

# INDONESIA K O O N

## Nurturing a nursery of the seas

Considered one of the last remaining spawning aggregation sites for grouper and snapper, Koon and its surrounding marine areas are crucial for the sustainability of globally important fish stocks, the biodiversity of the region's ecosystems and the survival of subsistent local communities.

### CHARACTERISTICS

**2,497.45ha**

is the size of the area protected by the Marine Conservation Agreement (MCA) between WWF-Indonesia and the local community.

**IDR 170 million**

The equivalent of around US\$13,000 was allocated to the Grogos community and their King as interim compensation for the fishing restrictions put in place in 2011.

**US\$4320**

per year is generated in tourism fees via a formal agreement with the Indonesian Liveaboard Diving Association. This amount roughly covers the annual costs for the marine patrol teams.

**31**

species of fish are known to spawn within the Koon MCA site, considered one of the largest aquatic fish spawning grounds in Indonesia.

## The Traditional Kingdom of Kataloka

has the right of sea authority in 12 villages across four islands: Koon, Grogos, Nukus Island and some parts of Gorom Island.



### KOON ISLAND

Koon Island is located just off the eastern coast of Seram Island at the northern end of the Banda Sea. The Marine Conservation Agreement (MCA) between WWF-Indonesia and the local community consists of four islets: Nukus, Koon, Gorom and Grogos.

### NOTABLE WINS & KEY LESSONS



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### REGENERATING FISH STOCKS

After noticing a decline in rare fish species, the local Kataloka people of Seram Island, located in the waters nearby Koon island, agreed to work with WWF in order to protect their precious marine life. In 2011, both parties jointly launched the Koon Marine Conservation Agreement (MCA) Project which sees to the implementation of sustainable rights-based fishing across 2,497.45ha in and around Koon Island in addition to a formal marine protected area of 9,901ha mandated by the local government. Since the MCA was put in place, WWF data has shown a consistent increase in fish aggregation numbers, which almost quadrupled in the space of three years. Even local fishermen have begun to experience the benefits of the protected marine zone, recording catches of up to 10 fish per day, some weighing up to five kilos, catches that were previously considered rare.



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### TOURISM FOR CONSERVATION

Previously, residents of the region never considered that tourism could provide economic benefits for their communities. However in 2016, WWF-Indonesia and a consortium of tourism operators and local government authorities facilitated the implementation of a payment for environmental services (PES) scheme in Koon. Now, tourists visiting the area — often for diving — are charged entrance fees to help maintain the health of coastal and marine areas throughout the region. Half of the funds go towards customary development, while 20 per cent is allocated to conservation programmes, including community controls and mangrove planting. Education and village development activities are allocated 10 per cent of the revenue. Inspired community members and leaders are now considering new ecotourism possibilities including treks in Gorom Island where tourists can experience the nutmeg gardens and local cuisine.

*“The authorities of East Seram regency fully support the responsible and wise management of tourism. This marine tourism development in Koon will promote our region to an international level.”*

**Syarif Makmur**  
Secretary of East Seram regency

### WWF'S APPROACH IN KOON

- ➔ Facilitating rights-based sustainable management to encourage community involvement and commitment for long term protection zones
- ➔ Formalizing a marine conservation agreement and no take zones, with the local community
- ➔ Engaging the tourism industry to support fisheries improvement, which includes payment for environmental services from liveaboard entry fees
- ➔ Engaging several fishing companies that have agreed to source fish only from sustainable sources, outside of the region's no take zones through WWF's Seafood Savers programme