

PROMOTING WEAKENING LOCAL VALUES TO MANAGE MARINE RESOURCES OF THE SPERMONDE ISLANDS: FROM COMPROMISE TO COEXISTENCE

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The Spermonde Islands in Sulawesi, Indonesia, form a coral reef platform located offshore to the southwest of Makassar City. The islands are occupied by Makassarese, Bugisnese, and Mandarese people who have managed local marine resources for over four centuries. In the last 20 years, the islands have begun to connect with external markets, which have changed the fishing techniques that are practiced. These changes significantly threaten resource sustainability. To reduce the uncertain position of future generations, this study aimed to explore the near-disappearance of local values in preventing resource deterioration, to learn lessons from processes that have been implemented recently by various agencies, and to recommend insights into how to promote sustainable development within the framework of past and future situations and local and global relations.

To date, the different ethnic groups have adapted to the nature of the Spermonde Islands, resulting in the capacity for self-organization and allowing for the evolution of inner value systems as the norms for a constructed collective culture, including management of marine resources. This culture is characterized by occasionally alternating incoming powers that take over administrative rule and coercively promote outside values. If for some reason a conflict were to arise between the two sides, there would be an outflow of inhabitants due to safety and security concerns affecting their lives and livelihoods, and the islands would be occupied by newer inhabitants. If an understanding-based new culture can be achieved by the two sides, marine resources will be managed for the collective benefit.

The sustainability of marine resources is also related to the ratio of the human population to the amount of resource biomass available or to the power of preventive selection in implementing local values towards meeting market demands. The former situation very much depends on how resources are shared based on a collective understanding among local stakeholders, while the latter requires not only the strength of local values but also a global commitment to save the natural environment from continuous deterioration. A match between local-global and past-future knowledge is necessary to replace competition with cooperation.

To realize collective benefits and cooperation in the Spermonde Islands, we must re-explore nearly extinct local values, formulate them into a system of values, and promote them as formal norms in everyday life. This system of values may cover inner, sociological, and cultural behavior. This behavior may be promoted through sequential persuasion, enticement, and coercion. In the long term, a process will be found that commences with compromise and ends with coexistence among stakeholders.

Keywords: Value system, Sustainable development, Local values, Compromise and coexistence