INTRODUCTION

This mission builds on the success of TAIEF support in March 2015 for marine protected area management in North Sulawesi. The green growth approach, based on eco-tourism and community participation, has gained support from national and local stakeholders alike.

Ecologist René Henkens, was joined this time by the Head of Biodiversity and Policy, Lawrence Jones-Walters, both with the Wageningen University and Research Centre.

Special appreciation is extended to Mr. Akbar Digdo, Program Director with the NGO YAPEKA and a pioneer of this approach in North Sulawesi, for having prepared an excellent programme.

GREAT ECO-TOURISM POTENTIAL IN INDONESIA

The EU’s commitment to green growth is apparent in its nature and biodiversity policy and Natura 2000 network of protected areas, as well as its ecosystem based planning tools such as Strategic Environmental Assessment and integrated river basin planning.

The EU’s experience converges on local community engagement as a pre-requisite to green growth. The more local livelihoods depend on ecosystem services, the better the chances for sustainable development.

This coincides with experiences in Indonesia. The economic gains of large-scale, invasive tourism development in the region are typically offset by ecosystem losses and the costs of marginalizing local communities. Green growth approaches, while slower and less profitable in the short-term, offer broader development benefits while strengthening social cohesion and protecting ecosystems.

Stakeholders from government, academia, business and local communities, highlighted the need for greater policy coherence.

Specifically, the need for a green growth regional tourism master plan was identified. Provincial and local government leaders need support in this effort and guidance for a coordinated approach.

Follow-up between YAPEKA and Wageningen University is underway, and includes:

- Coordination with IMARES Institute and other resources at Wageningen University, including similar initiatives in the Caribbean
- Joint habitat mapping in North Sulawesi through a 6-month MSc. thesis project, starting February 2016

The EC Delegation in Jakarta is preparing a project on biodiversity protection and heritage park management in ASEAN. The mission included a debriefing with the

Restoring mangrove plantations and habitats is an important part of local management of marine protected areas.

There is a growing awareness of Indonesia’s unique natural and cultural wealth. This mission through meetings with stakeholders from government, academia, business and local communities, highlighted the need for greater policy coherence.

Specifically, the need for a green growth regional tourism master plan was identified. Provincial and local government leaders need support in this effort and guidance for a coordinated approach.

Follow-up between YAPEKA and Wageningen University is underway, and includes:

- Coordination with IMARES Institute and other resources at Wageningen University, including similar initiatives in the Caribbean
- Joint habitat mapping in North Sulawesi through a 6-month MSc. thesis project, starting February 2016

The EC Delegation in Jakarta is preparing a project on biodiversity protection and heritage park management in ASEAN. The mission included a debriefing with the

Lawrence Jones-Walters facilitating a working session with stakeholders from local communities, local government, the university and NGO groups.

Delegation. The experts are preparing a separate report in this regard.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOLLOW-UP TAIEF SUPPORT**

**Tourism Master Plan for North Sulawesi:** Local authorities, under pressure from developers, need a clearer framework and approaches for steering economic development. By sharing EU experiences with local authorities, further work could promote mainstreaming of environmental sustainability at an early stage of development of a Tourism Master Plan. Focus topics could include tools and processes to improve the effectiveness, transparency, public participation and awareness-raising aspects of the planning process.

**Understanding green growth:** As elsewhere, there remains a significant gap to achieving sustainable tourism in Indonesia. Further exchanges could address points of doubt and confusion among diverse stakeholders, drawing on case-based EU experiences.

**Workshop:** Sharing lessons from North Sulawesi has potential for supporting national conservation policy, and gaining leverage for a development model relying on local communities in advancing sustainable tourism. International participation provides needed credibility, particularly for local authorities and national policy-makers.

**CONTACT**

Stakeholders interested in the short-term, peer-to-peer support offered through TAIEF are encouraged to visit our website or contact the TAIEF office (tel.+48 22 583 96 90; email: TAIEF@niras.com)

---

**Disclaimer**

This summary has been written at the request of the Commission for the TAIEF project, based on information received from national partners and the EU Member State Experts who undertook the mission. It does not represent the views of the EU Member States, or the Commission.