NGOs and Sustainable Livelihoods: Lessons from Ecotourism in Indonesia

The Research Question
What role do NGOs play in the development of sustainable livelihoods through ecotourism promotion?

Case Studies
Raja Ampat
East Flores

ISSUES: ILLEGAL FISHING AND THE MANTA RAY TRADE

NGO Roles in Sustainable Development
How do NGOs promote the three pillars of sustainability -- ecological integrity, economic development and equity -- in promoting ecotourism as an alternative livelihood?

Enforcement
Increase enforcement and marine patrols by local police and NGOs. Create and promote call centers to increase community policing. Utilize future marine tour operators as informal patrol vessels.

EDUCATION
Facilitate discovery of locally relevant solutions to common problems by principally regarding community members as experts. Promote community workshops and educational materials to increase awareness of marine protected areas and illegal activities. Develop understanding of how conservation directly benefits local communities.

EMPOWERMENT
Empower communities to maintain conservation initiatives through ecotourism promotion in the most proactive villages. Provide essential English language and hospitality skills training and begin to initiate NGO-facilitated research or volunteer tourism in key destinations. Expand key infrastructure, such as homestay networks, and promote the destination to key audiences in order for future ecotourism to be self-sustaining.

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Results
Observation of Illegal fishing activities

Action by observers of illegal fishing

Local respondents were asked: “Do you believe tourism would be good for your community?”