



# REPORT

## CODE OF CONDUCT DEVELOPMENT DUGONG OBSERVATION TOURISM IN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS OF PANTAR STRAIT AND SURROUNDING SEAS, ALOR REGENCY, NTT

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## INTRODUCTION

### Background

Marine protected area of Pantar Strait is part of Alor Regency that is included to conservation area that has been declared through ministry decree on last 2015 year. In research journey and conservation efforts that have been done, *Dugong dugon* animal or known as duyung/ dugong is one of animal whose presence is met in Alor Regency. Since it is on a coverage of dugong and its habitat on DAAI TV at the end of 2015, along with research about dugong and seagrass by WWF Indonesia in May- June 2016; information related dugong that is within dugong habitat is increasing. There are some coverage from some media like TransTV, RCTI, SCTV who came to shoot about dugong observation. Approximately since July 2016, there has been visits for dugong and its habitat from tourist, local and global that are attracted to see this animal.

High exposure of information to public is worrying, because dugong's vulnerable condition and its natural behavior that tends to be shy. Moreover, this rare sea mammals is one of 20 priority species that become important target of protected animals by Marine and Fishery Affair Ministry (PP No. 7/ 1999). Dugong is also protected based on Constitution No. 5 year 1990 about natural resource and its ecosystem conservation, also Constitution No. 31 year 2004 about fishery.

On its journey, there has been tourism of dugong observation, but because of that animal's protected status, at first there are some different point of views about dugong, particularly from Marine and Fishery Agency of Alor Regency that aims through conservation/ full protection through closing of tourism access. However, the power of Marine and Fishery Agency of Alor since constitution No. 23 year 2014 has weakened, because authority within marine conservation sector has been moved to province government (Marine and Fishery Agency of NTT Province). On the other hand, marine tourism activity that has increased not closing any probability of uncontrolled tourism activity of visiting dugong in the future.

In order to minimize pressure that still increasing, WWF- Indonesia through dugong and seagrass conservation program (DSCP) conduct various facilitation effort between many parties. Continuing non-formal meeting in May 2017, facilitation activity was conducted in September 27th 2017 that brought together multi stakeholders to summarize regulation and dugong management levels that is better to take. This meeting consisted of KKP-KKHL (Directorate of Conservation and Marine Biodiversity of Marine and Fishery Affair Ministry) team DKP (Marine and Fishery Agency) of NTT Province, DKP of Alor Province, BKSDA (Conservation of Natural Resources) of NTT, Tourism Agency of Alor Regency, and representative from tour operator and local community. One of the recommendation resulted from the meeting was appointing WWF Indonesia as part that is believed to conduct continuous study for dugong and seagrass habitat. After continuous study, WWF Indonesia and DSCP resulting recommendation of ethic code of dugong tourism in Pantar Strait MPA, Alor Regency.

**Objective**

The objective to summarize ethic code of dugong tourism in Pantar Strait MPA is the form of an agreement of tourism observation management through best ways, for the continuity and preservation of animal and community and tourism welfare. This recommendation hopefully could be one of fundamental thing to appoint the next regulation in interacting and observing rare animal of dugong, for the preservation of local environment and community.

## RESULT

Plan and development of dugong observation tourism is better conducted in sequence, through several steps to reach planned and controlled tourism. According to *Code of Practice for the Sustainable Management of Dugong and Marine Turtle Tourism in Australia* (2005), it is known that tourism road map of dugong observation is better done by these ways:

1. Environment Impact Assessment
2. Recommendation
3. Authority management
4. Regulation
5. Training
6. Permissions

Ideally, the Environment Impact Assessment/ EIA is according to three main pillars, they are ecology, social, and economy that are described like these:

### 1. Ecology

There needs to be a reliable research and monitoring, from biological aspect:

- Information regarding seagrass habitat
- Information regarding population numbers
- Response study of ship's sound
- Response study of human

### 2. Social

- Traditional value, record of experience and social condition
- Local community authority

### 3. Economy

- Direct profit for local community
- Long term viability

According to that EIA steps, hopefully there would be **identification of whatever indicators that represent sustainability principle** (in tourism and nature), also there could be an identification of **the lack of research that needs to be improved.**

## Local community value: tourism development

On August 2017, together with shooting with Metro TV, local community started to initiate in dugong presence management. Mr. One, head of Pecinta Lingkungan Ol Oho Group creating “Temporary rules when visiting dugong/ dugong in Mali” (Fig 1). The rules that came from local wisdom has become the fundamental in creating continuous regulation from recommendation of study result about dugong-seagrass.

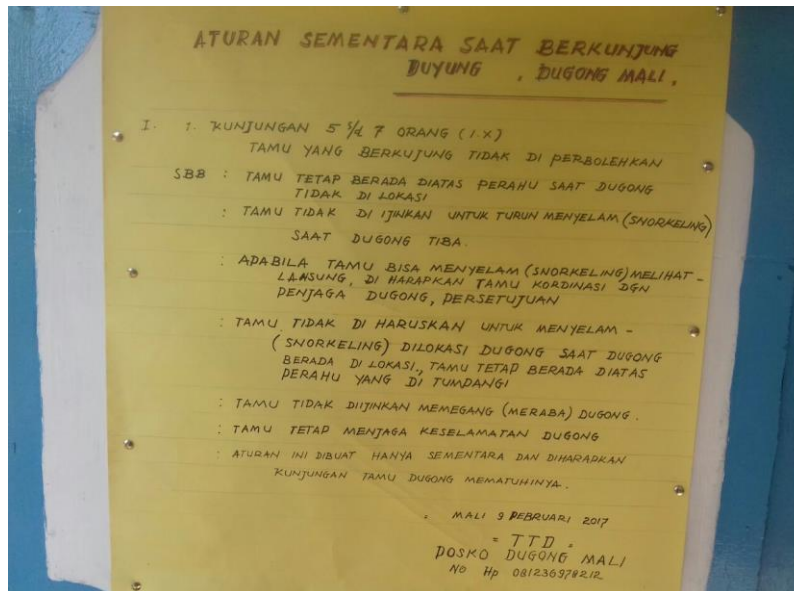


Fig 1. Temporary rules when visiting dugong/ dugong in Mali (WWF-Indonesia © Zakarias Atapada)

Study about dugong’s behavior in Mali Beach has been conducted on October 30th- November 2nd, 2017. There was a dugong that located in Mali Beach Sea, Kabola Administrative Village, habitat and sighting appearance in Tanjung Pantai Mali in front of Sika Island. The study that was facilitated by WWF Indonesia was followed by some observation result of dugong behavior, they are breathing, swimming at the seafloor, spinning under and beside of the boat, walking up to interesting/ strange object, hugging human that is hanging at the leeboard of the ship, trying to inject penis when hugging human, swiping its penis to the bottom of the boat, and pulling fins that human use near the boat. Generally, dugong is attracted to the presence and the sound of the boat. Dugong is also interested in everything that comes within the water. According to bio-acoustic survey, there are three kinds of dugong’s sound: yaitu chirp, trill, and bark.

According to that study result and considering local wisdom on temporary rules, the study team and WWF-DSCP Indonesia team discussed some points of ethic code recommendation.

### Boat

1. Traditional boat design
2. Maximum boat size is 3 GT
3. Passenger’s seat is directed outside, if possible, using cover
4. Boat’s machine is adjusted with needs

5. Propeller with protection
6. Safety tool is available and is used by visitors
7. Maximum speed is 5 knott/ hour and makes no wave
8. Boat's number in every visit: maximum 2 boats serially with 25-50 meters distance
9. If possible, with glass boat

### Visiting

1. **Visit quota per month:** 64 people → maximum 16 people per week → maximum 8 people per visit → one time visit: 2 boats, each 4 people
2. **Visit per day:** maximum 2 times (between 10-15 WITA)
3. **Visitor number per boat:** maximum 7 people
4. **Visit number:** 2 times/ day
5. **Visit duration:** 15-30 minutes/ visit
6. **Visit time:** 9-15
7. **Boat capacity:** maximum 7 people, 2 boats each visit

### Permitted interaction

Observing from boat, with conditions:

1. Not touching dugong
2. Not entering any body parts within the water
3. Taking pictures with "tongsis:
4. Taking pictures with no flash

As a continous act from study activity, continuing by meeting on December 12th, 2017 according to study result in October- November 2017 (Fig 2).



**Fig 2.** Continous meeting in WWF Office (WWF Indonesia © Alexandra Maheswari, I Made Dharmajaya)

That meeting agreed on some rule points:

**A. Rules of Dugong Observation for tourist**

1. Prohibiting swimming and scuba diving.
2. Prohibiting entering any body parts within the water.
3. Prohibiting touching/ holding dugong's body parts.
4. Prohibiting loud noises (laughing, kidding, screaming).
5. Prohibiting flash during taking pictures underwater.
6. Prohibiting feeding dugong.
7. Prohibiting throwing any waste in the shoreline and along the way to dugong habitat.
8. Prohibiting swimming around dugong habitat.

**B. Rules of Dugong Observation for tourist for operator and guide**

1. Operator and guide are bound to give briefing regarding rules of dugong observation toward tourists before boarding on boat.
2. Tourist capacity on one boat is 7 people maximum.
3. Tourism time of dugong observation is 9.00 -15.00.
4. Sunday is an off day.
5. If dugong appears and heads to the boat, the boat must be stopped.
6. Boat must be tethered at available mooring bay.
7. Boat must not anchor.
8. Maximum boat number on one observation duration is 2 boats.
9. Visit duration of dugong observation **maximum** is 30 minutes per boat

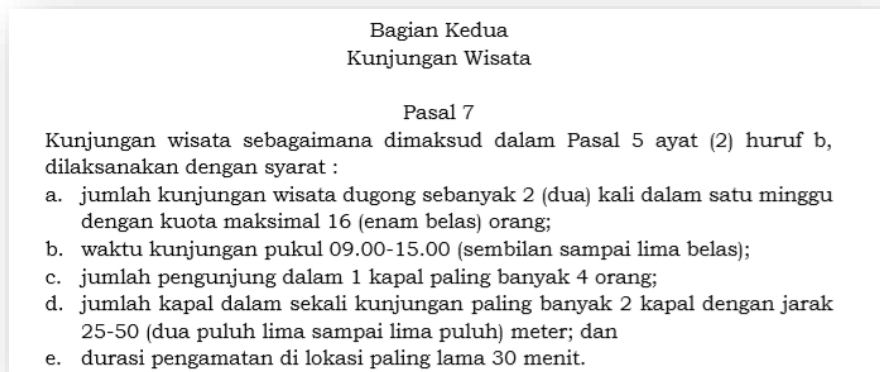
That meeting was conducted on January 18th, 2018, resulting recommendation to conduct next meeting on regional level, in this case is a public hearing. That session was conducted and facilitated by WWF-Indonesia in Alor site, also with greetings (presentation) by Head of Tourism Agency of Alor (Fig 3). There's a draft of regent regulation that is on creation process and on progress to make it official (Attachment 1). The next activity is finalizing regent rules and popular knowledge creation (infographics, poster, and or pocket book) about dugong observation tourism.



**Fig 3.** Meeting and Discussion Regarding Draft of Alor's Regent Regulation about dugong observation tourism in Pantar Strait MAP and surrounding seas (WWF Indonesia © Yansens Sailana)

### Finalization Process by Law Division Head of Alor Regency

The next step is finalization process of regulation's content by Head of Law Division of Alor Regency. This process is conducted by that team and next would be discussed internally between Tourism Agency of Alor Regency, Marine and Fishery Affair of Alor Regency, WWF-Indonesia, and Head of Kabola Administrative Village, also representative from Kabola Fishermen Communication Forum (FKNK). The session was conducted on May 16th, 2018 and that meeting showed some changes on Regent's Regulation, they were the maximum quota: became 16 people in a week and the visitors on one boat maximum 4 people with objective to maximize quota in each month (Fig 4).



**Fig 4.** Changes on tourism visit (Kunjungan Wisata) part

Another facilitated changes were law language, and adding dugong definition, dugong's protection status, consolidation on prohibition of snorkeling and swimming activity poin, also adding status of Marine and Fishery Affair Ministry Decree KEPMEN-KP No. 54/ 2015 that appointed conservation area status of Pantar Strait MPA and surrounding seas in Alor Regency. Regent's Regulation at the end has been declared as Alor's Regent Regulation No. 7 year 2018 about Guide of Conducting Dugong Observation Tourism in Alor Regency.



**Fig 5.** Consultation and discussion session that was facilitated by Head of Law Division of Alor Regency (WWF Indonesia © I Made Dharmajaya)



## **CLOSURE**

Facilitating meeting activity of ethic code making was conducted on four steps, first was meeting with all stakeholders to summarize management mechanism (conservation and tourism), second step was discussion of temporary result of study and summarizing internal team, and the third step was meeting of draft discussion of Regent Regulation. Last step was closed by finalization discussion in Law Division of Alor Regency Government, until finally declared as Regent Regulation No. 7 year 2018.

