Appendix Translation of Darwin Initiative Publication in BaKTI News October 2009

Building Agreement on Sustainable Coral Reef Fisheries Management in Kaledupa

One of the main problems on Indonesian coral reefs is over-fishing by local people using small scale or artisanal techniques. Until recently artisanal fishing has been regarded by the Indonesian government as too small scale to have any significant impact on reef fisheries. As a result there has been no legislation to restrict fisheries on coastal reefs and in many parts of the archipelago the reef fishery has been seriously impacted. An example of this is on the reefs around Kaledupa Island in the Wakatobi Marine National Park, SE Sulawesi.

Scientists and university students as part of annual biodiversity and fisheries surveys funded through Operation Wallacea have studied these reefs and the fishery since 1996. The results from these surveys demonstrated a fishery that was in serious decline and evidence of some species being commercially extinct. Without serious management, the Kaledupa fisheries and coral ecosystem condition will get worse and threaten food security and livelihoods.

The Operation Wallacea Trust has been funded by the Darwin Initiative to work in collaboration with FORKANI (local NGO). The Program Darwin Initiative aims to develop a best practice example of how a reef fishery could be managed sustainably in Kaledupa Island. The program will hopefully be replicated in other coral reef regions facing similar issues.

A number of conservation efforts have focused on raiding awareness in the community of the steep decline in catches, developing alternative sources of livelihoods through ecotourism, and providing incentives to fishermen to stop using environmentally-unfriendly fishing tools. The incentives will be paid from 30% of the profits from the Carrageenan Processing Plant which is being developed by OWT and Wakatobi government. With this factory, the drying of wet seaweed will not use sunlight and the water used during the extraction process is seawater, not freshwater which is scarce in Kaledupa.

Since May 2007, this conservation program has trained members of FORKANI to monitor fish catches. The members collect data from their activities over 24 hours in 9 villages and have been ongoing since October 2007. This is the only fish catch monitoring activity which has been exact and ongoing over a long period in Indonesia. The data collected by OWT are used as material for activities to increase the awareness within the community about the decrease in the coral ecosystem which in turn affects the quality and quantity of their fish catches. This program also takes a census of socio-economic conditions and the types of fishing tools used by 1,050 traditional fishermen in 25 villages. In addition all motorized boats used for fishing have been registered and individual identification codes painted on each of the boats.

A Kaledupa Fisheries Forum (FPK) was also established. The Forum has members from 25 villages and 2 hamlets. The Forum will hopefully facilitate the regulation of environmentally-friendly fishing equipment. A related workshop was held on August 1-2 2009 at the Kaledupa Sub-district Office in Ambeua village. The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacity of Forum members with research results and government policies regarding sustainable management of coral fisheries and identifying local knowledge of sustainable fishing practices.

In this workshop the material above were used to draft a Village Regulation regarding sustainable coral fisheries management. The workshop was attended by 52 people from the Forum, leaders of Kaledupa and Kaledupa Selatan sub-districts, Fisheries Agency of Wakatobi district, Wakatobi Marine National Park Organization, TNC/WFF managers and staff, FORKANI members, Operation Wallacea Director, researchers from Essex University and Operation Wallacea, OWT Director and staff, and the Bupati of Wakatobi.

The workshop led to draft regulations including sizes of traditional fishing equipment and how many fishermen using traditional equipment is considered safe for the reef. The traditional tools include fish fences, bubu traps and gill nets on the reefs.

A number of activities should be urgently implemented by the government and related stakeholders post-workshop, including mapping of natural resource potential and coastal spatial planning, determining maritime territory of each village, and regulating resource utilization permits between villages. Stakeholders need to strengthen the Forum so it can play a more active role in managing coral fisheries more sustainably in Kaledupa. Bulletins and poster will be created based on the monitoring data from FORKANI and disseminated through the Darwin Program.