

Project Update: May 2015

Following a regular stakeholder meeting, government, YL, KUALA, WCS and ODC agreed to submit all documents for proposed marine protected areas on the Aceh Besar west coast in one batch to the national government in Jakarta. It became clearer that the government officials responsible for overview and submission did not fully understand the process or their role. To ensure that the final submission by the Aceh Besar government to Jakarta would be complete, a special team comprising of the stakeholders above would complete the process together and at the same time build capacity within the local government.

However, this means including three more MPAs along the west coast (not originally covered in this project). By combining the knowledge, experience and funding of YL, WCS and government we are aiming to have agreements within all communities on the zones to be protected, the traditional laws (adat) and sanctions that will be applied. In this month, the above team met with communities of Lhong and Leupeung (three Panglima Laots in total) who responded positively to setting up MPAs in their areas.

Pulau Nasi has completed mapping the zones for fishing and no fishing with the adat law and sanctions they wish to use. Their main concern is fishermen from the neighbouring island of Pulau Breuh who continue to use destructive fishing methods. Supplies have been given to the panglima laot to place buoys identifying five protected reef areas around the island.



1. Discussion between YL, KUALA and WCS at a stakeholder meeting on how to move forward together and include the government fully in the process.

2. Special team set up with government approval meet with Panglima Laot, fishermen and other local leaders in Leupeung, Aceh Besar, one of the additional villages to be included.

