



Report

Focus Group Discussion

"FORMULATING THE STRATEGY TO
SUSTAIN DUGONG-SEAGRASS
CONSERVATION PROGRAM IN BINTAN"

Tanjung Pinang, 5-6 May 2017

Organized by:

Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science, Bogor Agricultural University
Faculty of Marine Science and Fisheries, Maritime University of Raja Ali
Haji-Bintan

Fisheries Agency of Bintan District

Lamina Foundation

Supported by:

Sultan Ageng Tirtayasa University-Banten













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Foreword

Dugong (*Dugong dugon*) is a protected marine mammal in Indonesia and one of 20 priority species target of MMAF. The existence of dugong has strong correlation with the presence of seagrass habitat, also has widely geographic distribution. However, it is estimated the population of dugong has been declining in Indonesia caused by damage and degradation of seagrass beds, dugong deaths due to (bycatch) fishery and hunting by community.

Bintan is the exemplary site for Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project implementation in Indonesia under ID3, referring to success of previous UNEP/GEF-funded project TRISMADES. However, to secure the continuation of dugong-seagrass conservation program remains a challenge and FGD meeting is one way to carefully analyze the problem and to formulate the solution. FGD in Bintan was conducted on 5 May 2017 in Maritime University of Raja Ali Haji (UMRAH) to implement ID3 activities particularly Output no. 2.1.6: Work on integrating seagrass and marine biodiversity into CSR policies of private sectors in Bintan and Output no. 4.1.1: Harmonization and integration of policy and regulation with existing fisheries management and other conservation initiatives in Bintan.

As result of the FGD, two partners representing private tourism companies agree to support the implementation of CSR program on dugong-seagrass or marine biodiversity conservation for ID3 in Bintan. We also have identified the gap for harmonization of policy and regulation on the establishment of MPA, which need the inclusion of critical dugong habitat.

Thanks to the all parties for cooperation particularly from local parties so the event can be held well in Bintan. Hopefully, this activity report can be benefit for similar activities and also for the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project in Indonesia.

Bogor, May 2017

The Committe

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Bintan is designated as national exemplary site for dugong-seagrass conservation referring to previous implementation of TRISMADES (Trikora Seagrass Management Demonstration Site) by P2O-LIPI (Research Centre for Oceanography, Indonesian Institute of Sciences) in 2007-2010. However, to secure the continuation of dugong-seagrass conservation program remains a challenge and there is a need to identify current state, also to carefully analyze existing problem and to formulate possible solution. With the implementation of ID3-Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project (DSCP-ID3) in the Regency of Kotawaringin Barat (Central Kalimantan), Tolitoli (Central Sulawesi), and Alor (East Nusa Tenggara), Indonesia aims to develop incentive mechanisms to support community based conservation and management of dugong and seagrass habitat, by learning from Bintan experience. Thus, a Focus Group Discussion meeting was conducted in Bintan on Friday/May 5, 2017 with working theme "Formulating the strategy to sustain dugong-seagrass conservation program in Bintan".

1.2 Purpose

The objectives of the FGD meeting are:

- 1. Information dissemination on lessons learn from TRISMADES, current state of dugong-seagrass conservation program, and implementation of DSCP-ID3 to stakeholders & potential partners in Bintan;
- 2. Formulating concept notes on integrating dugong-seagrass conservation project into three strategic sectors: policy and regulation, research and education, also Corporate Social Responsibility by private companies;
- 3. Identify potential private companies and other parties to develop network of partnership for dugong-seagrass/marine biodiversity conservation program.

2. ACTIVITY AND RESULT

2.1 Activity

The FGD meeting was held on Friday/5 May 2017 at Rectorate Auditorium Building, Dompak Campus, Maritime University of Raja Ali Haji (UMRAH). In addition to FGD meeting, a campaign on DSCP implementation was conducted on the following day at National Seminar on Marine and Fisheries Science and Regular Meeting for Dean of the Faculty of Fishery and Marine Science. During the latter events, DSCP factsheet and a flyer summarizing Bintan's experience in dugong-seagrass conservation were distributed to all participants. Both events were organized by Maritime University of Raja Ali Haji (UMRAH), at Aston Tanjung Pinang Hotel and Convention Centre, on Saturday/6 May 2017.

A total of 60 participants were attending FGD meeting (Figure 1) at UMRAH campus in Dompak, Bintan at Friday/May 5, 2017. They represents governments, universities, NGOs, private companies, and village community in Bintan. Summary of institutions attending FGD meeting is listed at Table 1, followed by information on rundown of activities (Table 2).



Figure 1. Group photo of FGD participants. Starting from the 7th line (left-right) is Sam Wouthuyzen (keynote #1) with green batik shirt, followed by Hery Suryadi (UMRAH), Iskandarsyah (DPRD Kepulauan Riau), Fachrimsyah (keynote #2), Admiral Abdul Halik (Lantamal IV), and Mohammad Mukhlis Kamal (keynote #3).

No.	Government	Private Company	University/ Research Inst.	NGO	Community
1	Local Senate Member (DPRD), Province of Kepulauan Riau	Conservation Lab, Banyan Tree Bintan	Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science, Bogor Agri-cultural Univ. (FPIK-IPB)	Lamina	Municipal Office of Gunung Kijang
2	Indonesian Naval Major Base IV (Lantamal IV), Bintan	Nikhoi Resort	Centre for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies, IPB	Lindung Alam	Municipal Office of Sri Kuala Lobam
3	Fisheries Agency of Bintan District	BRC (Bintan Resort Cakrawala)	Maritime University of Raja Ali Haji (UMRAH)	Blowfish	Municipal Office of Malang Rapat
4	Marine Affairs & Fisheries Agency of Riau Archipelago Province	Safari Lagoi Bintan	University of Queensland	Bintan Nemo	Municipal Office of Pengudang
5	Tourism Agency of Riau Archipelago Province	BPP (Bintan Power Plant)	University of Tirtayasa		
6	Agency for Regional Planning and Development (BAPPEDA), Riau Archipelago Province	BPK Bintan (Agency for Regional Engagement)	Research Centre for Oceanography, LIPI		
7	Agency for Regional Planning and Development (BAPPEDA), Bintan District	Aerial Survey Co.			
8	Culture, Youth and Sports Agency of Bintan District				
9	Agency for Marine and Coastal Resources Management (BPSPL) Padang– MMAF, Field staf of Bintan				

In the morning session, FGD meeting was opened by Vice Rector of UMRAH, Hery Suryadi, followed by brief notes from Head of Commission II- Senate Member of Riau Archipelago Province (DPRD Kepulauan Riau). A list of keynote address were delivered by panel of speakers to give insights for FGD participants about the importance of dugong-

seagrass conservation, as well as the need to further galvanize coordinative efforts for sustaining the program and developing Bintan as national model site for DSCP implementation.

Particular needs to harmonize policy and regulation related with marine conservation, dugong protection, law enforcement, also spatial arrangement of coastal & marine environmental services was initiated by inviting government officials from regency and provincial level, legislative member from DPRD, and Indonesian Navy. Moderated by researcher from IPB, Fery Kurniawan, panel of speakers were delivering their talks (Table 2) from 9:15-11:30 WIB.

Table 1. Keynote address during morning session of FGD meeting in Bintan

No	Name of presenters and title of keynote address	Institution
1	Prof. Dr. Sam Whouthuyzen, TRISMADES as the foundation of dugong and seagrass conservation program in Bintan	Research Centre for Oceanography-LIPI
2	M. Fachrimsyah, SP Current status of dugong and seagrass conservation program in Bintan.	Fisheries Agency of Bintan District
3	Dr. Ir. M. Mukhlis Kamal Implementation of DSCP-ID and the need to establish Bintan as Center of Excellence for national dugong and seagrass conservation	Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science, Bogor Agricultural University

During afternoon session, which starts from 13:30 WIB, parallel discussion was held covering 3 different topics namely:

- (1) harmonization of policy and regulation related with dugong-seagrass conservation program in Bintan,
- (2) capacity and training in-need for educational support on dugong-seagrass conservation, and
- (3) how to improve local private companies' and NGO's contribution for dugong-seagrass conservation program in Bintan?

The first group was chaired by Fery Kurniawan (IPB) and comprised of government officials from different sectors listed in Table 1, the second group was chaired by Muta Khalifa (UNTIRTA) and comprised of academics from different universities and research institutions, while the third group was chaired by Juraij (Lamina) and comprising diverse participants from NGOs, private companies and representative from municipal communities.

2.2 Result

1st group: Dugong-seagrass conservation initiated through TRISMADES project in Bintan reflected grass-root efforts by empowering community villages and regulation enacted by Head of Bintan Regency in 2007 (SK Bupati Bintan No. 261/VIII/2007) and several Village Decrees (Berakit Village, Malang Rapat Village, and Teluk Bakau Village) in 2010. Referring to Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 23/Year 2014 on local government, there is a significant challenge in sustaining dugong-seagrass conservation program in Bintan because the district has no autorithy in managing conservation program and executing marine conservation activities. Several types of protected areas exist in Bintan, but further legislation and management scheme is required. Thus, harmonization of existing regulation and government programs, from different sectors and levels, towards new policy enacted by central government is required in the near future. In addition, this FGD gained additional support from the Indonesian Naval Base IV for law enforcement on dugong protection and destructive fishing practices, which affecting key coastal habitats in Bintan and Kepulauan Riau waters.

2nd group: Increasing dugong-seagrass related research in the local university (UMRAH) and the inclusion of specific content for local curricula at elementary and higher schools were regarded as significant efforts from Group 2 to sustain future conservation program in Bintan. Academics from universities would like to take parts in information dissemination on dugong protection and the importance of seagrass habitats in Bintan greater areas, also small islands within Kepulauan Riau Province. Further support from national partner and through CSR programs would favor the advancement of educational aspects related with dugong-seagrass conservation in Bintan.

3rd group: Securing continuous funds for dugong-seagrass conservation program in Bintan remains a challenge after TRISMADES and the enactment of Indonesian Law No. 23/2014. There are several community groups (POKMASWAS) established at village level, administered under Municipal Office and they were monitoring existing protected areas under coordination of Regency government. TRISMADES project sites were in Berakit, Malang Rapat, and Teluk Bakau village, thus Village Decree existed to protect and manage seagrass ecosystem service, included therein a fundraising scheme. However, dugong hotspot is located in Pengudang village, thus CSR program by one resort in Bintan and community service project by one major university related with dugong-seagrass conservation have taken place. CSR by other private companies could be developed to support POKMASWAS monitoring program and emergency response on dugong strandings. In the end of discussion, we received support from two partners representing private tourism companies toward the implementation of CSR program on dugong-seagrass or marine biodiversity conservation for ID3 in Bintan, namely BRC (Bintan Resort Cakrawala) and Nikhoi Resort.







Figure 2. A glimpse of group discussion activities by academics (left), government (center), and private companies-community village-NGOs (right).

FGD meeting session was closed at 17:00 WIB by signing Letter of Mutual Intent to support further implementation of dugong-seagrass conservation in Bintan. The event was featured at local newspaper "Tanjung Pinang Pos" on Monday/8 May 2017 (http://tanjungpinangpos.id/lipi-dan-kampus-sepakat-selamatkan-dugong-di-bintan).

3. CLOSING

The FGD Bintan was held in UMRAH as a part of Dugong and Seagrass Project namely Community based conservation and management of dugong and seagrass habitat in Bintan, Alor, Tolitoli and Kotawaringin Barat, Indonesia (ID3). Bintan as one of the project sites is under Bogor Agriculture University as implementing partner in charge in the site. The FGD is a first step to implement ID3 in Bintan, whereas Bintan was a GEF TRISMASDE site so the results hopefully will be much contributed in Dugong and Seagrass Conservation as well as to determine the next step in implementation of ID3 in Bintan.

APPENDIX





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