

Conserving in Misool, Indonesia, through Eco-tourism

**By Shawn Heinrichs, Founder, Blue Sphere Media
(www.bluespheremedia.com), Andrew Miners, Managing
Director, Misool Eco Resort, Marit Miners, Director,
Misool Eco Resort (www.misoolecoresort.com)**

Abstract

Misool Eco Resort (MER) is located in the remote southern part of Raja Ampat, Indonesia. The small resort is located on the island of Batbitim, deep in a vast archipelago of uninhabited islands, 240 kilometers from the nearest resort and half a day's journey from the nearest village. Misool Eco Resort is deeply committed to a policy of environmental and social responsibility. We seek to provide exceptional and enriching diving experiences in a sustainable environment. We aim to protect and revitalize both our natural surroundings and the community in which we operate. We are committed to demonstrating to our hosts, our guests and the local government that tourism can support a local economy on much more favorable terms than mining, logging, over fishing or shark finning.

In doing so, MER entered into a lease agreement with the local community to establish a 425-square kilometer Marine Protected Area (no-take zone) surrounding Misool Eco Resort. Within this area, all fishing, shark finning, harvesting of turtle eggs and shellfish are strictly prohibited. In 2010, this no-take zone was expanded and now covers an area of 1,220 square kilometers. We also require all boats to practice reef-safe anchoring. We regularly patrol the area for illegal fishing and shark finning. In addition, Misool Eco Resorts charity arm, Misool Baseftin, conducts social projects, such as supporting local schools and is developing libraries in two of the local villages. Perhaps most importantly, MER is dedicated to safeguarding the local community in which we operate. Our labor force, drawn largely from the closest village, is offered favorable working conditions, health benefits, job training and English lessons.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Agreement Mechanism

A land-lease agreement, which includes a specified area of surrounding sea, was the formal agreement mechanism used to establish the Misool Eco Resort No-Take Zone

(MER NTZ) in the southern Raja Ampat. The agreement was signed on the 28th of November 2005. Key provisions of the agreement include:

Law: Indonesian law and Papuan law

Duration: 25 years

Payments: 5-year terms with payments due at the start of each term

Lease Area: Approximately 425 sq. km. surrounding Batbitim, including two small Islands of about 1 sq. km. (Batbitim) and 1/4 sq. km. (Jef Galyu)

Leaser: Heads of Bahale and Yelfom families

Lessee: Andrew Miners and Misool Eco Resort

Sign Date: November 28, 2005

The extension of the NTZ was concluded in October 23, 2010. This was through a second lease agreement for a NTZ surrounding the islands of the Daram archipelago to the east of the original NTZ.

Law: Indonesian law and Papuan law

Duration: 15 years

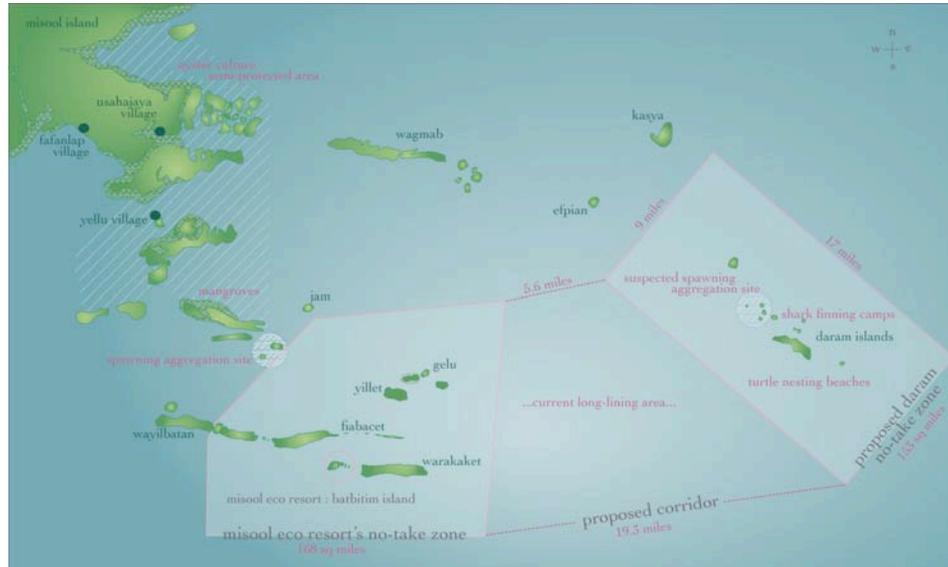
Payments: 5-year terms with payments due at the start of each term

Lease Area: Approximately 246 sq. km. surrounding the Daram island group

Leaser: Heads of Macap, Soltief and Wainsaf families

Lessee: Andrew Miners and Misool Eco Resort

Sign Date: October 23, 2010



Governing Law

The contracts were founded on principles supported by Papuan law (or Hak Adat) and formalized under Indonesian law. The Indonesian Central Government recognizes Hak Adat as part of special autonomy status (Kursus Autonomy) whereby the state of Papua has a certain degree of autonomy from the rest of Indonesia. Under Papuan law, people

can own not just islands but beaches, reefs and perhaps most importantly the fishing rights to the waters surrounding them.

Key Parties

- Andrew Miners, Founder and Managing Director, Misool Eco Resort
- Bapak Yasuf Salim, Camat (pronounced “chamut”) District Head South East Misool
- Haji Jalil Bahale, Kapala Desa (Head of Yellu Village)
- Bapak Hadir Yelfom, Yellu Village Secretary
- Bapak Haji Yahya Bahale, Adat Leader Yellu Village (local traditions and culture leader)
- Bapak Rajak Soltief, Adat Leader Fafanlap Village
- Bapak Rasid Wainsaf, Head of the Wainsaf family, Fafanlap Village
- Bapak Mansuar Macap, Head of the Macap family, Usaha Jaya Village
- Bapak Marcus Wanmar, Bupati of Raja Ampat (Head of Raja Ampat Regency)
- Bapak Mambrasa, Head of Tourism for Raja Ampat

Lease Rights and Limitations

Under the provisions of the lease, MER secured exclusive rights to Batbitim and Jef Galyu Islands, including hills, forests, trees, water, animals and the surrounding lagoon. In addition, rights were secured to designate approximately 425 square kilometers of surrounding seas as a no-take zone (NTZ), including animals, coral reefs, turtles, sharks, rays and fish. Under the terms of the lease, anyone other than MER is prohibited from taking any marine products from the NTZ or granting permission to any other party to do the same.

The extension of the NTZ to cover the Daram Archipelago followed the same structure and offers the same protection to the ecosystems there. In addition to the lease payments, additional funding was sought to build two kindergartens in the two villages where the families that have the traditional rights to Daram come from. This was so that all the members of the community could immediately see a clear benefit from the lease.

Fees and Services Exchanged

The villages of Yellu, Fafanlap and Usaha Jaya benefit in a number of ways from their agreements with MER. The most obvious benefit is MER's lease fee, payable every five (5) years. However, both the communities and MER have a clear understanding that this payment is a nominal bonus in comparison to the significant long-term benefits of bringing sustainable tourism to their area. Tourism and the establishment of the NTZ offer several important economic benefits to the people of Yellu:

- New job opportunities
- Employee benefits
- Goods and services
- Language skills
- Thriving marine environment for future generations

PROCESS AND ISSUES

Decision-making and Implementation Process

Frequently there are no official documents that state who is the rightful owner of land/sea in Papua. In the case of the MER NTZ, the local Adat committee had to confirm who the rightful owners of the area were. A deep knowledge of the area and good relationships with the local people were critical to having the ability to form the agreement.

Initially, the idea of leasing the area from “owners” who lacked any formal documentation of their ownership rights was cause for great concern. There was a strong possibility that we might enter a lease with the wrong people or end up in a situation where counter claims undermined or invalidated the lease. To gain comfort, we went to great lengths to meet with the relevant folks in the local government and community leaders. Several factors worked in our favor:

- There are only a few villages bordering the proposed NTZ with only one obvious candidate for ownership.
- The Camat provided excellent guidance in helping locate the proposed NTZ in an area where no known counter claims existed.
- A large pearl farm operating about 10 kilometers from Batbitim and leased from the same family that MER leases from had operated for 12 years in this location without any counter claims.

These factors combined with our extensive due diligence provided the necessary assurance that a formal legal agreement would be sufficient to secure the lease.

Lands and Resources

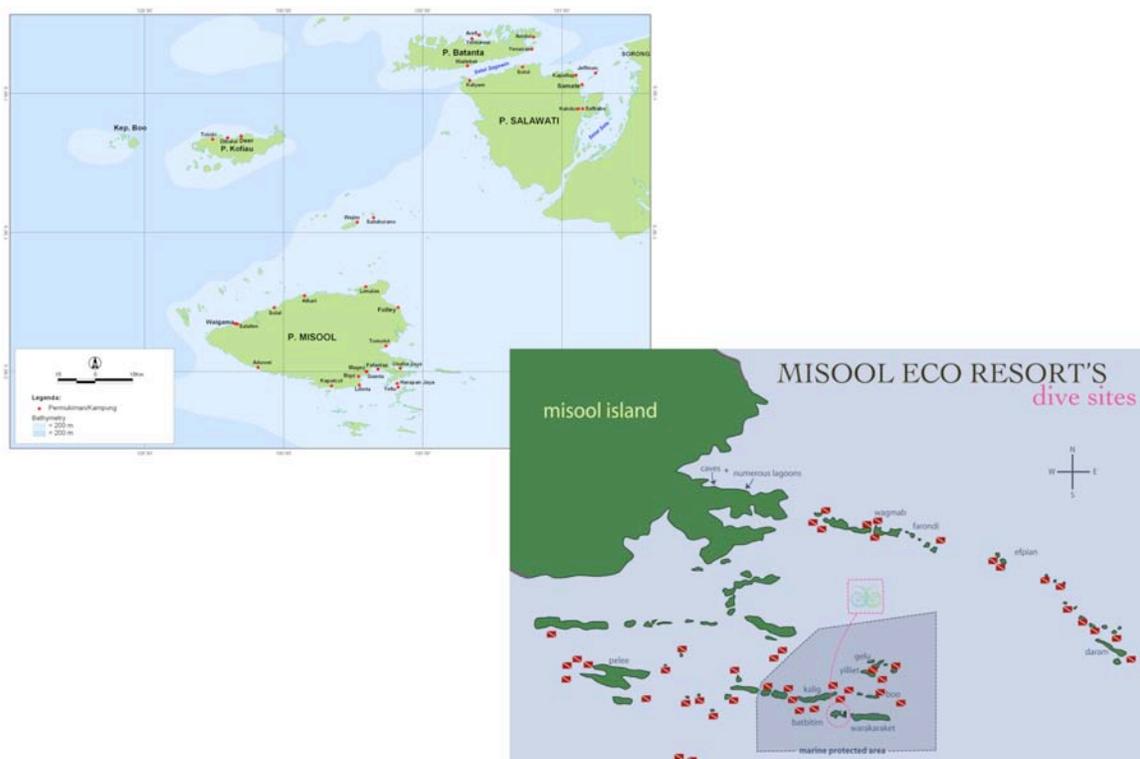
Southern Misool offers some the best and most pristine diving in Raja Ampat. One dive site, Fiabecet, is considered by many to be one of the top ten dive sites in the world. In addition to obtaining permission to build MER on Batbitim Island, steps were taken to secure a NTZ reaching in all directions from the island. The goal was to include as many of the healthiest and most diverse reefs within the NTZ. Andrew Miners, having been a dive master in this region for years, was intimate with many of these sites.

At the same time, care was taken to not “overreach” and remove too many of the traditional fishing areas. It was critical that the area start with the support of the local villages and that support continued into the future. When forming the agreement, public discussions were held with the heads of the local families and community leaders to ensure that there was sufficient opportunity for everyone to ask questions and voice their opinion. This process was essential in deciding on the appropriate and acceptable boundaries for the no-take zone.

In the first lease agreement, MER secured exclusive rights to Batbitim and Jef Galyu Islands, including hills, forests, coconut trees, water, animals and the surrounding lagoon. In addition, rights were secured to designate 425 square kilometers of surrounding seas as a no-take zone (NTZ) including animals, coral reefs, turtles, sharks, rays and fish. Under the terms of the lease, MER is prohibited from taking any marine products from the NTZ

or granting permission to any other party to do the same. Likewise, MER has the right to prevent any other parties for attempting to extract marine resources from the NTZ. There is one exception to this rule established to honor traditional fishing practices. Once every two (2) years certain shellfish can be collected by member of Yellu village over a period of only two (2) weeks without the use of air compressors or dive equipment. Even this is restricted from designated dive sites. In the second NTZ lease agreement, a similar system was developed with the same protection; however, this time it was agreed that the shellfish collection would be only once every five (5) years.

The MER NTZ is located in the southern most boundary of Raja Ampat. South of the NTZ, open water stretches for 70 miles until you reach the islands of Seram and Ambon to the south. Historically, many of the outside fishing fleets entered Raja Ampat from these locations, passing into and through what would become the NTZ area. Many of these boats engaged in incredibly destructive fishing practices, including reef dynamiting, shark finning, turtle harvesting, turtle egg collecting and destructive trawling. These fleets were unwelcome by the local villages, but the locals were ill equipped to do anything about it. Frequently these boats would anchor and dynamite or fin sharks on the southern sides of the islands to avoid detection. By locating MER and the NTZ on this boundary, a buffer was established that would significantly reduce the level of encroachment by these outside fishermen. No longer could they hide on southern aspects or enter this area of Raja Ampat undetected. You might say we decided to hit the problem head on rather than hope it didn't find us.



To further emphasize the above point, MER itself is located on a once dynamite-fishing camp. Many of Batbitim's south, east and shallow bay reefs were almost completely destroyed by dynamiting that occurred in the late 1990s/early 2000s. The northern reefs, by comparison, are stunning and virtually intact. The decision to locate MER on such an island was a deliberate one. The objective was to select a location where tourist traffic would not negatively impact the local reefs (the water cottages are situated primarily behind dynamited reef) and where active conservation/reef building efforts would significantly improve the health of the local reefs with each year that passed.

Threats

The primary threats to the NTZ are illegal fishing, shark finning, turtle/turtle egg harvesting, reef damage from net fishing, reef damage from boat anchors, reef life harvesting (hookah divers), pollution (flotillas of plastic debris that wash in with certain currents clogging bays and mangroves) and climate change.

The NTZ agreement expressly forbids any kind of fishing or animal (turtles/eggs) harvesting and it gives authority to MER to enforce these provisions. Since all reefs are protected within the NTZ, the agreement enables MER to administer and enforce boat anchorage policy. There is nothing that can be done locally to combat the outside pollution and climate change. These are serious realities that are affecting marine environments globally.

Organizational and Partner Capacity

A sound knowledge of the local area was essential to determining the appropriate location for the two NTZ's. Relationships with key local stakeholders (existing and new) proved critical to securing the land/water ownership rights. As described above, navigating ownership ambiguity, traditional fishing seasons (sasi) and establishing the necessary buy-off required strong relationships at the local, district and regional levels.

Villagers in Raja Ampat speak both Indonesian and local dialects in their daily lives. The ability to speak proficient Indonesian proved essential in getting to the heart of their needs and concerns, as well as establishing mutual trust and respect.

Established non-governmental organizations (NGOs) provided important guidance and resources when it came to the nuances of establishing and administering a NTZ. These benefits included access to their local and regional government contacts, research and reports, maps and surveys, fisheries data, interpretation of laws, insight on pending legislation and even transportation. These resources proved valuable, as we had never before established an NTZ.

Legal Framework

The leases were founded on principles supported by Papuan law (or Hak Adat) and formalized under Indonesian law. The Indonesian Central Government recognizes Hak Adat as part of special autonomy status (Kursus Autonomy) whereby the state of Papua has a certain degree of autonomy from the rest of Indonesia. Under Papuan law, people can own not just islands but beaches, reefs, and fishing rights in the waters surrounding

them. The region has a long-standing local tradition of fishing seasons (sasi), which the local villages “open” and “close” in their areas and surrounding villages generally respect.

The “sasi” proved to be a fundamental element to obtaining the leases. Because five families hold all rights to the area land, sea and creatures within the sea, they thereby also have the right to exclusively lease the area. Gaining the support of the village leaders, the district head, the regional head and the tourism department created the necessary buy-off to form the agreement.

Having secured all rights to control the land, water and creatures within the NTZ, MER was empowered to take the steps necessary to enforce the “no-take” provisions of the agreement. MER has decided to abide by the same provisions that prevent the leaser from extracting anything from the NTZ, thereby establishing an important check and balance. MER believes that if either party were to extract from the NTZ, it would be far more difficult to explain and regulate such activity.

Socio-economic Considerations

From the outset, the local community was keen to bring tourism to the area. Their positive experience with the local pearl farm helped foster an environment of receptiveness to outside business ventures in their area. It is important to note that MER



(the resort) was of much greater interest to them than the NTZ. Whereas the NTZ required that they give up some of their traditional fishing areas, the resort offered the prospect of long-term employment/income for the villagers. In reality, the NTZ was formed on the back of the resort, with the favorable economic possibilities of resort driving their desire and willingness to grant the NTZ.

As described in the overview, the local communities benefit in a number of ways from their agreement with MER. The most obvious benefit is MER's lease fee, payable every five (5) years. However the communities and MER have a clear understanding that this payment is a nominal bonus in comparison to the significant long-term benefits of bringing sustainable tourism to their area. Tourism and the establishment of the NTZ offer several important economic benefits:

- **New job opportunities.** Under the terms of the agreement, MER has agreed to give priority to local communities in the village of Yellu and surrounding areas when recruiting non-skilled staff. MER jobs include construction, maintenance, resort services, dive services and NTZ rangers. All staff is paid above the “going rate” set by the manpower department. MER currently employs 120 people with 75% coming from the local communities.

- **Employee Benefits.** All staff members, both full-time and temporary, receive health, accident and pension benefits. Full-time staff members receive benefits for their families. This is certainly not the “norm” for the area or required by the state.
- **Goods and services.** MER purchases fuel, fish, some dry goods and some vegetables from the local villagers. MER is encouraging them to grow more to sell to MER.
- **Language skills.** MER employs two professional language instructors and is teaching the village staff to become proficient in English. This is an important and valuable skill necessary for them to succeed in the tourism business.
- **Thriving marine environment.** Outside fishermen have increasingly been entering the traditional fishing grounds of the village and taking fish without securing permission or paying a permit fee. Even when a permit fee is paid, the amount received by the local community is relatively insignificant. For this reason, many in the village feel that their marine produce is being “stolen.” Furthermore, the elders in the village fear that in the future, outsiders may severely damage their reefs and deplete their fish stocks. The NTZ provides for the long-term health of their reefs and fish stocks, with the anticipated spillover effect to surrounding waters offering sustainable and abundant fish catches for the villagers. Given that the concept of “closed” seasons and areas is fundamental to “sasi,” they are able to grasp the idea of “spillover” benefits from the NTZ. Furthermore, they appreciate the fact that healthy reefs ensure the long-term success of the dive tourism in the Misool area, and hence their ongoing MER employment.

OUTREACH

Initial Lease Agreement

Key Stakeholders

- Bapak Yusuf Salim, Camat (pronounced “chamut”) South East Misool: District Pak Camat is an elected Government Official and District Head of South East Misool. He is one level senior to the Kapala Desa.
- Haji Jalil Bahale, Kapala Desa: Kapala Desa is the Government Head of the village. Pak Desa has been Head of Yellu village for more than 20 years and is a powerful and respected man. He is also the younger brother of Pak Haji (Adat Leader).
- Bapak Hadir Yelfom, Yellu Village Secretary: Second in command to the Kapala Desa, Bapak Yelfom is the Head of the second largest family in Yellu and joint owners of the land and seas in the area.
- Bapak Haji Yahya Bahale, Adat Leader Yellu Village: Adat is the name given to local traditions and culture. Adat is well respected by local inhabitants of Raja Ampat. Pak Haji is an influential man and head of the Bahale family, which as the longest lineage in Yellu and holds traditional rights (Hak Adat) to all the islands around Batbitim and Yellu.

- Bapak Marcus Wanmar, Bupati of Raja Ampat: Bapak Wanmar is the Government Head of the Raja Ampat Regency. Although he was not directly involved in the lease he has lent his support to it.
- Bapak Mambrasa, Head of Tourism for Raja Ampat: A number of meetings were held with Bapak Mambrasa; however, it was his staff members that were more helpful. Although friendly, the tourism department of Raja Ampat is very young and quite inexperienced. Very little direction and assistance was provided in arranging the lease.

Each of the above players played an important role in the formation of the initial agreement. The process began in early 2004 with a year spent on site surveys. In March 2005, meetings began in earnest with the land planning department to better understand laws governing land leasing in Raja Ampat. In May, we were introduced to the Camat who identified the landowners and facilitated a meeting with the village. Scheduling conflicts and the monsoon season delayed further meetings until September.

During this delay period, time was spent identifying investors to provide seed funding. In September, the meetings resumed and we learned that the Camat had already shared the concept with the village leaders. We held meetings with the village and though they were very enthusiastic, both the Secretary and Kapala Desa were not present. Returning to Sorong, we met again with the Camat and the Village Secretary to draw up the lease agreement. The Village Secretary recommended a final meeting with the village to make certain they were very clear that they could not fish in the NTZ. This meeting was held, and on November 28, 2005, the lease was signed.

Funding

Because the grant of the NTZ was tied to the establishment of the resort, we needed to secure funding for both MER and the NTZ to get started. The initial NTZ lease payment was funded through a private loan. Two financing rounds were necessary to fund the construction the resort. Construction was completed in October 2008.



The charity Misool Baseftin plays a critical role in the management of the NTZ. The Conservation Center is responsible for oversight, research, projects, patrolling and regulations within the NTZ. Most importantly, it ensures that the no-take provisions are strictly adhered to and work to restore reefs that have been damaged by destructive fishing methods.

The Second Lease Key Stakeholders

- Rajak Soltief, Kapala Adat and Head of the Soltief family: Bapak Rajak is the senior Adat figure and was key to organizing and agreement between the three families. He is

retired now but was the Head of the Department of Tourism for the Province of West Papua, which Raja Ampat is a Regency in.

- Rasid Wainsaf, Adat Leader and Head of the Wainsaf family: Also an influential figure and key to bringing the Wainsaf family to agreement. Theirs is one of the largest families in the Fafanlap village.
- Manuar Macap, Adat figure and nominated Head of the Macap family: Important figure as he represented the Macap family who are based in Usaha Jaya village.

Each of these members were very important in the extension of the NTZ to cover the Daram Archipelago. The lease agreement was more complicated as three families claim the rights to the Daram islands and the families hail from two different villages.

Discussions started in 2009 and it took until late 2010 before an agreement was reached. Funding was also raised during this period through Wild Aid, which provided money to set up the project and run it for the first year. Currently we are applying for an extension of funding for operational expenses for the next three years.

The goal is to develop self-funding initiatives during this period.

The driving motivation to secure this area was the fact that it was acting as a base for outside fishermen who set up illegal camps and destructively fish in the Misool region. They paid no fees to the villagers and plunder the reefs of fish, turtles and sharks. Establishing an NTZ along with ranger stations and a patrol vessel creates an incredible sanctuary within Raja Ampat and provides a sustained financial return and ranger jobs to the villages that own the area.

CONCLUSIONS

Perhaps the most important factor maintaining the sanctity of the NTZ is the full-time, long-term presence of MER. Every day the villagers are reminded that the NTZ plays a critical role in the success of MER and therefore their own personal incomes. Our model for a combined resort and NTZ can be replicated in other parts of Raja Ampat as well as abroad.

It is worth noting that the first NTZ was formed on the back of the resort, with the promise of employment more than justifying the sacrifice of a portion of the fishing grounds. This may be a good model for future NTZ development. The second NTZ was formed using the first one as an example of how communities and businesses can work together to secure their resources for future generations. The partnering of conservation groups with business enterprises can be a powerful force in marine conservation. The business enterprise can bring jobs and income while the conservation group brings programs, education and protection of resources. As time passes, the conservation group

can transition its functions to the business and local community, thereby creating a completely self-sustaining model.

Scale

The MER NTZ is operating at the local level both ecologically and politically. Though it covers an incredible abundance and diversity of reefs (1,220 square kilometers), it is still relatively small in comparison to the larger MPAs in Raja Ampat. In addition, the area is leased from local villages and not a state or regional government.

If this model were embraced at the program level, NGOs could seek to group a number of private enterprises together in a given geography to support larger shared NTZs. This would require increased orchestration and collaboration between a larger number of stakeholders.

Benefits to expanding this strategy include:

- Larger NTZs would provide greater protection for species that move and migrate more.
- Economies of scale as more stakeholders share in the cost of the NTZ.
- Increased monitoring and patrol with more stakeholders.
- Larger-scale community impact thereby increasing longevity of NTZ.
- Creating a legal framework whereby future NTZs could be established more rapidly and be held to best practice standards.

Limitations to expanding this strategy include:

- Limited number of eco-resort operations can be sustained in any given area.
- Finding private organizations committed enough to take on the challenge.
- Identifying suitable locations where locals are willing to give up fishing rights.
- Patrolling and enforcing larger marine areas as poaching is rampant in MPAs.

Complementation

TNC, CI and WWF have been working together with the regional and local governments in Raja Ampat to establish a series of MPAs in the regency. These MPA became officially recognized in December 2006 when Raja Ampat was declared a Marine Regency (or Kabupaten Bahari). The charter of the Regency is to focus on marine economics, including marine tourism.

The broader MPAs will be zoned into different use areas, including traditional use, tourism and strict conservation. The MPAs are still awaiting zoning and with a few exceptions, there are no NTZs in place. One of the MPAs covers southeast Misool. As they look to zone this region, MER and TNC are working together to use the MER NTZs as the center of the larger NTZ for this MPA.

There is a great opportunity to form a complimentary strategy, which includes smaller private groups and larger NGOs such as TNC, CI and WWF. While these NGOs can work from the top down with central and local governments to change policies and establish broader conservation measures, the smaller private groups can work at the community level to implement them. In the case of MER, the NGOs broader efforts to

establish MPAs in Raja Ampat combined with MER's grassroots work to establish its own NTZ made for a perfect complimentary strategy. MER is on the ground 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The staff are primarily from the local villages enabling closer and deeper relationships to form with the communities. The local leaders visit the resort and NTZ and see for themselves the conservation practice in action. Overtime they know from their own people's accounts that MER has adhered to the covenants of the NTZ lease and have been protecting it from outside intruders.

An NTZ is perhaps the strictest form of MPA and often the most controversial. As such, it necessitates real buy-off from the community for it to be granted and actually adhered to. MER offers the kind of community-integrated project necessary to secure this buy-off and create "real" NTZs.

Lessons Learned

What we did right and will continue to do:

- Selected an area of incredible biodiversity and abundant fish life.
- Chose an area where ownership rights could be established with reasonable confidence.
- Created an NTZ instead of an MPA (with managed fishing).
- Invested in relationships and secured buy-off at the local and regional levels.
- Created a very real and long-term economic opportunity for local communities.
- Took a serious and uncompromising "eco-approach" to the resort.
- Maintained a constant presence since day one.
- Kept our word when we made commitments to the local community.
- Engaged the community in the protection and improvement of the NTZ.
- Realized that constant communication face-to-face is essential in order for the NTZ to be correctly socialized and to avoid any misunderstandings.

What we did right but could do better:

- Constant socializing of the concept of the NTZ with the local community so they felt part of it (initially the younger members felt the elders had sold off a part of their heritage).
- Secured funding for the project prior to forming agreement.
- Understood the scope and complexity of the project in such a remote location.
- Provided for adequate transportation to and from MER.
- Accounted for the difficulty in regulating and patrolling the NTZ.
- Garnered local government support for implementing regulations for all the live-aboard and land-based operators in the area.
- Established clear understanding with live-aboard operators regarding the rules and regulations of the NTZ.

Things we didn't do but should have:

- Provided voice and data communications from the island.
- Secured funding for the establishment of a Conservation Center.
- Employed a full-time community relation's officer.

Things we didn't do and are glad we didn't:

- Established the resort without first securing the NTZ.
- Compromised our commitment to resort eco-construction and -operation.
- Compromised our commitment to provisions of the NTZ (i.e. allow the resort to fish but not villagers).

General Point

By not compromising on the “eco-ness” of our building practices, we offer a clear, visible message to the local community when they visit that we are really doing what we say we are – protecting the environment. They know we are doing good work and are there to preserve the environment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are significant benefits to having a private enterprise work at a local/regional level to establish MPAs/NTZs. NGOs frequently focus primarily on issues of law, regulation, zoning and management. These more global concerns are critical to the long-term sustainability of MPAs and must be addressed. However, they take time, resources and patience. Moreover, many NGOs frequently view their role as temporary (months to years) with the objective of creating a self-sustaining model. This also is an important objective.

In the meantime, we are all aware of how rapidly critical marine habitats are being stripped of their resources. At the current rate of loss for marine habitats and fish populations, every day without protection is significant. In addition, many regions lack the proper infrastructure to provide much or any economic alternatives to local peoples. This is where private conservation groups coupled with business enterprises can fill the gap. Eco-tourism can offer immediate jobs and income to the local community in exchange for the rights to establish MPA/NTZs. The community sees immediate benefits from their decision and become advocates and enforcers of the MPA regulations. And finally, because the community and private enterprise depend upon each other and form long-term relationships, there is a constant daily reminder of the importance of the MPA to the futures of both groups.

*For more information, please visit Misool Eco Resort online at
<http://www.misoolcoresort.com/aboutMER.html>.*