

# Ensuring Sustainable Coastal Resource Management through Policy Work

**Post-tsunami reconstruction efforts faced the challenge of meeting immediate humanitarian needs whilst balancing longer-term development and natural disaster mitigation. A well planned coastal development was needed for securing a better future.**

The tsunami aftermath had brought environmental concerns which need to be addressed not merely at the community level, but also at the decision making level. It would be crucial to influence and engage the decision makers and community in planning, implementing as well as supervising the reconstruction and rehabilitation process as the policy made will contribute to the future. For such matter, Green Reconstruction Policy Guidelines for Aceh developed, bringing together over-arching policy recommendations for reconstruction in regard to the maintenance of healthy ecosystems, provision of environmental goods and services, and ensuring sustainable development.

## **Two level Approach**

Realizing that a good policy should be accepted by and able to accommodate the need of the public, a two level approach is conducted in developing the policy analysis.

**Policy Reviews.** This approach is aiming at the existing regulation (official government regulations and customary laws) pre and after tsunami. It is viewed important to take up the customary laws (The Traditional Sea Customary Law-Hukom Adat Laot) as its apart of the local wisdom which has been passed on over centuries and still implemented amongst the coastal community, especially fisher.

At the moment approximately 43 regulations in Coastal Resources Management have been identified and analyzed in order to know whether the regulation is still relevant to situation after tsunami. The review identifies three strategic issues:

1. The rehabilitation and conservation of marine and fishery resources.
2. Community participation in management of marine and fisheries resources.
3. Community empowerment in terms of economic (livelihood).

**On ground Inputs.** This approach is aiming at identifying the “voice” from the community in order to develop a bottom up policy. Experiences have showed that public acceptance plays key role in policy implementation. Within this approach regular meeting has been set up as media in obtaining inputs from related parties involving the government, local ngos as well as the community. Up to now, 4 meetings have been carried out with topics:

1. Criticizing and evaluating the reconstruction and rehabilitation process after 1 year of tsunami.
2. Community access in the reconstruction and rehabilitation process.
3. Coastal defense - Session I: Identification of models.
4. Coastal defense - Session II: formulation of relevant defense system within reconstruction and rehabilitation process.

In enhancing the information an initial assessment has been also conducted through a small survey in which the Small Grant Beneficiaries in the East and the North Coast of Aceh Province are the correspondents.

## **Reconstruction Guidelines**

**The process of reconstruction and rehabilitation is ultimately considered to be a perfect time to combine three goals.**

Green reconstruction can improve the quality of life for communities and affected individuals whilst minimising the negative impacts of reconstruction on the environment. Furthermore it should endeavour maintaining the long-term biological diversity and productivity of natural systems.

## **Coastal area**

In regards to the coastal area, reconstruction is expected to create more sustainable livelihoods for those coastal people that rely on the productivity of natural resources. Reconstruction should prevent unnecessary further damage to the environment. NGOs have started their activities in this matter at the on-ground level, but not much has been done at the policy level.

## **Green Reconstruction Guidelines**

As the environmental issue has become a major concern since the tsunami, the Green Reconstruction Guidelines (GRG) were developed by WWF-Indonesia in recognition of the role that forests and tropical ecosystems play as natural defense barriers against the storm waves of typhoons and tsunamis.

## **Timber for Aceh**

The Timber for Aceh programme (TFA) marks the first time green guidelines have been incorporated into an emergency reconstruction effort of this magnitude. TFA provides sustainably logged timber to the devastated province of Aceh. With regard to the Green Coast project, WWF-Indonesia will develop policies and strategies at various levels. This will be done by identifying high priority areas for community-based rehabilitation activities and projects for sustainable coastal rehabilitation.

## **Sea Customary Law In Aceh: A Local Wisdom For Sustainable Coastal Resources**

In the sea area of Aceh Province there are a number of regulations on fish capture and yields share, in order to maintain healthy fish stocks. Those regulations are regarded as Law by the fishermen who practice fish capturing in the area. This customary law is being implemented by the Panglima Laot, the traditional local leaders of the fishermen. The Panglima Laot issues sanctions to fishermen breaking these laws. An introduction to the Sea Customary Law in Aceh.

## **Fishing Forbidden Days**

Friday, forbidden to sail for one day, counted from sunset on Thursday until sunset on Friday;

Aidil Adha Holiday, forbidden to sail for four days, starting from the sunset;

Aidil Fitri Holiday, forbidden to sail for two days, starting from the sunset on the day before Holiday until sunset on last day of Holiday;

Independence Day (17 August), forbidden to sail for one day, counted from sunset on 16 August until sunset on 17 August.

Sea Customary Ceremony, the ceremony have to be done at least once in three years or depending on the agreement and the capability of local fisherman, stated that 3 days are forbidden for fishing on the ceremony days, counted from sunrise starting on the first day of ceremony until the sunset on last days of ceremony;

## **Law Sanctions**

For the fisherman who breaks the law, there will be the following sanctions:

All his fishing yield will be confiscated;

He is not allowed to sail for at least three days, up to a maximum of seven days.

The Lembaga Hukum Adat Laot will take an administrative action through an authorized officer, after having discussion with the staff of the institution.

## **Sea Custom**

### **A. Social Custom**

Social custom in operational and fisherfolk live are:

In case something bad happens to the boat or to the fishing gear, the fisherman should flag a sign to ask for help (SOS). Those who see the sign should enclose and give help;

If an accident happens, e.g. if a fisherman is being drawn into the sea, all other fisherman should look after the missing ones at least for one full day, and if someone finds a body, the bodies should be brought to the land.

#### B. Environment care custom

Some practices are not allowed: bomb, poison, drug, electrical, coral reef taking, and other practices which can threat habitat and other biota;

It is prohibited to cut off/damage trees in coastal area, such as: Casuarina, pandanus, mangroves, and so forth.

It is forbidden to catch fish/biota which is protected (for example: dolphin, turtles, etc).

#### C. Sea Customary Ceremony

The ceremony in every Lhok (geographic region) and sub-district in Aceh Province has their own characteristic and has variation once another, according to their own area and regarding to Islamic ways.

#### D. Sunk object Custom

Every object (boat, etc) which sunk and is found by a fisherman, has to be transferred to the local Panglima Laot to be processed.

### **Others**

#### 1. Reporting System

If a fisherman or other fisherfolk suspect a strange boat coming across Indonesian territorial waters or specifically Aceh Province waters whose aims is for fishing or similar, this case has to be reported to authorities;

If a fisherman or other fisherfolk witnesses someone breaking the environmental law in Aceh Province, this should be reported to Panglima Laot and to the authorities;

If a fisherman discovers fish with tags, he has to inform the Fisheries Agency and hand over the fish for research.

2. Regulations in Customary law and Sea Custom cannot be contradicted with Government regulation and Islamic Religion.

3. Customary law in some cases, if very urgent ,can be adapted to the local situation and condition in the area.