

RESTORATION & RESEARCH INTERNSHIP



LIVINGSEAS IN PADANGBAI, BALI

Our founder, Leon Boey, transformed his passion for diving into active ecosystem restoration after witnessing alarming coral and fish decline, due to a massive bleaching event.

Reef restoration is at the center of our mission; it is our core. The Livingseas Foundation is leading an ambitious initiative to create one of the largest coral reef restoration sites in Indonesia. This expansive project is located off the coast of Padangbai, a charming fishing village nestled in the northeastern part of Bali. Active restoration work at this site has been ongoing since 2020, and it is set to cover an impressive area of 5 hectares, making it a significant effort in marine conservation.

Livingseas is now a global name in coral restoration, with our efforts being recognised at the prestigious Blue Water Heroes awards, presented by Dr. Sylvia Earle. Recently, Leon performed a TEDx talk in Singapore, and was also featured in the storytelling hub of the Coral Restoration Consortium (CRC).



THE LIVINGSEAS REEF RESTORATION SITE

The Livingseas Coral Restoration site is the largest project of its kind in Bali, covering over 7,300 m² and comprising more than 7,900 reef structures. Led by the Livingseas Foundation, the initiative aims to restore 5 hectares (50,000 m²) of coral reef habitat that stretches from Padangbai to Amuk Bay.



This project not only focuses on rejuvenating marine ecosystems and enhancing biodiversity, but also raises awareness about coral conservation by engaging local communities, school groups, and other visitors.

RESTORATION METHODS AND ACROPORA CORAL

Our artificial reef is primarily built from metal frames coated on sand - commonly called reef stars. These are complemented by other rebar structures, glass bottles, and cement structures.

The majority of the corals we plant on our structures are Acropora species. These corals play a crucial role in reef ecosystems due to their rapid growth and their ability to form complex structures. Under ideal conditions, Acropora corals can grow impressively at a rate of 10 to 20 centimeters per year and attach themselves to artificial structures within just a few months.

HANDS-ON CORAL REEF SCIENCE. REAL DATA. REAL IMPACT

The Livingseas Restoration & Research Internship is a four-week, field-based programme designed for marine biology students, graduates and early-career marine scientists seeking real-world experience in coral reef conservation. This internship prioritises practical research components over introductory-level training, focusing on strengthening field and analytical skillsets.

Working side-by-side with the Livingseas Team in Padangbai, Bali, you will actively contribute to coral planting efforts and conservation programmes, in addition to ongoing research projects—collecting, analysing, and interpreting data. With small intake groups (maximum four interns), you'll receive personalised training and mentorship. During the internship, you will build confidence as a scientific diver and develop transferable skills for careers in coral reef conservation.

WHAT TO EXPECT

-  • Learn all about coral reef restoration and what it takes to establish and maintain a restoration programme
-  • Learn how to effectively plan and execute a variety of standardised scientific survey methodologies, used for coral reef restoration monitoring
-  • Learn how to analyse benthic, fish, and photogrammetry data using various software applications
-  • Learn how to master your buoyancy and become an effective and reliable scientific diver by completing our scientific diving basic training
-  • Record initial restoration metrics and collect scientific long-term monitoring data on the Livingseas restoration site
-  • Work closely with the Livingseas Research Team, collecting and analysing real data for Livingseas and our collaborators
-  • Immerse yourself in all aspects of reef restoration at Livingseas - assist our team with coral planting, site maintenance, coral harvesting and building artificial structures
-  • Assist Livingseas with education and outreach programmes (based on bookings and availability), including coral planting workshops and Conservation Diver courses

Upon completion of the first month, you can stay and assist Livingseas with science/restoration activities for as long as you like! We only ask for a fee of IDR 500,000 for each diving day, which covers the costs of tanks for 2 dives, dive equipment, boat, fuel, and lunch.



A DYNAMIC SCHEDULE TO ENSURE YOU HIT YOUR GOALS

WEEK 1 - CORAL RESTORATION THEORY AND PRACTICE

The first week establishes the scientific and operational framework of coral reef restoration at Livingseas. You will be introduced to restoration theory and the logistical considerations involved in designing a restoration programme. On the Livingseas restoration site, you will participate in planting and maintenance activities, and contextualise restoration practices within real environmental and operational constraints.



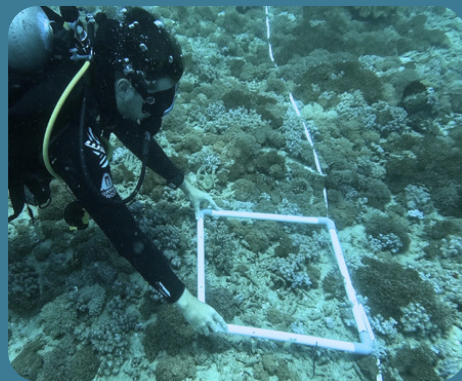
WEEK 2 - CORAL RESTORATION MONITORING - INITIAL METRICS

Week two begins with mastering essential scientific diving skills, such as buoyancy control, finning techniques, transect deployment, and underwater imaging. Following this, you will focus on initial restoration monitoring methodologies, including coral growth, survivorship metrics, and photogrammetry. This week bridges the gap between recreational diver and marine scientist.



WEEK 3 - CORAL RESTORATION MONITORING - BENTHIC COMPOSITION

The third week centres around benthic surveying, critical for measuring coral reef health and monitoring the long-term success of restored reefs. You will develop proficiency in coral genera and benthic category identification, conduct benthic surveys using established methodologies, and analyse data using platforms such as ReefCloud and MERMAID.



WEEK 4 - CORAL RESTORATION MONITORING - FISH COMMUNITIES

The final week addresses reef fish communities as ecological indicators of restoration success. You will practice fish family and species identification, conduct fish surveys using video-based methodologies, and analyse footage to extract abundance and community composition data. The week concludes with you running your own data collection dives, applying the knowledge and skills you developed during the internship.



RESTORATION & RESEARCH (R&R) INTERNSHIP AT A GLANCE

START DATES

January, April, July, October
(possibility of additional intakes upon request)

DURATION

Four weeks (extensions available)

INCLUSIONS

- 32 dives (22 Scientific training dives + 10 optional restoration dives)
- Teaching presentations covering a variety of topics key to establishing, managing, and monitoring a reef restoration site
- Training workshops on coral health, benthic, fish, and photogrammetry data collection and corresponding analysis software
- All required underwater survey materials
- Dive equipment
- Lunch (6 days/week, except on days off)
- Visa assistance and pre-arrival support
- Airport transfer from/to Denpasar International Airport
- Livingseas t-shirt
- 25% off SSI dive courses with Livingseas
- Career support and advice

PREREQUISITES

- Completed or studying a degree in Marine/Environmental Science or a related subject
- Basic knowledge of Indo-Pacific reef fish + coral families (preferred)
- SSI/PADI Advanced Open Water diver (or equivalent from another certifying agency. Can be completed at Livingseas for an additional fee (+ time))
- Personal laptop

RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

- Dive Computer
- Dive Mask + Fins

PROGRAM COST

IDR 25.000.000

ADDITIONAL COST

Accommodation, Breakfast + Dinner, General Living Expenses, Visa Fees

OPTIONS

- Internship Extension! Stay as long as you want and assist the science team with surveys and analysis (only pay for dive days)!
- Specialty Dive Courses at discounted rates



HOW TO APPLY

In most cases, it all starts with a simple conversation. To get started, simply send us a message on Whatsapp at +62 813 37681717 or send your CV to info@livingseas.asia, subject "R&R Internship".