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The resilience of tropical intertidal seagrass meadows, grazed by dugongs, and the impact of anthropogenic stressors

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Curriculum vitae

Anugrah Aditya Budiarsa was born on a remote island at the Indonesian near the Malaysian border in 1983. He was raised in the jungle interior of the upper Mahakam River. He enjoyed his kindergarten and early high school in Melak Hulu Village (currently West Kutai district), then he followed his parents to move to the coastal area in Tanah Grogot on the South coast of East Kalimantan.

His love for the environment and coastal and inland waters (perhaps from his hobby of fishing and traveling) led him to explore the field of aquatic resource management. He pursued his undergraduate education (2000) in the Aquatic Resources Management study program at the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science, Mulawarman University (East Kalimantan). As his interest in natural resource conservation was growing, he continued (2010) his Master or science in the Coastal Resource Management study program at Diponegoro University (Central Java). In this Master program, he deepened his knowledge of the use of GIS for spatial zoning of mangrove ecosystems in conservation areas (a case study of Kutai National Park).

His first research project, where he acted as a research assistant, on the effect of sedimentation on coral reef ecosystems in the Derawan archipelago in 2006, revealed many interesting facts about the interaction between humans and coastal -and marine ecosystems. This interest continued to be developed in his first job as an Expert Assistant at the Department of Marine Science, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, Mulawarman University. Since 2006 until now Anugrah Aditya has been actively involved in the planning of Marine protected areas in the East Kalimantan Province, he became a national expert member of the Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries Management (EAFM) Evaluation panel, he also became an expert in managing marine protected areas, a member of the Indonesian Oceanography Association (ISOI), a scientific diver and a scientific drone pilot at the Indonesian Drone Pilot Association (APDI).

He started his PhD study at the Institute of Environmental Sciences (CML) at Leiden University in 2017. Under the guidance of Prof Peter van Bodegom and Prof Hans De Iongh, he studied the relationship between humans, seagrasses, and the Dugong, which is considered the largest marine mega herbivore. From his research, he realized that many important things often go unnoticed by environmental policymakers. He enjoyed being a part of CML, since he received a lot of support for his research (reading materials, access to scientific papers, partners, and technology/software support). The frictions of ecology versus economics trigger his aspirations for his future career to write and publish more about the conditions of ecology and aquatic biological resources, modelling projections of utilization and environmental change.