

# INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SUSTAINABLE OCEANS

19-20 JULY 2016 | THE CAPITOL HOTEL TOKYU | TOKYO, JAPAN

## SESSION FIVE: YOUTH AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Photo credit: Nick Hall

### **Engaging Youth for Nature and Livelihoods**

#### **Belitung Island, Bangka Belitung Province, Indonesia**

##### **1) What is the focus of this project?**

This project works to implement sustainable coastal and terrestrial ecosystem management in order to rehabilitate, protect and manage natural resources on Belitung Island. This is achieved primarily through education and awareness raising among young people, and by reducing poverty and strengthening livelihoods in the community. The project is modelled on the synergy between Conservation, Education and Productivity.

##### **2) Which organizations and other partners are involved?**

The lead organization is the Kelompok Puduli Lingkungan Belitung (KPLB) Coastal Community Group, which was founded by Budi Setiawan in November 1997. The structure of KPLB consists of three divisions: the advocacy and environment campaign division, the education for youth division, and the division for community empowerment and the creation of alternative livelihoods. This model was designed to fit with the spirit of KPLB, which believes that in order to save the environment, alongside advocacy and campaigning work it is also essential to educate and motivate young people. This education is most effective when it involves showing young people practical examples of how utilizing the potential of natural resources in a sustainable manner can have a positive economic and social impact on society, including the development of alternative livelihoods, i.e. creating new jobs.

Several other partners have worked with KPLB to develop this project, including UNDP, UNEP, GEF Small Grants Programme Indonesia, Telapak Indonesia, Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia (LIPI, the Indonesian Institute of Sciences), and the government.

##### **3) What activities or tools have proven successful in building capacity?**

KPLB has developed working practices aimed at making the project both effective and welcomed by the local community, these are based on:

- Developing the project in a way that fits the needs of society, not just those of the program/donors/government, or even the environment itself.
- Being part of the community by designing and using “live-in” working models.
- Building a Synergy Movement involving NGOs, government, the private sector, scientists and the community, to raise the sense of ownership of the project among all stakeholders.
- Supporting the project with continuous mid as well as long term planning and regulation.

- Involving and listening to the voices of the local communities from the very beginning of the decision making process, including activities such as mapping project needs, revitalizing local wisdom, developing the action plan, and structuring the team.

A wide range of capacity building activities were carried out in order to achieve the project's objectives, such as:

1. Participatory education and training on implementing effective and sustainable natural management resources such as coral reefs, turtles, tarsius, and mangroves. Improving living standards in coastal and terrestrial communities by developing ecotourism.
2. Building an environmentally friendly and sustainable working network of natural resources management and utilization businesses owned and run by local people.
3. Building the Coral Reef Transplantation and Turtle Conservation Center.
4. Building a training and education center to encourage ecotourism destinations as a strategy for self-financing the education and conservation program.

Through these activities, KPLB ensures that it is not only working on campaigning or advocacy issues, but also educating people and creating alternative livelihoods that can enhance the wellbeing of the community.

#### 4) **What challenges have been experienced, specifically related to maintaining a focus on capacity building and/or replicating the project in other areas?**

In scaling up the program, the biggest challenge KPLB has faced is changing the mindset of key stakeholders towards environmental protection. It takes time and perseverance to convince people that the currently available natural resources should not be allocated entirely for 'free', but managed with a consideration for their 'cost'. In addition, it is difficult to engage stakeholders in an integrated partnership project as many prefer to do things on their own. However, hard work and consistency in fighting for coastal conservation have resulted in the successful scaling up of the project at many levels.

Overall, KPLB has created an enabling environment for future progress. For example, other development schemes in Belitung have now adopted KPLB's principles and concepts of multi-stakeholder collaboration, from community to government level. KPLB as an organization and its working areas have also become a destination for learning, exchange study, training and research for many institutions, including private companies, LIPI, foreign researchers and schools.

#### 5) **What are the next steps for the project?**

KPLB will be running many activities in the next period, such as:

- Continuing to facilitate the process of replicating the Marine Conservation Zone for Belitung District at the national level in order to strengthen wider regulations. With this formal regulation, conservation status will be strengthened and protected against ecological threats such as tin mining and its environmentally destructive mining ships.
- Developing the nursery for mangrove seeds and planting the critical mangrove area, with a target of planting 50,000 mangrove seeds.
- Since 2009, KPLB have released more than 15,000 baby turtles, and this year the target is to release another 2,500 in addition to designating two new islands for turtle conservation.

- Further developing the coral garden and coral education center.
- Replicating the program in other regions, and at national level, and developing six Community Based Tourism centers in Bangka Belitung Province.
- Developing the “Friend of Nature School” with a target this year of 1,000 students.

**Further information:**

For more insight into KPLB, please watch:

- “The Story of Belitung” Youtube video: <file:///file/id=6571367.1443842>

- “The Belitung” Youtube video: <file:///file/id=6571367.1443760Y>

- “Kelompok Peduli Lingkungan Belitung, Indonesia Equator Prize 2015 Winner” Youtube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2NQTgWV4xQ>

[www.kplbelitung.wix.com/savetheplanet](http://www.kplbelitung.wix.com/savetheplanet)