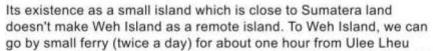


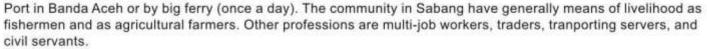
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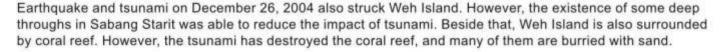
Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation by the Community for the Sustainability of Fishery Resources in Weh/Sabang Island, Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam Province

Sabang City at a Glance

Weh Island (frequently called Sabang because it is part of Sabang City administrative area), is located between 95° 13' 02" to 95° 22' 36" East Longitude and 05° 46' 28" to 05° 54' 28" North Latitude. This island is one of the most outter islands of Indonesia (and it is as 0 km point of Indonesian Republic) which borders directly with Malaysia, Thailand, and India. Weh Island is a coral island whose creation was through a lifting process from the sea base. Around 2,600 hectares of coral reef existing in Weh Island (especially in around Rubiah Island) has been determined as a Sea Natural Tourism Park of Weh Island by the Minister of Forestry (Decision Letter No. 928/Kpts/Um/1982 dated on December 22, 1982). This has made Sabang very famous as a sea tourism destination, and it has high fishery potential.



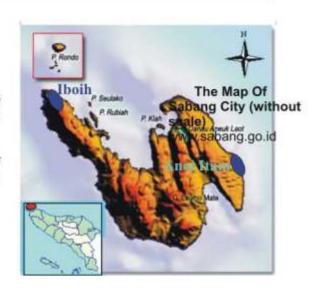






Wetlands International Indonesia Programme (WIIP) together with WWF Indonesia through Green Coast Project (funded by Oxfam) has facilitated around 31 local NGOs and 29 Community Independent Groups to found the victims of tsunami disaster in carrying out coastal ecosystem rehabilitation which was integrated with the creation of alternative means of livelihood in Aceh-Nias since October 2005. So far, this approach has resulted in good yield, because the community participation in rehabilitating the land (starting from planning, preparing, and planting as well as nursing the planted plants) is related with an incentive provision in the form of business capital loan (without guarantee nor interest). The success in preserving the plant surviving rate (i.e. >75%) would make the loan as a full grant. However, if they fail to reach the plant surviving rate of 75%, they must return the loan proportionally to the Project. All terms and conditions (rights and obligations) of the community group to get the business capital loan which is related with their rehabilitation success were written in a working contract whose signing was witnessed by community figures.

Up to August 2008, through the Green Coast Project, it is recorded that around 1,000 hectares of coastal area (of the target of 1,178 hectares until the end of 2008) has been rehabilitated (with the plant surviving average rate of 83% or 1,54 millions of the 1,85 millions planted plants) through mangrove and other coastal plant planting in Aceh and Nias. Beside that, the Green Coast Poject has also facilitated some coral reef preservation efforts, especially in Sabang.









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In Sabang City, during the period of 2006 to 2008, the Green Coast Project has facilitated some efforts to prevent coral reef destruction: such as by establishing and empowering Sea Protection Area (DPL) in Anoi Itam Village; by creating mooring buoy for the boat anchor in Gapang Tourism area in Kelurahan Iboih. Beside that, Green Coast Project also tried to plant 50,000 mangrove in Pinueng Cabeng Village, Kelurahan Iboih, Sukakarya Sub-district and 3,000 coastal plants alongside the tourism coast of Kelurahan Anoi Itam, Sukajaya Sub-district.

The benchmark for the success of GC activities in protecting the coral reef in Gapang location is seen from the reduction of the coral reef destruction caused by boat anchor, while in Anoi Itam, it is measured with improvement of coral reef protection as well as the low rate of violation into the main Sea Protection Area (DPL). The bencmark for the success of the planting is the same as other location, i.e. by counting the percentage of the surviving plants (minimum is 75%).

Achievement of Green Coast Activities

Kelurahan Anoi Itam, Sukajaya Sub-district

Anoi Itam Village is located around 12 km from Sabang City to the esat. Tsunami (2004) has contributed hugely to the destruction to the coral reef which had been destructed by destructive fishing before (by using bomb). this condition has resulted in continuosly-reduced income of the local fishermen. Actually, since the begining of 2004 (before the tsunami) there had been a set of custom regulation forbiding destructive fishing such by using bomb, muroami net (i.e. big net of 100 m long and with very small mesh size). The net is pulled by to boats while a diver is directing the fish into the net. While directing the fisht, the diver steps on the coral reef and strikes an iron chain to the coral reef.

To control the coral reef destruction, a local fisherman organisation known by "Panglima Laot Lhok Anoi Itam" has been conducting supervision through sea patrol towards destructive fishing in Anoi Itam. This organisation has even determined a No-Fish Catching Area in around the fish spawning ground.

In Anoi Itam, the Green Coast Project cooperated with Center of People Movement and Advocation (PUGAR), Panglima Laot and Community Group in Udeep Saree. The activities that have been taken by the three organisations include:

- Establishing Sea Protection Area (DPL) of around 20 hectares in width, and the Sea Protection Area Managing Board.
- Carrying out some restructurisation and enforcement to Sea Protection Area Managing Board (BP-DPL) covering Anoi Itam area and Le Meulee area, and also carrying out some study about the Potential Natural Resources.
- Holding public discussion involving the government of Sabang City, Custom Assembly, and Naval Army in the process of adopting the Sea Protection Area regulation by the government of Sabang City.
- Carrying out some activities to enforce the participation and capability of Panglima Laot and Community Group through some trainings on organisation management, and on continuos natural resources management.
- Supporting the patrol activities of Panglima Laot by boat provision.

Box Opini

"We usually got fish of around 70,000 rupiah per day. However, it reduced continuously every day since the fishermen from the cross village do destructive fishing by using bomb, poison, and dragnet. With the program offered by GC Project, we will do our maximum efforts for the are conservation to get better and continuous earning "

(Ahmad, Grant Acceptor from Green Coast, 2006)







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- Carrying out reforestration to the tourism area by planting at least 3,000 coastal vegetation of Casuarina eusatifollia, Terminalia cattapa, Callophyllum inophylum.
- Distributing business capital aid managed by community groups for the business of agriculture, foodstall, fish trading, and cooking spice trading. In the future, the groups will be facilitated to become micro finance institution.
- Developing a multi function hall for tourism or for meeting hall.
- Placing 10 waste disposal locations in Lhok Anoi Itam tourism place.
- Carrying out some approach to the government of Sabang City to get formal acknowledgement (in the form of Decision Letter) stating that the Sea Protection Area of Lhok Anoi Itam as a Regional Sea Conservation Area (KKLD).

Here are some management options offered by the community of Anoi Itam and Panglima Laot to the government of Sabang City to make Anoi Itam as a Regional Sea Conservation Area (KKLD) based upon the regulation of NAD Province and upon some study results about Regional Sea Conservation Areas (KKLD) in Indonesia.

Institutional Options

Various options of institutional forms can be used as basic consideration in determining the Managing Board of Regional Sea Protection Area, such as:

- 1. The Managing Board is Panglima Laot in every Lhok or other institution appointed by Panglima Laot.
- The Managing Board is established in every gampong based upon the decision of Keuchik (village leader), where in the level of mukim, a managing board coordinative forum is established.
- The Managing Board is Technical Acting Unit of the Marine and Fishery Office of Sabang City, if the conservation area is formed based upon the Decision Letter of the Major.
- The Managing Board is an institution of the same level as Board (Public Service Board) under the Major of Sabang City, if the conservation area is based upon the Decision Letter of the Major.
- The alternative form of sea conservation area that was chosen is Custom Sea Conservation Area / KKL Adat (43.69%), then Sea Protection Are / DPL (34.16%), and Regional Sea Conservation Area / KKLD (22.15%).

Learning Results:

- The establishment of Sea Protection Area / DPL with clear boudaries (of 20 hectares width) has reduced the threath of coral reef destruction speed in Anoi Itam. This success is suported by the community who has agreed not to do activities of taking organism from the Sea Protection Area / DPL in live or dead condition.
- The community reported that certain kinds of coral fish have started to be seen in the edge of the Sea Protection Area / DPL. The efforts show that there is a positive progress of the coral reef bio diversity in Anoi Itam.
- The regulation formed by the community to protect the coral reef in Anoi Itam needs to be adopted by the government of Sabang City. If this comes to reality, the coral reef area in Anoi Itam will get law protection that will guarantee its existence for long time.
- 4. The regulation needs to be socialized to the public to get effective results.

Kelurahan Iboih, Sukakarya Sub-district

Most of the community of Kelurahan Iboih have means of livelihood as fishermen and small businessmen in the field of sea tourism transportation service. The two means of livelihood are done in Rubiah Strait and its surrounding which is part of Sea Tourism Park of Weh Island. In certain months, this area is frequently visited by Yachts from other countries such as Australia. However, the yacht visits (for fishery or tourism purpose) have resulted destruction to the coral reef with their anchors.

Then, to overcome the above problem, the Green Coast Project facilitates a local NGO (Aceh Coral Conservation / ACC) to carry out a relatively simple activity by constructing mooring buoy in the location of fisherman boats or tourism yachts. Here are the conducted activities:

 Carrying out some activities to make the local community aware of the importance of coral reef conservation in Sea Tourism Park of Rubiah Strait.



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- Constructing and maintaining 8 units of mooring buoys in the location of Gapang for the boats/yachts to tether their anchor.
- Socializing the existence of the Mooring Buoys in Rubiah Strait to the fishermen and the tourists.
- Providing waste disposal facilities in tourism small restaurants and announcement boards about coral reef conservation.
- Making notice boards and leaflets about coral reef conservation.

Learning Results:

Even though the activity seems to be so simple, the existence of the mooring buoys has created positive impacts for the coral reef and the fishery life around it. This is seen from the reduced destruction threaths to the coral reef by the boat anchors, and from the various coral fish found around the mooring buoy submerged in the coast base.

The constructed mooring buoys can be effective for 3 4 years. After that it needs changing. Up to now, there is no interest from other party to be the sponsor for the next setting. Therefore, continuous support is needed, especially from the government of Sabang City.

The provision of mooring buoys can indirectly protect the existence of Sea Tourism Park of Weh Island and its fishery resources around it.

The initiative of Aceh Coral Conservation/ACC in rehabilitating the destructed coral reef (trhough transplantation) has shown promising result. In the future, such kind of efforts needs to be improved and extended to get maximum results. Therefore, continuous financing support from the government of Sabang City as well as NAD Province is needed.

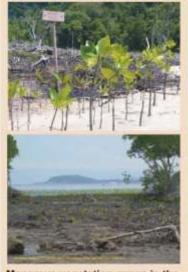
Beside constructing mooring buoys, the Green Coast Project also funded a local NGO (Peduli Sabang Foundation) together with the community to carry out some mangrove rehabilitation activities in coastal part of Pinueng Cabeng, Kelurahan Iboih. The mangrove in this location was also destroyed by the tsunami. However, the dead of the mangrove in this location was also caused by the fact that the coastal land part of Iboih was lifted; so there are many mangrove vegetations in this area are dried.

The roots of the dead mangrove are left so that it blocks the natural mangrove seedling from other place to grow in this location. To help reforestrating this area, Peduli Sabang Foundation with the local community has planted 50,000 mangrove seeds and has been nursing the plants.

As the compensation for the planting, every community member who was invloved got business capital. Generally, the business capital is used to complete their fishing equipment and to improve their agricultural activities. This activity ran well, some of them even do the activities of fish and crab catching in the night in around the river estuary. This results in the fishermen's increasing daily earning.



The location of mooring buoys setting (yellow circle) and announcement board in Rubiah Strait



Mangrove vegetation grows in the interval of the dead mangrove roots

Learning Results:

Mangrove vegatation planted by Peduli Sabang Foundation and the community have now been growing well in the interval of the dead mangrove roots. In this vegetation location, some kinds of crabs and moluska have now been appearing, and it also invites some kinds of water birds. Even in some areas around it, some natural mangrove seeds also appear. It is hoped that in 2 to 5 more years, the mangrove ecosystem will be reformed and it creates conducive space for the growth of bio diversity.

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