

BLONGKO VILLAGE

GENERAL

Blongko is one of 27 villages within the subdistrict of Tenga and stretches one km along the Trans-Sulawesi Highway. The village is 115 km southwest of Manado and 32 km from Amurang. Blongko was chosen as a project site from 109 coastal communities.

COASTAL ENVIRONMENT

Blongko is surrounded by lush mountains dominated by coconut trees and fruit trees in between. The trans-Sulawesi highway bisects part of the village separating the settlement on the right and left sides of the road. The coastal area is situated on the West side of the village facing the Sulawesi Sea. The beaches along the coast are covered by mangroves which are well conserved by the communities and thereby protect the village from the heavy winds from the West during monsoon season in November through January. Some coral reefs in front of the village are heavily damaged due to past coral mining for road construction, building materials and also due to the destructive fishing activities such as bomb fishing, walking on the reefs etc. One part of its coral which was still in fairly good condition has been declared as a marine sanctuary by the community.

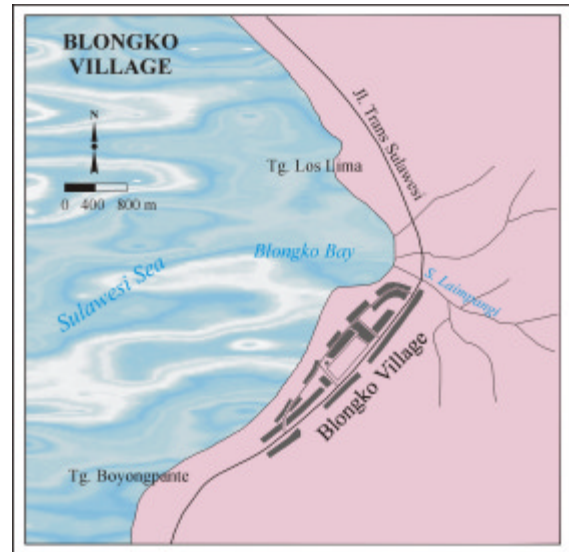


ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Blongko villagers are both fishermen and farmers. A few individuals work as craftsmen, traders and company employees. The community depends on fishery product and most villagers catch fish with the Pajeko (purse seine net with 10-15 fishermen in one group), Soma dampar (beach seine net), soma rarape (use of net on the coral where the net is staked into the coral and pieces of coral are

used for weights), soma paka-paka (use of net on the coral where the fishermen strike coral to frighten the fish into the nets) and panah or jubi (spearfishing), along with gleaning activities (harvesting, lobster, sea cucumber and abalone).

Villagers also harvest annual crops, such as coconut, and other crops, such as maize, mung beans, rice and households spices.



Characteristic :

Land	: 800 Ha
Sea	: 2.900 Ha
Population	: 1.251 Ind.
Religion	: Christian Catholic Moslem
Ethnic	: Minahasa Mongondow Sangir

PROYEK PESIR'S GOALS AT THE FIELD SITE

The project aims to improve quality of life by maintaining and improving coastal resources through developing decentralized models and strengthening institution in rural communities.

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Destructive fishing practices, such as bomb fishing, use of poison and using electric shock, are mostly carried out by outsiders. Even though in Blongko the destruction resulting out of these

activities has not yet become significant to the relatively healthy and productive mangrove and coral reef, but immediate action needs to be taken to ensure that these resources are not damaged as they have been in many other coastal areas in North Sulawesi.

Clean water is not adequate in the village. There are three wells with sufficient water nearby the village, one in each hamlet, but water is not yet piped into houses.

The village is relatively clean but more attention should be given to toilet/latrine facilities. Many villagers prefer to relieve themselves in the mangroves because toilet facilities are inadequate.

The fish catch is high, and during certain months, can be excessive, especially local tuna, cakalang. The problem is with the marketing system. The tibo-tibo (middlemen) are not well organized.

The village forest condition is relatively good but logging operators and unsustainable forest use especially around the water catchment area needs attention to maintain the availability of water.

Coastal erosion is evident along the beaches of Hamlet I. According to locals, the erosion started in 1953 and rapidly increased in 1972 when the coral were mined to build the Trans-Sulawesi highway.



Based on the issues identified by the community which were summarized in the Coastal Profile, the main issues in the Village of Blongko include: floods, clean water distribution, forest degradation, destruction of mangroves, beach erosion, marketing of fish production, education, village sanitation, capturing of endangered species, destructive fishing practices and agricultural development.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The main activity in the village thusfar has been to establish a community-based marine sanctuary in the village. The initial idea to establish a sanctuary started after the assignment of an extension officer full time in Blongko to help facilitate and coordinate the main community based activities. This marine sanctuary was an adoption of

the Apo Island Marine Sanctuary in the Philippines. After a cross visit by a Blongko villagers to Apo's sanctuary followed by the visit of the head of barangay (Barangay Captain) and a barangay member to Blongko, the community of Blongko decided to try the Apo's model in their village. In August 1998 the village consultation meeting approved the marine sanctuary and its ordinance. In April 1999, the Governor of North Sulawesi together with the USAID Mission Director inaugurated the sanctuary. The Marine Sanctuary establishment process was as follows:

1. Community Socialization
2. Public Education and Capacity Building
3. Community Consultation and Village ordinance Formulation
4. Village Ordinance Approval
5. Implementation

Besides the establishment of the marine sanctuary, the community has also appointed a management committee. A core group for drawing up management plan was also developed was able to write and develop the development and Coastal Resources Management Plan of Blongko. This plan was approved through a local ordinance on November 7, 1999 and was approved and adopted by the Regency Government and the Kabupaten Task Force on November 9, 1999.

PRIORITIES AND EXPECTATION IN YEAR 4

Focus activities in year 4 (2000-2001) will be to foster implementation of management plan and the marine sanctuary and to strengthen the management body to implement and monitoring-evaluation of the plan and marine sanctuary. Therefore the main activities are:

- * Marine Sanctuary and Development and Coastal Resources Management Plan implementation
- * Strengthen the village management body and the marine sanctuary management committee
- * Agroforestry development
- * Small business development
- * Supplemental livelihood development
- * Monitoring and evaluation of marine sanctuary
- * Environmental education for kindergarten and elementary students

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