

Napoleon Wrasse © Stephan Kerkhofs



Grey Reef Shark © Yann Hubert

Defend Indonesia's Marine Life and Protect Local Livelihoods

The Coral Triangle in the western Pacific Ocean is named for the "triangle" formed by Indonesia, Philippines and Papua New Guinea. Its waters also touch the Solomon Islands, Malaysia, and Timor Leste in its southern reaches. This global epicenter of tropical marine biodiversity encompasses 76% of the world's coral reef species—more than anywhere else on Earth—as well as rich expanses of seagrass and mangroves.

The abundance of life supported by the 600 species of reef-building corals is a who's-who list of iconic marine species: sea turtles, sharks, rays, whales, dolphins, porpoises, dugongs and vast fisheries hosting more than 2,000 species of fish. The Coral Triangle also provides critical migration routes for whales, sharks, rays, Ocean Sunfish, and sea turtles.

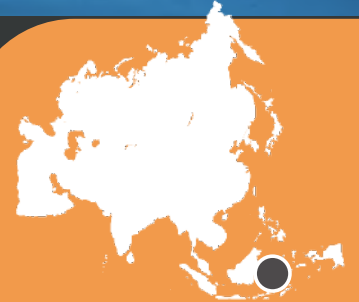
Destructive fishing practices and "ghost gear" (abandoned fishing gear left behind in the reefs) are the greatest threat to the populations of wild marine species here, and so to the communities who rely on the abundant resources.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, Konservasi Indonesia, are seeking \$817,514 to support working with local governments to facilitate the designation of two new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) totaling 851,200 acres. The larger MPA of 821,836 acres protects the waters surrounding the western end of Wetar Island in Indonesia. The second is a 29,364-acre MPA located off the northern coast of Timor island in the transboundary waters between the two countries governing the island: Timor-Leste and Indonesia.

SAVE THE CORAL REEFS, SEAGRASSES AND MANGROVES THAT SUPPORT MILLIONS OF PEOPLE

The vast coral reef ecosystems within the Coral Triangle have inestimable value to the millions of people living in coastal regions surrounding these waters. This project will benefit the survival and livelihoods of local communities by mitigating the destructive practices and overexploitation plaguing the world's oceans. It will expand the existing network of MPAs scattered across the vast Sunda-Banda Seascape in the southern half of the Coral Triangle.

Our partner has been working for more than two decades on conservation here and has built strong relationships with local and regional stakeholders. They helped the Indonesian Government establish and manage one of the most successful marine



851,200
ACRES

\$817,514
PROJECT COST

\$0.96
COST PER ACRE

KEY SPECIES:

Grey Reef Shark (EN),
Shorthorned Pygmy Devil Ray (EN),
Napoleon Wrasse (EN),
Ocean Sunfish (VU),
Black Tip Reef Shark (VU),
White Tip Reef Shark (VU),



conservation projects in the world, a network of 12 MPAs (8.9 million acres) in the Bird's Head Seascape of West Papua Province, Indonesia.

SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

A recent study of the proposed MPA areas found 478 species of coral and found the reefs to be thus far healthy and resilient to climate change. A total of eight species of seagrass were documented, along with about 500 acres of mangrove forest in each of the proposed sites having 19 species of mangrove. Almost 300 species of fish were identified, including at least seven threatened species.

The destructive fishing practices—like blast fishing and cyanide fishing—and the unregulated Fishing Aggregating Devices (FADs) installations on the reefs and ocean waters are compounded by other emerging threats, including sedimentation from land-based activities.

The Wetar-Belu MPAs will be recognized in the national network of protected areas and will be managed by the provincial governments in coordination with local communities and other relevant stakeholders.

