

**Let's Support
Blongko Marine Sanctuary**



Community- Based Marine Sanctuary *in Blongko*



The Description of Blongko

Blongko village is located on the western coast of the Minahasa Regency, on the Sulawesi Sea. The village is 115 km southwest of Manado and 32 km

from Amurang. The village stretches one km along the Trans Sulawesi Highway with 35 hectare width.

Most of the community work as fishers and farmers, and they are very dependent on the natural resources.



What is a Community-Based Marine Sanctuary?

A Community-Based Marine Sanctuary is a marine area that is established and maintained as a “no-take” zone, permanently. The community is involved in every step of the process from planning and implementation to evaluation.

The Benefits of a Community-Based Marine Sanctuary

It is hoped that the marine sanctuary will be implemented in each coastal village in North Sulawesi and throughout Indonesia. The function of a Community-Based Marine Sanctuary to the local community is to sustain and increase fish production in the marine sanctuary and increase the fish catch of

the fishermen around the marine sanctuary. The experience from other countries like the Philippines proves that if a marine sanctuary can be well maintained, within two years, the fish production in the area around the marine sanctuary will increase. The other function is to serve as a protected spawning and nursery ground for marine organisms. The larva will be brought by the current and settle around the waters, like Bunaken National Park, and then can maintain the biological diversity in North Sulawesi waters.

As a tourism impact, there was an increase in diving activities in Bunaken National Park. These activities decreased the quality of the coral reef in the area. A marine sanctuary is one of the solutions to the problem. The marine sanctuary can be an alternative diving site, which can decrease the pressure in Bunaken National Park.

Establishment of a Community-Based Marine Sanctuary in Blongko Village

The process of establishing and implementing a community-based marine sanctuary in Blongko village has been ongoing for two years. The steps in the planning and implementation process are described below.

Community Socialization

The process started with the selection of Blongko as a field site, followed by the formal assignment of a full time extension officer to the site in 1997.

The idea of making six hectares of the coast containing a fringing coral reef and mangrove forest into a marine sanctuary came about after a representative of Blongko village visited the marine sanctuary at Apo Island in the Philippines (June 1997) and was followed by a reciprocal visit by the Apo Island Barangay Captain and a member of the women's cooperative to observe Blongko and exchange ideas (November 1997).

Cross Visit



Training in coral reef monitoring.

Community Consultation and Village Ordinance Formulation

In obtaining input, these activities are conducted at all levels, from village level to provincial level and in consultation with the provincial law office.

Public Education about coral reefs and mangroves together with environmental law for adults and children.



Village Ordinance Approval

On 26 August 1998 in the Blongko village office SK Desa Nomor: 03/2004A/KD-DB/VIII/98 was approved and the Community-based Marine Sanctuary became official.

Implementation

Building of Information Center; placement of boundary markers; information signs; formation of management committee and official inauguration on 16 April 1999.

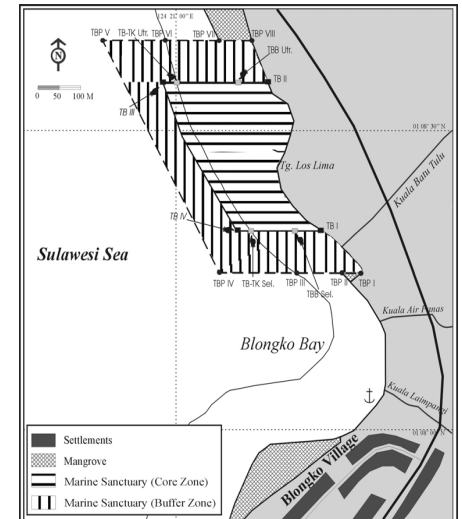
Monitoring and Evaluation

The management committee is responsible for monitoring and evaluation and is supported by the village government, regency offices and the community. Monitoring activities are conducted periodically using manta tow methods.



Size and Location of Marine Sanctuary

Total area of marine sanctuary covers approximately 12 hectares and 600 meters of coastline.



Marine Sanctuary Regulations

The activities prohibited in Core Zone:

1. Entry or passage of any sea transportation
2. Catching any species of fish
3. Cast netting, other netting activities, fish traps
4. Spear fishing, cyanide or blast fishing
5. Gleaning of all species of sea cucumber
6. Coral mining (dead or alive)
7. Collecting shells or other marine biota (dead or alive)
8. Dropping anchor
9. Walking on the reef
10. Rock, sand or gravel mining
11. Cutting mangroves

The activities prohibited in Buffer Zone:

1. Crossing of any boat using lights
2. Catching fish with modern types of fishing gear such as purse seine net, gill net, muro-ami and other types of fishing gear

Allowable activities :

Scientific research, snorkeling and diving by tourists must obtain permit from the management committee, and pay management fee which is determined by the management committee

Obligations

1. Monitor and maintain the marine sanctuary
2. Participate in planning and management of the marine sanctuary