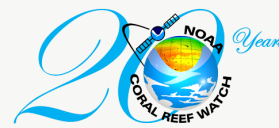




## Indonesia - Alor



Regional summary of 19 dive sites. Figures are averages across the sites that report them (n = sites with a value); each site's own page has its individual values.

0

5

**Coral Health Index: 4.55/5**

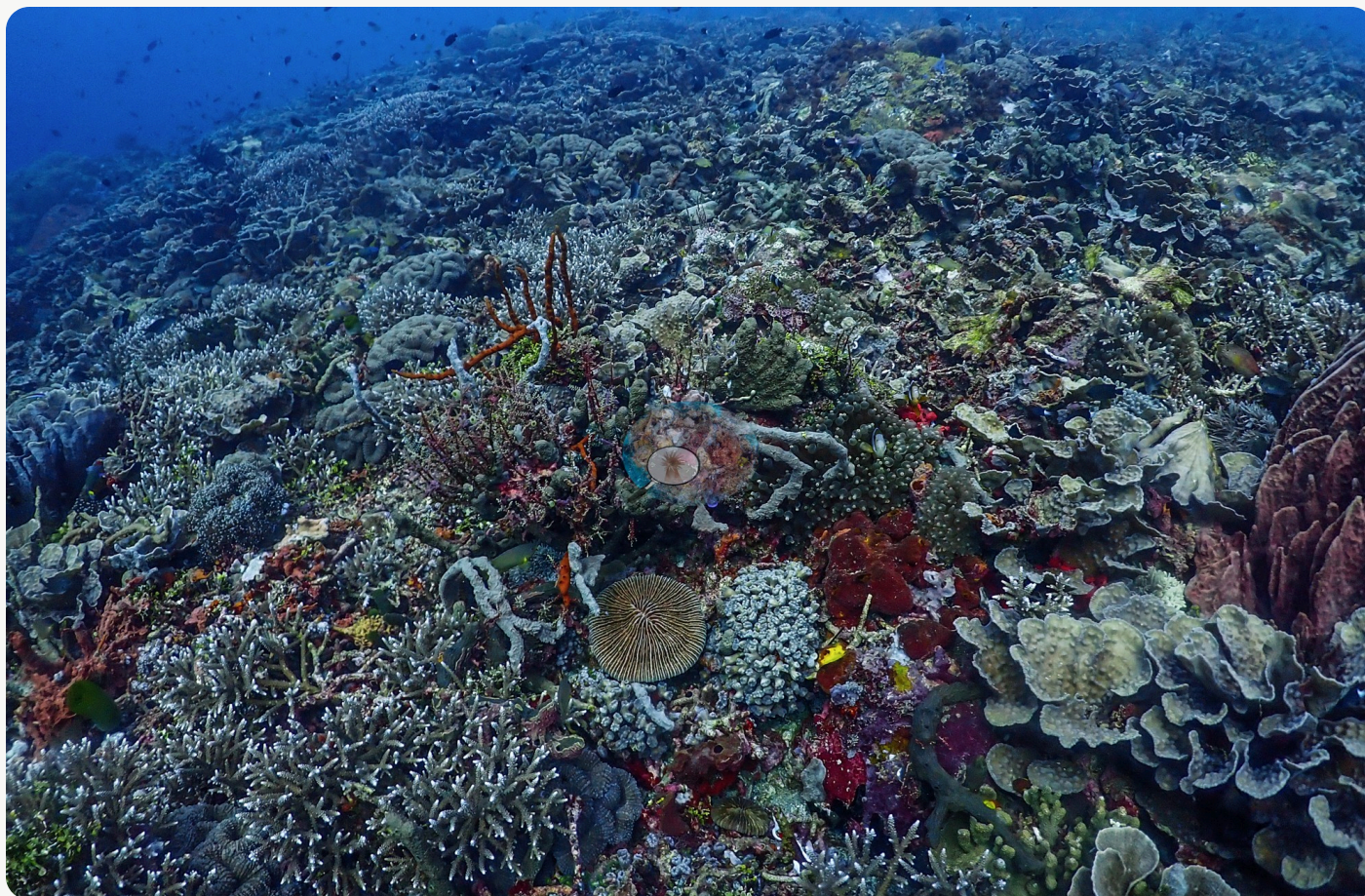


Photo: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — Alor - Limarahing (Black Sands)

COUNTRY

**Indonesia**

SITES

**19**

each linked below

HARD CORAL COVER  
(REGIONAL MEAN)

**20% ± 11%** (std. dev.)

n = 15 of 19 sites. range 5.8–41%

WATER TEMP. DURING  
SURVEYS (REGIONAL MEAN)

CORAL HEALTH INDEX  
(REGIONAL MEAN)

MOST RECENT WATER  
TEMPERATURE RECORD

25.2°C

n = 18 of 19 sites; surveyed Jul 2026–Aug 2026

4.55 / 5

n = 5 of 19 sites; 2.5 = average (above average)

27.0°C

16 Sep 2026 · [East Nusa Tenggara](#)

MOST RECENT HEAT STRESS RECORD



0.0°C-weeks

16 Sep 2026 · below alert level

MEAN ANNUAL MAX DEGREE HEATING WEEKS (DHW), LAST 5 YEARS

6.3°C-weeks

2021–2025 · East Nusa Tenggara

HIGHEST ANNUAL HEAT STRESS

16.7°C-weeks



in 2016 · East Nusa Tenggara

SEVERE HEAT-STRESS YEARS

6

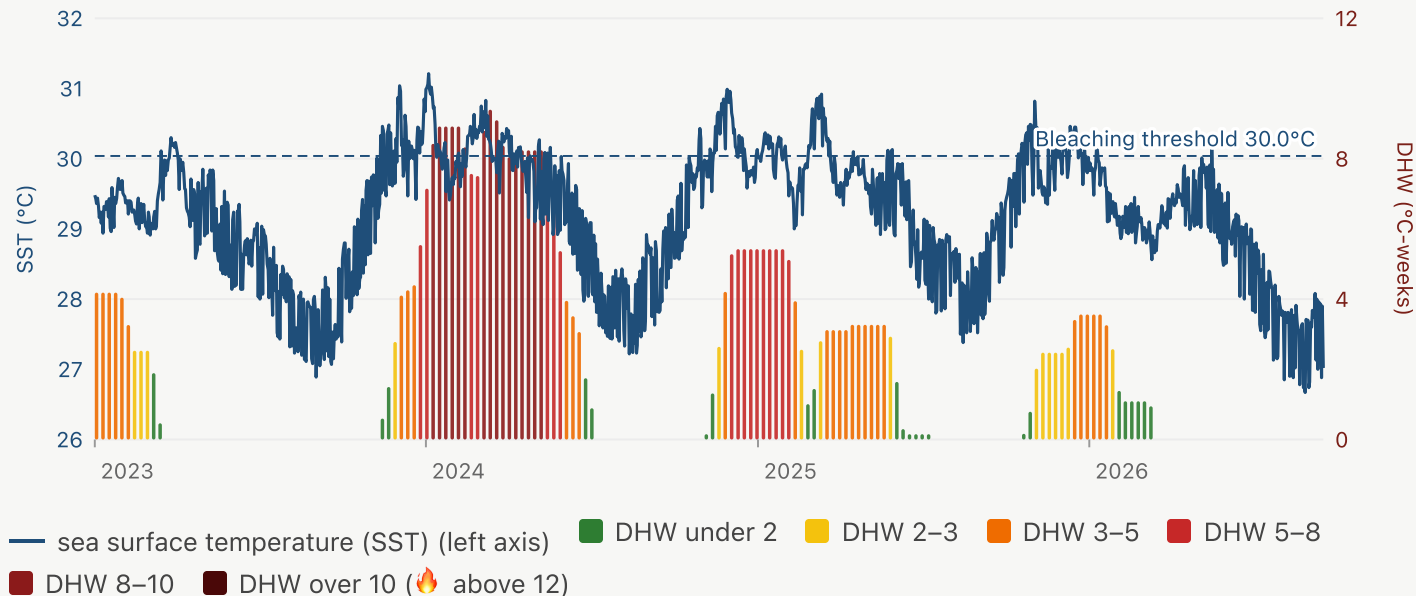
1985–2025 · 4 in the last 10 years

Heat-stress figures: [NOAA Coral Reef Watch](#) — [East Nusa Tenggara](#) 5-km virtual station. Each pill links its source record and carries the values behind it.

#### REGIONAL SUMMARY

Alor's walls, sloping reefs, and volcanic-sand muck sites, dived in 2026, are dominated more by [sponges](#), [sea fans](#), and [crinoids](#) than by reef-building corals, with the richest staghorn canopies in the shallows. Cold upwelling, an exceptional-current corner, seahorses, and sea kraits add variety, and no widespread [bleaching](#) was seen.

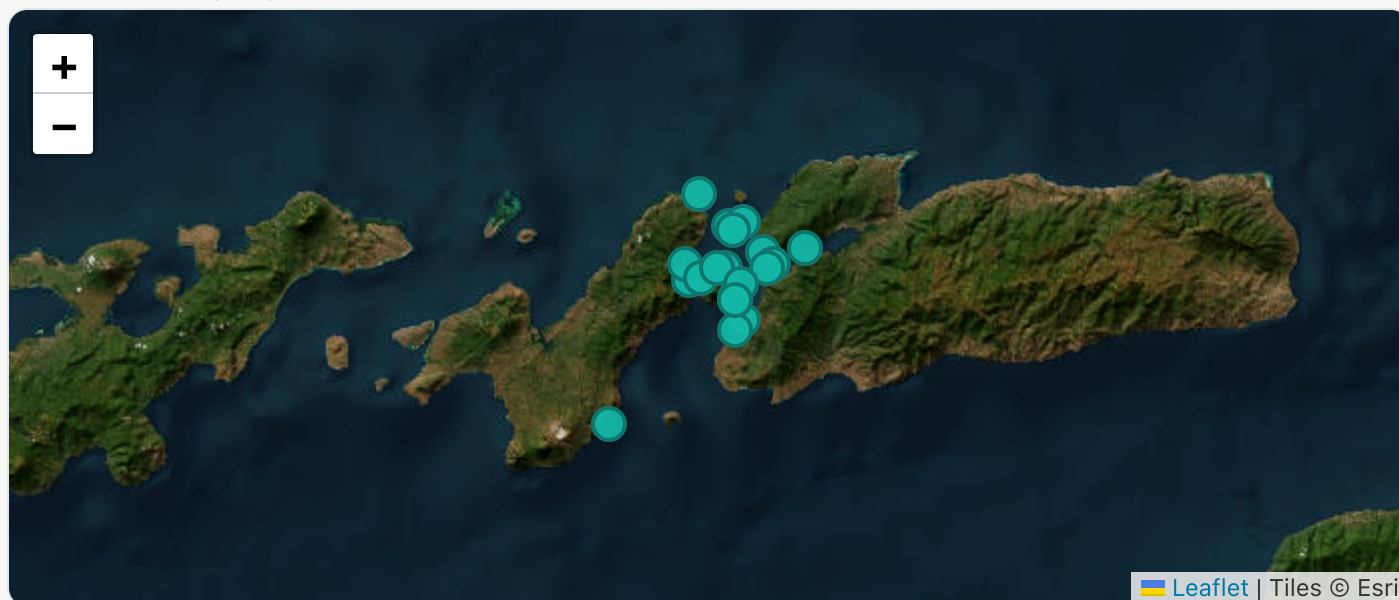
## Heat stress



Daily SST (line) and weekly maximum Degree Heating Weeks (bars), Jan 2023–Sep 2026, [NOAA Coral Reef Watch](#) 5-km East Nusa Tenggara virtual station. Dashed line: bleaching threshold (maximum monthly mean 29.0°C + 1°C).

DHW  $\geq 4$ : bleaching likely;  $\geq 8$ : severe bleaching and mortality likely. A bar is drawn only where DHW exceeds zero, so a stretch with no bar is accumulated heat stress of zero, not missing data — the SST line runs the full period.

Long-term record: 6 years since 1985 reached 8 or more °C-weeks at [NOAA's East Nusa Tenggara station](#). [Download the annual DHW data \(CSV\)](#).



19 sites in this region — click a marker to open that site.

Read this summary in:

English

Bahasa Indonesia

## Regional setting

[Spalding et al. \(2001\)](#) place the Alor group among the Nusa Tenggara Islands, part of their Wallacea sub-region, where mountainous, volcanically active islands with narrow shelves are separated by deep water. Detailed accounts of Nusa Tenggara reefs were scarce, but fringing reefs are widespread, and the authors summarize studies from Lembata Island, in the middle of the chain, showing how strongly reefs change with exposure. On Lembata's northwest coast, a well-developed fringing reef carries a seagrass-rich reef flat 200–400 m wide, broader again on the west coast. The south coast, open to Indian Ocean swell and possibly to cool upwelling, has a narrow reef flat, marked spur-and-groove structure, and several deep-water species that may favor cooler conditions. South of the chain, Timor Sea currents flow west year-round, and the authors report relatively little 1998 bleaching over much of the sub-region. Nationally, they estimate about 51,020 km<sup>2</sup> of reef in Indonesia, 18% of the world total, with 443 coral species recorded and 581–602 estimated for the wider biogeographic region. [Souter et al. \(2021\)](#) place the Lesser Sunda ecoregion, together with Southern Java, in an East Asian Seas subregion holding 4,279 km<sup>2</sup> of reef.

[Souter et al. \(2021\)](#) could say little with confidence about that subregion: coral cover estimates swing widely, algal cover shows a progressive decline, and no site there had been surveyed over

more than 15 years. They warn that archipelagic nations, with long coastlines relative to their land area, may feel climate impacts across an unusually wide area, and they attribute region-wide coral losses after 2010 and 2016 to mass bleaching. [Wilkinson \(2006\)](#) reported that deforestation for timber and oil palm was clearly increasing sediment loads on Indonesian coasts, while noting that, as of 2004, Indonesian reefs were among the few in Southeast Asia showing signs of recovery.

## Overview

The 19 Alor pins come from a week of diving in late July and early August 2026, from the Kalabahi area to Ternate Island and the Pantar Strait. Walls and drop-offs (Bama Wall, Motonglang, The Arch, Umapura, Sulambali Wall, Babylon, Monaseli) are covered more by [encrusting sponges](#), [coralline algae](#), barrel sponges, [sea fans](#), black coral, and crinoids than by reef-building corals, with plating colonies compatible with [Montipora](#), [Pachyseris](#), and [Turbinaria](#) on the ledges. Sloping reefs (Goat Fence, Apuri Bay, Clown Valley, Harilolong, Pasir Merah, Limarahing) grade between rubble or volcanic sand and dense coral gardens. Muck and jetty sites (Masjid Ampera, Ampera, Lobang, Bakalang Jetty, Beang Abang) sit on dark volcanic sand and are defined by macro life, and Goa Wolang is a cave.

The richest coral is usually in the shallower sections: near-continuous staghorn [Acropora](#) canopies on Goat Fence's mid slope, across the final third of Harilolong, at Clown Valley and The Arch, and on the second Babylon dive, the most extensive branching-coral habitat photographed on the trip. Other standouts are meter-scale plate beds at Sulambali Wall, a single massive [Porites](#) head at least 2-3 m across at Apuri Bay, and a [brain coral](#) more than a meter across at The Arch. Hard coral cover (Claude CV) across 15 sites ranged from 5.8% at Motonglang (Cathedral) to 41.0% at Clown Valley. At Limarahing a single figure averages a dense coral garden with open black sand. Apuri Bay logged 17-24°C, consistent with strong upwelling, and Monaseli is an exceptional-current corner.

No site showed widespread bleaching. Localized signs include one large, almost entirely white massive colony and older dead-[Acropora](#) rubble at Sulambali Wall, and coralline-cemented rubble carrying new [Acropora](#) recruits at Monaseli. Monofilament line was photographed at Umapura and Sulambali Wall, a metal cage frame at Goa Wolang, and bamboo-and-mesh cages of unconfirmed purpose at Apuri Bay. Anthias clouds are near-universal; banded sea kraits crossed the reef at Bama Wall and Harilolong, a very large marbled ray was logged at Motonglang, and the muck dives produced three seahorses at Beang Abang and a bobtail squid at Ampera.

## Highlights

- Near-continuous staghorn Acropora canopies at Goat Fence, Harilolong, Clown Valley, The Arch, and on the second Babylon dive



photo: Alor - Clown Valley

- Meter-scale plating-coral beds at Sulambali Wall, one carpeted in red anthias

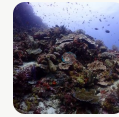


photo: Alor -

Sulambali Wall

- A single massive Porites head at least 2-3 m across at Apuri Bay, where 17-24°C water was logged



photo: Alor - Apuri Bay

- Hard coral cover (Claude CV) from 5.8% (Motonglang) to 41.0% (Clown Valley) across 15 sites; the night dives and the Beang Abang muck dive carry no cover figure



photo: Alor - Clown Valley

- Muck and jetty sites with sponge-sheathed pilings, seahorses, frogfish, and a bobtail squid (Beang Abang, Bakalang Jetty, Ampera)

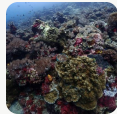


photo: Alor - Bakalang Jetty

- Banded sea kraits photographed at Bama Wall and Harilolong



photo: Alor - Harilolong (School's Out)

## Notable observations

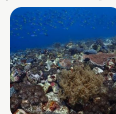
- Alor - Goat Fence: One strongly pale colony, a red-rimmed fleshy coral with a white interior; single-colony observation, not site-wide, and pale centers can be normal pigmentation. Localized old mortality, rubble, and algal colonization on the deeper slope



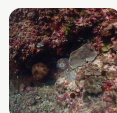
- Alor - Bakalang Jetty: One mounding branching colony with pale branch tips that could be natural pigmentation, algae, or early paling/bleaching; not called with confidence either way



- Alor - Apuri Bay: Bamboo-and-mesh cage structures and a guideline on the sand, purpose not established (fish traps vs. coral nursery/restoration frame); small pale patches on the giant Porites read as old partial-mortality scars rather than active bleaching



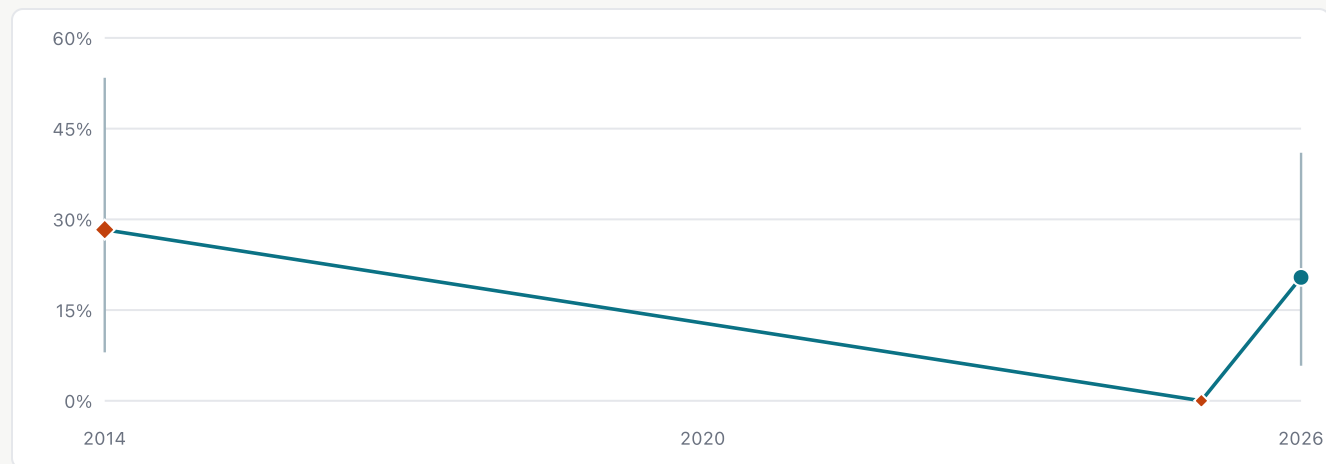
- Alor - Goa Wolang (Walang Cave): Metal cage/rebar frame with attached lines on the rubble pavement; a thin line or mooring rope crosses three frames



- [Alor - Umapura](#): Thin white monofilament line draped on the reef in several frames; a few individually pale colonies, no widespread bleaching 
- [Alor - Sulambali Wall](#): One large massive colony almost entirely white (bleached or recently dead) and several smaller colonies with white patches, individual not site-wide; extensive older dead-Acropora rubble aprons; monofilament line or thin rope on the wall in at least four frames 
- [Alor - Clown Valley](#): One unusually saturated green plating colony, possibly stressed or naturally pigmented; flagged for a second look 
- [Alor - Monaseli \(Munaseli\)](#): Extensive coralline-crusted rubble fields of broken branch fragments, not recent, cause undetermined; partial mortality on a plate about 1.5 m across. No bleaching, disease, crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS), or fishing gear recorded 

## Coral cover over time (pooled)

One point per year: the mean of every hard coral cover value available for this region that year — Anderson's own dives and every independent survey station within 5 km of them. The vertical bar is the full range behind that mean. Different programs use different methods at different stations, so this is a regional summary, not a single comparable series. Years resting on fewer than three values are drawn as smaller points (2025). Marker shape: ● his own dives, ◆ other organizations' surveys.



### ► Sites in this region (19)

## Nearby external survey stations

4 independent survey records within 5 km of a site in this region (deduplicated across sites).

- [WCS Indonesia](#) via [MERMAID](#) — 1001 (2025): 0.0% hard coral cover, 0.52 km from Alor - Umapura
- [WWF-US](#) / [WWF-Indonesia](#) — 5002 (2014): 8.0% hard coral cover, 0.63 km from Alor - Apuri Bay

- [WWF-US](#) / [WWF-Indonesia](#) — 5003 (2014): 24% hard coral cover, 0.99 km from Alor - Pasir Merah (Red Sand)
- [WWF-US](#) / [WWF-Indonesia](#) — 5004 (2014): 53% hard coral cover, 0.24 km from Alor - Babylon

All images from [Coral Reef Diagnostics](#). Data are from [Coral Reef Diagnostics](#).



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## References

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- Souter D, et al. (eds) (2021) *Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020*. International Coral Reef Initiative / [Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network](#). [\[PDF\]](#)
- Spalding MD, et al. (2001) *World Atlas of Coral Reefs*. University of California Press, Berkeley. [\[PDF\]](#)
- Wilkinson C (2006) Status of coral reefs of the world: summary of threats and remedial action. In: Côté IM, Reynolds JD (eds) *Coral Reef Conservation*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. [\[PDF\]](#)