

Project Update: June 2015

The Panglima Laot and local village fishing leaders of Pulau Nasi Island have placed buoys to identify the five protected reef areas around the island.

The MPA team (government and non-government) formed last month met with the villages of Lampuuk and Lhoknga to finalise zones and discuss any outstanding issues. Further meetings are planned in June 2015 with the additional three areas along the west coast of Aceh Besar and the island of Pulau Breuh.

This project will take longer than the anticipated 1 year due to the additional villages now included and also because fasting month begins this week, 18th June followed by the major Muslim holidays. During this time communities focus is on their livelihoods and religious activities associated with the fasting month so may not be available for activities related to this project. However during this period we can work on the final maps of zones and administrative documents for Pulau Nasi, Lampuuk and Lhoknga.



1. Pulau Nasi Island. Boat with items to put in place bouys to mark zones to protect.



2. YL, KUALA, WCS, Govt meeting Lampuuk village and fishing leaders for finalisation of zones and adat and to resolve any issues of concern from the community.

Additional notes:

1- We have coral bleaching along the west coast of Aceh Besar. We haven't been able to check the corals of Aceh Islands but there is a high probability that the west side of the islands will also experience bleaching. This was predicted by NOAA back in February 2015. We cannot go out to check for bleaching during the fasting month so the next monitoring will be later in July 2015.

2- A more positive additional note is that I have been very lucky to be able to photograph a dugong in the marine protected area of Peukanbada (also Aceh Besar district) where this project started with Rufford funds back in 2010.