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Coral Restoration in Gili Islands

In a continued partnership, The International SeaKeepers Society Asia has once again joined hands with the Gili Shark Conservation team on their Coral Restoration Programme.

In 2019, 60 hex domes with over 600 coral fragments were situated at a selected location North of the Gili Islands, Indonesia. For those not familiar with this area, the Gili Islands are classed as a Marine Protected Area (MPA) called the Gili Matra Marine Park.

The act of restoration is to bring a damaged ecosystem as near as possible to its original condition, and the aim of this coral restoration project is to assist the recovery of an area which acts as a nursery area for black tip reef sharks. Historically this site has been impacted by dynamite fishing, coral bleaching, and earthquake activity.

Fortunately, it has been possible to snorkel and visit the coral site frequently to monitor the condition of the hex domes with promising growth of the transplants seen. However, they are now in need of maintenance which can only be performed when diving.

It is also evident that many of the hex domes require to be relocated. This is due to the sediment around the domes impacting the stable condition of the substrate which the corals need to thrive. Much of this build up has been caused by the recent spells of king tides that the Gili Islands have experienced. Unhealthy algae growth has also been observed on the domes and needs to be gently removed to maintain the health of the transplanted corals.

Much of the work done thus far has been to complete a benthic survey at the restoration site to assess the area and find the perfect place to move the buried domes to. In addition, the domes were allocated into six colonies of ten to make it easier for monitoring purposes. To add an element of fun to the process, the colonies have been named and Colony number one is called the Seakeepers Colony!

Stay tuned for more updates !

In April 2019, the Gili Shark Conservation Project was awarded The International SeaKeepers Society Asia Achievement Award, which recognizes an organization in Asia that demonstrates a responsibility towards the health of Asia's marine environment.

The importance of Corals: All divers will tell you how beautiful coral reefs are. Like cities under the ocean, they are home to hundreds of fish and wonderful creatures! Coral reefs are fundamental for many reasons. From protecting our land to providing us with food, all the way to the tourism revenue that having a healthy coral reef can generate. Did you know that coral reefs grow very slowly, at an average rate of just two centimetres per year?

Expedition Gallery

Partner sites

For more information on Gili Shark Conservation Project visit: <https://gilisharkconservation.com/>

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