**Summary:** The Surf Conservation Partnership between Conservation International and Save The Waves Coalition is advancing the creation of Surf Protected Areas in Morotai, North Maluku Province Indonesia in collaboration with the local organizations, A Liquid Future (ALF) and the Indonesian Locally Managed Marine Area Foundation (ILMMA). Representatives from the collaborating organizations met in Morotai from February 21st until the 28th to develop the project work plan for 2020 and hold a planning workshop with government and stakeholders. The progress made during the trip was outstanding and government and local stakeholders are committed to the next steps to create the Surf Protected Area and sustainable tourism regulations.

Trip Participants included:

2. Mara Arroyo: Save The Waves, Manager for Surf Protected Area Networks
3. Lizzie Murray (and other staff): A Liquid Future
4. Cliff Marlessy (and other staff): Indonesia Locally Managed Marine Foundation
5. I Made Iwan Dewantama: Conservation International, Indonesia
6. Tim Hain: Asian Surfing Cooperative (the Asian coordinating body for the World Surf League)

**Outcomes:**

1. The workshop with government and stakeholders was the largest that we have held and included representatives from communities, NGOs, and local planning, tourism, environment and marine management agencies. We had incredibly active participation and universal endorsement of the Surf Protected Area project and clear identification of key next steps for 2020.
2. The Local and Provincial Government committed to: actively advancing key steps to establish the Surf Protected Area (called a Coastal Tourism Park in Indonesia), coordinating with the National Government to secure support, and creating detailed environmental protection and sustainable tourism regulations. The Coastal Tourism Park will integrate forest and marine conservation in one protected area designation.
3. The sustainable tourism regulations will include a Surf and Tourism Management Plan that will cap the number of visitors, create a conservation finance mechanism (whereby visitors help pay for conservation activities) and ensure sustainable building and operations for tourism enterprises.
4. The First Lady of Morotai committed to mobilize funding and support to create the Morotai Surfing Association and Surf Clubs in several villages within the park.
5. In January 2021, in partnership with the Asian Surf Cooperative, we will hold a specialty surf competition which will be partially funded by the local government. This will include local, national, and international surfers and will be the first step to holding a WSL Tour Qualifying Series competition in future years. We plan to mobilize staff and supporters of SCP to join the competition.
6. We also completed the workplan for 2020 including identification of activities, milestones, budgets, and roles and responsibilities for Surf Protected Areas in Morotai, Biak in Papua, Bali, and Sumba Islands and for national policy work to advance the Surf Protected Area model as a key approach to increase areas under conservation in Indonesia.
7. ILMMA, CI and ALF trained staff and community members in community mapping. They completed maps for one of the main surfing villages, Bido to create a baseline on natural resource and tourism assets.
8. We planned the start of a waste management pilot for Bido Village to start around June 2020.
9. Finally, we surfed on four days of the visit. The first two days were average due to strong northerly winds, but the last two were great with clean 3 to 5 foot waves. Happily, we always surfed alone or with local friends. Morotai is still a gem and will stay that way with the project collaboration from all key stakeholders.

The incredibly strong outpouring of support for the project gives us the institutional buy-in that we need to advance the establishment of the park, natural resource conservation, and sustainable tourism regulations. The detailed work planning gives us the roadmap and the generosity of our supporters give us the resources to make it happen. We so deeply appreciate everyone involved.
February 25th Workshop Participants including community members, Government Officers from Regency and Provincial Government Planning, Tourism and Fisheries Agencies. The workshop resulted in strong endorsement of pursuing creation of a Coastal Tourism Park and a clear set of next steps with commitment from key departments.

The First Lady of Morotai opening the workshop. She is a strong supporter of protecting Morotai’s environment and developing sustainable tourism.

The surf break known as Mistress, as viewed during a meeting with owners of the Moro Ma Doto resort.
Bido Village Surf Breaks, where the community youth learn to surf and snorkel.


Rau Island on the west side of Morotai, which has extensive and intact coral reefs and a world class wave (but it wasn’t breaking when we visited).