



Warisha Khan

Over the course of the last 2 months, I participated in the School for International Training Biodiversity and Conservation Program in Indonesia. The experience was truly transformative; alongside a dedicated cohort of 11 students, we engaged in significant conservation efforts throughout our journey. We visited a BioRock park, marveling at its brilliant structures beneath the sea, and had the privilege to assist the Coral Triangle Center with the innovative MARRS Star method. The program was in close collaboration with the Friends of the National Parks Foundation Indonesia which focused on community-based conservation. With their support, our cohort planted nearly 600 trees in a degraded zone deep within Borneo, helped locals chop down invasive Acacia trees at the Baluran National Park, and hiked up the Ijen Crater to see the blue fire. This hands-on experience reinforced the importance of sustainable practices and deepened my commitment to environmental conservation. I also had the opportunity to conduct research on the sustainability of Indonesia's Swiftlet nest industry, which underscored the relationship between conservation and policy development. I want to take a second to say thank you to all the people who were able to support me on pursuing this adventure, from writing recommendation letters, to helping me find scholarships, to even figuring out what clothes to pack. I couldn't have made these memories without your unwavering support.

