



Photo by Dwi Aryo/TNC

# Kofiau and Boo Islands

## Marine Protected Area

Kofiau and Boo Islands Marine Protected Area (MPA) in southern Raja Ampat, encompasses 170,000 hectares of islands, coastal and marine waters, and harbors a wide diversity of marine habitats and reefs types. The MPA rests within the Coral Triangle – the global center of marine biodiversity – and is an important area for cetaceans – including pilot whales and orcas – who visit the area each year.

Kofiau and Boo Islands MPA provides food and livelihoods to 2000 people living in five villages on the larger island of Kofiau. Ethnically the people of Kofiau are Betieu with strong connections and language links to Biak in the northern Bird's Head. There are few livelihood options in the MPA, and the majority of residents fish or farm copra. Today the fisheries resources on which so many people depend are under threat. While destructive fishing has been reduced through local community enforcement efforts, unsustainable fishing practices like blast fishing and overfishing continue to plague the MPA.

Local communities in Kofiau have maintained their traditional management practice of 'sasi' (temporal fisheries closures) to manage key invertebrate and fish species or fisheries areas, which they actively patrol. Combined with permanent no-take zones, the use of 'sasi' can serve as an important tool to improve and manage local fisheries.

### Kofiau and Boo Islands MPA

In 2004, communities, all levels of government, and local and international NGOs came together in partnership to help manage the MPA. The communities' traditionally declared their MPA in 2007, and the government formalized this commitment through a government decree the same year.

A zoning plan for the MPA was recently finalized through

- 🌀 Total area: 170,000 hectares
- 🌀 Primary sources of income: fishing, copra
- 🌀 Population: 2000
- 🌀 Main religions: Christianity
- 🌀 High diversity of reef types
- 🌀 Variety of lagoonal habitats
- 🌀 Important area for migratory whale species as well as dolphins
- 🌀 Coconut crabs populations
- 🌀 Endemic bird and snake species

a bottom-up community consultative process. Both traditional knowledge and scientific information were used to make the zoning plan, which was designed to address fisheries, biodiversity and climate change objectives. The zoning plan also reflects a true 'ridges to reefs' or 'island ecosystem' approach to ensure current and future land uses will not have a negative impact on the MPA.

The five communities of Kofiau expressed their strong support and commitment to protect and use their natural marine resources sustainably, through a traditional ceremony that endorsed the zoning system for their MPA in October 2011. The ceremony was supported by the Raja Ampat government and presided over by the Head of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Affairs. Today, local communities and partners are implementing five key conservation strategies to ensure the MPA is effectively managed and is delivering benefits to the communities of Kofiau.

### Our Conservation Goal

The coastal and marine resources of the Kofiau and Boo Islands MPA are effectively and sustainably co-managed by local communities and government, and provide lasting, tangible benefits to the people of Kofiau.

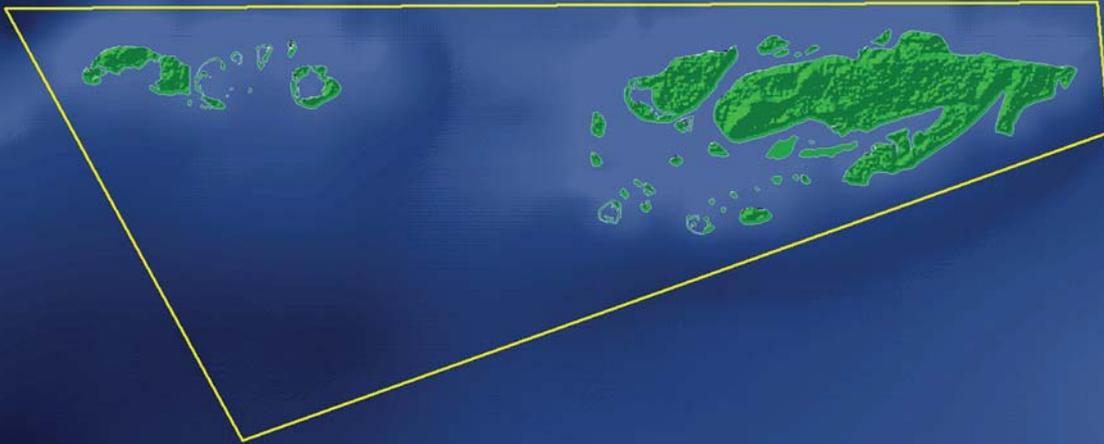


Photo by Rahmat Takbir

### Our Conservation Strategies

There are five conservation strategies helping to achieve our goal:

**Embedding the zoning plan** within the larger management plan for Raja Ampat MPA network and within regency, provincial and national coastal and marine spatial plans and strategies.

**Building stakeholder support** through delivery of high quality communication, outreach and education materials.

**Empowering local authorities and communities to enforce MPA and fisheries regulations** to reduce poaching and illegal fishing.

**Establishing a cost-effective biological and socioeconomic monitoring system** for the MPA to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation strategies.

**Building capacity of local communities and stakeholders** to co-manage the MPA with the Raja Ampat government and contribute to decision-making processes for the MPA.

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