

# ASSESSING PUBLIC AWARENESS LEVEL ON THE PRESERVATION OF CORAL REEFS (THE CASE STUDY IN BIAK NUMFOR, PAPUA, INDONESIA)

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## **Abstract**

The aim of this study was to assess the level of public awareness on the importance of the coral reefs preservation in Biak Numfor, Province Papua, Indonesia. The study employed descriptive qualitative research method. Data collection techniques were using questionnaires and interviews as well as documents. The result of this study showed that the level of public awareness on the coral reefs preservation as follows: (1) in the district of Oridek with a population of 4,665 people, there are 52% aware of the necessity to regulate the management of marine resources corals; (2) in district Amaindo (population of 2,209 people) the level of awareness was high with a total 18% concern that the need for regulation management of marine resources and Padaido counties with a population of 1,707 inhabitants that have high levels of awareness about the need to regulate the management of marine resource utilization by 15%, as well as in districts Biak East with a population of 6,698 inhabitants that has a level of consciousness should be setting the management of marine resources especially coral reefs by 15%. In terms of public knowledge about the things that destroy coral reefs for Amaindo region has the highest percentage, namely 50% of people already know all that can damage coral reefs. While at the district level Amaindo people to things that can damage coral reefs by 21%, then the district Padaido is about 16%, in East Biak district-level people's knowledge to cause damage to coral reefs by 13%. Oridek people in the region have a high level of awareness. With Coremap program impacts most notably the increased well-being of coastal communities. In order to maintain the balance and preservation of coral reefs need to pass a law governing regulation. Coremap existence needs to be continued in order to preserve the existence of coral reef ecosystems to sustain life aquatic biota.

## INTRODUCTION

One of the environmental problems is that which arises in coastal areas, whereas, coastal and marine areas are areas with enormous potential and for the surrounding communities if they must be managed properly and appropriately. Actually, in the sea and coastal areas contained a number of potential resources that are large and diverse. One of these resources can be updated (renewable resources), such as fish, shrimp, mollusks, coral pearls, crabs, seaweed, mangroves and coral animals whose existence and sustainability depends on the preservation of their habitat. Besides that, it is also beneficial in environmental services (such as beautiful and soothing habitats for tourism and recreational potential, transportation media. From that number, the potential of marine and coastal areas has high economic value for all elements of society, especially coastal communities (Haryanto 2008 ) Posted in Law No. 32 of 2009 Article 6 of the responsibility of the community in environmental preservation said that in paragraph one everyone is obliged to preserve the functions of the environment and prevent and reduce pollution and destruction Environmental conservation in Indonesia is a valuable asset for the country and all citizens, in this case the coastal and marine communities play an important role in environmental conservation. And in the second paragraph, to say that everyone who does business and / or activity must provide correct and accurate information about environmental management. res people are at s the coastal and marine environment must provide guidance and facilities in coastal and marine areas that are used by entrepreneurs, tourists or local residents in environmental management to continue preservation. The lack of public awareness of the causes of coastal environments is sometimes not maintained. Public awareness about environmental protection is still low, reflected in daily activities such as still polluting waste, assuming garbage burning is a way to dispose of the most practical and fast garbage, logging and destruction of forests without replanting, construction of housing and offices without taking into account water absorption into the ground, etc. (In 2011) the lack of awareness of environmental concerns can be caused by a lack of public knowledge in preserving the environment or because of their attitude that there is no willingness in themselves to protect the environment, lack of action from the community. Coral reef management cannot be entrusted to one agency, but must be integrated, including the user community. Without community participation in environmental management, including coral reef ecosystems, management will not succeed. Empowerment is not only for people or groups, but also for individuals. Individual empowerment does not include a person's ability to think positively, creatively, innovatively, independently and can utilize all knowledge so that they can develop themselves and their environment (Darwanto, H, 2009). Building community awareness is not as easy as turning your palm. Collaboration of all parties, communities, government and companies is needed (Widagdo in Dilisti, 2011). It took a long time to slowly build awareness. Need examples and role models of positive and consistent policy makers. The community considers that coral reef management is only the responsibility of government agencies so that the role of the community in exploiting the potential of coral reefs and management to preserve it is still lacking. The concern of coastal communities towards environmental sustainability is important. If people don't care about the environment, how are the immigrants just as tourists. With that, the right knowledge and attitude is needed to take action in preserving the coastal environment. Therefore, the purpose of writing this book is:

1. Analyzing the knowledge and attitudes of coastal communities towards environmental conservation.
2. Analyzing community actions towards the sustainability of the coastal environment

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The method used to get answers to problem formulation is a survey research method that relies on information from the results of field surveys using a questionnaire. Mechanical operations are as follows:

1. Literature study at the data mining stage is carried out by reviewing and analyzing material including primary legal material and secondary law. The main legal material includes material from all laws relating to the environment and coral reefs. Secondary law includes books, newspapers, magazines, reports on coral reefs

2. Field Study

At this stage of the research carried out by jumping directly to the object to be examined to get the data needed. Data retrieval is done by direct interviews with people living in the area

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