

# SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION TO INDONESIA'S MARINE TOURISM



The Indonesian Archipelago – located in the heart of the Coral Triangle region – is the global hotspot of marine life, with more coral and fish species than anywhere else in the world. Indonesia is globally known for its outstanding beauty and world-class reefs, exciting opportunities to encounter whales, dolphins, whale sharks, and mantas in their natural habitats, and world-class surfing destinations. A multitude of marine and coastal cultural events, crafts, and heritage sites also welcome visitors from around the world.

Indonesia aims to increase tourism's contribution to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 9% in 2014 to 15% in 2019 by quadrupling the budget allocated for this sector. According to The Ministry of Tourism, Indonesia hopes to attract 20 million foreign tourists by 2019.

Rapid growth in the tourism sector will require

careful strategic planning with participation from communities to ensure that environmental and social values are protected. Indonesia's marine resources are a critical food and income source for the majority of its population and there are concerns about the health of the environment. For example, current issues include a decline in fish populations from unsustainable fishery practices and environmental degradation from tourism and recreation activities (e.g., over-crowding, pollution, anchor damage to corals, ship strikes on marine mammals).

Since 2013, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has been working with government and stakeholders to address marine protection issues and is now working to help transform Indonesia's coastal and marine tourism management system. TNC is using the 'Four Solutions and Innovative Approaches', listed below, to adopt a sustainable management strategy so that economic growth is socially responsible and environmentally sustainable, and management and monitoring systems are economically viable.



## Solutions and Innovative Approaches

### 1. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

- In the Lesser Sunda Ecoregion, we are assessing existing and future marine tourism destinations and assist allocations of these future destinations that align with the sustainable development objectives.
- In East Nusa Tenggara Province and Rote Ndao Regency, we are helping local governments incorporate sustainable marine tourism principles into their tourism planning and build their tourism competitiveness. This project was completed in 2014.

### 2. Marine Protected Area (MPA) management

- In Savu Sea and Raja Ampat, we are protecting coral reefs and promoting fisheries recovery in tourism zones with no-take designations. This project was completed in 2013.
- In Savu Sea and Raja Ampat, we are identifying, protecting and guiding tourism development and activities in sensitive habitats (e.g., turtle nesting beaches, shark nursery grounds) and important migratory corridors.

### 3. Partnerships and communities

- In Misool, Raja Ampat, we are developing a conservation agreement between marine tourism operators and Adat or traditional communities, to limit overexploitation and ensure protection of marine resources, as well as to create employment opportunities for local villagers.

- In Biduk-Biduk, Berau, working with partners and local stakeholders, we are coaching local community groups to develop an award-winning ecotourism plan to conserve popular tourism destinations,
- ### 4. Innovation in conservation science and management
- Together with Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) and TNC's Global Marine Team, we are developing methodologies and innovative techniques to map and value ecosystem services for tourism in the Lesser Sunda Ecoregion.
  - In Raja Ampat, we are participating in the development of a Master Plan for Raja Ampat Tourism Development 2014-2034 and an integrated electronic system to record the conservation fees paid by tourists coming into Raja Ampat.

TNC's Indonesia Marine Program will continue to work closely with the Indonesian government, the private sector, and local communities to fully adopt this sustainable management strategy for marine tourism. With a coalition of experts from leading universities and institutions, we will support decision-makers and local communities, equipping them with science-based information for sustainable growth in Indonesia's tourism sector that will also protect the rich natural resources of this global marine life hotspot for the future.

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