GILI MATRA BERSAMA

PRESS RELEASE

Signing of Partnership Agreement between BKKPN Kupang and Yayasan Gili Matra Bersama to Strengthen Marine Conservation in Gili Matra

Gili Air, North Lombok — On Wednesday, 25 June 2025, the National Marine Conservation Area Agency (BKKPN) Kupang and Yayasan Gili Matra Bersama officially signed a Partnership Agreement at the Gili Indah Village Hall, Gili Air. This signing marks an important step in strengthening collaboration for the preservation of marine ecosystems in the Gili Matra area.

The signing ceremony was attended by the Head of BKKPN Kupang, Imam Fauzi; Chair of Yayasan Gili Matra Bersama, Meita Monika M. Tumewu; teams from both BKKPN Kupang and Yayasan Gili Matra Bersama; as well as representatives from the North Lombok Environmental Agency, Gili Indah Village Government, educational institutions, and other local organizations.

Rusdianto conveyed that the Environmental Agency greatly appreciates the efforts to expand conservation partnerships and protect the marine environment. “We hope this collaboration will continue because this island must be protected to ensure sustainability. This area is our pride and has become a world-class tourism destination thanks to its rich natural and human resources,” he stated.

In addition, Rusdianto also appreciated that Yayasan Gili Matra Bersama is led entirely by a team of women and spearheads the Coral Catch program, which is innovative in the field of conservation. This program not only focuses on environmental preservation but also actively empowers and involves women in conservation efforts. In his remarks, the Village Head of Gili Indah, Wardana, expressed high appreciation for this partnership initiative.

He emphasized that the success of marine conservation programs greatly depends on local community involvement and that this collaboration is expected to strengthen residents' sense of ownership in preserving the marine ecosystems of Gili Matra. "We fully support this program and are ready to collaborate to protect our ocean heritage for future generations," said Wardana.

Imam Fauzi shared his strong hope to expand partnerships with NGOs, business owners, and academics to ensure the sustainability of marine conservation. "Through this collaboration, we can complement conservation activities that have not yet been covered, provide ecological benefits, and also support the sustainability of the tourism sector. Moving forward, monitoring and evaluation will be key steps to ensure that program implementation runs effectively," said Imam.

Yayasan Gili Matra Bersama presented its flagship programs, such as Coral Catch, as well as ecosystem monitoring results covering coral reef health, sightings of whitetip and blacktip reef sharks, and sea turtles in Gili Matra waters. As Chair of Yayasan Gili Matra Bersama, Monika stated that consistency in implementing work programs, both those of Yayasan Gili Matra Bersama and in partnership with BKKPN Kupang, is a top priority and main commitment.

"To ensure programs run well, we together with BKKPN Kupang will actively conduct monitoring every three months. Through this monitoring, if there are any obstacles in the implementation of conservation programs, we can immediately discuss and find targeted and efficient solutions. We also greatly appreciate the role of BKKPN Kupang, which consistently oversees every activity we carry out," said Monika.

The signing of this Partnership Agreement was marked by the presentation of a commemorative plaque from Yayasan Gili Matra Bersama symbolizing the collaboration, as well as a marine conservation area zoning map from BKKPN Kupang. This collaboration is also expected to strengthen community education efforts through various programs, including school visits, women-only swimming classes, and beach and underwater clean-ups.

As a joint commitment, monitoring and evaluation activities will be carried out regularly every three months. All activities and data collected by Yayasan Gili Matra Bersama will be reported to BKKPN Kupang to ensure alignment with the area's conservation objectives.

This collaboration serves as a significant momentum to reinforce synergy among the government, non-governmental organizations, local communities, and business actors to realize sustainable marine ecosystem protection.

Looking ahead, it is expected that this collaboration will open more opportunities for wider partnerships with various stakeholders, including other foundations and organizations, fostering more integrated synergy and even closer cooperation to achieve sustainable marine ecosystem protection.

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High-resolution photos can be accessed through this link.

About Yayasan Gili Matra Bersama
Yayasan Gili Matra Bersama is a non-profit organization actively working in the Gili Matra area (Gili Trawangan, Gili Meno, and Gili Air). Its mission focuses on strengthening marine conservation through several key pillars:

- **Youth and Women Empowerment:** The foundation positions youth and women at the forefront of conservation initiatives, enhancing their capacity through education, training, and direct field involvement.
- **Education and Training:** The foundation runs environmental education programs, including school visits, swimming classes for women, and marine conservation awareness classes to foster a sense of ownership towards the surrounding ecosystems.
- **Research and Ecosystem Monitoring:** Yayasan Gili Matra Bersama collaborates with various conservation institutions—such as Gili Shark Conservation—to collect scientific data and monitor key indicators like coral reef health, shark and turtle populations, and overall marine biodiversity.
- **Sustainable Collaboration:** Through a strong network of partners, including Gili Cares, University of Mataram, Daughters of The Deep, Conservation Diver, and Gili Shark Conservation, the foundation builds synergistic collaborations to strengthen conservation impact at both local and regional levels.

The foundation is committed to building strong partnerships, empowering local communities, and ensuring the sustainability of marine resources for future generations.