International Office
Hasanuddin University

WEEKLY NEWS

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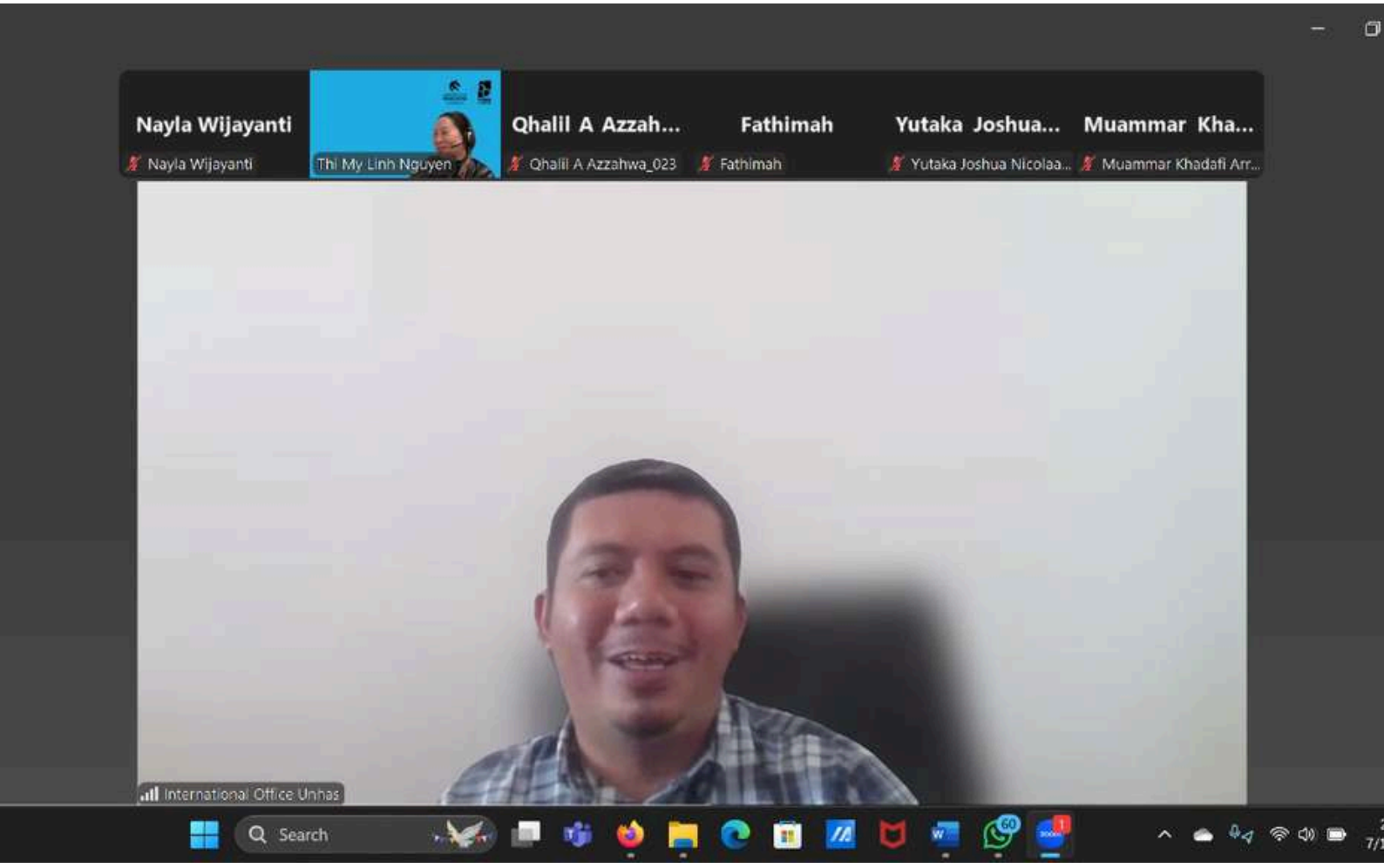
FRIDAY OUTBOUND CLINIC: PATHWAYS TO STUDY AND SCHOLARSHIPS IN AUSTRALIA



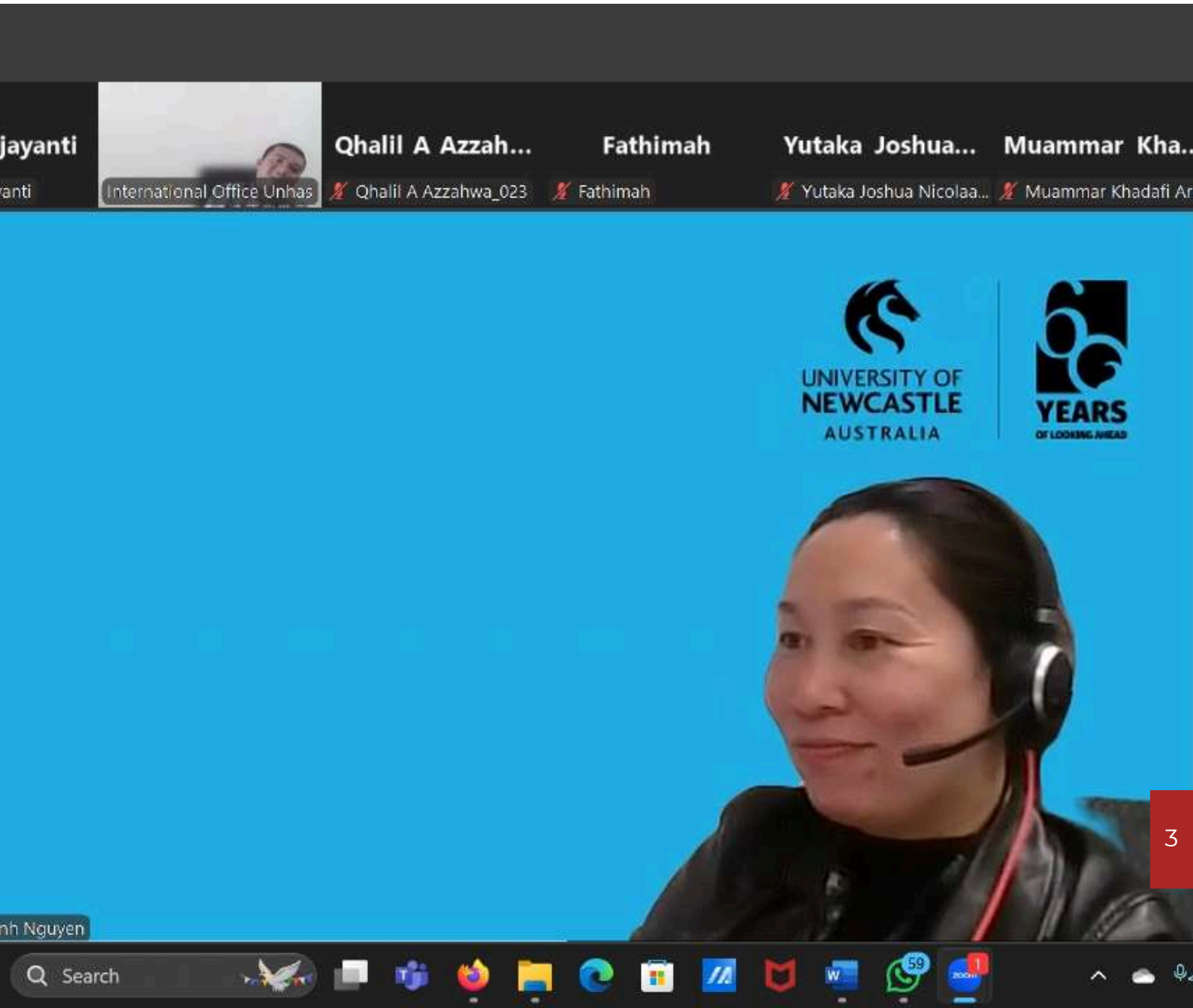
The Friday Outbound Clinic (FOC), organized by the International Office (IO) of Hasanuddin University (UNHAS), was successfully held on Friday, 18 July 2025, at 2:00 PM Central Indonesia Time. The session featured two distinguished speakers: Thi My Linh Nguyen, Ph.D, International Student Support Officer at the University of Newcastle, Australia, and Mr. Hung Truong, a scholarship expert specializing in higher education in Australia. The event was moderated by Khaeruddin, Ph.D, a task force of the IO UNHAS.

The session opened with a warm and nostalgic conversation between the moderator and Dr. Linh, who reflected on their time working together as PhD students at the University of Newcastle. This personal connection created an inviting and relatable atmosphere for participants. Dr. Linh then shared her journey as an international student, from the initial challenges she faced adjusting to a new environment, to her academic milestones, and ultimately to her current professional role at the university. Her story provided valuable insight into the resilience and adaptability required to succeed abroad, inspiring attendees with her determination and achievements.

Following her presentation, the session continued with insights from Mr. Hung Truong, who offered a detailed overview of scholarship opportunities available in Australia. He highlighted Australia as an ideal destination for international students due to its quality of education, diverse culture, and support systems. Mr. Hung guided the participants through the process of identifying suitable scholarships, crafting strong application essays, and selecting potential universities across various Australian states.

The event, which lasted for approximately one hour, was attended by nearly 30 participants, consisting mostly of students who were interested in studying abroad. The session concluded with an engaging Q&A session, where participants eagerly asked questions related to university application processes, visa requirements, and opportunities to work part-time while studying in Australia. Both speakers provided practical answers and encouragement, which made the discussion highly relevant and informative.

Overall, this edition of the FOC provided valuable knowledge and motivation for students to explore study opportunities in Australia. The session not only strengthened the participants' understanding of scholarship pathways but also reinforced the importance of perseverance and preparation in pursuing international academic goals.



CROSS-BORDER ACADEMIC COLLABORATION: UKM MEDIA STUDENTS JOIN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AT UNHAS

The Faculty of Social and Political Sciences (FISIP) at Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) officially welcomed four students from the International Industrial Training Program organized by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSK), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Malaysia on Monday, 21 July 2025. The four students, who are from the Media and Communication Studies Program, will undertake a two-month industrial internship with various partners in the Department of Communication Science at FISIP UNHAS.

The welcoming ceremony took place at the FISIP Dean's office and was led by the Dean of FISIP UNHAS, Prof. Dr. Phil. Sukri and attended by the Vice Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, Prof. Dr. Hj. Hasniati, M.Si., as well as the Head of the Department of Communication Science, Prof. Dr. Muh. Akbar, M.Si.

In his remarks, Prof. Sukri emphasized that this program is part of the implementation of international cooperation between FISIP UNHAS and FSSK UKM in the fields of education and student exchange, while also contributing to the university's key performance indicators (IKU) in the area of internationalization. "This program is highly beneficial for both UNHAS and UKM students, as it helps build international networks and strengthen practical competencies in media communication. We hope such activities will continue to grow in the future," said Prof. Sukri.

During the program, the UKM students will undergo industrial training with various partners of the Department of Communication Science, such as UNHAS TV, radio stations, and media design studios. These placements aim to provide relevant field experience and expand international professional networks.

Prof. Dr. Muh. Akbar, as Head of the Department of Communication Science, warmly welcomed the Malaysian students. He highlighted the importance of this collaboration as part of efforts to build a stronger academic reputation and broader global partnerships.“The presence of UKM students is a strategic step to strengthen our international networks. UKM is one of the top universities in the world, ranked #138 in the QS World University Rankings 2025. This collaboration brings academic and professional value to both institutions,” explained Prof. Akbar.

Following the welcome ceremony, the UKM students visited UNHAS TV, their first internship placement site. They will be involved in media production and practical communication activities under the guidance of local lecturers and professionals. This program is expected to serve as a platform for knowledge, cultural, and skill exchange between Indonesian and Malaysian students, while also strengthening the academic relationship between the two institutions through ongoing collaboration.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STUDENTS OF UNHAS EXPAND NETWORKS AND KNOWLEDGE AT MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY, THAILAND

Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) strengthened its position in the global academic society by sending 31 Master of Environmental Health students to Mahidol University, Thailand. From 7 to 8 July 2025, the delegation from the Faculty of Public Health (FKM) UNHAS participated in an intensive benchmarking and training programme discussing "Environmental Health Technology, Management, and Sustainability" at one of the best campuses in Southeast Asia.

For two full days, the participants engaged in a series of academic discussions, presentations, and workshops addressing the latest innovations in sustainable environmental health technology and management. The highlight of the visit was an in-depth workshop session on "Health Risks Assessment (HRA)" led by Assoc. Prof. Suphaphat Kwonpongsagoon, PhD, a leading expert from the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University.

In her presentation, Assoc. Prof. Kwonpongsagoon emphasised how vital data-driven innovations are in managing environmental health issues holistically and sustainably, especially in the Southeast Asian region, through the HRA approach. She explained how HRA can be the backbone in identifying, evaluating, and managing health risks stemming from environmental factors, providing a comprehensive picture for effective policies and interventions.

Prof. Dr. Anwar Daud, M.Kes, as Chair of the UNHAS Environmental Health Postgraduate Study Program, emphasized the relevance of this event in encouraging the improvement of curriculum and research quality in the field of environmental health. “We see a lot of potential for research collaboration, especially in the development of environmental quality monitoring technology and sustainable management systems, as well as the analysis of potential hazards and various chemicals and microbes that can be studied in both countries,” he said. Prof. Anwar, who is also a doctoral alumnus of Mahidol University, added, “Mahidol University has a long experience that can be an inspiration for the development of our programme in the future.”

In line with Prof. Anwar, Prof. Dr. Sukri Palutturi, PhD, Dean of FKM UNHAS, stated that this activity was a valuable forum for knowledge exchange between the two institutions. The hope is that this visit can expand international networks and open doors to wider academic collaboration, ranging from student and lecturer exchanges, joint research, to the development of collaborative scientific publications.

Mahidol University, as a leading university in Asia, is known for their strong commitment to the development of public health science based on innovation and sustainability. This benchmarking activity is part of UNHAS’ ongoing efforts to support the internationalisation programme and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets, particularly in the field of environmental health. This step marks UNHAS’ commitment to continue to innovate and contribute in creating a healthier and more sustainable environment in the future.

Hopefully, activities like this pioneered by Prof. Dr. Anwar Daud, SKM, M.Kes, EHS and Prof. Anwar Mallongi, SKM, M.Sc, PhD will expand and spread throughout the world as a manifestation of a World Class University.

FACULTY OF FORESTRY UNHAS HOLDS BCTB 2025 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: HIGHLIGHTING MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES IN BIODIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Faculty of Forestry, Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) reaffirmed their institutional commitment to advancing scientific inquiry and collaboration in tropical biodiversity through organizing the Biennial Conference on Tropical Biodiversity (BCTB) 2025. The conference was held on 23 July 2025 in a hybrid format, combining virtual sessions via Zoom and in-person gatherings at the Research and Community Engagement Center (LPPM), UNHAS Tamalanrea Campus, Makassar, Indonesia.

Carrying the theme “Mainstreaming Multidisciplinary Approaches to Biodiversity Studies for Sustainable Development,” BCTB 2025 served as an academic forum for scientific exchange, policy dialogue, and international collaboration. The conference brought together researchers, academics, practitioners, and policymakers from diverse disciplines and institutions, both national and international, to explore current challenges and opportunities in biodiversity conservation.

In his official report, Fatwa Faturachmat, S.Hut., M.Hut., Chair of the BCTB 2025 Organizing Committee, conveyed his appreciation to all collaborating partners and sponsors who contributed to the event, particularly Kalla Group as the main sponsor. He also emphasized that this year's conference represented a significant step in strengthening international cooperation, highlighting the active involvement of four institutional partners: Tomsk Polytechnic University (Russia), Mindanao State University – Maguindanao (Philippines), Universiti Teknologi MARA (Malaysia), and Universitas Sumatera Utara (Indonesia).

This biennial academic event aimed to catalyze the integration of scientific approaches including ecology, resource management, biotechnology, social sciences, and public policy into formulating strategies to address biodiversity-related challenges and support tropical biodiversity conservation more comprehensively, in alignment with the goals of sustainable development.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Dr. Ir. Jamaluddin Jompa, M.Sc., Rector of UNHAS, emphasized that tropical biodiversity is a global asset that must be protected and preserved through multidisciplinary approaches to address pressing global environmental issues. He also highlighted the importance of scientific innovation and institutional partnerships in addressing climate-related and anthropogenic pressures on biodiversity.

One of the main agendas of the conference was a plenary session featuring six distinguished invited speakers from various countries and academic backgrounds. Dr. Veera Singham from Universiti Sains Malaysia presented insights on the implications of climate change for plant pests and diseases. Dr. Antonio Di Martino from Tomsk Polytechnic University, Russia, discussed the transformation of industrial waste into environmentally friendly materials. Prof. Dr. Mohd Hafiz Hanafiah from Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia, addressed the sustainable use of forest ecosystems for ecotourism. Andang Suryana Soma, Ph.D., from UNHAS, Indonesia, explored ecological disaster management practices in South Sulawesi. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Basyuni from Universitas Sumatera Utara, Indonesia, presented research on the bioprospecting potential of mangrove ecosystems in Indonesia. The session concluded with Prof. Dr. Christoph Klein from Georg-August-University Göttingen, Germany, who emphasized the importance of systematic monitoring of forest resources.

The one-day conference also included parallel scientific sessions, thematic panel discussions, and the launch of selected academic publications. BCTB 2025 attracted participation from representatives of seven countries, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Japan, Russia, Germany, and Belgium, reflecting a shared global commitment to tropical biodiversity research and sustainability.

As articulated in the closing session, BCTB 2025 is envisioned as a strategic foundation for the development of actionable, science-based recommendations that can inform biodiversity policy at national and international levels. Moreover, it is expected to reinforce international research networks and foster long-term collaboration in support of biodiversity-based sustainable development.

FIKP UNHAS AND VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON LAUNCH COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ON CORAL REEF REGIME SHIFTS IN WAKATOBI

The Faculty of Marine Science and Fisheries (FIKP) at Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) has officially commenced a collaborative research project with Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, focusing on the ecological consequences of slow regime shifts in coral reef ecosystems on 19 July 2025. The study is led by PhD candidate Emma Jane Novak under the supervision of Prof. James Bell, in close partnership with Dr. Jamaluddin Fitrah Alam of FIKP UNHAS, who serves as the Indonesian counterpart. Field activities are based on Hoga Island, Wakatobi, and are scheduled to run from 19 July to 2 August 2025.

The research investigates how gradual changes in reef composition—particularly the shift from coral to sponge-dominated ecosystems—affect reef function, fish communities, and trophic structures within the Wakatobi Marine National Park. Unlike the rapid collapses observed in other parts of the world, the reefs in Wakatobi have experienced a slower and more subtle transition over the past two decades. Understanding this "slow shift" is critical for developing predictive ecosystem models and informing future conservation strategies in marine protected areas.

Initial fieldwork began on 20 July 2025 with equipment testing and preliminary deployment of underwater cameras, photogrammetric surveys, and ecological assessments around Hoga Island. These surveys aim to quantify sponge abundance, reef complexity, and fish assemblages in both coral- and sponge-dominated environments. Particular attention is given to barrel sponges, which have reportedly increased in dominance on Wakatobi's sediment-influenced reefs. A master's student from the Marine Science program at UNHAS also took part in the field activities, contributing technical support and data collection.

On 21 July 2025, the research team visited the Kaledupa office of the Wakatobi National Park Authority. During the visit, Ms. Novak and Dr. Jamaluddin delivered a formal presentation outlining the research objectives, methods, and ethical protocols. The meeting also served as an official request for SIMAKSI (research permit) approval, ensuring the research aligns with the park's conservation policies. Following constructive dialogue, the park authority granted the permit, enabling full-scale research activities to begin.

The following day, on 22 July, two staff members from the Wakatobi National Park Authority joined the research team in the field to observe and assist with equipment testing, including the deployment of Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) systems. Their presence ensured coordination between research activities and park management while fostering shared learning on monitoring tools for marine biodiversity.

With SIMAKSI approved and field coordination strengthened, data collection continued intensively through to 2 August 2025. Core research methods included BRUV deployments across shallow and deep reef zones, roving snorkel surveys for ray assessments, seagrass habitat mapping, and high-resolution photogrammetric surveys. These integrated methods provide a comprehensive understanding of predator presence, benthic community shifts, and structural habitat changes—laying the foundation for long-term ecosystem modeling.

Wakatobi has seen a notable decline in top predators such as sharks, although rays remain relatively common. By assessing predator populations along depth gradients, the study seeks to evaluate whether deeper reef areas serve as refuges that mitigate species loss in shallower, more disturbed zones. This is a key component of testing the deep reef refugia hypothesis (DRRH) in the Wakatobi context.

Equally important is the shift in benthic composition. As coral cover declines, sponges have emerged as dominant reef builders. This transformation could significantly affect nutrient cycling, fish behavior, and overall reef resilience. The research explores how these changes impact ecological roles, from the availability of refuge space for juvenile fish to broader trophic interactions and structural complexity.

The data collected will contribute to the development of high-resolution 3D reef models, which will support future comparative studies and long-term monitoring. These models, along with behavioral and biodiversity data, are expected to form the basis of several scientific publications and provide actionable insights for local and regional reef management.

This collaboration underscores UNHAS's growing role in global marine science and its commitment to fostering international academic partnerships. The research in Wakatobi serves as a compelling example of how joint efforts between institutions can generate critical knowledge to address today's complex environmental challenges.

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