

Project Update: December 2010

REPALA reef team with Yayasan Lamjabat has worked collaboratively with ODC/Marine Division University Banda Aceh, WCS, PanglimaLaot (traditional fishing authority) and KUALA, Advocacy for Aceh Coastal Areas to document corals and marine species, carry out reef checks, bathymetry mapping and exchange information in the reefs and fish catches with local fishermen.

In May 2010, mass coral bleaching occurred throughout Aceh. In Ujung Pancu 20% of shallow corals bleached whilst some other areas lost up to 80%. REPALA, with agencies mentioned above highlighted the plight of the mass coral bleaching by taking local government, environment agencies, national press, TV, high school and middle school children to see the healthy and bleached corals for themselves.

By monitoring marine bio-diversity with fisher families and joint stakeholder initiatives locally, fishing with bombs has stopped and on December 11th 2010, at a traditional fishing community ceremony, PanglimaLaot declared the area to be a local managed marine protected area.



Left to right: Panglima Laot signs declaration to protect reef areas of Ujung Pancu and Peukanbada sub-district at a kanduri laot, traditional ceremony for fishermen; REPALA Reef team cleaning up nets caught on reefs in Ujung Pancu; Training in conservation for youth environment action group REPALA; Ujung Pancu Environment Information Centre with visiting students and lecturers from geophysics department of Unsyiah University from Banda Aceh; Briefing for journalists field trip to see coral bleaching in Ujung Pancu & Youth Group REPALA hold environment and bio-diversity exhibition in Ujung Pancu.