



# MPA Management

## Capacity Building Program

### Local Co-Management

The Papuan Bird's Head Seascape (BHS), in eastern Indonesia, contains a network of 12 ecologically connected Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), covering a total area of over 3.6 million ha. Remarkably, the majority of these MPAs were declared and are being co-managed through partnerships between local communities and local and national government agencies. This local management is a hallmark of the BHS initiative and is only possible with empowered communities, engaged policymakers, and well-trained Papuan MPA managers.

### Cultivating Local Capacity

To build the necessary local management capacity, three NGOs working in BHS—Conservation International (CI), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and WWF-Indonesia—teamed up with the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) to develop a comprehensive MPA Management Capacity Building Program specifically for the BHS MPA network.

The program has the goal of turning local village leaders, local MPA practitioners, and local government officials into highly effective and exemplary MPA managers. The Governor of West Papua launched the program in 2009, providing the full endorsement of the provincial government.

### The Training Program: From Classroom to the Field

The program features eight customized hands-on participatory training modules on various topics related to MPA management. Program participants are a blend of managers and stakeholders directly responsible for the management of the MPAs in the Bird's Head, and as

### Trainings included in the BHS MPA management Capacity Building Program:

- Introduction to MPAs (MPA-101)
- Marine Spatial Planning
- MPA Management Planning
- Sustainable Fisheries in MPAs
- Ridge to Reef Integrated Coastal Planning
- Assessing Vulnerability to Climate Change in MPAs
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Sustainable Tourism

such, the trainings are designed to parallel the actual management planning processes currently taking place in the MPAs. The two-week trainings are held on a network level, with participants learning together using relevant BHS, regional, and international case studies.

The teaching team includes international experts and seven local mentors, who are experienced MPA practitioners from various institutions working in Papua including, the State University of Papua (UNIPA), The Ministry of Forestry, and the international NGOs.

The mentor team has further developed shorter field courses, which they regularly deliver at each of the MPA sites for local MPA management teams and community stakeholders. Across the sites new leaders are emerging who are empowered to disseminate the information to a wider and wider audience.

Through the network level trainings and field courses, hundreds of individuals from over 25 institutions across the entire seascape have participated in this MPA capacity





Photo by Asril Djunaedi/CI



Photo by Asril Djunaedi/CI

*"The trainings are very useful as they help us to use the principles of ecosystem-based management as we make important resource use decisions. We will now be able to provide more effective support to the MPA management bodies across the Bird's Head Seascape."*

- Bastian Wanma, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, West Papua Province

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building program, learning hands-on practical MPA management skills.

The capacity building doesn't stop at trainings though. After each course the BHS mentor team supports the participants as they implement their new knowledge, ensuring the planning processes and strategies taught in the classroom are implemented on the ground. In this way, the program not only builds the capacity of local MPA staff and stakeholders, but ensures it translates into more effective resource management for the benefit of Papuan communities.

### An Even Greater Reach

The BHS MPA Management Capacity Building Program has now also become a model for an even more ambitious national MPA management capacity development program being led by the MMAF's Human Resource Development Agency (BPSDM), which aims to replicate the program in other regions of Indonesia to build critical management capacity across Indonesia's entire national MPA network.

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