

# INDONESIA CENDERAWASIH BAY

## Conservation, culture and commerce

Part of the breathtaking Bird's Head Seascape, Cenderawasih Bay's crystal clear turquoise waters are a picture of abundance and life. But this wasn't always the case. Plagued by unregulated and destructive fishing practices, which led to rapidly declining fish stocks, the local communities and authorities realized that the protection of their precious marine resources was imperative.

### CHARACTERISTICS

**US\$20**

All visitors entering traditional marine management areas are expected to contribute a fee to the Cenderawasih village fund, an agreement WWF helped to facilitate with tourism operators.

**1,453,500ha**

is the size of the protected region in Cenderawasih Bay.

**6,000 people**

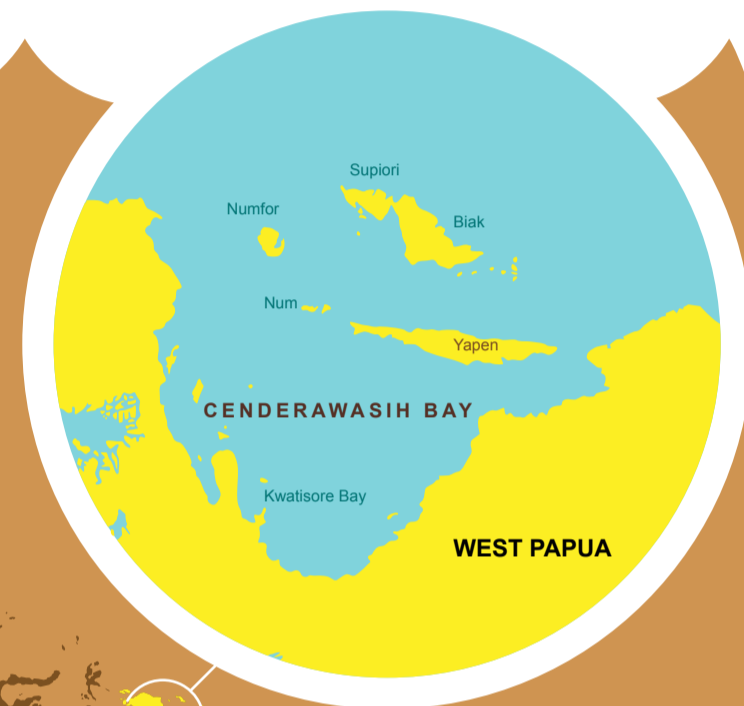
live in 18 villages throughout Cenderawasih Bay.

**US\$9.2 million**

Fisheries from the region are estimated to contribute IDR 123 billion per annum to the Indonesian economy.

**In 2002**

Cenderawasih Bay officially became Indonesia's largest marine national park.



West Papua and Papua Province, Indonesia

### CENDERAWASIH BAY

Situated between the Indonesian provinces of Papua and West Papua — covering the regions of Manokwari, Teluk Wondama, Nabire, Waropen and Yapen — the uniquely isolated location of Cenderawasih Bay has enabled a marine area with incredibly high diversity and density.

### NOTABLE WINS & KEY LESSONS



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### HARNESSING ECOTOURISM POTENTIAL

Unlike other regions, which depend on whale shark sighting seasons, Cenderawasih's whale shark population is consistent all year round, providing a significant opportunity for marine tourism development. In 2011, WWF and partners began tagging the sharks in Cenderawasih to gather much needed data and to assess the distribution of the world's biggest fish. Since then, WWF assisted in the development of district marine tourism strategies, as well as a code of conduct for whale shark tourism activities. In Cenderawasih, there were few existing tourism activities. However, whale shark watching has recently seen a leap in visitors. An estimated 5,000 tourists visit the national park annually.

### TRADITIONAL CONSERVATION

Building on the emerging awareness and motivation for environmental stewardship, WWF worked with communities to establish a series of traditional marine management areas. Crucially, WWF identified traditional systems already in place that could be utilized to manage the issuing of quotas for harvesting and the limiting of gear types permissible in particular areas. Armed with this knowledge, WWF and the Cenderawasih park authority incorporated these informal traditional management approaches, whilst vertically aligning them for formal government recognition. Through considerable research, planning, design and advocacy, these management areas first became recognized at the village level through customary decrees and were then legally adopted in four villages: Yomaka, Isenebuai, Yomber and Syeiwar.

### WWF'S APPROACH IN CENDERAWASIH BAY

- Raising awareness and conducting education and community resource mapping activities to generate greater understanding of sustainable resource management
- Establishing traditional marine management areas and providing training based on customary marine ownership and historical tribal access rights
- Introducing locally-based fishermen to the benefits of total allowable catch (TAC) limits in an effort to safeguard and restore fish populations
- Contributing to a district marine tourism strategy and conducting community workshops on ecotourism opportunities
- Facilitating and collaborating on biodiversity studies throughout the region, including efforts to monitor the whale shark population

*"Since WWF programmes came into our village, we could see a gradual change, with people stopping the use dynamite for fishing. Personally, I have stopped using dynamite because I realize that I must protect the sea for our future generations."*

**Fisherman, Yomaken Village**

### WWF in the Coral Triangle

Over the past two decades, WWF has been working in the Coral Triangle to help safeguard the health of the region's valuable resources and to ensure the wellbeing of the millions of people who depend on this globally significant ecosystem for food and livelihoods.

Learn more about WWF's approach in Cenderawasih

[panda.org/coraltriangle/mpa](http://panda.org/coraltriangle/mpa)