



GIVING BACK ON NUSA PENIDA

TEXT BY ROSA HALL

Friends of the National Parks Foundation (FNPF) is an Indonesian conservation not-for-profit organization working to protect wildlife and its habitat, at the same time as supporting local communities. Their projects have been recognized by global organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme and the Whitley Fund for Nature.

Each year dozens of volunteers, from Indonesia and across the world, visit the Nusa Penida sanctuary and get involved in the foundation's reforestation and community development programs. Volunteers work in our nursery, our organic garden, plant trees, teach English, art and sustainable farming. Some stay a few days, while others stay for weeks and sometimes even months.

Nusa Penida, a tiny island with a hilly interior, surrounded by coral reefs, has so far barely been touched by tourism. It is home to around 45,000 people, though far fewer live permanently on the island.

Everywhere you look on Nusa Penida, like all of Bali, women stroll along with baskets and boxes – full of offerings to the Gods of Balinese Hinduism – balanced steadily on their heads. And every now and then you hear the faint tweets and chirps from some of the more than 100 Bali starlings – one of world's most endangered birds – that live freely on the island.

This unique sanctuary takes in the neighbouring islands of Nusa Lembongan and Nusa Ceningan, and the 41 villages across all three islands have introduced traditional regulations agreeing to protect the birds. Indonesia has the world's second-highest number of endangered birds. **NOW!**

THE BALI WATERMAN'S "BLUES FOR THE BLUE"

The inaugural Waterman's Awards and Benefit Night saw Made Monoh and Oka Sulaksana honored with Waterman's Life and Inspiration Award. The Bali Waterman's "Blues for the Blue" Benefit Night was held on August 31 at the Tapeo Gastro Bar in Kuta. This event was a night to unite and honor inspirational individuals who play an important role in protecting Bali's oceans, reefs, beaches, rivers, waterways, ecosystems and marine wildlife as well as being good mentors for children.

Other award winners included Paul Watson (ocean life warrior and defender) winner of the International Role Model and Champion of the Seas Award, Minni Vangsgaard (young local dive master) as Water Sports Mentor, Emma Larssen & Made Suparka (children of the seas development) for the General Mentors Award, Ni Made Kushandari (marine environment defender) for the Community Building Award, Gus Dark (marine awareness through environmental cartoons) for the Superstar Supporter Award, and Pariama Hutasoit (pioneer of Marine Protected Area in Southern Bali) won the Cleaner Seas and Rivers Award. Ketut Menda (Bali surfing pioneer) was announced as Waterman of the Year and Ni Ketut Adi Arini (pioneering woman surf life saver) as Water Lady of the Year.

The health and beauty of Bali's waterways is dependent on the dedication and strength of these selfless people who wish to make a positive difference to our planet's precious blue bits.

NOW!

