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## **How do communities organise to protect coral reef, mangrove and seagrass related ecosystem services?**

**Key words:** Marine, Social, Livelihoods

### **Abstract:**

In the Coral Triangle of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste and the Solomon Islands, conservation of three quarters of the world's coral species and related fish and wildlife has to be achieved alongside the needs of the impoverished communities that depend on these marine resources for livelihoods. Mangrove and seagrass systems are also important in providing ecosystem services. In Indonesia, fishers comprise a quarter of the nation's poor, and 80 per cent of Indonesia's fishing households earn incomes below the poverty line. Seventy-four per cent of eastern Indonesia's coral reefs are damaged, owing to over-exploitation, the rapid recent spread of destructive fishing practices using dynamite and cyanide, alongside pollution and environmental change. Our study in Selayar, eastern Indonesia, seeks to understand the dynamics of change-making in coastal social-ecological systems (SES), and in particular to analyse the formal and informal social and policy contexts and dynamics influencing the use of key coastal resources. Our focus is on community initiative: how communities support behaviour change to protect ecosystem services among their members (companion to Simmons' individual and household behaviour change project, this forum), and how community-based ecosystem management interacts with formal governance at district to national and international levels. Many of these communities have their own marine protected areas, yet struggle to control illegal and destructive fishing. District government also has some marine protected areas, which are currently not well aligned with the community ones. Meanwhile provincial and national fisheries and marine policies complicate the governance of these ecosystems and their services. We are interested in opportunities to strengthen community activity, and foster cross-scale and cross-sectoral collaborations. This presentation presents the preliminary results from a participatory approach with the fishing communities, district and provincial governments and NGOs of Selayar to build a shared understanding of the set of problems and better shared commitment to address them. In particular, we are interested in the community management of marine protected areas, and the strategies of individual 'champions' who mobilise others in their communities to protect marine ecosystem services.