

COASTAL AND MARINE CONSERVATION CENTER



The Nature Conservancy will develop a Coastal and Marine Conservation Center (CMCC) in Bali to serve as a resource center for Indonesia and the Indo-Pacific region. Based in the world's largest archipelago and in the bull's eye of marine biodiversity, the goal of the Center is to assist with the planning, implementation and development of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) including innovative financing mechanisms for marine conservation and practical training programs.

Focus and Approach

From the Center, The Nature Conservancy will direct current on-site coastal marine management projects in Indonesia and lead several regional initiatives in the Indo-Pacific region. The Center will have the capability to collect, store, analyze and communicate information that is crucial to attaining conservation goals. Training programs will be developed for target groups who implement, leverage or make decisions regarding the protection of marine biodiversity and the abatement of destructive fishing practices.

The Center will blend traditional knowledge with science, and business experience with conservation principles. Building upon The Nature Conservancy's presence in Bali, marine conservation programs in Indonesia, and experience in the region, the Center's approach will be pragmatic, science-based and results-oriented with the following focus:

- Development of effective marine protected area management;
- Control of destructive fisheries; and,
- Strengthening of on-site capacity for biodiversity conservation

Capacity

The Center will be the base of a small, mobile, interdisciplinary team with expertise and field experience in marine ecology, fisheries management, marine policy, legal studies, finance, resource economics, social science, geographic information systems (GIS), training and fundraising. The Center's facilities include a library, GIS and graphic design unit, classroom, workshop and dive facilities, exhibition and display room, and a fundraising/special event unit. The Center will



function as a platform for dialogue and a meeting place for marine conservation practitioners. The construction phase will take one year after which the Center will be fully operational. The aim of the Center is to become financially self-sustaining in five years.

On-site management

The center's project portfolio includes **Komodo National Park (KNP)**. In 1995, The Nature Conservancy and its local partners began to address a range of management issues in KNP through a comprehensive marine conservation program. Starting with the design of a management framework, this program presently includes routine enforcement patrols, community awareness, constituency building, stakeholder consultation, compatible enterprise development, mooring buoy installation, and a range of monitoring and applied research components. Results and information from this comprehensive program have been integrated in a 25 year management plan for the Park. New high priority areas for marine sites are explored including **Sangkulirang**, the **Banda Islands** and a cluster of parks in **Flores** and **East Timor**.

Training

The Center will design and implement practical training programs for target groups who can implement, leverage or make decisions regarding the protection of marine biodiversity and the abatement of destructive fishing practices. Target groups include government partners, community leaders, NGOs, the media, and the marine tourism industry.



Specific scientific, finance and business tools for conservation will be developed. Potential target groups and topics include:

Park managers: conservation site planning and evaluation, enforcement strategies

Park rangers: monitoring modules, mooring buoy installation and maintenance

Fisheries managers: the role of marine reserves in fisheries management

NGOs & community extension workers: integration of marine conservation concepts and community outreach with alternative livelihood development

Policy-and decision-makers: field trips, short presentations

Marine tourism operators and developers: conservation marketing, carrying capacity

Journalists and TV producers: covering environmental issues

Conservation policy, legal studies and financing

The Center's team will participate in national marine policy and planning processes in support of site conservation and marine resources management. The Center will also work with legislators and members of parliament to increase their awareness of the serious threats from dynamite and cyanide fishing, constraints in park management, and the need for co-management. In addition, studies will focus on the evaluation of the legal premise for designating exclusive fishing rights in marine national parks, using KNP as an example and assess the status of marine tenure in Indonesia, including a comparative study in the Indo-Pacific region. The Center will work on the development of sustainable park financing mechanisms, beginning with the design and management of a tourism concession for KNP, to increase and manage the flow of funds from tourism entrance fees to park management.

Regional initiatives

World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)
The Center will chair the Southeast Asian working group-marine, which is part of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas-Marine. The aim of the working group is to strengthen the development of a regional network of MPAs related to sustainable fisheries in Southeast Asia. Participants include Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Brunei. The group was established in Laos in 1999 and will start to develop a MPA strategy in for Southeast Asia during a series of meetings at the ninth coral reef symposium in Bali, Oct. 2000.

Spawning Aggregation Sites (SPAGS)

The Center is working on the development and implementation of a special strategy for the

conservation of reef fish spawning aggregations. Many reef fishes are known to aggregate in large numbers at specific times and places to reproduce. Overfishing has already depleted a substantial number of fishes at these reproductive gatherings. Aggregation sites are targeted by the live reef food fish trade, and have been especially hard-hit in Indonesia. Many remaining aggregations throughout the Indo-Pacific are seriously depleted and may soon disappear if they are not quickly protected. On 21 June 2000, the Center helped establish the Society for the Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations (SCRFA). Together with this Society the Center is active at the international level and will develop specific modules for identification and monitoring SPAGS. The Center has facilitated field exchanges between the Komodo Project, Belize and Pohnpei.

Live Reef Food Fish Trade (LRFFT)

The Asian market for live reef food fish such as groupers and Napoleon wrasse has already resulted in a serious depletion of reef stocks in Southeast Asia and is expected to expand placing growing pressure on the resources of adjacent regions, especially the islands of the South Pacific. The Conservancy had developed a regional strategy in the Asia-Pacific that focuses on developing and applying regional models for sustainable fisheries, including

- i) protecting spawning aggregation sites;
- ii) developing environmentally sound aquaculture;
- and iii) encouraging pelagic fisheries.

The Center supervises the development of a grouper and sea bass hatchery near KNP. The Conservancy is also working with the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) policy and decision-makers to seek regional solutions and funding to address the issue.

Partnerships

The Center will work closely with Government partners on policy and on-site management including the Directorate General of Nature Conservation and Protection of the Ministry of Forestry and the Directorate General of Small Island Ecosystems, Coast and Beach of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries. Other partners include local and international NGOs, the private sector, and various national and international scientific agencies. Initially the Center will focus on Indonesia, but will also expand its scope of work in the Asia-Pacific region (Papua New Guinea, Palau, Solomon Islands, Pohnpei) and work closely with similar centers and marine conservation projects in the Latin American and Caribbean region (Belize, Galapagos).

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