

July 2026 — Project Update

Tompatika Marine, Indonesia

We so appreciate your having chosen to honour Heather Herring's life through a gift in her memory.

Through Heather's memorial gifts, we have been able to support conservation efforts in Indonesia that reflect Heather's deep love of nature and the places that meant so much to her. One of these projects, strengthens community-based marine protection in Sulawesi, Indonesia. It is a new project to us and was initiated because it was a place that Heather cared deeply about following her experiences visiting the region. We are honoured to support this in her memory and to see the meaningful impact these efforts are having for coastal and marine ecosystems around Balantak—critical habitats for coral reefs, sea turtles, and reef fish.

In the first six-months of 2026 our field partner, Tompotika Foundation, improved access to proper waste disposal services for local communities, reducing open dumping and marine disposal. This represents the first municipal waste collection system and infrastructure in an area where no formal waste disposal facilities previously existed.

Combined with an ongoing outreach this program has reduced plastic waste entering the ocean and while promoting responsible waste management practices.

The result is cleaner village environments and reduced plastic pollution in surrounding coastal and marine ecosystems. The two clear benefits are biological (reduced marine pollution) and local livelihoods (improved cleanliness and beneficial for ecotourism).

Thank you again for helping to carry forward Heather's love of the natural world. We are grateful to everyone who chose to celebrate her life in such a meaningful way and to create a lasting impact in her memory.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions, suggestions, or just want to chat about this project.

Andre Boraks, PhD
Director of Programs & Data
andre@biomeconservation.org

