

Making Decentralized Coastal Zone Management work in Indonesia: Case Studies of *Kabupaten* Konawe and *Kabupaten* Pangkajene dan Kepulauan

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PhD Thesis Abstract

Coastal governance in Indonesia is entering a new phase with new administration mechanisms, following the changes of political, administrative and fiscal framework resulting from decentralisation policy. For the first time provincial and district governments have mandates, resources, and responsibilities to manage their coastal zones. To this point, only a few studies have been conducted that focus on the analysis of effective coastal zone management (CZM) at district level in Indonesia under the decentralisation setting.

This dissertation presents a study of decentralized CZM in eastern Indonesia based on case studies of two districts in Sulawesi Island, *Kabupaten* Konawe in Southeast Sulawesi and *Kabupaten* Pangkajene dan Kepulauan (Pangkep) in South Sulawesi. The dissertation focuses on these district local governments' responses to decentralisation policy in managing their coastal zones. This new shift is very significant in the sector of marine and coastal governance in Indonesia. This research applied qualitative methods through in-depth and semi-structured interviews as well as field-site observations.

I argue that the dynamic of the local socio-political context and the interaction of local actors, such as Heads of District (*Bupati*), determine the effectiveness of decentralized coastal zone management. Local socio-political contexts shape and influence the extent and characteristics of decentralized CZM that can be implemented in the region. The quality of local leaders, as local actors, influences the implementation of CZM through their interactions with other local stakeholders, the dynamic between them, the power distribution among local stakeholders, and local governments' relationships vertically with higher levels of government. The manifestation of decentralized CZM in practice relies heavily on the combination of these considerations within the legal regulatory framework underpinning the process of decentralized CZM.

The research findings from the Konawe and Pangkep cases studies indicate that decentralized CZM will continue to be effective if local government is constantly responsive, effective and competent. This consistency has to be combined with a committed central government in shifting its power to the regional government under the constellation of decentralisation. Both local and central governments shape the implementation of effective decentralized

CZM. The findings of this research indicate that the signs and seeds for effective decentralized CZM implementation in Konawe and Pangkep exist in some aspects, and can be built upon to achieve more successful practices in decentralized CZM.

This dissertation holds several implications for decentralization studies on CZM issues, such as whether decentralized CZM is linear with improving accountability mechanisms. It calls for better understanding of role of various forms of accountability in decentralized CZM, and its linkage with local-central governance arrangements. Replicating this study in other parts of Indonesia could provide a more complete comparison of decentralized CZM implementation. The degrees of variation in research findings are important to canvass in order to add to the lessons learnt from decentralized CZM implementation.