

Talise Marine Sanctuary

A Model for Small Island Management

Talise village is one of two rural villages that make up the island of Talise located off the northern tip of *Kabupaten Minahasa*. The village is bordered by several other small islands (*Biaro, Gangga, Bangka*) and *Aerbanua* village located on the western side of the island. It covers an area of approximately 850 hectares of land. The population of the village is approximately 2000 people living in three separate settlement areas. Most residents are fishers, farmers or coconut plantation and pearl farm laborers.



Talise village has beautiful natural resources but they may be destroyed if conservation measures are not taken right away. The forest in Talise village

is being damaged and reduced due to uncontrolled exploitation. These marine resources are under threat from bomb fishing, blast fishing and cyanide fishing activities. Due to these problems, the Talise community started thinking about management actions that could save their environment and ensure future prosperity.

The Planning Process of Marine Sanctuary in Talise

The process of establishing and implementing a community-based marine sanctuary in Talise village started in 1997 with issue identification (potential and problems), and then the development of a coastal resources profile and management plan. The village management plan calls for the development of a Marine Sanctuary. The Talise Marine Sanctuary was inspired by the Blongko Marine Sanctuary established in 1998, which was based on the Apo Island Marine Sanctuary model developed in the Philippines. There are many steps in establishment process, such as Marine Sanctuary socialization in village meetings, cross visits to *Desa Blongko*, public education for adults and children, and training in coral reef monitoring. After all of these steps, there were many discussions in village meetings concerning prohibited and allowable activities in the Marine Sanctuary. Training was also conducted on coral reef mapping and monitoring. Numerous meetings and long discussions were held in the village to

reach an agreement regarding the location and ordinance contents. The Marine Sanctuary is formalized in a village ordinance (*Surat Keputusan Desa Talise*). In each discussion the community emphasized the importance to create a management committee to take care of the marine sanctuary and to be responsible in monitoring and maintaining the 22 hectare marine sanctuary.

Proyek Pesisir facilitated the process of establishing the marine sanctuary by conducting meetings, coral reef monitoring training, cross visits, public education, seminars on environmental law and provided the community with the legal consultant to help draft the village ordinance.

The Benefits of a Community-Based Marine Sanctuary

The purpose of a community-based marine sanctuary is twofold. First, it provides a biological function of biodiversity protection and serves as a spawning and nursery ground for marine organisms. The larvae are carried by currents and can settle on other reefs such as Bunaken National Park, and thereby help preserve the biological diversity of North Sulawesi. Secondly and particularly important to the local community, is the economic function of sustaining or increasing reef-related fish production and in some cases, acting as a marine tourism destination for divers and snorkelers. Experience from other countries such as

the Philippines have shown that if marine sanctuaries is well protected, in approximately two years, fish production in the area around the marine sanctuary can increase.

Bunaken National Park is experiencing increasing impacts from dive tourism that can decrease the quality of coral reefs in the park. Community-based marine sanctuaries can help solve this problem as they can provide alternative sites for diving activities, thereby decreasing pressure on Bunaken National Park and providing benefits to local communities.

With this community-base marine sanctuary, the community themselves are responsible for maintenance and monitoring. Therefore in the long term, it can be more cost effective. With a community-based marine sanctuary the responsibility of caring for coastal resources is not carried out by government but primarily by the community.

Community-based marine sanctuaries, such as the one in Talise are expected to become models for a decentralization program for coastal villages in North Sulawesi and Indonesia where the community can be trained to increase their own capacity to manage their local resources. It is hoped that marine sanctuaries will be implemented in coastal villages throughout North Sulawesi Province and Indonesia.

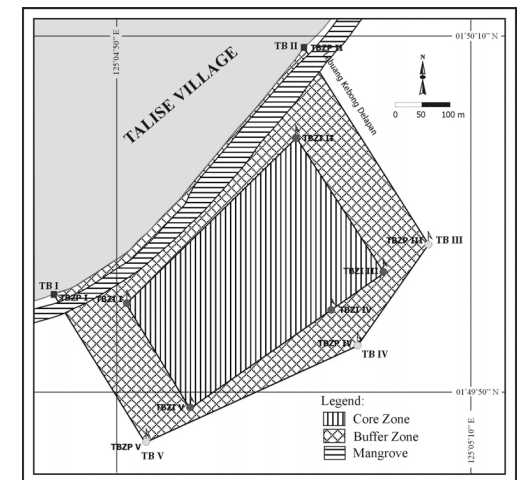
Proyek Pesisir is helping several communities and local government with technical assistance and training to develop community-based marine sanctuaries. The Blongko and Talise Marine Sanctuaries can become training grounds and cross visit locations for individuals, institutions and communities from other village or other regions who were interested to develop their own marine sanctuaries.

The long term goal of Proyek Pesisir is to promote a community-based marine sanctuary models established in Blongko and Talise as a part of a provincial coastal management extension program where they can be replicated and adopted throughout the province and nation.



Marine Sanctuary Regulations

The Talise Marine Sanctuary was formally established by village ordinance (No. 01/2028/SK-DT/VIII/2000) after approval by the community in a public meeting. The ordinance applies to people living inside and outside the village. Therefore, information is disseminated to neighboring villages by posting a small laminated poster containing the sanctuary location and regulations in each public boat traveling to and from the mainland and surrounding island villages.



The contents of the village ordinance is as follows:

- Existing laws and regulations which support the Marine Sanctuary and its purpose
- Marine Sanctuary boundaries
- Roles and responsibilities of the Management Committee as well as entire community
- Allowable and prohibited activities
- Mechanism for collection and charging of management and use fees
- Buffer zone adjacent to the sanctuary
- Map of the sanctuary location

In the core zone and buffer zone, individual or group, the following is prohibited:

- Enter or pass through the sanctuary area
- Take marine flora and fauna dead or alive
- Pass or stand by the sanctuary area as close as 250m from the outer line of the sanctuary, all light boats are prohibited as they may attract fish out of the sanctuary
- Anchoring
- Mooring the boat

- Cultivation of seaweed
- Culture or rearing of reef fish or any type
- Use of *bagan* (lift bag net) or fish traps
- Disposal of trash from the sea or land
- Pull logs from inside or outside the sanctuary
- Take coral, dead or alive
- Mine rocks, gravel or sand
- Bomb fishing or use of explosives
- Cyanide fishing or using poisonous material

Allowable activities in the core zone:

- Scientific research
- Tourism activities (but limited)
- Use footpath on the beach which is public right of way
- Pass through the buffer zone by boat in front of the mangroves only at high tide

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