

Aquaculture's Conservation Lessons in Papua, Indonesia

Presented at: A Private Sector Approach – Conservation Agreements in support of Marine Protection



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Abstract

PT Cendana Indo-Pearl (CIP) operates pearl oyster farms in the marine waters of Bali, Lombok and Alyui Bay, Waigeo (Raja Ampat, Papua), under varying agreements. Since pearl oysters are totally reliant on the sea environment for their survival, CIP is committed to the best environmental practices. Ocean patrols established by CIP have led to the cessation of fish bombing and poisoning on reefs within the company's influence. In addition, CIP seeks to make a meaningful contribution to local communities. The company is involved with assisting in the education of local school children through the provision of scholarships and assistance in maintaining and rebuilding school infrastructure. In Indonesia, the company directly employs over 500 people. To ensure the spread of benefits, the company consciously enacts a recruitment program targeting local communities and over 80% of the staff employed at the pearl farms is from local villages.

Agreement Mechanism

No single agreement is in place for all activities. All agreements must be documented, witnessed and broadly communicated. The initial contract for land and water is for a 30-year term. This includes a one-off payment, commitment to employ, community house for school children, and transport assistance. Three additional contracts for land owned by family groups with single payments were entered into. In addition, many non-contractual commitments exist, including royalties on pearl production, scholarships (beasiswa), free medical assistance, community relations office, and electricity generation. Ad Hoc donations support religious festivals, specific "adat" events, re-building schools, and repairs to church and other community buildings.

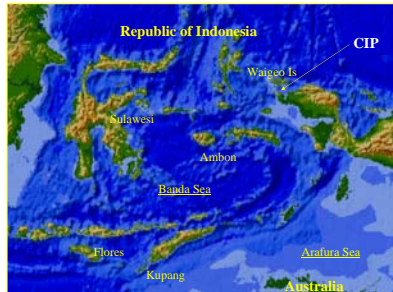
Context

- Foreign Investment Company in pearling from 1993
- Commenced operations in Alyui Bay, Waigeo 1997
- Has negotiated a range of contracts with two local communities (Selpele/Saleo)
- Land and water area is claimed by the villages of Selpele and Saleo
- Selpele has a population of approximately 200; Saleo population is approximately 230
- Spoken language is KAWA (no written form)
- Indonesian is generally used with "outsiders"
- Major economic activity (except employees of CIP) is fishing
- Villages lay claim to ownership of: West Waigeo from Alyui Bay to Pulau Sayang; Kawe Island; Batangpele; and Wayag

"We have found that it is extremely difficult to develop local business models and thus generally better to support "visible" activities rather than pay cash. Some of our support activities include building programs, providing schooling/medical/transport assistance, supporting local activities (fishing, market, barter)."

Community Information

- Leadership is not defined by "Kepala Desa" or village status: no single person or group has the right to negotiate
- Traditional relationships remain important
- Decisions are generally reached via community consultation
- Very unsophisticated understanding of long-term arrangements
- Significant "political" action within the community, i.e. power struggles



Eastern Indonesia Map



Alyui Bay, Raja Ampat

Process & Issues

The relationships with the local communities in Papua require continual management. As such, human resources must be dedicated to Community Relations Management (CRM). CRM is the major challenge of working in Papua!

- CIP senior management invests at least 25% of time in community relations.
- CIP employs one full-time, village-based community relations officer ("HUMAS").
- Minor misunderstandings have major consequences if not immediately addressed – these can cause threats of violence against people/property (has never led to actual event) and loss of time through "crisis" management.
- Relationship management is critical to develop "trust" in the community.
- Support from the government and organizations extremely limited in a practical sense.



Community Members



Social/Cultural Points

- Kawe people do not like to be reminded of what has been previously provided to them.
- Most issues are "immediate" and forward planning beyond a few days is meaningless.
- It is culturally accepted that resolution following disagreement involves a "payment".
- It is accepted that Western people are wealthy and should be prepared to "share".
- Distinction between "profit" and "non-profit" will not be clear to the community.
- Westerners are expected to behave extremely well – Kawe people (culturally) are expected to have their transgressions forgiven and forgotten.



"A single lease or one-off agreement that intends running several years (decades) will not allow any project to succeed. Community involvement and sense of ownership is more important than cash payments that may come from a lease."



Conclusions

- An on-site project and community relations manager be appointed for any similar project.
- Indonesian language be used by project managers.
- Project staff has experience in community negotiations and in local community discussions.
- Project assistants should include members of the local population.
- Negotiations on concessions must involve public forums.
- Any agreements must encompass direct local employment, e.g. rangers.
- Project managers should be prepared for continual on-going dialogue with stakeholders.

Acknowledgement

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