USAID SUSTAINABLE ECOSYSTEMS ADVANCED (USAID SEA) PROJECT: MALUKU PROVINCIAL SITE

With its large waters area (92.4 % of its total area), Maluku Province contributes greatly to Indonesia’s rich marine biodiversity. The Province has 1,412 islands, approximately 1,324 km$^2$ of coral reefs, and 1,323 km$^2$ mangroves. The abundant marine resources in the Province have made marine and fisheries the leading sector and prime mover of the Maluku’s regional economic development.

The Province’s capture fisheries potential is estimated at about 1.72 million tons per year. In 2015 capture fish production was 617,985 tons (Statistics Indonesia/BPS).

However in Maluku, as elsewhere in Indonesia, most of fishing communities live in pockets of poverty. In 2015 Maluku had around 328,410 people living in poverty with about 150,000 fishermen in the Province considered to live below the poverty threshold.  

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1 Poverty by March 2015, BPS Maluku province No. 05/01/81Th.XVIII, January 2016
THREATS TO MALUKU FISHERIES AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

Overfishing is one of the most prominent threats to Maluku’s sustainable fisheries that includes: over-exploitation of shrimp, big-eye tuna, snapper, grouper, flying fish, and albacore tuna. Contributing factors include: insufficient information on the value and status of coral reefs, seagrass beds, and estuaries; declining populations and insufficient data for large and small pelagic and migratory species; increasing intensification of fishing, and a lack of marine resources data for the one data policy. Marine Protected Area (MPA) is still weak because there are limited MPAs and poor MPA management overall. Meanwhile Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) implementation is just starting in Maluku and unsustainable coastal development and pollution from poorly planned inland development are considered as major threats. Finally, IUU (illegal, unregulated, and unreported) fishing occurs in some areas, rampant shark fishing and finning continues together with other destructive fishing, and wildlife crime.

USAID SEA PRIORITIES IN MALUKU

The USAID SEA Project activities in Maluku are jointly implemented by the USAID SEA Core Team of Tetra Tech and a number of consortium partners: World Wildlife Fund-Indonesia (WWF-Indonesia), Coral Triangle Center (CTC), Masyarakat dan Perikanan Indonesia (MDPI), Indonesia Locally Managed Marine Area (ILMMA) and Indonesian Pole & Line and Handline Fisheries Association (AP2HI).

Key-activities under the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) component aim to overcome overfishing and enhance the one data policy. To eliminate overfishing, USAID SEA Project will evaluate the need for improved compliance with logbook vessel registration and monitoring and traceability systems, reinforce fisheries management bodies, assess opportunities for alternative livelihoods and improved fish quality and added value. One data policy will be enhanced through evaluation of the current roles of provincial and district fisheries agencies in data collection, evaluation of data collection methods, management, and dissemination system, as well as development of marine resources status baseline.

The USAID SEA MPA activities include surveys and identification of potential new MPAs, developing village regulations and reinforcing traditional institutions. It aims to increase the capacity of MPA planning and fisheries counselors, develop networks between management agencies and to implement monitoring and evaluation of MPA management. It supports Sasi (customary resource management).

USAID SEA MSP activities will focus on the development of Coastal Areas and Small Islands Zoning Plans (RZWP3K), finalize and legalize the document, socialize the regulation of zoning implementation as well as build the stakeholders’ capacity in implementing the zoning plan.

To address issues on law enforcement, USAID SEA Project will work on raising awareness by developing the communication and outreach programs to strengthen community-based surveillance (SISMASWAS), as well as implement capacity building and training.