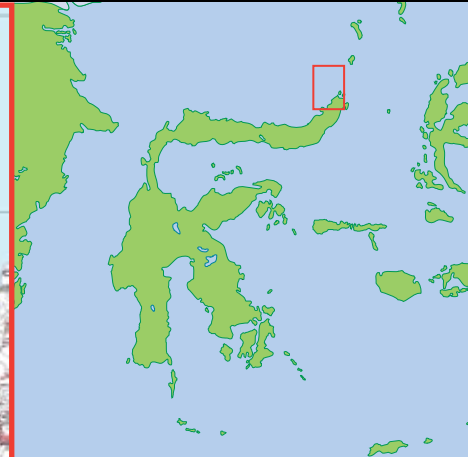
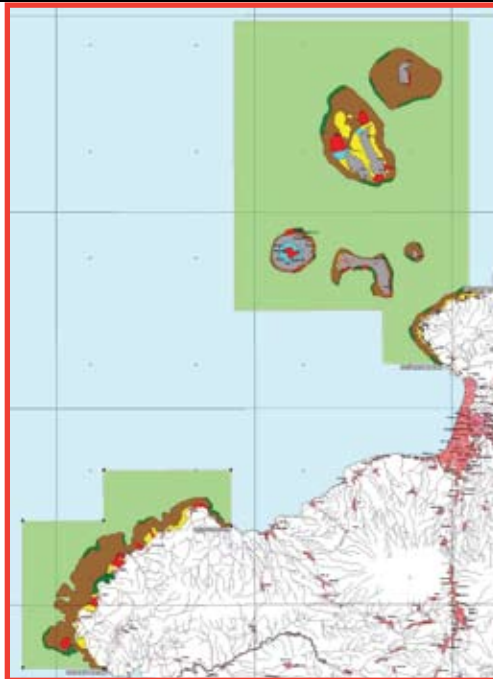




# Centre of Excellence in the World

## BUNAKEN, NORTH SULAWESI

Located near the centre of Coral Triangle, the reefs of North Sulawesi are one of crucial conservation importance and considered one of the most strategically important Marine Protected Areas in the world. Bunaken National Park covers an 85.065 hectares of areas, which include 5 surrounding islands (Bunaken, Manado Tua, Siladen, Mantehage, Nain) and the North Sulawesi mainland (South and North sections). The area stretch across four regencies (Minahasa, North Minahasa, South Minahasa and Manado) comprises of 31 villages inhabited by 45.000 residents.



Bunaken is exceptionally diverse in marine habitat. Approximately 14 species of cetaceans, 2000 species of fish, 390 hard corals that represent 63 genera and 15 family, *Tarsius spectrum*, and also Raja Laut (*Coelacanth – Latimeria menadoensis*) can be found in the region. The richness of Bunaken's biodiversity have encouraged Indonesian government to establish Bunaken as a Marine National Park in 1991 overseen until today by the Governing Board of Bunaken National Park which is part of the Ministry of Forestry.

Nowadays, Bunaken provides a well developed marine tourism industry with a high concern on environment aspects. It serves as an operation spot for over 30 dive operators, provide land-based and operating daytrips to the reef park, not to mention accommodations ranging from 5 star hotels to rustic backpacker cottages. With the kind of supports available Bunaken is aspire to achieve the ambitious target of inviting 50,000 foreign guests per year with direct international airline access.

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## THREATS

Despite the national park's status and the significant funding provided to manage itself, the park has suffered a slow, continuous deterioration due to a number of threats, among them are:

- Coral Mining
- Blast and cyanide fishing
- Unmanaged waste treatment
- Damage caused by divers:
- Anchor damage;
- Boat strike damage and propeller disturbance to shallow seagrass beds and fast boat speeds on shallow reefs and among divers;
- Pollution from solid wastes;
- Pollution from sewage - eutrophication;
- Pollution from sediment mobilization during construction of home stays;
- Increased pressure on fisheries to supply for tourists consumption.

## OUR ACTION

Cooperation with crews of Bunaken Marine National Park in several years have been successful in minimizing destructive fishing activities close to 85 percent. Today, WWF-Indonesia program in Bunaken have been developed and concentrated upon particular major programs, including:

- Supporting the collaborative management body to improve better management
- Support the Management Authority of Bunaken National park to review the Management Plan of Bunaken for the next 25 years
- Improving community awareness via intensive and informal meetings at the village level



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