

Marine conservation, Bali

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During my summer, I spent two weeks in Bali volunteering with *The Mighty Roar* [1] where I took part in a Marine Conservation program. The program itself consisted of a range of tasks; whether I was constructing artificial reefs from concrete on the beach front or working at the small recycling centre with the local schools. In Bali the government offer no extra incentive to recycle their plastic waste, resulting in high levels of plastic pollution. Our aim while over there was to inform and help kick start the recycling process by turning plastic waste into tiles which could then be used to repair roads/houses. Once a week we would deploy 20-30 artificial reefs off the side of a local fishing boat. The next morning would then require us to scuba dive down to the sea bed and rearrange the reefs forming a more habitable environment for local marine life. Due to years of pollution a large section of reef had completely died, therefore by our acts of replacing and replenishing the sea floor with artificial reef structures, we are encouraging the growth of new marine life off the coast of Bali.

While out there I also completed my Advanced PADI qualification through the local dive school they are linked with. This was made up of a succession of dives including two night dives, wreckage dive, navigation dive and an advanced buoyancy skill dive. All of which were incredible and truly highlighted the reason why it's so important to help protect and preserve the remarkable marine life that exists.

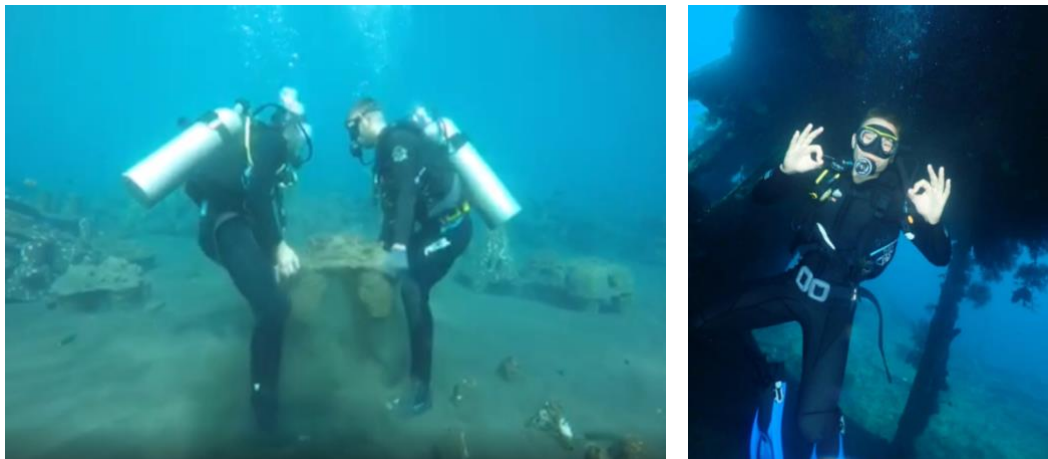


FIGURE 1. The left image shows myself and another volunteer rearranging the artificial reef structures while on the sea bed. On the right, is an image of myself after completing my Advanced PADI.

I felt the experience furthered my organisation, communication and interpersonal skills; I travelled alone meaning I couldn't rely on anyone else to get me there or meet any of the other volunteers for me. It forced me to fully embrace the opportunity I was lucky enough to embark on. From an employer's view it shows that I am capable of seizing an opportunity when one is presented; organised and confident in my abilities to sort everything from flights and vaccinations to pursuing my diving passion while out there. It also shows that I am proactive in making the most out of my summer; as not only did I get to explore and travel around the beautiful island that is Bali, I helped contribute to something worthwhile.

[1]

https://themightyroar.com/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwoKzsBRC5ARIsAITcwXGgi_FZaEe6Dw40yxBS270Z21ITJ1ZbOiESZqIXEKgrKxkgk7M5_FAAi9SEALw_wcB