

## **Project Update: February 2017**

### Coral Reef Health Checks!

In December 2016, TDE conducted its first systematic surveys of the coral reefs used for eco-tourism in Lombok. These reefs have never been surveyed before, but we wanted to understand their health, so we could understand if there's a future for eco-tourism, and also what we can do to help protect the reefs.

Ten students from Singapore were trained, and 3 days were spent surveying six sites with the shark fishermen turned boat operators. The surveys revealed that plastic pollution, dynamite fishing, and bleaching were the main threats to the reefs. Despite this, many areas were stunning, with healthy and vibrant marine life. TDE will use these results as a guide, and educate the fishermen on how to play a part in protecting the reefs.

Upon return, the students made an anti shark fin soup video for Chinese New Year, which was shared on social media and sparked lively debate.

