



# Bunaken National Park



© Pieter Lange

**Location:** North Sulawesi Province, Indonesia, within the Coral Triangle

**Area:** 89,095 hectares; Bunaken National Park (BNP) includes the islands of Bunaken, Manado Tua, Mantehage, Siladen, Nain and part of Arakan Wowontulap

**Population:** 30,000 inhabitants in 22 villages

**Cultural features:**

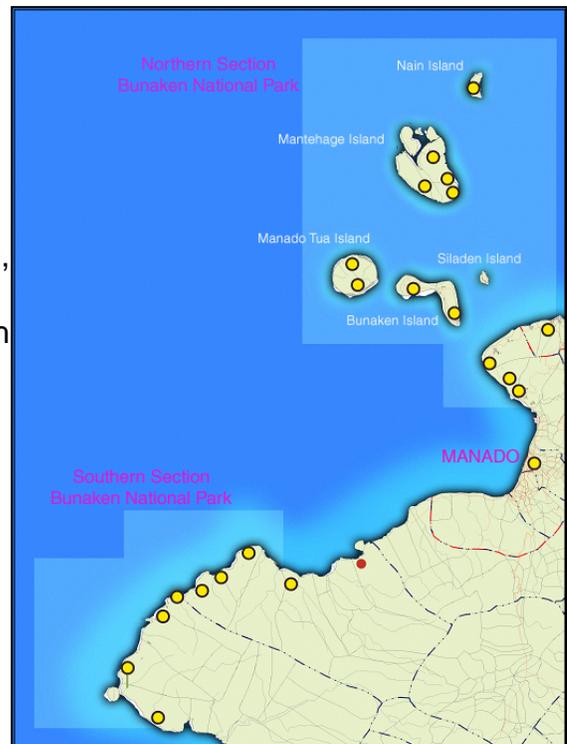
- People have been living in BNP for about 5 generations, way before it was a park in 1991.
- They are from the Sangir-Talaud Islands and around Minahasa district.
- Work as fishermen or farmers raising crops such as coconut, sweet potato and banana. Some cultivate seaweed for export, while a small number are employed in tourism as dive guides, boat operators and cottage staff.
- Most people are Christians, but there is also a small Islamic community in the park.

*Coral reefs, seagrass beds and sea turtles are intricately linked. While coral reefs are refuge and mating sites of sea turtles, seagrass beds are their main feeding grounds. Scientific evidence suggests that hawksbill turtles show preference to nesting sites with high coral relief or high coral rugosity. With these habitats, BNP is biologically and strategically of immense importance not just to Indonesia but to the whole Coral Triangle region.*

**Biodiversity features:**

- A wide range of coastal and marine ecosystems including mangrove forest, seagrass bed, coral reefs, and deep waters
- Has about 70% of the fishes occurring in the Indo-Pacific
- More than 70 genera of hard corals
- Home to endangered species such as dugong, sea turtle, napoleon wrasse, giant clam, large mollusks, black coral and also rare species such as the recently discovered Coelacanth

*Bunaken NP is a Marine Protected Area (MPA). It is one of two Marine National Parks (the other being Komodo NP in Lesser Sunda Islands) in Indonesia that is closest to being well-managed, and one of two areas in Indonesia selected to test monitoring of Effective MPA Management. However, BNP requires a final phase of legalizing management structures and finance mechanisms for sustainability.*



### **Conservation Status:**

1991 – Bunaken gazetted as a National Park.

2000 – Established a participatory management system for the park: the BNP Management Advisory Board (BNPMAB) consisting of 19 representatives from local community, private sector, university and local government. It has two main functions:

1. To develop good communication and coordination of park management activity among stakeholders, including dispute resolution, and
2. To support the development of sustainable financing for BNP management.

2004 – BNP declared a “national learning site” for implementing collaborative management.

### **Problem Statement:**

- Since the departure of various programs’ assistance to develop management entities and processes at BNP in late 2004, the BNPMAB has struggled with its two main functions. Currently, the BNPMAB remains in a transitional phase and faces challenges including improving operational and financial reporting standards, code of conducts, and capacity building of its Executive Secretariat and also lack of operational funds.
- It is challenging for BNPMAB to develop a sufficient budget and identify sources of funds and finance mechanisms that will sustain implementation of BNP management. While BNP was one of the first national parks in Indonesia that established an entrance fee system and received benefits from in-kind contributions from the private sector, its management activities are still severely constrained by a lack of timely and dependable funds.

### **For more information, please contact:**

Angelique Batuna [ABatuna@wwf.or.id](mailto:ABatuna@wwf.or.id)  
Project Leader  
WWF-Indonesia  
Jl. Ahmad Yani 19 No. 5, Manado 95114, Indonesia.  
Tel. +62 431 838 724  
[www.wwf.or.id/index.php?fuseaction=whatwedo.marine\\_bunaken&language=e](http://www.wwf.or.id/index.php?fuseaction=whatwedo.marine_bunaken&language=e)

© WWF May 2009

### **WWF-Indonesia in the Bunaken National Park**

1. Working with BNPMAB to re-assess its mandate and the BNP management plan.
2. Collaborating with other NGOs in Indonesia to help establish a sustainable financing mechanism for BNP.
3. Working with Park authorities, private sector and local communities on monitoring, surveillance, zonation and education towards a finalization strategy for BNP.
4. Conducting awareness activities on the importance of conserving marine resources and biodiversity within BNP.
5. Demonstrating benefits of Marine Protected Areas as a tool to manage marine resources – through collaborative management with multi-stakeholders, including local communities, in resource management and monitoring.

