

COMPLETION REPORT

National Research and Innovation Agency

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【Subject of Research Project】

The Role of Local Institutions on Enhancing Public Participation in Conserving Coral Reef in Onna Village, Okinawa, Japan and Sukarame Village, Pandeglang, Indonesia: Comparative Studies

We examine the role of local institutions on enhancing public participation in coral reef conservation using a comparative study in Onna Village in Okinawa, Japan and Sukarame Village in Pandeglang, Indonesia. This project was funded by The Sumitomo Foundation Fiscal 2022 Grant for Japan-related Research Project (Reg. Num: 22802047). We conducted In-depth interviews towards 12 informants representing both formal and informal institutions involved in coral reef conservation activities, where 5 informants were interviewed in Onna Village Okinawa, while 7 informants were interviewed in Sukarame Village, Pandeglang.

Our findings show that The Onna Village Fisheries Cooperative (OVFC) plays crucial role on empowering local fishers, the local government as well as school children, to be engaged in the coral conservation activities. OVFC uses strong networking and funding from government to support coral reef conservation activities. While, in Sukarame Village, The Konservasi Alam Bawah Laut (KABL), plays important role on transmitting the spirit of coral reef conservation to the public, including school children. KABL uses partnership as a strategy to gain attention from supportive actors and benefiting corporate social responsibilities funds for financial support of conservation activities.

We identify lessons learned from this study. Firstly, the issue of coastal conservation is the responsibility of all elements, not only tourists, innkeepers, and traders but also local communities, and the community of school children who are the generation of hope in saving coastal ecosystems. From the experience of working together, elementary, junior, and vocational high school students exhibit great enthusiasm for conservation endeavours. Secondly, learning from case study in Onna Village shows that the development of *mozuku* production, strengthened by the development of supply chains, has made cooperatives more independent and coral reef conservation more sustainable. With sufficient source of fundings, resource mobilization for coral reef conservation will be improved. Lastly, unlike in Sukarame, KABL has limited funding sources. To overcome this, KABL can learn and try to replicate ways of developing businesses through seaweed production. However, as KABL is a non-profit organization, they can establish a separated business unit, such as a cooperative or a joint business group in seaweed production. Ten years ago, Sukarame was once a seaweed-producing centre, which then began to decline due to over-exploitation without further development planned.

However, the communities in Sukarame, who depend on fishing for their livelihoods, have thus far encountered difficulties in environmental stewardship. Despite a significant decrease in environmental violations, they still anchor in areas rich in coral reefs, leading to damage to the reefs. Peak tourist seasons lead to a high influx of visitors (up to 570 per day) interested in snorkelling and diving, can also make coral reef damage. Some visitors accidentally step on the reefs or deliberately take out the coral. With the large number of tourists, controlling and monitoring them becomes challenging. If not properly anticipated, institutional fragmentation in Sukarame may disrupt the optimization of coral reef conservation as it could impede the mobilization of local resources.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation. 1. Date: 9-13 August 2024. Venue: Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok Thailand. Name of Conference: The 7th Asia Future Conference (AFC#7). Title of Presentation: “The Strategies of Local Institutions on Enhancing Public Participation in Conserving Coral Reef in Onna Village, Okinawa, Japan and Sukarame Village, Pandeglang, Indonesia: A Comparative Study”. Presenter: Budiyanto Dwi Prasetyo. Status: full paper has been accepted and presented at the mentioned conference event. 2. Date: 25 April 2024. Venue: Webinar online via zoom Jakarta, Indonesia. Name of Conference: Webinar Kemisan: a monthly discussion series #10 organized by research group Population and Natural Resources Management – BRIN. Title of Presentation: The role of local institutions in conserving coral reefs: from Onna to Sukarame. Presenter: Budiyanto Dwi Prasetyo.
Thesis. 1. Published in the edited volume “Toward the Future of Asia: My Proposal Vol.7”. Title: “The Strategies of Local Institutions on Enhancing Public Participation in Conserving Coral Reef in Onna Village, Okinawa, Japan and Sukarame Village, Pandeglang, Indonesia: A Comparative Study”. Authors: Prasetyo, Budiyanto Dwi; Wibowo, Lukas Rumboko; Septina, Ane Dwi; Fujita, Wataru. This paper is also selected as one of Best Papers in The 7th Asia Future Conference (AFC#7).
Book.