

Foreword

Executive Director of Conservation International Indonesia

In addition to being famous for its nature-based tradition and culture, Bali is also a renowned world-class tourist site. Located at the southwestern corner of the Coral Triangle, the waters of Bali are home to abundant marine life that supplies provisions for the local community and that has become a major tourism attraction.

However, managing Bali's coastal and natural resources is a big challenge. Rapid coastal development has not yet been balanced by a proper long-term management plan. It is plausible, therefore, to question Bali's long-term economic sustainability from this perspective.

The government, private sector and NGOs of Bali have all initiated various strategies for the island's long-term development. The hard work and collaborative efforts of these parties resulted in the issuance of Local Regulation 16/2009 (on Bali spatial plan), which has become the guide for planning in Bali over the next 20 years. The establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and an MPA network in Bali is but one strategy to translate the aforementioned Bali spatial plan.

Accordingly, through the Bali MPA Network program, Conservation International Indonesia (CII) aims to have the island's marine and coastal resources managed effectively to protect ecosystem and socio-economic services for the local community and government. By aiming to develop an effectively managed MPA network for Bali that supports the government's policies of 'one island, one management' and 'Bali Clean and Green Province', CII hopes to facilitate collaboration between the government and all related stakeholders. CII also hopes that, supported by capable and professional MPA managers, the Bali MPA Network will serve as the main support for resilient marine tourism on the island.

During a stakeholder workshop for the development of a Bali MPA network in June 2010, 25 locations were nominated as potential MPA sites. Scientific input (bio-ecological and socio-economic) was deemed crucial to complement the MPA network design, prompting the Bali government and CII to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the island's marine environment led by Bali's Marine and Fisheries Agency. We hope that the results of the 2011 Marine Rapid Assessment Program will serve as a scientific resource to guide the future Bali MPA Network team to work towards a Green Economy and Sustainable Tourism.

We thank the Bali government (the Marine and Fisheries Agency in particular) for its support and leadership in this assessment. We also thank the members of the Bali MRAP team: the Indonesian Ocean Institute, the Marine and Fisheries Agency, Warmadewa University, Udayana University, the Bali Nature and Conservation Agency (BKSDA), the Bali Diving Academy and others. It is our hope that this assessment and the following recommendations are useful for the decision makers and marine and coastal managers of Bali.

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