



Departmen Kehutanan  
Direktorat Jenderal Perlindungan Hutan dan  
Konservasi Alam (PHKA)



PEMKAB Manggarai Barat



Balai Taman Nasional Komodo



PT. Putri Naga Komodo

PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Where the Buoys Are

*New mooring buoys offer protection for Komodo National Park's spectacular coral reefs*

**Labuan Bajo, Manggarai Barat, Nusa Tenggara Timur, 12 March 2007** –Blessed with warm, clear, tropical waters, Komodo National Park provides the perfect conditions for an abundance of coral reefs. These living underwater gardens attract thousands of divers each year, brought into Park by live-aboard dive boats or smaller day boats. Yet, the careless toss of an anchor can destroy decades of growth in just a few seconds.

As part of its long-term conservation program to protect the Park's fragile living corals and, thereby, promote the continued health and vitality of what is considered one of the world's richest marine environment, PNK recently concluded the second phase of its environmental mooring buoy project with the installation of 12 new big boat mooring buoys (up to 300GT or 40m in length), one small boat mooring buoy (5 GT or 10m) and the addition of two other small boat moorings to existing anchors whose original moorings had been lost.

The first phase, which involved the installation of six big boat moorings and seven small boat moorings and repairs to two small boat moorings, was completed in August 2006. The total number of mooring buoys now servicing the Park is 32 buoys.

The selection of sites was undertaken in consultation with the Komodo National Park Authority – who provided park rangers to participate in the installation work for both trips - the harbormaster and local dive and live-aboard operators. Final positioning depended on site surveys during the installation as not all sites were suitable for manta anchors or had appropriate working conditions. A number of considerations were taken into account for the site selection: sites that would specifically protect reefs; sites close to popular dive sites; and sites that would allow for convenient mooring for boats visiting the terrestrial destinations.

In order to minimize costs and provide an opportunity for recreational divers to be involved in a major conservation project, volunteers for Phase 2 of the project were sourced from regional dive clubs, by direct contact with volunteers from the Bali Mooring Buoy Project and with the assistance of the Coral Reef Alliance, a US-based NGO. Volunteers from the USA, Germany, The Netherlands, Singapore and Hong Kong not only covered their own travel costs to Komodo but paid US\$800 to join an eight-day segment of the trip.

The total cost of the project, which was initiated and carried out by Helen Newman of Newman Biomarine, was US\$77,322 with PNK providing a grant of US\$32,000 and Ms. Newman raising the remainder from the private sector.



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15 live-aboard operators contributed US\$1,000 each to the project, The Ocean Park Conservation Foundation US\$5,000, Coral Reef Alliance US\$4,000 and PADI Project AWARE A\$2,500. Private individuals and dive clubs contributed a further US\$10,000. Volunteer divers from around the world joining the second installation expedition contributed a further US\$7,200. The vessels used to install the moorings, the M/V Empress in Phase 1 and the M/Y Ombak Putih in Phase 2, were provided at cost by their owners at US\$1,000 per day.

The project utilised the manta ray anchor system. This involved hammering a flat, hinged, wedge shaped anchor 7-11ft into the ocean bottom depending on substrate conditions. The hammering was conducted using a hydraulic marine jack hammer. The anchor is locked out into a horizontal position using a hydraulic load locker and pressure tested to establish a minimum load. In this case, anchors were locked out between 5000kg and 9000kg (10,000lb-20000lb). The manta anchors were connected to  $\frac{3}{4}$  - 1 inch anchor chain, and then to a 50mm polypropylene mooring line with a 28-tonne breaking strain. Large boat moorings utilised three anchors shackled to a 1-inch D-ring and small boat moorings utilised a single anchor. Large boat moorings have an A-5 large buoy and small boat moorings an A-3 buoy following the existing mooring system.

### **About PT. Putri Naga Komodo**

Putri Naga Komodo (PNK), a 60/40 Joint Venture between international conservation NGO The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Indonesian tourism company, PT Jaytasha Putrindo Utama (JPU), was established in 2005 with the aim of developing an independent and sustainable management support unit for Komodo National Park and to develop ecotourism through a 30-year tourism concession granted by the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry.

PNK is also the main driver of the Komodo Collaborative Management Initiative (KCMI), a collaborative management framework designed to ensure the long-term, effective management by maximizing the involvement of key Park stakeholders, including the national government, Directorate for Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHKA) of the Ministry of Forestry, PNK, the local (district) government (PEMKAB) and the Komodo National Park Authority (BTNK), as well as local communities and organizations, other government agencies and private sector partners/resource users.

In line with the objectives the Park's long-term management plan, PNK is undertaking a series of activities on behalf of KCMI related to sustainable ecotourism development, destination marketing, community development and the conservation of the Park's unique marine and terrestrial biodiversity assets, including globally significant coral reefs and the Komodo dragon.

PNK is also charged with assisting the Park in becoming self-financing and collects a 'Contribution to Conservation Fund' from all visitors. So, while the not-for-profit company is supported by a seven-year grant provided through the World Bank's private sector financing arm, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), with matching funds from TNC, it is expected that the Park will generate



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sufficient ecotourism revenues by 2012 to sustain ongoing management and conservation work through a combination of rising numbers of visitors and rising conservation fees.

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Electronic Copy and photograph can be provided upon request.

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