Developing a Diversified Portfolio of Sustainable Financing Options for Bunaken National Marine Park

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**Presentation Overview**
- Background on Bunaken National Park
- Bunaken’s Financing Portfolio
  - National govt funding
  - Decentralized entrance fee system
  - In-kind private sector support
  - Diversified local govt support
  - International volunteers system
  - Grant support

**Bunaken National Marine Park**
- Established 1991
- ~90,000 hectares, including 5 islands and North Sulawesi mainland
- Exceptionally diverse
- 22 villages inside park, approximately 30,000 residents

**Bunaken National Park Tourism**
- Well-developed marine tourism industry
- ~20 dive operators – land-based and operating daytrips to park
- Accommodations ranging from 5* resorts to rustic backpacker cottages
- Estimated 25,000 guests/year
- Direct international airline access
Bunaken National Park Management

- Primary management authority is BNP office – central government agency underDept of Nature Conservation
- Since 2000, implemented a collaborative mgmt system with a mgmt board representing all primary park stakeholders (villagers, dive operators, academia, NGO’s, and local government’s tourism, fisheries and environment agencies)

Bunaken’s Funding Needs

- Central govt provides ~US$100,000/year – supports ranger salaries, admin, and 1 patrol/month!
- Currently working with WCPA SEA Marine to develop business plan, with optimal annual budget of ~US$500,000
- By 2000, stakeholders realize/demand diversification of funding portfolio
Component 1: Decentralized Entrance Fee System

- Though Indonesian national law dictates that all user fees are non-tax revenue of central govt, BNP has special waiver to implement a decentralized fee system – designed and implemented with strong support of private sector
- Dual system
  - Foreign guests (individually-numbered plastic tag *ala Bonaire): Rp 150,000/year (US$17)
  - Indonesian guests (ticket) Rp 2500/trip (US$0.25)

BNP Entrance Fee System

- 80% of revenues retained by BNP mgmt board (20% divided amongst local/central govt)
- Quite successful:
  - 2001: $42,000 from 15,066 visitors
  - 2002: $109,000 from 25,697 visitors
  - 2003: targeting $120,000 from 30,000 visitors
- 30% of revenues used for local village development projects
- Global tourism downturn has strongly effected cash flow and reliability of system

Component 2: In-kind Private Sector Support

- Often overlooked, though potentially strong source of support from environmentally-concerned marine tourism sector
- NSWA Program of “3 E’s”: Employment, Education, Enforcement
  - Hire park villagers as captains, dive guides, cooks, etc
  - Purchase handicrafts/pelagic fish products from villagers
  - Scholarship program for local youths
  - Donation of reef educational materials to schools
  - Transport local school groups to visitors center
  - Fund school/health clinic construction/rehabilitation
  - Sponsor beach/reef cleanups
  - Free SCUBA certification for park rangers
  - Diving/boat support for fish/coral monitoring programs, enforcement and reef rehabilitation work
**Component 3: Diversified Local Govt Budgetary Support**

- Focused on both BNP mgmt board member agencies (tourism, fisheries, environment) and non-members (public works, health)
- Use BNP mgmt board to leverage support for park villages
  - Freshwater projects, construction of roads, public toilets, schools
  - Cancer screening, free vision/health clinics
  - Job training
  - Micro-credit programs
- Highly successful in building villager support for conservation

**Component 4: International Volunteers System**

- Capitalizes on “sexiness” of tropical MPA mgmt to both formal volunteer programs (VSO, VIA, etc) and independent university graduates wishing to gain “real-life” marine conservation experience
- Requires significant initial time investment to set-up and publicize (website, dive magazines), but well worth effort
- Potential issues: work visa considerations, language barriers

**BNP International Volunteer Duties**

- Participate as observers on patrols and entrance fee checks. Assist with explanation of entrance fee to problematic international guests
- Make presentations to tourists on BNP mgmt and natural history
- Assist with reef monitoring (including diver impact) and rehabilitation activities
- Write articles for international travel/dive magazines, design and update park educational materials for visitors
- Design conservation education materials for local schoolchildren

**Component 5: National/International Grant Support**

- BNP aims to avoid dependence on grants, but donor support is important for new program start-up costs, training, some procurement and other non-routine costs
- USAID, WWF, Seacology, ICRAN, PADI Project Aware
Overview of Current (Optimal) Funding Portfolio

- Central govt support to park office: $100,000 ($100,000)
- Decentralized entrance fee system: $120,000 ($200,000)
- In-kind support from private sector: $30,000 ($30,000)
- Diversified local govt budgetary support: $30,000 ($80,000)
- International volunteers system: $30,000 ($40,000)
- National and international grants: $120,000 ($50,000)

TOTAL: $430,000 ($500,000)

Additional financing mechanisms being developed for Bunaken’s portfolio

- Merchandising at new visitor information center
- Co-management study courses for other MPA staff
- Endowment fund via WCPA?

Thank you