

SPONSOR A LOCAL DIVE GUIDE

2017 Trainees



Back: Arno (Instructor), Marten, Herman, Nikko, Manu, Frenky
Front: Gerald, Tommi, Orgenis, Yermi

One of the main aims of our community work is to help local people to secure sustainable livelihoods, by providing work skills training and where possible, employment. At Papua Explorers Resort, it is preferred to train and employ local staff before recruiting from elsewhere outside of the region.

Each year we aim to provide training new PADI Open Water Divers, who will then spend the next 6-12 months as junior guides and support crew at the Dive Centre. During this time they will acquire all the skills necessary to progress towards being one of our full time dive guides. We also aim to train up to 5 current guides to become PADI Rescue Divers, who then go on to become our senior dive guides.

Our hands on, practical training enables us to ensure the resort guides are trained with the highest diving skills and safety standards. Our training also enables local people to obtain a

respectable set of workplace skills, and a secure working position at the resort, which means earning a decent income to support their families, whilst staying close to their home village. This is in stark contrast to those that move away from their families and homes in order to obtain paid work to support their families.

By training locals, we ensure not only high standard training, but we gain the benefit of local knowledge. Local dive guides have a deep understanding of the seas and reefs in the area.

Having spent most of their lives here, from a young age they are able to read currents, understand animal behaviour, and know location of regional reefs by sight - without the use of a GPS!. Selecting local community members to become dive guides, means our crew has a strong sense of ownership over the reefs, with a natural inclination to protect and conserve them.

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Whilst we are able to provide training for free, each trainee **needs a sponsor** to assist them to pay PADI registration fees, without which they cannot become certified. By sponsoring a dive guide you will enable a local community member to become a qualified and certified diver, trained to professional PADI standards, with the skills for employment in an environment they love, in a location close to home and family.

To sponsor a dive guide, please go to:
<https://donorbox.org/sponsor-a-dive-guide>