Bali and other provinces had been developing their own handicrafts and arts in order that they could share part of their culture with the outside world. It became a way to express feelings and get messages to the outside as well as to their own local colleagues, government, etc.

At last, we can see that the education of our youth is taking place not just inside the schools but with real field-



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trips to look at local North Sulawesi paintings painted by our local artists but also the paintings done by others outside Manado.

Hurray – take a look at the photos – there are teachers lecturing, paintings highlighting our nature reserves and the sometimes disastrous state of our coral reefs.

Have a look, enjoy and maybe when you revisit us in 2-3 years, North Sulawesi will have a handicraft center where all forms of crafts and paintings can be displayed under one roof!

Contributed by: BHJ



From a Young Age





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WARUGA

The Ancient Graveyard

North Sulawesi is not only blessed with the abundance of attractions both above and below the sea; there are also plenty of historical sites ranging from 900AD till present day.

Initially, I was not given the clear picture of the 'so-called historical sites' as in my mind, as there is no ancient monument such as the Pyramid or Great Wall, however after visiting Waruga (stone sarcophagi) at Sawangan, the district of Airmadidi, I was convinced that the story is absolutely genuine and worthwhile paying a visit, after all knowledge is everywhere, we need to be curious as the reward is beyond words. Actually, there are plenty of 'Warugas' in North Sulawesi but the famous one is at Sawangan, approximately 1.5 hours drive from Manado. If you travel via Tomohon it is much more adventurous as one is able to go through the 'City of Flowers' and take the 'ancient road' (rather in bad shape with abundance of pot holes) to Airmadidi. Along the way, there is a seemingly 'abandoned' resort on the left near the fast flowing river. I went there thrice and there seemed to be deserted with no guests staying, well I guess, publicity and distance played their roles. There is a reasonable size swimming



Garuda Schedule:

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Jakarta-Manado	GA 600	05.00	09.15
Manado-Jakarta	GA 601	10.15	12.30
Jakarta-Manado via Makasar	GA 602	07.10	12.50
Manado-Jakarta via Makasar	GA 603	13.30	17.00

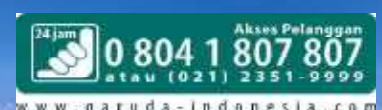
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pool at the resort and indeed it would be a splendid place for families to take a break from the heat especially in Manado, oh well. The road leading to Sawangan is a bit worn out but sign of rectification work done, is clearly present. Finally we arrived at the ancient burial site which was 'beautified' a few months ago.

Indeed there were a number of graves excluding old and new ones; Christian and Muslim graves were also at the same site, segregated by the old and battered fence. Within minutes, the official guide came down and greeted my friends and I, followed by the elaboration of the ancient burial site; how the 'ancient' people prepared the dead before loading into the solid stone grave.



...continued to page 16

○ Waruga - The Ancient Graveyard

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Reef Rehabilitation Projects



Everyone knows that environmentally-conscious thinking and behavior is both necessary and fashionable given the outlook forecast by numerous eminent environmental and climate researchers around the world, but even with this modern day trend to focus on the greater good, how many people can honestly say they are making a substantial contribution?

North Sulawesi hosts some of the richest marine habitats in the world, which are visited by vast numbers of divers each year keen to set eyes on its treasures, yet this intensity of tourism takes its toll and threatens to wipe out much of this unique environment unless measures are taken to conserve and maintain these abundant sources of both biodiversity and income.

Lembeh Divers' House Reef Project is an attempt to make a real difference; a hands-on effort to see what basic and practical ways can be devised to help look after this unique ecosystem. The first stage of the project is well under way, having started in early 2007, and involves experimenting with a variety of artificial reef structures to

...continued to page 21



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...continued from page 14 **Waruga - The Ancient Graveyard**



Based on the story from their ancestors, the 'previous' people used to be bigger and stronger than present day as they were able to carry the cover (lid) of the tomb plus

the container alone (base). I guessed the weight of the lid alone is no less than 100kg, thus I could imagine the strength of the local folks at that time. The guide also

○ Waruga - The Ancient Graveyard

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Popooh - My first "critters"
Beautiful pink Seahorses

Bunaken - Walls at Lekuan
This turtle was really posing

Bangka - Sahaung Point

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pointed out that the carvings on the tomb reflect the profession of the deceased. Surprisingly, though the grave yard is decorated with frangipani trees, the creepiness was non-existent, probably due to the ever increasing number of tourists visiting the

Fast Facts

- Sawangan** - Approximately 25 kilometres from Manado, pleasant scenery along the way.
- Airmadidi** - The capital of Minahasa Utara (direct translation means 'boiling water')
- Waruga** - Ancient stone sarcophagi (lid + base = remains inside)

historic site. I pondered for a second; maybe I should pay a visit during night-time in order to evaluate the presence of 'the other world'. After the quick briefing by the guide, we proceeded to the museum located near by. Coincidentally, the building was built by my local friend adding excitement to the atmosphere. There were the artifacts from the tomb; bracelets (big ones), rings, beads, pendants and also pottery which seemed to be from China, most probably from one of the earlier dynasties. Fragments of the bones were also there; after more than a thousand years, one does not expect to discover much from the tombs. Finally after signing the visitor's book and making a contribution (to maintain the area), we headed back to Manado with a thousand and one questions in our minds. Indeed, North Sulawesi is a place of much interest; above and below the sea.

Contributed by
Muqaddis Ahmad Radhi-
frequent visitor to North Sulawesi

Waruga - The Ancient Graveyard



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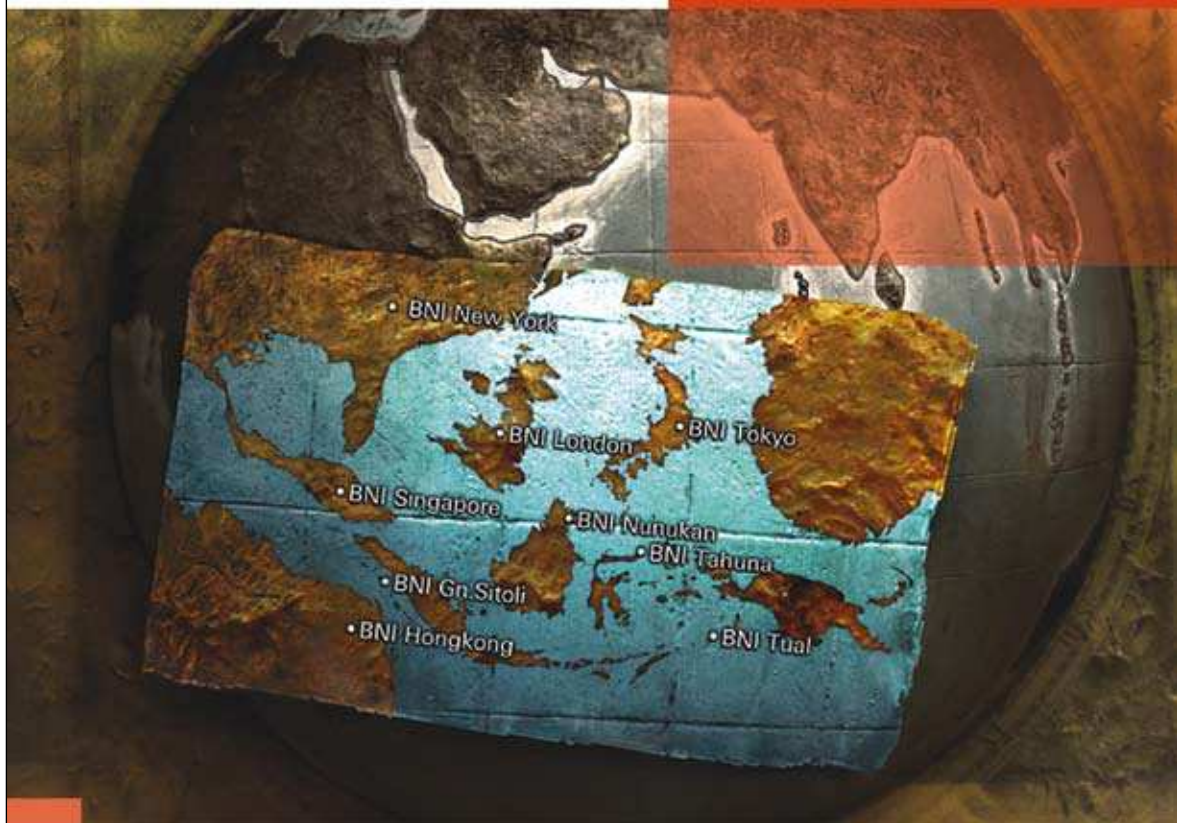
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Giant Guardians of Olele Village Marine Park



Imagine diving not one coral pinnacle but multiple ones! That indeed is one of the highlights of Olele Village Marine Park in Gorontalo Province.

Most of the towering columns are in a row, rising to depths varying from 12 to 25 meters from a steep coral slope. Typically, these columns are spaced at the edge of visibility, so that divers must follow a guide from pinnacle to pinnacle in order to find them. Each pinnacle seems to attract different marine life. Only one hosts lovely white Lamarck angelfish. Another is topped by a couple of sea anemones where divers can easily see Sarasvati commensal shrimp, one of the new species available in Gorontalo. Usually at least one shrimp will be carrying eggs. One pinnacle sprouts a bush of black coral where Coral shrimpfish take shelter, hovering as a school nose-down. Diving this unique site where pinnacles emerge and then disappear from view gives the feeling of passing a line of giants guarding against some danger lurking in the deep. Miguel's Diving, Gorontalo's sole dive operator, discovered the line of pinnacles by accident and aptly named it Sentinels dive site.

Equatorial Diving in Gorontalo

Dense coral growth
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Seasonal diving November to April
Gorontalo is an hour's flight from Manado

Photos: Anthony Hansen,
Massimo Boyer, Paola Bearzi



Wanting to encourage local preservation of the pristine reefs found in Gorontalo, Miguel's Diving initiated a series of coral preservation campaigns that first began in 2002. Joining forces with the local university's nature lovers club, police and provincial fisheries department, dive shop personnel brought a basic message: no coral, no fish, your choice. Conducted during spare time and without a budget, the team presented in village meeting halls, in elementary and secondary schools and even on front porches of private homes. Educational materials were borrowed from staff at Bunaken Marine Park in North Sulawesi.

The presentation includes a dramatic illustration of the impact of blast fishing. Dive staff builds up a three-tiered house of cards, representing the coral reef. Fish cut from colored paper are placed around the levels, indicating where they live. Various fish shapes represent fish eaten by villagers, fish eaten by these fish, juvenile fish and decorative fish that no one eats. Then out comes a small glass bottle with an exaggerated long yellow fuse, representing a bomb made from nitrogen fertilizer. When it is thrown at the house of cards, everything falls down, clearly showing how bombing destroys the reef and kills the fish. Miguel's Diving also created a simple poster that dive staff colored by hand to illustrate the adverse effects of blast fishing. Designed to be understandable even to non-readers, its punch line at the bottom "Prevent this from happening here!" is written in the local language of Gorontalo.

Historically, fishermen of Olele have neither used bombs and nor even thrown down anchors but fish with hand lines along the reef from a drifting canoe or travel far out to sea where Yellowfin tuna are caught for export. Olele villagers are proactive in protecting their reefs from outsiders with ill intentions and the dense, diverse corals found merely steps from Olele homes testify to the residents' good habits and diligence.

In August 2005 German and Indonesian marine researchers with Wallacea Expedition Indonesia II did some survey work in Tomini Bay, Sulawesi, including parts of distant western Gorontalo. A local advisor recommended that they find time to survey the reef in Olele Bay. Having only time for one dive on their final day, the team recorded an astounding 136 coral species and 160 species of fish in that single dive. After the dive, marine researcher Leyla Knittwise exclaimed, "Oh, it is so wonderful!" and explained that Olele has notably higher marine diversity when compared to other locations they had been surveying. Based on the number and variety of butterflyfish species alone, the health of Olele's coral reef ranked above those found in other parts of Sulawesi, including Bunaken Island, Takabonerate Atoll, the Togian Islands and the Spermonde Archipelago.

In November 2007 Olele Village inaugurated its own marine conservation area. It is roped off by buoys and protects about 500 meters along the shoreline where the multiple pinnacles of Sentinels dive site are found. Appropriately enough, included in the new boundary is the reef that so impressed the German and Indonesian researchers two years before. Fishing is no longer allowed and boats cannot cross. Divers pay a designated fee to the village to dive there. The village has a simple glass-bottom boat that allows nondivers to view the underwater world. The residents of Olele feel very proud that people from far away want to come to visit their reef.

VISIT GORONTALO YEAR 2009

Submitted by: Yansen Allen

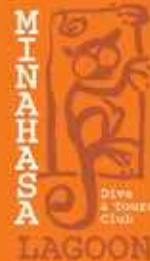
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...continued from page 15

Reef Rehabilitation Projects

determine which might provide the most cost-effective solution for aiding in the rehabilitation of degraded areas of coral reef. This experimental project is hosted at Lembbeh Resort, using its "house reef" in front of the dive centre to accommodate a range of man-made structures with the aims to stabilize the sea bed, attract new life, and provide shelter. Key features include three electric artificial reef installations (designed to accelerate coral transplant attachment and growth), a wooden wreck with squid lines to encourage egg-laying, numerous "biorock" hollow concrete hemispheres to encourage coral settlement and provide shelter, and a number of simple concrete block piles providing large surface area for the settling and growth of marine life. To those who know the area well this may seem redundant in many ways, as the house reef is already teeming with life, but as with all sites in the Lembbeh Strait it is affected by sediment run-off from the land which restricts the corals' ability to obtain energy for vital growth and repair. As yet the verdict is still out on which solution is to provide the best balance for long-term reef rehabilitation, but the ingredients are in place for figuring out schemes to aid the local environment, providing a richer marine ecosystem for both residents and tourists alike. This project comes at a good time too, as Lembbeh Divers has started exploring new areas for world-class dive sites, with exploration trips currently being run to Buyat Bay. The location of a former gold mine it doesn't sound like a place that springs to mind when thinking of new dive sites, yet the environmental program developed and run during mine production has



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reaped huge rewards and now home to the world's largest privately funded Reef Ball project. Combine this with the pristine environmental, Buyat Bay comes into its own and it truly one of the gems of North Sulawesi.

So, the question is: how to stop this nearly untouched gem from losing its luster and how to keep Lembeh Strait viable for dive travelers? Rehabilitation projects like this are sure to prove increasingly important in helping to save the very reefs upon which so many people have come to depend for their income. It's tempting to pass off such efforts as being too costly or impractical, perhaps simply not appropriate for the reefs near you. But that's exactly the point...cost-effective solutions that make a difference where it matters. So ask yourself: are you doing your bit for the environment?

**Submitted by: Giles Winstanley –
 Marine Biologist and reef project volunteer at Lembeh Resort**

Reef Rehabilitation Projects

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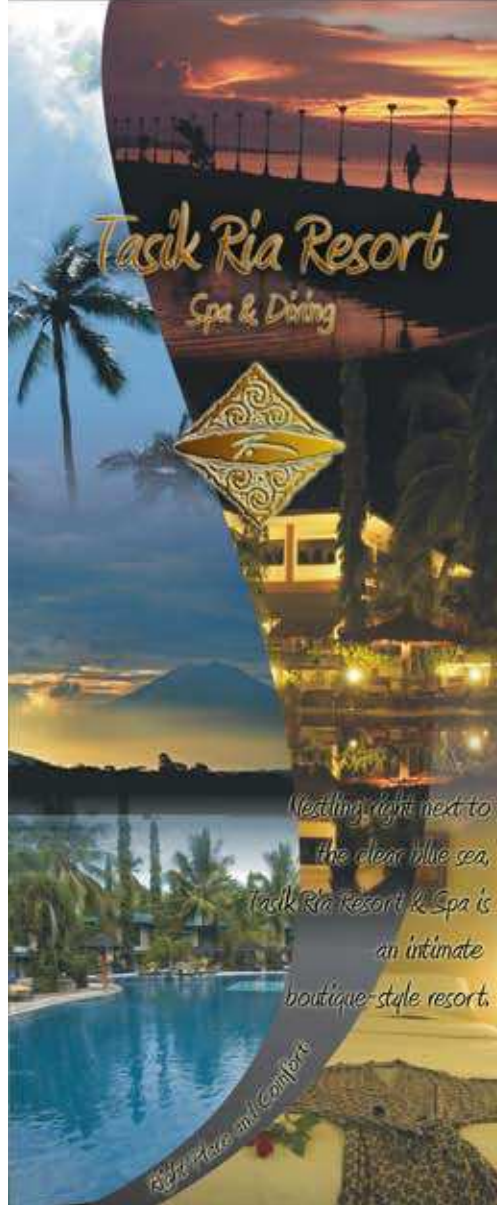
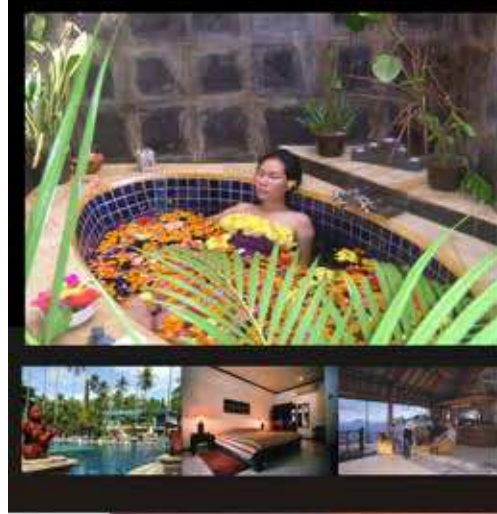
Green Juice



When people talk about North Sulawesi, indeed the action lies in Manado, or should I be more specific, the underwater world, 45 minutes or so from Manado where all types of sea creatures are either swimming, creeping, crawling or even "flying" back and forth and we, the "civilized ones" stare at them wondering how much longer they will be able to move freely without being perturbed by us...

I leave Manado, heading for "Kota Bunga" Tomohon, I made a left turn after Kinilow and finally to Rurukan. The objective of the trip is to climb to the crater of Mount Mahawu in order to be mesmerized with the magnificent scenery. On my walk, I discovered the tiny plant, scientifically called "Centella Asiatica" growing in the wild, enroute to Mount Mahawu. As my friends are more familiar with all sorts of plants namely herbs, we eventually started examined the wild ones and brought a sample back to our cottage. Upon cleaning the above, it was placed in the blending machine, a bit of sugar and water, seconds later the blending machine oozed out the greenish coloured juice, a bit thick but tempting. The taste was great; a combo of sweetness and also herbs.

The plant (also called "Pegaga") is believed by the Chinese, to be a cooling agent to the body & used in traditional medicine (Ayurvedic) in India. The Malays use it as "ulam" and it is eaten raw by itself as a "salad". It is also believed that "Pegaga" will improve the blood circulation, reducing cholesterol levels and helps to 'contain' high blood pressure. Indeed, we enjoyed making the drink and inevitably



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Green Juice

the owner of the resort decided to introduce the drink as its complimentary drinks to their guests in future. We roamed the surrounding area merely to discover that the plants were actually everywhere. It is easy to plant too and requires minimum care, as the temperature in Tomohon and surrounding areas are cooler than Manado thus encouraging rapid growth; plenty of water will do the job perfectly. As a side note, I have seen "Pegaga" during the climb to Stanserhorn in Switzerland years ago and its size is monstrous!

So, if you are health conscious and looking forward to be a bit adventurous, head for Onong's Palace at Kinilow and ask for "Pegaga" juice, I am sure Onong himself will prepare this green but healthy juice with great pleasure. To eat it raw with 'dabu dabu' is another preparation / ala Minahasa.

Contributed by Muqaddis Ahmad Radhi

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Tarsier Action Plan Workshop Held in Manado

"Dreams into Action" the International Tarsier Action Plan Workshop, a global assessment of tarsiers' present and future conservation needs, was held on November 2-6, 2008 at the Hotel Sedona in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia.



Eighteen participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and the United States gathered to create the first ever species action plan for tarsiers. North Sulawesi was selected as the site for the workshop because it, along with the island of Bohol, in the Philippines, is one two sites around the world most associated with tarsiers and tarsier conservation.

Species Action Plans are a function of World Conservation Union (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC). The SSC Action Plan series assesses the conservation status of species and their habitats, and outlines conservation priorities. Compiled by SSC's Specialist Groups, they are one of the world's most authoritative sources of species-related conservation information available to natural resource managers, conservationists and decision makers around the world.





The workshop was a long standing dream of Myron Shekelle, the principle organizer of the workshop, who himself is a member of the Primate Specialist Group and has more than 15 years of experience studying tarsiers in North Sulawesi and elsewhere. It was facilitated by co-organizer, Conservation International's Philippines office, and it was funded by the Margot Marsh Biodiversity Fund. The workshop objectives were to identify regional stakeholders in tarsier conservation and to invite representatives of governmental, nongovernmental, and field biologists from all tarsier habitat countries (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines) in order to: (1) address issues of tarsier taxonomy, distribution, and conservation status, (2) identify and share ideas on using tarsiers to promote conservation of wildlife habitat, (3) establish a regional network of professionals to promote cooperation among and between nationals from tarsier habitat countries to achieve the objectives above, and (4) publish a tarsier action plan.

Shekelle, along with his co-author, Suroso Mukti Leksono, published a strategic plan more than five years ago to use tarsiers' inherent charisma to help protect wildlife habitat by promoting tarsiers as "flagship species" (to raise awareness and funding), and as "umbrella species" (by offering protection to other species where tarsier conservation promotes wise and sustainable habitat use). Shekelle subsequently went on to found a science-based conservation organization, tarsier.org, to further his vision: "promoting conservation of biodiversity through the scientific study of tarsiers."

The major threat to tarsiers is habitat loss due to illegal logging, forest conversion, etc., but additional threats include



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the use agricultural pesticides, predation by domestic dogs and cats, and illegal trapping for the pet trade (where it is believed nearly 50% perish before getting to market and virtually all will be dead within three months, owing to tarsiers' unusual diet that consist only of live-caught animal prey).

Results of scientific work show that Sulawesi is subdivided into 16 or more sub-regions, that are identified by "cryptic species" (those species that look similar, and are primarily differentiated by modern genetic tools). Thus, one implication is that biodiversity may be underestimated by an order of magnitude in this region. Most of these regions have an endemic tarsier species, and several of those are highly threatened, most notably, *Tarsius tumpara*, a new species from Siau Island that was only described last December, but is already listed as critically endangered and one of the world's 25 most endangered primates, which faces all the usual threats, but is further threatened by a dense human population that eats tarsiers, and other small animals, as a spicy snack food! Furthermore, it is found nowhere else on Earth other than tiny Siau Island, which itself is dominated by one of Indonesia's most active volcanoes.

In the future scientists expect to find even more new species from Sulawesi and elsewhere, and as they do, they expect tarsier conservation to get worse before it gets better. But all is not doom and gloom. As was proposed, tarsiers can serve as flagships to promote awareness and conserve habitat, to become the panda bears of Sulawesi, so to speak. Furthermore, as a result of the tarsier action plan workshop, it is expected that conservation will experience several benefits. First, tarsier-related tourism in Manado will improve due to lessons learned from Bohol, Philippines, regarding the use of tarsiers as tourism mascots and related merchandising. Second, tarsier conservation in Bohol will benefit from application of North Sulawesi's model of community-based ecotourism that features high-value wildlife experiences, such as the "tarsier tracking" tours available at Tangkoko. Finally, other areas can benefit by learning from North Sulawesi and Bohol, without the need to reinvent the wheel, and one such project is already under development in Sabah.

Learn more about . . .

- 1) tarsiers: <http://www.tarsier.org/>
- 2) Primate Specialist Group: <http://www.primates-g.org/>
- 3) Red List of Threatened Species: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

Submitted: Art Vandalay

Art Vandalay Photography - www.artvandalay.com

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- ③ D'Terrace Restaurant
- ④ Mega Mall
Excelso, Pizza Hut
- ⑤ Ritzy Hotel
Matahari Dept. Store
Post Office, Internet & ATM's
- ⑥ Hotel New Queen
- ⑦ Green Garden Restaurant
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- ⑰ To Gardenia Highland Resort
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For more information on North Sulawesi in general, please visit the websites www.north-sulawesi.com. For Bunaken and the Fee System, please visit www.north-sulawesi.org or contact the BNPMB Secretariat Executive at:

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