

DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES: INDONESIAN PERSPECTIVE

JAYA WIJAYA

Department of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Jl. Merdeka Timur No. 16 10th Floor, Jakarta, Indonesia

E-Mail: jaya_wijaya@hotmail.com

Indonesia is an archipelagic state, where waters make up for more than 60 % of its total territory. As an archipelagic state of 17,506 islands and the world's fifth most populous country, Indonesia's coastal and marine zone play an important role in term of habitation, living and non-living resources, and other environmental services. The coastal resources have both significantly high demands and pressures. Economic growth, population density, technology transformation and urbanization are some of the driving forces that have been pressuring Indonesia's coastal area. For two decades, from 1975 to 1995, Indonesia's past rapid economic growth of 8 % annually, triggered excessively and environmentally-unfriendly coastal resources uses. The high economic growth interspersing with other factors such as high urbanization and densely population density led to higher vulnerability of the coastal zone. The magnitude of the pressures on Indonesia's coastal zone has its origins on the past development strategy, the coordinated-development and the institutional complexity.

The past development is associated with development negligence of coastal and marine-based resources. Negligence of coastal and marine resources has produced an alarming rate of disturbance to keep up its capacity for maintaining sustainability. Indonesia's coral reef is 85,200 sq. km, of which 40 % is severely damaged, 24 % is considerably damaged, and only 6 % is in good condition. Indonesia's coral reef ecosystem is under threat. The degraded condition of reef ecosystem is very low amongst those in Asian Pacific countries. Mangrove Forest of Borneo Island has decreased 363,142 hectares in twenty-one years, from 443,450 hectares in 1980 to only 80,308 hectares in 2001. In Sumatra Island, in 1980, mangrove forest had an area of 764,922 hectares and in 2001 the mangrove forest was 285,598 hectares; this means that the mangrove forest has decreased 479,324 hectares from 1980 up to 2001. The development of Indonesia's coastal environment tends to worsen in light of biogeochemical conditions, which will increase the vulnerability of the coastal and marine environment.

Despite current austere conditions of coastal and marine resources, the predisposition of the coastal resources use will lead to challenging expectations for both economic viability and environmental integrity. Generally, issues of coastal resources management in Indonesia are assumed to have similarity to those amongst ASEAN countries in fields stretching from coordination, institutional building, and planning enforcement. This paper deals with issues relating to those fields in Indonesia and elaborates on the growth, development and utilization of coastal resources in Indonesia and in strategically developing the coastal and marine environment in terms of sustainable development.