





DECEMBER 2022


Thresher Shark Indonesia

IMPACT REPORT 2021-2022



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OUR TEAM



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Co-founder &
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Field Coordinator



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Education and
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Jheskiel Alopen
Community
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**Dr. Mark V.
Erdmann**
Project Advisor

WHO ARE WE

About Us

Thresher Shark Indonesia is a registered non-profit under the Yayasan Teman Laut Indonesia. We are a youth-led organization that aims to achieve sustainable marine conservation outcomes in Indonesia.

Our Mission

Working closely with local communities, young people, governments, businesses, scientists, filmmakers, and other NGOs to develop long-term solutions that protect endangered shark species and respect the rights of local people to livelihoods.

Our Vision

Conserve thresher sharks at Alor, East Nusa Tenggara, by providing policy recommendations through the studies of satellite and acoustic tagging technology and underwater surveys, as well as providing alternative livelihood solutions for shark-dependent communities in Indonesia.



2021-22 PROJECT IN NUMBERS

Alternative Livelihoods for the Community

9 Thresher shark fishers from Lewalu Village are assisted in taking alternative livelihoods

43%

Shark mortality reduced from fisheries activities

40 Community members (50% women) participated in training on sustainable fisheries, and leadership to manage household enterprises

Thresher Shark Conservation Champion II

16 Indigenous Alor youths selected as future marine conservation leaders

3 Youth-led marine conservation projects selected with **USD 1335** of project funding

765 Mangroves planted in Fanating Village for climate resilience

36

1000+ Community members reached in marine conservation awareness

Blue jobs created for young people

The Marine Conservation Curriculum

10 Coastal schools reached in marine conservation curriculum training

3 Government agencies engaged and led the curriculum project

Community-Based Surveillance Group

15 Community members engaged as community-based surveillance groups

29 Community members received training in Marine Protected Area Monitoring



Alternative Livelihoods for the Community

We assisted nine thresher shark fishermen in transitioning to sustainable alternative livelihoods. The fishers now had started a small-scale tuna fishing business, and a group of fishers' wives started a fish processing business with tuna-based ingredients. The women can market the value-added tuna products inside and outside the Alor. Our support for the transition includes fiberglass boats, engines, and business capital for the fishers to open kiosks and chicken farms.

We also provided training in family financial management, sustainable tuna fisheries, security and safety at sea, and group leadership. Besides the training on various processing of tuna-based products, the fishermen's wives also received training on post-harvest practices and traditional weaving with thresher shark patterns unique from Lewalu village.

We conducted five tuna fishing trials for the fishermen using the supporting facilities provided. As a result, with more proper equipment, the fishermen could reach farther areas for tuna fishing and catch larger tunas.

Foto: Luca Vaime/Indo Pacific Films



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Besides yellowfin tuna, many also caught other high-value fish such as red snapper, trevally, and others. Furthermore, sales records show that some fishers have experienced an increase in income to cover more than basic household needs (Fig 2.)

There now have been **25 fishers** who have participated in the training, leading to an increase in individual and group capacity. 15 fishers' wives gained the skills and knowledge to support household businesses. Ultimately, this program has contributed to the protection of the thresher shark species by reducing fishing activities.

From the recorded data, thresher sharks landed and mortality in this period is **43% less than the year before (Fig 1.) and the fishers have stopped 100% thresher shark fisheries.**

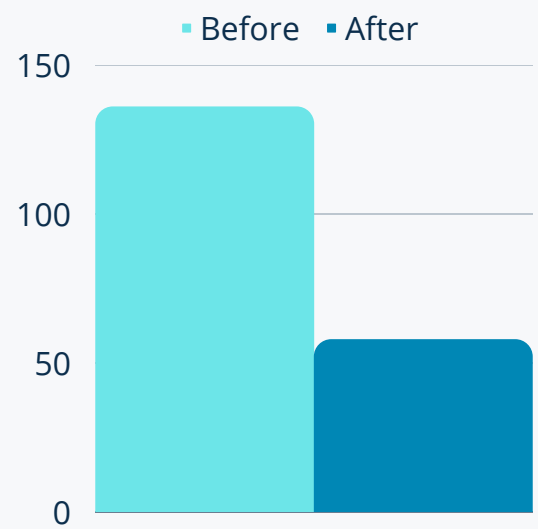


Fig 1. Number of Shark Catches Before Project Intervention (March 2021) and After Intervention (March 2022). **Shark catches were reduced by up to 43% after the intervention.**

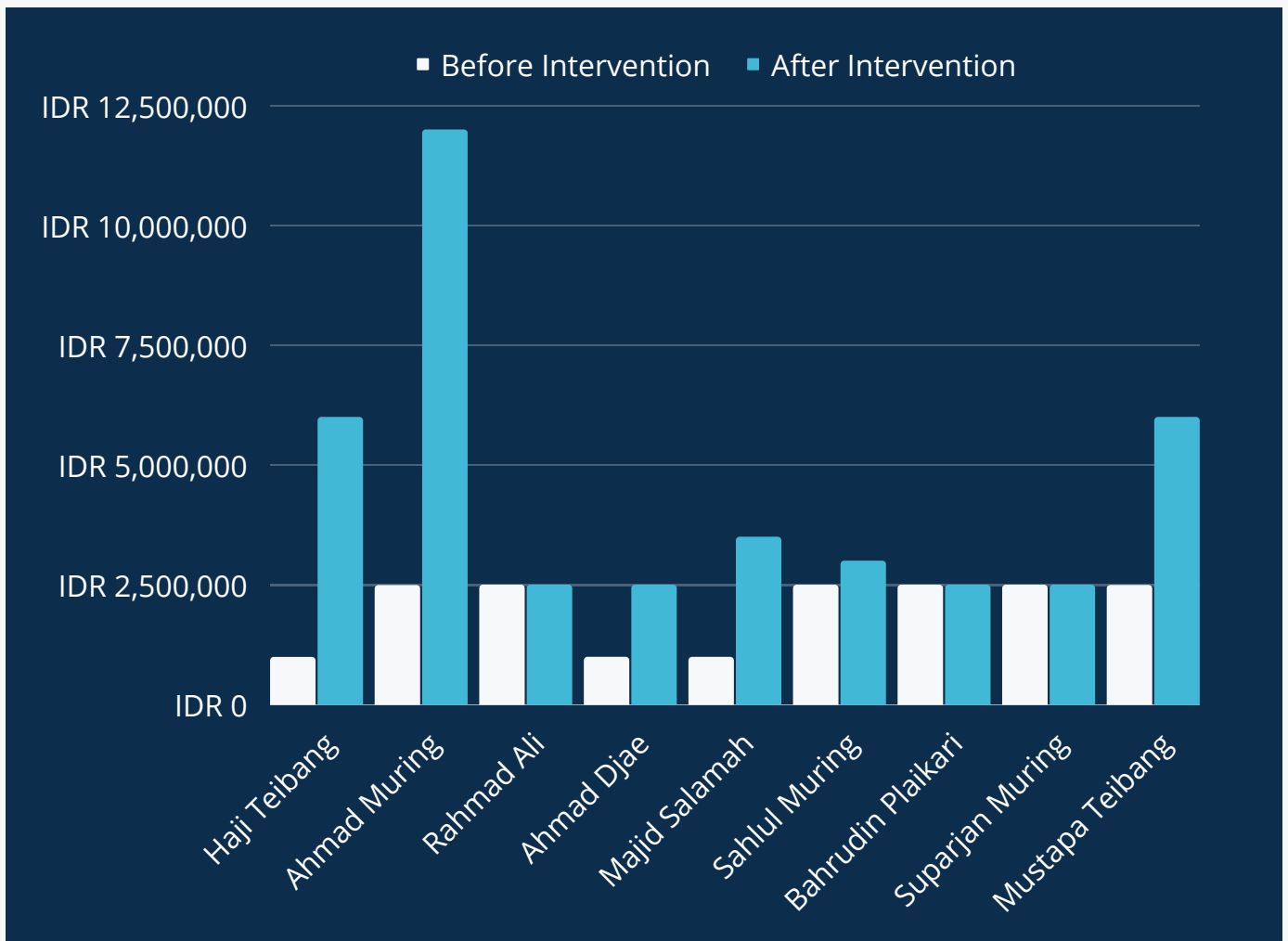


Fig 2. The fishers' average monthly income before and after intervention.

Their income before our intervention was only based on small catches, such as yellow stripe scad fish, chub mackerel, and red snapper, each price ranging from IDR30,000 (USD 2) to IDR200,000 (USD 12). Post tuna fisheries training, whenever they successfully catch tuna, they can sell it from IDR1,000,000 (USD 90) to IDR1,750,000 (USD 150), **indicating an increase in their income (Fig 2)**. Some fishers who went out less to fish became actively involved in woodwork and construction. Therefore, their incomes from their catch stay the same.

Income improvement can also be seen in the other two ex-shark fishers who shifted to a poultry farm and a kiosk. The poultry farm owner, Ahmad Muring, now owns **500 chickens** for his egg farming enterprise after successfully adding 300 chickens from the fund. The turnover for Haji Teibang increased from IDR 3 million (USD 300) to IDR 5 million (USD 500) after the funding for the kiosk

The capacity-building programs have resulted in a few **value-added tuna and cornflake granola** as distinct local creations in Lewalu Village. These products are sold through the Lewalu village enterprise (BumDes), which previously only sold office stationeries and photocopy services.

We rebranded the traditional weaving products from Lewalu by adopting the thresher shark pattern as one of their new and original weaving products. This entrepreneurship is a form of diversifying livelihoods for the local community, who depended solely on thresher shark fishing for their financial income.

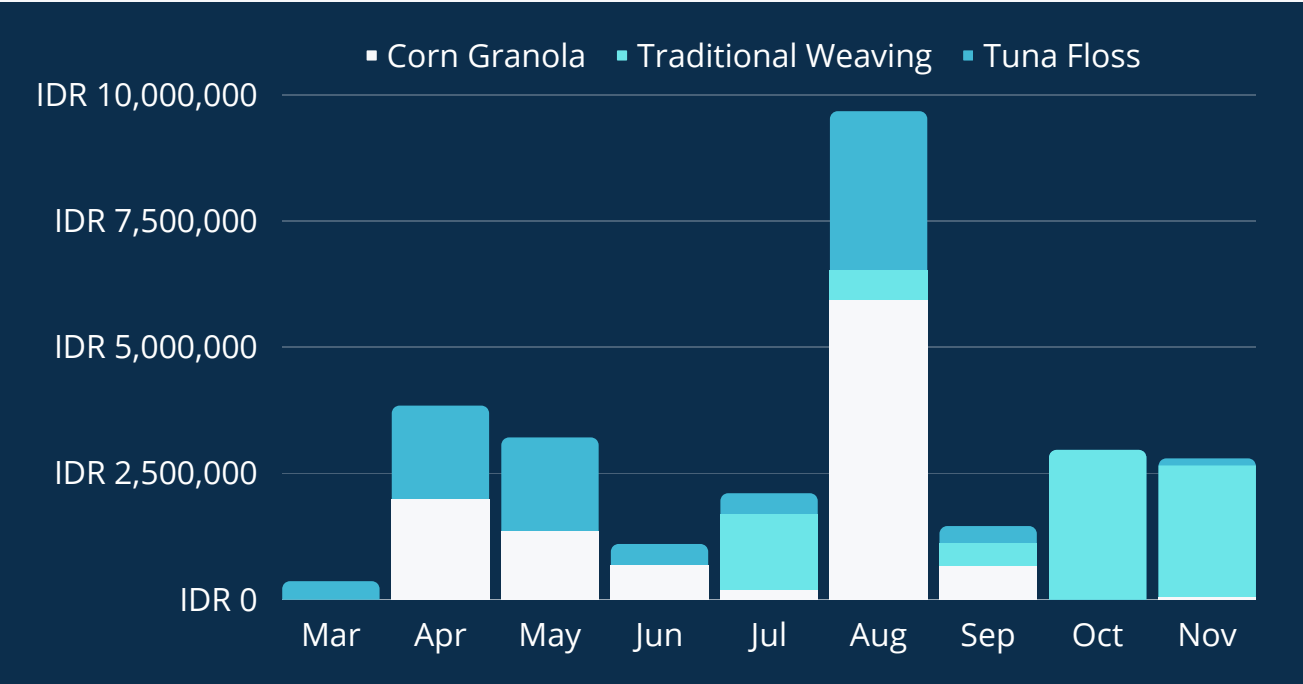


Fig 3. Sales data of Lewalu village-owned enterprise



Fig 4. Value-added granola (top) and tuna (bottom) as a result of the capacity building for weives





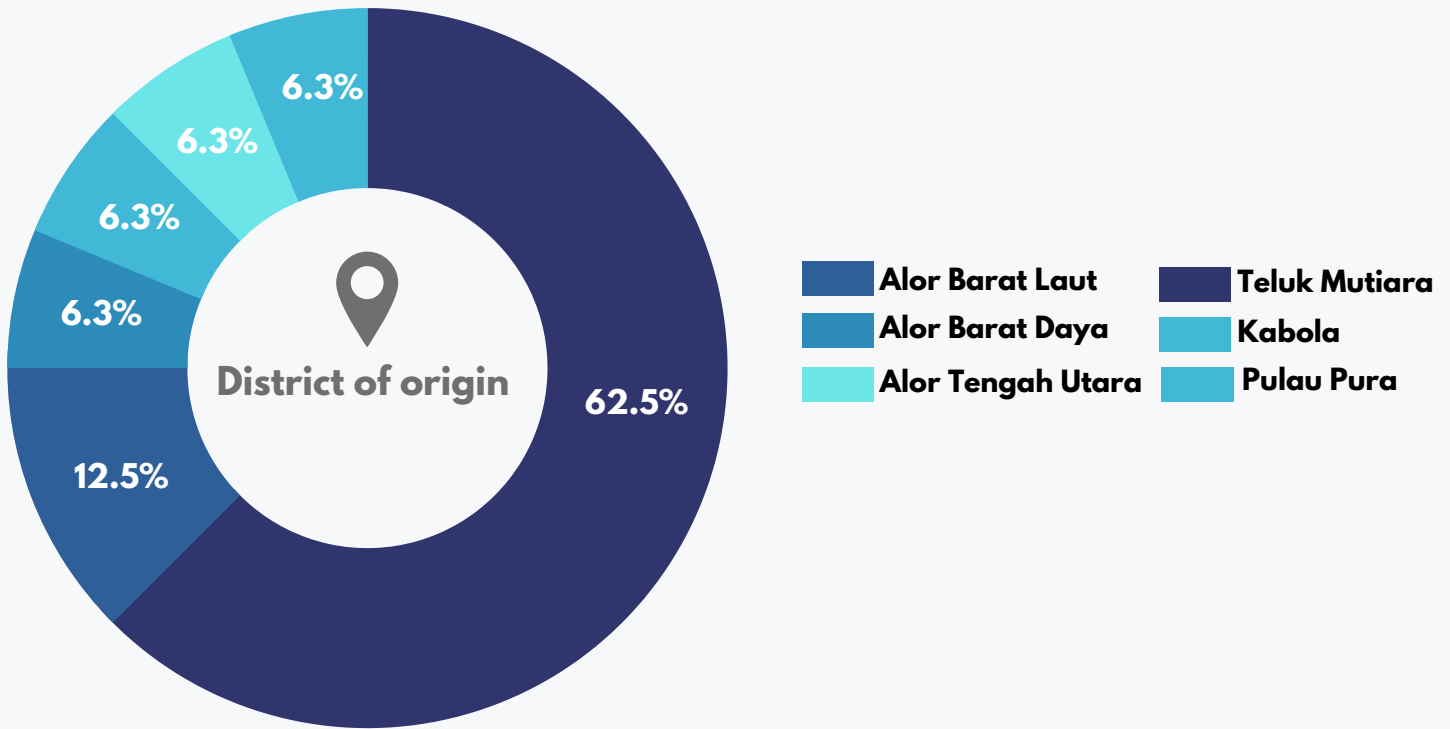
The Conservation Champion II

Thresher Shark Conservation Champion is a youth development program to support conservation in the coastal area of Alor. The 2022 program had 16 Alor's youths between 18-25 years old as its second batch. We provided them with seven days of Conservation Camp, where they received a series of training on marine ecosystems, management of conservation areas, marine policies, communication, and project management.

The champions received subgrants in a total of **1335 USD** to solve three conservation problems in their local environment: 1) Waste management at the village level, 2) Local mangrove restoration and monitoring, and 3) Marine conservation curriculum integration into local elementary schools.

The waste management project collaborates with the village government and the local community in Alor Besar to establish a system to ensure solid waste is collected and transferred from the area to the final disposal site. In addition, they provided workshops on crafts using plastic waste for thirty people to stimulate recycling within the community.

THE CONSERVATION CHAMPION II



Accepted applicants

141 applicants **17** accepted



7
Male

10
Female



Educational Background

4 Undergraduate **7** UG Student

6 High School



THE CONSERVATION CHAMPION II

The mangrove restoration project managed to plant **765 mangrove propagules** in the coastal area of Fanating village. Aside from mangrove restoration, they also increased awareness about the importance of mangrove ecosystem protection by involving **45 students and teachers in the village**.

Collaborating with our marine conservation curriculum program, the Champion's conservation curriculum project approached three of the ten target schools and is currently **developing learning props for the three schools**. The learning props are designed to maximize the learning experience for elementary school students while bringing awareness of their surrounding marine environments.

In parallel to project management training, we held open water dive courses that **successfully certified six champions with good initial watermanship skills** and an interest in diving and marine wildlife. They are projected to promote Alor's underwater potential and lead the development of local ecotourism in the near future.



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*“Through this program, we provide the Champions with leadership development and hands-on experience to initiate a conservation project. It is essential for the continuity of conservation efforts in Alor.” - **Vivekananda - Program Coordinator***



The Marine Conservation Curriculum

The conservation curriculum program integrates knowledge of marine ecosystems and conservation into primary school subjects. The program is currently in its early stages, and we have approached and had the approbation of local authorities from the Education Office and ten schools near the thresher shark fishing grounds.

We also have completed and ratified the teaching syllabus of the designed local subject, Marine Conservation, to be trialed at the beginning of 2023. The formulation process involved teachers from the ten target schools and officials from the Alor educational supervisor.

So far, ten teachers, one from each school, are trained in implementing the curriculum and equipped with basic knowledge of marine ecosystems. They are ready to be involved in teaching trials to fine-tune the teaching methods for optimum outcomes.



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The First Regional Conservation Policy for Pelagic Thresher Shark

Governor Instruction to **fully protect the pelagic thresher shark** (*Alopias pelagicus*) within East Nusa Tenggara Marine Protected Area (MPA) network (No. Dis. Pkl. 188. 48/B1.57/VIII/2022) is now established. The instruction aims to cease thresher shark fisheries within the Alor Marine Protected Area (MPA) and its connected MPA network in Lembata, Maumere, and Larantuka. The Governor's Instruction is now being disseminated through socialization by the Regional Office of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, targeting village officials and fishermen from villages in Alor coastal areas and authority partners in the MPA network in East Nusa Tenggara Province. Thresher shark is also dedicated to protection within the new MPA zoning system, dedicating at least **20% of the ~400,000 ha** area for thresher shark conservation.



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Community-Based Surveillance: Securing Alor Marine Protected Area

We are partnering with the Provincial Marine Affairs and Fisheries Office and other NGOs to establish a community surveillance group (POKMASWAS) in Limarahing Village, Pura Island. The group's purpose is to monitor marine and fisheries resource use within the community. Their presence may **prevent the catch and trade of endangered marine species**, such as thresher sharks in the area, and other unsustainable practices in the ocean. As the Limarahing group was established, we conducted training to increase the group's capacity and three other groups from Pura, Ternate, and Buaya Island.

A total of **29 people gained knowledge** on their rights and responsibility as POKMASWAS, surveillance and reporting system, fundamental safety in the sea, and the protection of endangered marine species.



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Features and Achievements

- Thresher Shark Indonesia featured on the National Geographic TV, Planet Shark Ep. 1
- Thresher Shark Indonesia nominated for Blue Water Heroes Awards Southeast Asia 2022
- Co-Founder and Director, Rafid Shidqi represented at the 2022 OTN Symposium, Panel: "From Science to Society." in Halifax, NS, Canada
- Thresher Shark Indonesia featured on the Student Conference on Conservation Science, University of Cambridge.
- Co-Founder and Director, Rafid Shidqi named 2023 Fellow, Marine Conservation Action Fund (MCAF), New England Aquarium.
- Thresher Shark Indonesia appeared on SEA TV.
- Education and Outreach Officer, Badra Jultouriq is a finalist in "Kompetisi Video Lingkungan", by The Conversation Indonesia.
- Bestari Ghea Dwilo and Cahyani Fortunitawanli continued their graduate education in the UK, and South Korea focused in Marine Conservation, and Aquatic Veterinary Medicine

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Thank You!

We're proud of our accomplishments this year, and it wouldn't be possible without your support as our donors and partners. Despite the urgency and challenges we've faced as individuals, as an organization, and as part of a global community, your generosity, dedication, and passion helped us deliver substantial results to the people and nature of Alor and Indonesia in general.



Volunteers and Past Members

- Jeheskiel Alopen (Community Development Staff)
- Bestari Ghea Dwilo (Field Project Coordinator)
- Cahyani Fortunitawanli (Communication Officer)
- Bella Natasha Diego (Marketing Volunteer)
- Joanne Ong (Conservation Experience Volunteer)
- Giorgia Webster (Conservation Experience Volunteer)
- Sophie Riedl (Conservation Experience Volunter)
- Demetria Drakos (Conservation Experience Volunteer)

Partners

- Maulana Nurhadi
- Arifin Hiu
- Hansen Oei
- Wedi Andika
- Daniel Latemia

Donors, Funders, and Partners





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