

## Project Update: April 2017

### Activity 1.3 Field Species Survey

Aceh Islands field survey carried out to verify presence of sidat eels, dugong, turtles and seahorses.

Sidat survey comprised of two methods at four locations, river eel fishing for adults and larval eel capture in estuaries. Larval eels were found in two estuaries; adult eels were found in all four locations.

Sea grass identification to find *Halophilla ovalis* and *Syngorodium* sp and signs of dugong feeding trails was carried out. Coverage of these species was larger around Nasi but due to change in sea visibility, feeding trails were not found and survey for seahorses was stopped.

Leatherback turtles were nesting on two of Breuh beaches but heavy rain on Nasi stopped the night surveys. Critically endangered hawksbill turtles were seen in the waters of both islands.

As expected, the sudden changes in sea and weather conditions hindered field surveys. The normal wind seasons are no longer predictable. Island survey for dugong and seahorses will continue when the east wind stops.



Endangered sidat eels found on Nasi Island.



Critically endangered hawksbill found in waters near Pulau Nasi Island.