

Letter from the islands Vol.2

Living Between the Ocean & Climate

May–July 2026 Program Updates

Anambas Foundation
Stories, People, and Conservation from the Anambas Islands

Letter from the Islands

Living Between the Ocean & Climate

Dear Friends of Anambas,

To live on a small island is to grow up with nature as part of everyday life.

In the Anambas Islands, the sea is more than a horizon. It is where families earn a living, where children travel between islands, and where daily life unfolds. Beyond the shoreline, forests protect freshwater, while mangroves and coral reefs quietly sustain the coast and the communities that depend on it. Long before children learn about these ecosystems in a classroom, they experience them simply by growing up here.

But experiencing nature and understanding it are not always the same.

A child may recognise a sea turtle without knowing the extraordinary journey it has travelled across the ocean. Mangrove forests may simply be part of the landscape, rather than natural barriers protecting villages from waves and erosion. Fishing boats returning each afternoon may seem like an ordinary sight, without revealing the delicate relationship between healthy reefs, thriving fisheries, and island livelihoods.

Conservation begins when those everyday experiences become understanding.

Across the Anambas Islands, that understanding is taking shape in many different ways. Communities are caring for forests that safeguard freshwater. Coral reefs are being restored, sea turtles protected, and local initiatives are creating new opportunities for people to strengthen their livelihoods. While these efforts may appear different, they all share the same purpose: building a lasting relationship between people and the natural systems that sustain island life.

This belief shapes everything we do through **Above, Below, and Beyond**. Rather than treating forests, oceans, and communities as separate priorities, we see them as deeply connected. Healthy ecosystems strengthen resilient communities, and resilient communities become the strongest guardians of healthy ecosystems.

This edition of Stories of Resilience introduces the KELAUT Comic, a new environmental education initiative inspired by the landscapes, wildlife, and communities of the Anambas Islands. As we continue restoring ecosystems today, we are also investing in something just as important: helping young people understand why these places matter, so they can care for them for years to come.

We hope the stories in this edition offer more than a glimpse of our work. We hope they reflect the people, partnerships, and everyday moments that remind us conservation is not only about protecting nature, but also about nurturing a lifelong connection between people and the islands they call home. Thank you for being part of this journey.

Anambas Foundation

What's Happening in Anambas

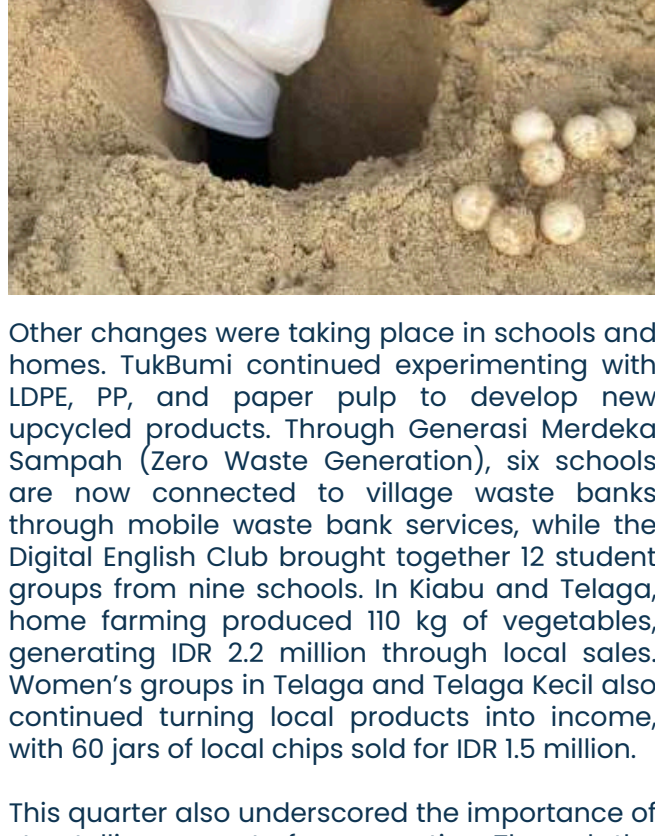
May–July 2026

Every season brings a different story to the Anambas Islands. This quarter, those stories unfolded in forests, along coastlines, in village halls, classrooms, and homes. While each programme followed its own path, together they reflected one shared purpose: helping both people and nature become more resilient.

In the forests, communities continued caring for the landscapes that sustain life across the islands. Eighteen households are now part of the agroforestry project, with three forest-based products identified along the way. Across 207 hectares of forest, mapping work is helping to build a clearer picture for community-based forest management. Ridge to Reef work also moved forward, with two field studies completed through 26 stakeholder consultations, alongside a conservation framework designed for the small-island context.

Out at sea, reef restoration continued in Telaga and Kiabu, where 444 m² of reef was rehabilitated and 8,864 coral fragments were attached. Along the coast, 18 beach clean-ups in Sunggak brought together efforts to remove 750 kg of marine debris. Sea turtle conservation also expanded this quarter. Dural emerged as a new priority site, with routine monitoring continued in Dural and Teluk Dalam. Twelve sea turtles were tagged this year, and five local heroes were certified, including three advanced rescue divers. Four dive sites were also surveyed, adding to the local knowledge needed to care for Anambas' marine spaces.

Across the villages, conservation continued to find its way into everyday life. Through DIKARI, waste banks in Candi and Langir sold 26.6 tonnes of recyclable waste and generated IDR 38.8 million in revenue. In Matak, BALING (Mobile Waste Bank) collected more than 4.8 tonnes of waste each month, with collection services maintaining at least 95% schedule reliability. Meanwhile, planning for the future MRF progressed, with around 175 tonnes of annual material supply mapped across the waste bank and BALING network.



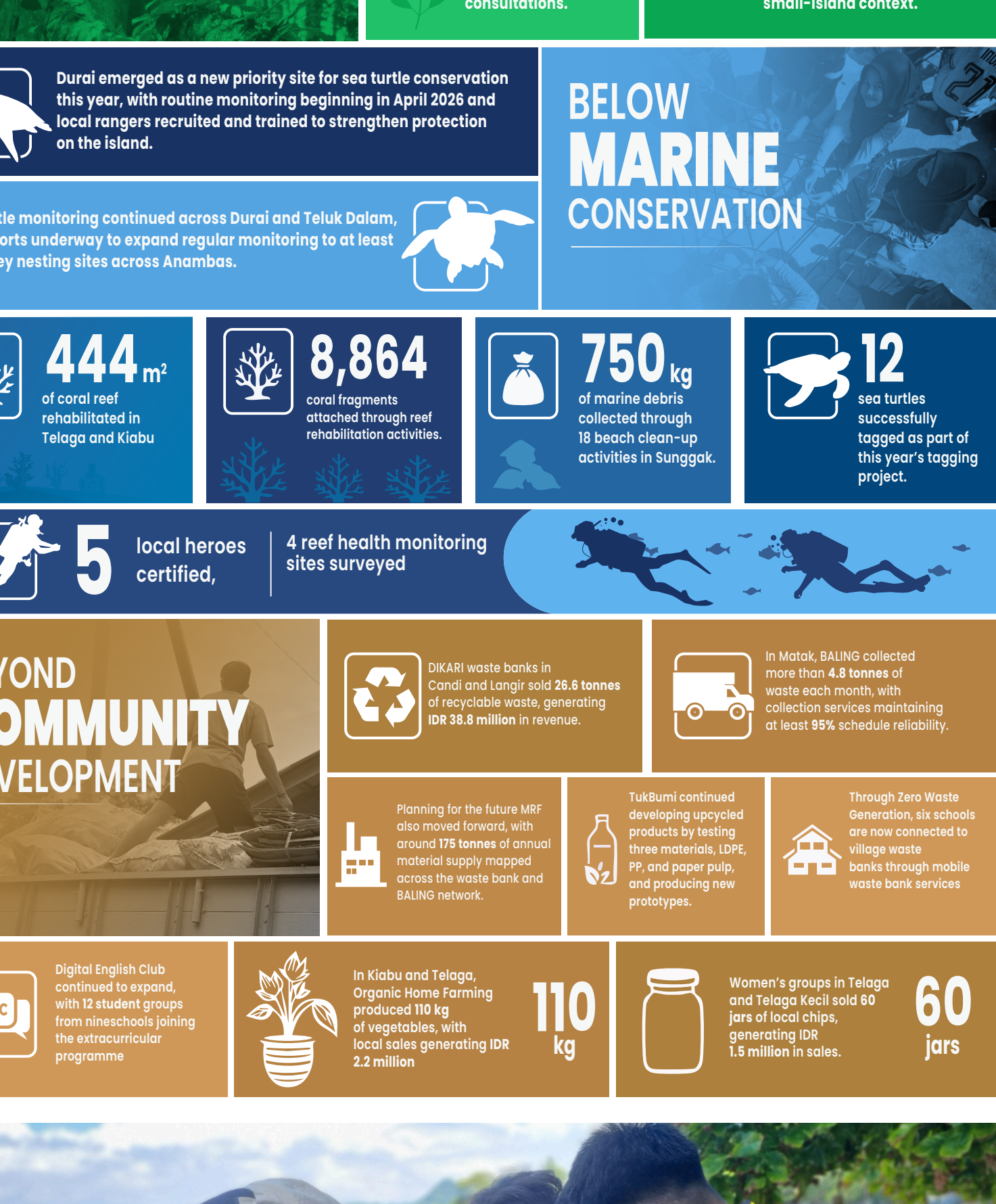
Other changes were taking place in schools and homes. TukBumi continued experimenting with LDPE, PP, and paper pulp to develop new upcycled products. Through Generasi Merdeka Sampah (Zero Waste Generation), six schools are now connected to village waste banks through mobile waste bank services, while the Digital English Club brought together 12 student groups from nine schools. In Kiabu and Telaga, home farming produced 110 kg of vegetables, generating IDR 2.2 million through local sales. Women's groups in Telaga and Telaga Kecil also continued turning local products into income, with 60 jars of local chips sold for IDR 1.5 million.

This quarter also underscored the importance of storytelling as part of conservation. Through the Suara Pulau Anambas or the Voices of Anambas Islands program, local youth and community members strengthened their storytelling and digital communication skills, enabling them to share stories from their own communities in their own voices. Anambas Foundation also welcomed a National Geographic expedition, creating another opportunity to highlight the islands and the collaborative conservation efforts taking place across the archipelago.

Each of these stories may begin in a different place, but they are closely connected. Healthy forests help protect the sea. Healthy seas support communities. And when communities have the knowledge, confidence, and opportunity to care for the places they call home, resilience becomes something that grows naturally, one season at a time.

Impact Snapshot!

May – July 2026 Progress



Field Story | May – July 2026

One question that changed the way Hani saw the coast

“What do you feel when you see rubbish scattered along the coast?”

Hani, a 14-year-old student at SMPN 1 Sunggak, did not have to think long. She has grown up in the Anambas Islands, where the coast is part of everyday life: the walk to school, the place where children play, and the backdrop to ordinary days.

“It looks dirty and unpleasant,” she said.

To Hani, that had always been the problem with rubbish. It looked dirty. It was something you stepped around, not something you thought much about.

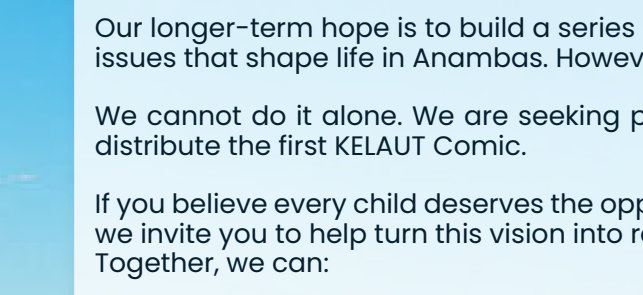
During a KELAUT session at her school, Fauzan Maulana, one of Anambas Foundation's environmental educators, asked the class another question.

“What happens after rubbish reaches the sea?”

The room fell quiet.

Fauzan explained that sea turtles often mistake floating plastic for food. Once swallowed, the plastic stays in their stomachs and can eventually kill them.

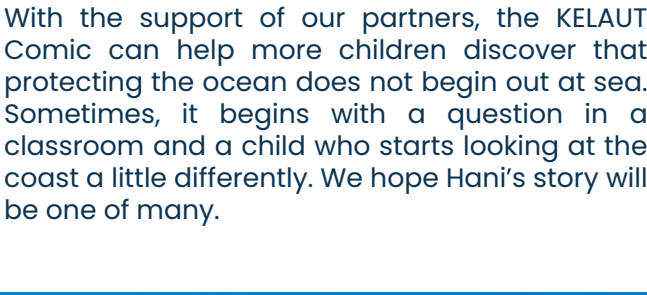
For Hani, the problem suddenly looked different.



Rubbish was no longer just something that made the beach look untidy. It could harm the animals living in the sea she had known all her life.

Hani was not the only student who reacted that way. During KELAUT sessions, moments like this happen again and again. Many children already understand that litter makes their surroundings look dirty. What often surprises them is what happens after the rubbish leaves the beach, where it goes, and how it affects marine life.

Teachers have already noticed encouraging changes. Students who joined the sessions became more aware of waste management



around their school, with some beginning to collect recyclable materials for the local waste bank. They are small actions, but they show how understanding can grow into everyday habits.

The team began thinking about how those conversations could continue after the children left the classroom. A comic could be taken home, read again, shared with friends, and talked about with teachers and families, keeping the questions raised during KELAUT going beyond a single session.

That is what led to the KELAUT Comic.

With the support of our partners, the KELAUT Comic can help more children discover that protecting the ocean does not begin out at sea. Sometimes, it begins with a question in a classroom and a child who starts looking at the coast a little differently. We hope Hani's story will be one of many.

STAND WITH ANAMBAS!

Help Write the First Chapter

Anambas Foundation wants to turn the idea of the KELAUT Comic into a real learning resource for children

This first edition would focus on waste: where it comes from, what happens when it reaches the sea, and what children can do in their schools, homes, and communities.

Our longer-term hope is to build a series of locally produced stories on the environmental issues that shape life in Anambas. However, the first chapter must come first.

We cannot do it alone. We are seeking partners to help develop, illustrate, produce, and distribute the first KELAUT Comic.

If you believe every child deserves the opportunity to understand the place they call home, we invite you to help turn this vision into reality. Together, we can:

- **Bring local stories into more classrooms**
Help more children have the chance to learn about the place they call home through stories about the island they know.
- **Support teachers with locally relevant learning resources**
Support classroom learning with stories that help children connect what they learn to the world around them.
- **Bring more island stories to life**
Help create future comics that introduce children to the people, places, and nature that make the Anambas Islands unique.

The future of the Anambas Islands will be shaped not only by the ecosystems we protect today, but also by the children growing up understanding why they matter. Your partnership can help turn the first KELAUT Comic from an idea into something children can hold, read, share, and act on

How Partners Can Support?

Help Bring Ocean Stories into More Classrooms

Hani's story is one of many reminders that environmental awareness often begins with a simple conversation. When children understand how their everyday actions affect the ocean, they begin to see their surroundings differently, and small changes in behaviour can follow.

To help more students make that connection, Anambas Foundation is developing the **KELAUT Comic**, an illustrated learning resource inspired by real stories from the Anambas Islands. Designed together with local educators and conservation practitioners, the comic will help teachers introduce marine conservation through stories that are familiar, engaging, and relevant to children's daily lives.

We are seeking partners who share our belief that education is one of the most effective ways to protect nature for the long term.

Partnership opportunities include:

1. Supporting the illustration, design, and production of the KELAUT Comic.
2. Printing and distributing the comic to schools across the Anambas Islands.
3. Strengthening teacher capacity through training and learning resources.
4. Developing complementary educational materials and classroom activities.
5. Expanding environmental education partnerships so more children can learn about marine conservation from an early age.

Interested in supporting KELAUT?

Leave your email to hear our ideas.

