



REPORT

Thresher Shark Project Indonesia

Stakeholder Meeting for Conservation of Thresher Shark in Alor

2 – 10 September 2019

Submitted for: Seasustainable.co



Thresher Shark Project Indonesia

Project location : Alor, East Nusa Tenggara

Project dates : August - September 2019

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Agustin Capriati

Eka Maya Kurniasih

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Project Members

Rafid Arifuddin Shidqi

Rafid is previously the member of working for manta ray's ecology research and conservation in Raja Ampat, West Papua. He has strong interests in shark and ray's conservation, and keen to find the mutual benefits of conservation and community livelihoods. Rafid is also an East West Center Fellow in Hawaii and alumni of Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI). In the project he was selected as Project Leader and responsible in managing the overall project activities, building and maintaining relationships with partners, communities, and other private entities. Rafid is pursuing Master's degree at the University of California, Santa Cruz with Coastal Science & Policy focus under the support of Coastal Sustainability Fellowship.

Dewi Ratna Sari

Dewi has just recently graduated with MSc in Environmental Management from the University of Queensland, through Australia Award Scholarship. Though her bachelor degree was in chemistry, Dewi realized that her passion is for ocean conservation and for the communities that depend on it. In the project Dewi responsible to create the socio-economic research protocol and data analysis. Her previous research was about environmental modelling for decision making in conservation and she also joined the research project during her Master's to study about indigenous community involvement in environmental conservation in Australia.

Agustin Capriati

Agustin earned her MSc on Marine Resources and Ecology from Wageningen University. She received StuNed scholarship and also the National Geographic Young Explorers. Agustin's previous research was about Salt Lake jellyfish in Raja Ampat, West Papua as well as ecological research of marine ecosystem which involve the work with coastal communities. She was previously the Training, Learning and Network specialist at the Coral Triangle Centre. In the project, Agustin responsible to design the ecology and fisheries protocol and data analysis.

Eka Maya Kurniasih

Eka is geneticist and on her way finishing Master's Degree of Marine Science at Diponegoro University. She is also an active researcher at Biodiversitas Indonesia (BIONESIA) working for genetic diversity of marine species for conservation purposes. Eka was previously a Smithsonian fellow and working for genetic invertebrates' diversity from dead coral head, using next generation sequencing technique. In the project, Eka responsible in creating the public outreach and educational activities

Project Summary

Alor Fishing Communities are one of the few communities which depending on thresher shark resources as main livelihood. They have been practicing thresher shark hunting for many generations and still continuing their local practice for years ahead. Our project was initiated to create an intervention to protect local thresher shark population in Alor as well as finding alternative solutions to shift the hunting. We have connected several stakeholders that possibly benefitted from thresher shark conservation in the future, including 1) Alor Fishing Communities, 2) District & Village Leaders, 3) Provincial Government 4) Dive centres/resort communities, 5) Local NGO(s) working in Alor and 6) Tribuana University, Alor.

In response to current national regulation which is being formulated by national Indonesian government toward the protection of thresher sharks, communities such as Alor Fishing Communities are vulnerable to such changes. Our initial effort in conducting ecology research and community's dependence toward thresher shark is important to be communicated to communities, district and provincial governments, businesses such as diver/resorts and NGO(s) working in the region.

Project Objectives

Thresher Shark Project Indonesia's Goal is to achieve the protection of thresher shark in Indonesia and simultaneously provide the alternative for communities who are depending on them. The funding from Seastainable is particularly will help the co-funding of Multi-Stakeholder Meeting in Alor with objectives:

- 1) Communicate research results to connecting stakeholders in Alor region consist of government, communities and private sectors
- 2) Gain decision of future thresher shark protection at district level and,
- 3) Gain insights on transparent future alternative livelihood options from the shareholders' which could be applied by the communities

Project Evaluation

Project impact will be measured through several indicators including:

- 1) Knowledge and communal understanding about the conservation status of thresher sharks within Alor waters based on research are increased 80% through pre-test and post-test
- 2) Report of stakeholders' discussion regarding the future thresher shark conservation by consent of district government and local communities will be made after the meeting
- 3) Report of stakeholders' discussion regarding the initial ideas of future alternative livelihoods to be developed that can be applied by communities will be made after the meeting

Project Partners and Collaborators

1. Government

- a. Alor Regent Government. Government counterpart
- b. Department of Marine and Fisheries, East Nusa Tenggara Timur Province. Issued a project support level to work on the Selat Pantar Marine Protected Area. Letter No 070/3468/DPMPSTSP/2018
- c. Department of Marine and Fisheries, Alor District. As project partner and support during project implementation
- d. Department of Research and Development, Alor District. Project Partner
- e. Alor People Council (DPRD Alor). Provided contacts and mobilization to government partners
- f. Head of Village, Lewalu, South West Alor District. As project partner and support during our activities in the village
- g. Head of Village, Ampera, South West Alor District. As project partner and support during our activities in the village

2. Local Community, Dive Operators, Resorts and Tourism Operators

- a. Lewalu fishing communities. Provided local transport during field work, housing and socio-economic interviews
- b. Ampera fishing communities.
- c. Fisher coordinator, Ahmad Muring. Provided the daily log-sheet of fish landings in Lewalu
- d. Women Groups. Participants in FGD and other socio-economic interviews
- e. Air Dive Alor. Provided field support, transportation, accommodation during satellite tagging and thresher shark sighting logsheet submission
- f. Alami Alor Dive Resort, provided transport for additional satellite tagging activities (not included in the report)
- g. Tanapi Dive Resort. Project partner
- h. Mala Tours. Project partner

3. Schools and University

- a. Madrasah Ibtidaiyah Negeri (MIN) Ampera. Provided support in outreach to students
- b. Sekolah Dasar Negeri (SDN) Inpres Ampera. Provided support in outreach to students
- c. Universitas Tribuana Alor. Provided support in outreach to students and surveys

4. NGO

- a. Conservation International Indonesia. Project partner in satellite tagging studies and analysis
- b. Sea Sanctuaries Trust. Project partner
- c. Indonesian Manta Project. Project Partner
- d. Shawn Heinrichs. Blue Sphere Media. Project support in media and other communications
- e. WWF Indonesia. Project Partner

Results

Meeting Participants

Stakeholder meeting was successfully carried out on 2 – 3 September 2019. The overall preparation has begun since 10th August 2019 including the logistic preparation, communication with government and recruitment on addition field members for project implementation on the ground. List of stakeholders attended the meeting days as stated on **Table 1**.

Table 1. Stakeholder Meeting Attendance List

No	Institution Name	Institution type	No. of people attended
1	Department of Marine and Fisheries, East Nusa Tenggara Province	Government	1
2	Department of Marine and Fisheries, Alor	Government	2
3	Department of Tourism, Alor	Government	1
4	Department of Planning, Research and Development, Alor	Government	1
5	Alor People Council	Government	2
6	Lewalu Village Leader	Government	1
7	Ampera Village Leader	Government	1
8	World Wildlife Fund	NGO	3
9	Tribuana University Alor	University	1
10	Lewalu Community Group	Community	2
11	Ampera Community Group	Community	2
12	Lewalu Fishers	Community	2
13	Ampera Fishers	Community	2
14	Dive Center	Business	2
15	Dive Resort	Business	1
16	Tourism Operator	Business	1
	Total		25

25 participants were attended for two-days stakeholder meetings, represented 16 different institutions of governments (both province and district), NGO, University, community groups and businesses.

The meeting was divided into two days, on the first day (2th of September) was focused on participatory mapping activities which facilitate all of the stakeholders to map the common interests and perception on the current conservation problems and regulation within Alor. The second day (3rd of September), the participants were given the chance to explain their previous statements on the participatory mapping and followed by the activities to identify the activities which could be collaboratively implemented for thresher shark protection and gaining commitment to carry the activities forward.

Meeting Results

a. Identified problems and proposed solutions

No	Stakeholder	Identified Problems	Proposed solutions
1.	Department of Marine and Fisheries (Province and District), Department of Planning, Research and Development of Alor	1. Limited information on fisheries potential	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilizing the terrestrial area for aquacultures 2. Facilitating training for fishers 3. Collaborating with other parties for research on endangered species in Alor 4. Creating regulation related to conservation 5. Provide more funding for research and monitoring in conservation area 6. Assisting in the village financial planning dedicated for marine conservation 7. Improving the capacity of marine monitoring to ensure the MPA are protected from outside threats 8. Improving the livelihoods of fishers to minimize the existing destruction 9. Improving village facilities 10. Conducting regular patrol to monitor the number of tourist ships entering Alor
2.	WWF, Tribuana University, Alor People Council	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing marine wastes in Alor 2. Destructive fishing activities in Pantar Strait 3. Conflicts between tourism operators and fishers/villagers 4. Sand mining on island 5. Regulation on sustainable marine tourism isn't yet available 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce destructive fishing from outside threats 2. Reduce marine wastes 3. Communities directly involved in sustainable tourism initiatives 4. Minimizing conflicts between tourism operators and fishers/villagers 5. Stop sand mining 6. Legalize regulation on sustainable marine tourism 7. Setting marine buoys as tourism facilities in villages 8. Assisting the development of community-based tourism 9. Facilitating governments and communities in the aspect of management of conservation area 10. Increasing capacity of tourism staff

			11. Funding for tourism development and conservation
3.	Tourism Operator, Dive center, Department of Tourism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Installation of underwater fibre optics destructive to coral reefs 2. Destructive bomb fishing 3. Sand mining 4. Marine wastes are increasing 5. Marine buoys aren't available for tourism boats 6. Limited tourists' numbers 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Socialization about tourism potential to villages 2. Increase the capacity of village about sustainable tourism 3. Build community centre for thresher shark conservation 4. Diversify the products for alternative economy 5. Optimize the tourism activities by considering the high season and low season
4.	Communities and Village Leaders of Ampera	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Government did not pay attention to community welfare 2. Outside fishers are catching fish around Alor 3. Inadequate boat capacity 4. Fishing in main income for fishers 5. Skills for alternative livelihood options are lacking 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve facility for fishing gears and boat capacity 2. Improve fish market 3. Provide incentives for shark 4. Stop the permit for outside fishers
5.	Communities and Village leaders of Lewalu	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regulation on thresher shark conservation is not yet available 2. Inadequate boat capacity to catch more fish 3. Tourists entering the village areas without permit 4. Coordination between villages and tourism operators are still lacking 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve fishing facilities for fishers 2. Stop the permit for outside fishers 3. Provide incentives for shark 4. Build better system for tourism activities

b. Solutions Preference

Based on the follow-up discussion of identified problems and proposed solutions, we categorized five main options which were chosen by all stakeholders as their top priority to achieve thresher shark and marine conservation in Alor regions.

Table 2. Selected Solutions

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
Provide facilities for fisher such as boat capacity, technology and skills for fishing efficiency	Optimize the law enforcement for conservation	Open the tourism activities in Lewalu and Ampera as alternative of shark fishing	Provide regulation on sustainable marine tourism	Increase capacity of communities in other disciplines for economic alternatives

All stakeholders were then given the chance to discuss and determine their top priority solutions which are taken as possible future implementation

Table 3. Ranked Solution Based on Stakeholders' perspectives

Option	Lewalu Village	Ampera Village	Government	NGO/Private institutions	Tourism Operators
Provide facilities for fisher such as boat capacity, technology and skills for fishing efficiency	1	1	1	5	5
Increase the law enforcement for conservation	4	4	2	1	2
Open the tourism activities in Lewalu and Ampera as alternative of shark fishing	3	2	4	4	3
Provide regulation on sustainable tourism	5	3	5	2	1
Increase capacity of communities in other disciplines for economic alternatives	2	5	3	3	4

Lewalu Village, Ampera Village and Government chose **Option 1** as their priority solution that could help communities shift away from hunting thresher shark. While NGO/private institution and tourism operators tended to choose **Option 2** and **Option 4** which are both regulations/enforcement for conservation and tourism, and saw providing facilities would provide less conservation benefits to thresher shark in Alor.

c. Outreach Impact

Outreach activities were conducted to communicate our research results and impact to more general and broad communities in Alor. Radio announcing in one of Alor's youth radio was conducted on 4th of September. We also made press interviews to Tribuana Pos (Alor's main news portal) and Alor Pos (Alor's main weekly newspaper), and was invited directly by regent Government of Alor to present our research results and discuss the urgency to protect thresher shark as one of Alor's asset.

Outreach Type	Outreach List
Poster Website Facebook Instagram Blogs/News Articles/Social Media posts Radio Other	<p>Thresher shark conservation and awareness poster, 30 posters distributed to 6 government Institutions, 7 schools, 4 dive centres, public spaces and community centres</p> <p>www.threshersharkprojectindonesia.org https://www.facebook.com/threshershark.id/ https://www.instagram.com/threshershark.id/</p> <p>a. Indonesian version</p> <p>Populasi Hiu Tikus Terancam Punah (Thresher sharks population is on the brink of extinction), September 2019 http://tribuanapos.net/populasi-hiu-tikus-di-alor-terancam-punah/?fbclid=IwAR1Wk1iyXoqnEom8efUcnwrFx8Sns8CK3DJbJ5NGgmO5-RwTb_IGIwLNMH4</p> <p>Hiu Tikus Jadi Potensi Wisata Baru di Alor (Thresher sharks to be future tourism potential in Alor), September 2019 http://tribuanapos.net/hiu-tikus-jadi-potensi-wisata-baru-di-alor/?fbclid=IwAR3w3T2mScAgSyALYXJHp9H331SvEoq17-CRYjihYCviNKi5EginFhTPLLe4</p> <p>Peneliti Thresher Shark Project Indonesia Temukan Hiu Tikus di Perairan Alor (Researcher from Thresher Shark Project Indonesia found Thresher sharks in Alor waters), September 2019 http://tribuanapos.net/peneliti-thresher-shark-project-indonesia-temukan-hiu-tikus-di-perairan-alor/?fbclid=IwAR2lwY73gN8vtq1M245lc3cTzQ-xscLkza7HQfb7dclEIN00231buxRmcgg</p> <p>Kagumi Keunikan Hiu Tikus di Laut Alor (Adore the uniqueness of Thresher Sharks in Alor Waters), September 2019 - Alor Pos (Newspaper)</p> <p>PSPK Alor Radio 95.6 MHz, Kalabahi, Alor, September 2019 London School of Public Relation (LSPR Radio), Jakarta, September 2018 - http://lspr.edu/lxpr/lsprradio/</p> <p>Presentation to Alor's regent government</p>

Next Step

Initial alternative livelihood solutions for thresher shark conservation in Alor have drawn many positive attentions from government, NGO and other private entities. It has opened new doors for us to follow-up the proposed solutions by carefully considering the real outcomes to conservation for thresher sharks within Alor waters. We are currently discussing with Department of Planning, Research, and Development to create the middle-term development planning activities that include the conservation of thresher shark in Alor, which would co-fund with upcoming development agenda in Alor.