

ALOR TANAPI

Environmental Awareness Statement

Dear Guest,

Like you, we care about coral reefs. But did you know that many studies have proved that a significant amount of coral reef destruction is not only caused by pollution, over fishing and destructive fishing techniques like the use of cyanide and explosions, but also by divers and snorkelers themselves.

Much of the damage to the marine environment of national parks is caused by careless or unaware divers/snorkelers who are harming the very thing they have come so very far to see!

Thousands of divers and snorkelers visit Indonesia each year. Each day, every small infraction to the reef caused by individual visitors quickly adds up. Here are some of the infractions and their consequences that we would like you to be aware of and take care to avoid:

- Fish feeding = animal behavior changes
- Harassing, chasing or touching marine life, as well as shining lights in animal's eyes for photos or novelty = unnecessary stress to marine life that may cause injury, death or at least an acute fear in human presence
- Dangling dive gear and uncontrolled limb movement = breakage and death to fragile life forms such as corals, gorgonians, bryozoans and sponges
- Souvenir and food collecting = local extinction of certain corals, shells, lobsters, fish, etc.

Stop and think before you act. Justifying a negative action with "It is only me" is a fallacy. We can assure you that you are NOT the only one. We all have the potential to prevent death and destruction to coral reefs and we must all agree to act responsibly if we want to preserve our underwater miracles for others to enjoy as we do.

Please do not interpret our message as a way to deprive you of your holiday pleasure. We are not asking you to swim in a cage, we are simply asking you to pledge your kindness to the reef with the following statement. If you have any questions, we are more than willing to answer them and help you develop skills in order to become more environmentally friendly.

I, _____, am aware that I will be diving in a sensitive ecosystem, and in order to minimize my impact on the marine environment:

- I will not touch any marine organism or their habitat
- I will not harass or chase after marine life, nor will I shine bright lights in their eyes
- I will be aware of my underwater movements and equipment at all times so as to avoid contact with the reef
- If I take pictures, I will not manually manipulate marine life in order to compose my photograph, nor will I instruct my buddy or dive guide to do so
- I agree to act in an environmentally responsible manner unless in an emergency situation where I must act to protect myself or others from danger
- If I observe anyone violating these rules, I will immediately report this to a dive guide or the management

I understand that I can be excluded from further diving activities if I ignore this statement, with no right to a refund. In repeat cases or if I display a blatant disregard to the marine environment, I understand that my name and a report of my environmentally damaging activities will be shared with other dive centres.

Full name:

Signature

Date.....