

LETTER FROM THE ISLANDS

Stories, People, and Conservation from the Anambas Islands

February–April 2026 Program Updates



Stories of **Resilience**

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in Anambas

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Letter from The Island

From Field Progress to Long-Term Community Resilience

Dear Friends of Anambas,

This first edition of Stories of Resilience shares recent progress from Anambas Foundation's work across the islands. It reflects a shared belief in the future of Anambas, not only as a beautiful island landscape, but as a place where conservation, community resilience, and sustainable development are being strengthened every day.

During this period, Anambas Foundation and communities across the islands continued strengthening work through our three pillars: **Above, Below, and Beyond**. In forest villages, agroforestry initiatives and Ridge to Reef planning are helping connect land, water, and coastal resilience. In marine conservation, reef rehabilitation, turtle protection, and Guardians of the Anambas Seas youth training are building local ocean stewardship. In community development, village waste banks, mobile waste collection, school programs, organic farming, and women-led enterprise continue to show how sustainability becomes part of daily island life.

In Anambas, resilience is not built in one season. It grows when a waste bank becomes part of a village system, when young people are trained to monitor reefs, when households grow food from their own gardens, and when local leadership begins carrying the work forward. Anambas Foundation is working beyond short-term projects toward stronger local systems, from village institutions and youth leadership to community monitoring, women's livelihoods, and long-term environmental responsibility.

Thank you for your trust, partnership, and continued belief in the future of Anambas.

Anambas Foundation

What's Happening in Anambas | February–April 2026



Forest village capacity is being strengthened

Through the Above program, Anambas Foundation continued building the foundation for community-based forest and landscape resilience. Six pilot households have been selected for agroforestry participation, while the 207-hectare forest area in Tarempa Selatan remains a key focus for community-based forest protection. Our team also completed the second phase of Ridge to Reef study and supported 26 stakeholder consultations and mediation processes, helping connect forest, watershed, coastal, and marine priorities into one integrated planning approach.



Coral reef rehabilitation and monitoring are progressing

Through the Below program, Anambas Foundation rehabilitated 81 m² of damaged reef in Telaga Village and surveyed 5 reef sites. The reef rehabilitation database has also been completed, strengthening the foundation for long-term monitoring, learning, and reporting.

This work supports a larger goal: local communities become part of a stronger reef protection and restoration system in Anambas.



Turtle protection is entering a stronger readiness phase

The turtle conservation program continued to grow with the recruitment of six new local turtle rangers bringing the total number of rangers to 13 across four conservation sites. The newly arrived satellite tags will support the next phase of turtle movement research and monitoring to strengthen local protection capacity and improve understanding of turtle migration and nesting behavior.



GOTAS is growing as a youth ocean leadership pathway

Through GOTAS, Guardians of the Anambas Seas, fifteen youth were trained and eight new local heroes were certified. The Telaga Village GOTAS group has also been formalized through village-level recognition. This progress shows that marine conservation in Anambas is not only about restoring habitats. It is also about preparing young islanders to become future guardians of the sea.



Village waste systems are becoming more structured

Through DIKARI, an initiative supporting the independence of village waste management systems, waste banks continued strengthening village-level operations. In Candi and Langir Villages, two DIKARI waste banks processed 5,959 kg and 3,343 kg of waste respectfully as they move toward stronger operational independence.

Meanwhile, through BALING, our Mobile Waste Bank fleets, service coverage remained at approximately 90%, with customer data validation reaching around 60% in new service areas and SOP compliance reaching approximately 85%.



Education, farming, and women-led enterprise are gaining momentum

Through Generasi Merdeka Sampah (Waste-Free Generation), twelve schools were mapped for expansion, with outreach activities introducing students to environmental awareness and waste reduction practices across six schools. The Digital English Club is now active in five schools, with fifteen teachers trained to support youth communication and learning activities.

In Kiabu Village, the Organic Home Farming initiative harvested 540 kg of vegetables in April while converting 300 kg of organic waste into approximately 100 kg of compost, helping strengthen local food resilience and household-level sustainability. Meanwhile, Women Empowerment groups produced 70 upcycled and handmade products in Kiabu Village and 150 food products in Telaga, showing how skills and income generation can become part of island resilience, while reducing material waste across the islands.

Impact Snapshot!

February–April 2026 Progress

These figures means more than outputs. They reflect an island-wide system being built across the Anambas Archipelago. They are signs of progress toward Anambas Foundation's long-term direction: building conservation and community systems that can continue beyond individual projects.

Above | Forest Conservation

6 of 15

households selected for agroforestry participation.

2nd phase

Ridge to Reef study completed.

1

government consultation conducted related to forest area mapping.

207 Hectares

of forest area in Tarempa Selatan remain the focus for community-based forest protection.

26

stakeholder consultations and mediation processes conducted.

Below | Marine Conservation

81 m²

of damaged reef rehabilitated in Telaga.

5

reef sites surveyed.

1

reef rehabilitation database completed.

6

local turtle rangers recruited.

1

boat captain supporting turtle conservation activities.

15

GOTAS youth trained.

8

new local heroes certified.

1

school MoU established with SMP Sunggak for KELAUT.

Beyond | Community Development

5,959 kg

of waste processed in Candi.

3,343 kg

of waste processed in Langir.

820 kg

of marine debris collected in Kuala Maras.

90%

BALING service coverage maintained.

60%

customer data validation reached in new BALING service areas.

85%

BALING SOP compliance reached.

12 schools

mapped for GMS expansion.

6 schools

reached through GMS outreach.

5 schools

running Digital English Club.

15 teachers

trained for DEC.

100 kg

of compost produced from approximately 300 kg of organic material.

220 products

produced by women's groups in Kiabu and Telaga.

When Waste Banks become Village Institutions



In many places, waste management is treated as a technical problem.

In Anambas Islands, it is also a story of trust, habits, leadership, and village ownership.

A waste bank begins with simple actions: sorting, weighing, recording, collecting, and selling. But over time, if the system is supported consistently, something deeper can happen. A team forms. A village begins assigning roles. Records become more regular. Sales help support operations. Households start to understand that waste has value. Children begin seeing adults practice what they are taught in school.

This is the kind of change Anambas Foundation is seeing through **DIKARI**.

In Candi and Langir Villages, two DIKARI waste banks are moving toward stronger independence. The numbers are staggering: **5,959 kg of waste successfully processed in Candi** and **3,343 kg processed in Langir**. But the more important story sits behind those numbers when local teams becoming more organized, village management becoming more involved, and waste banks beginning to function less like temporary activities and more like local institutions.

In Kuala Maras Village, **820 kg of marine debris** was collected. In Landak and Kuala Maras Villages, waste sales became part of the routine. These are small but meaningful steps in remote island communities where logistics are difficult, transport is costly, and environmental pressure is constant.

On small islands, waste management cannot depend solely on external support. It must become part of village life. That is why a functioning waste bank is a sign that a village is learning to manage one of its most visible challenges with structure, discipline, and shared responsibility.

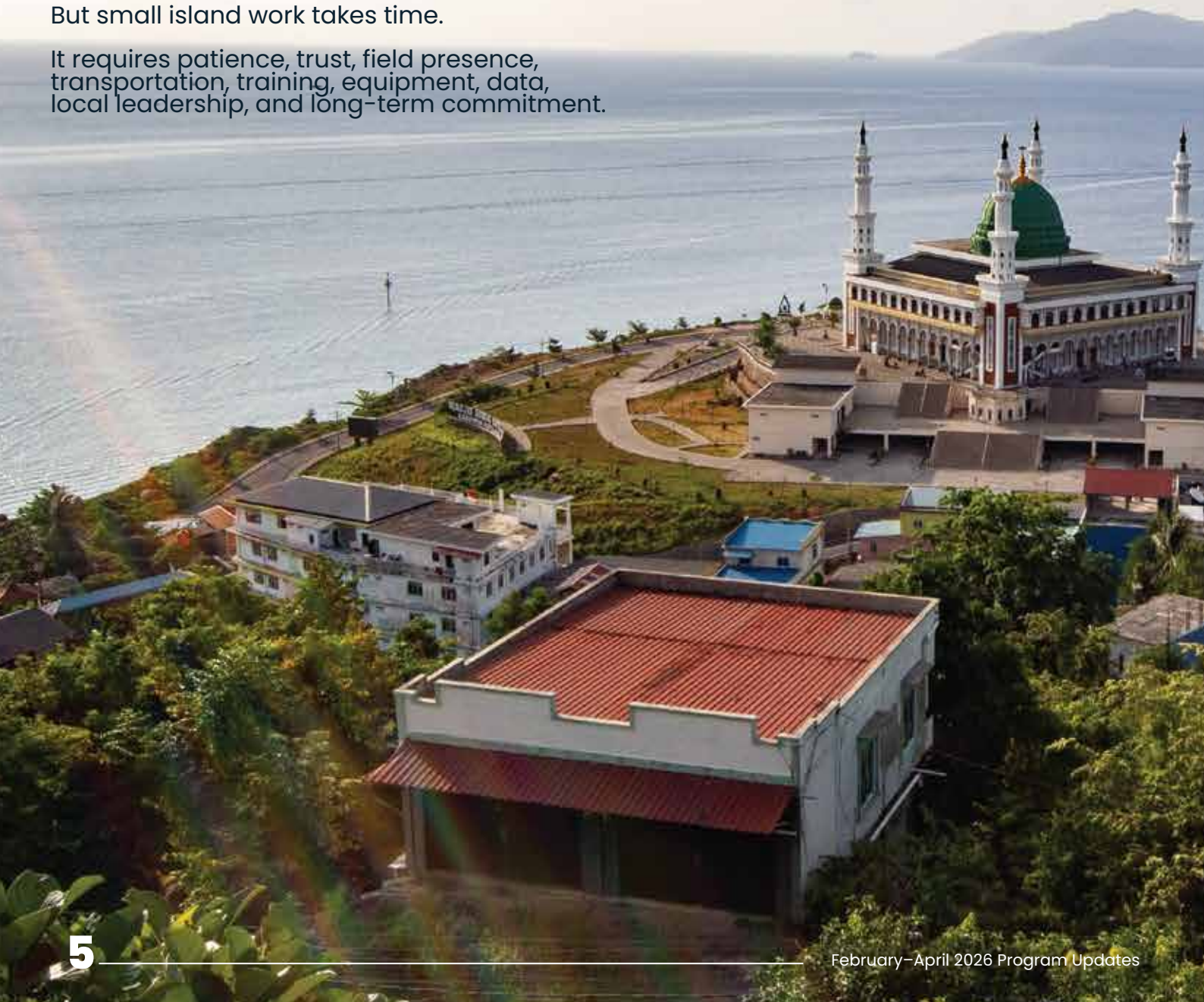
This is resilience in practice.

Stand with ANAMBAS !

Across the Anambas Islands, communities are showing that change is possible. Waste banks are becoming local systems. Young people are becoming ocean guardians. Schools are opening space for environmental learning. Women are turning skills into income. Families are growing food from home gardens. Forests, reefs, turtles, and villages are slowly being connected through a shared vision of resilience.

But small island work takes time.

It requires patience, trust, field presence, transportation, training, equipment, data, local leadership, and long-term commitment.



How Partners Can Support?

Your support can help Anambas Foundation continue this work where it matters most: in villages, schools, coastlines, forests, and communities across the islands.

1 Building the Community Capacity of Forest Villages

Anambas Foundation is strengthening community-based approaches to forest and landscape resilience through agroforestry, environmental awareness, and sustainable livelihood initiatives. Current efforts focus on building long-term local participation and improving the connection between ecosystem protection, food resilience, and community wellbeing.

Support needed:

Strategic partnerships, technical expertise, forest village facilitation, monitoring tools, and long-term program support.

2 Expanding Coral Reef Rehabilitation and GOTAS Monitoring Capacity

Anambas Foundation is expanding the technical and operational capacity of **GOTAS – Guardians of the Anambas Seas** to support coral reef rehabilitation, marine monitoring, and local ocean stewardship. Current priorities include strengthening field equipment, monitoring systems, training pathways, and local youth participation.

Support needed:

Reef monitoring equipment, dive and safety training, youth certification, marine research collaboration, and long-term monitoring support.

3 Building Women's Entrepreneurship Capacity

Anambas Foundation continues to strengthen women-led entrepreneurship through circular economy and upcycling initiatives that connect environmental action with local income generation. Current efforts focus on improving product development, skills training, branding, market readiness, and income opportunities for community-based enterprises.

Support needed:

Business mentorship, product development, branding support, market access, equipment, and women's economic empowerment partnerships.

4 Strengthening Village Leadership and Institutional Capacity for Waste Management

Anambas Foundation is working with village governments, village-owned enterprises, community groups, and waste bank teams to strengthen long-term waste management systems across the islands. Current priorities include improving operational continuity, community participation, data recording, collection logistics, waste sales cycles, and village ownership.

Support needed:

Logistics, collection infrastructure, waste bank operations, Material Recovery Facility planning, governance strengthening, and operational support for remote island waste systems.

5 Scaling Youth and Environmental Education Through DEC, GMS, and KELAUT

Anambas Foundation is scaling youth and environmental education through the **Digital English Club (DEC)**, **Generasi Merdeka Sampah (GMS)**, and **KELAUT (Nature and Marine Classes)**.

Current priorities include expanding school partnerships, improving teaching materials, strengthening teacher capacity, and increasing opportunities for youth to participate in conservation and sustainability.

Support needed:

Learning resources, teacher training, digital education tools, environmental education materials, volunteer networks, and youth leadership development support.



PARTNERSHIPS

As a Conservation Partner within the Anambas Conservation Area, Anambas Foundation collaborates with Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and LPK Pekanbaru on conservation initiatives across the region.

We work alongside communities, village governments, schools, local community groups, private-sector stakeholders to ensure that conservation is not only planned, but practiced, understood, and carried forward locally. This collaboration also supports broader sustainable development priorities under the Government of the Anambas Islands Regency Regional Medium Term Development Plan, while strengthening our ability to align field action with wider conservation priorities and keep local communities at the center of implementation.

Anambas Foundation's work across the islands is also strengthened through long-term support from partners who share a commitment to conservation and community resilience in small island regions. Support from Amyas Valora Foundation continues to strengthen programs across conservation, community development, education, and institutional operations, while support from X-Press Feeders continues to strengthen turtle conservation efforts in Durai Island, including local ranger capacity and nesting site protection. AF also remains grateful to the many individual donors and partners whose continued trust helps sustain work across the Anambas Islands.

Some progress can be measured in kilograms, square meters, hectares, products, schools, and participants. But some progress is harder to measure: trust, confidence, ownership, leadership, and the growing belief that small islands can shape their own future.

Stories of Resilience will continue to share this journey – from the field, from the villages, and from the people of Anambas.

Anambas Foundation

Ruko Dutamas Travalgar, Block T No 10,
Batam Center – Batam,
Kepulauan Riau, Indonesia.

Postal Code : 25492.
Website : www.anambasfoundation.org
Email : connect@anambasfoundation.org
Instagram : [@anambasfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/anambasfoundation)
LinkedIn : Anambas Foundation

Above • Below • Beyond



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