

**REPORT ON THE JOINT WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE/IUCN
REACTIVE MONITORING MISSION TO KOMODO NATIONAL PARK
(INDONESIA)**

FROM 1 to 7 March 2022



Komodo Island, Komodo National Park World Heritage property © State Party of Indonesia

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Acknowledgements

The mission team, comprising Mr Amran Hamzah and Ms Katherine Zischka representing IUCN and Mr Hans Dencker Thulstrup representing the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, would like to thank the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for the invitation, excellent logistical coordination and warm welcome extended to the mission.

The mission thanks the various government authorities, including the Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO, Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia to UNESCO, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Cultural Affairs, Coordinating Ministry for Maritime and Investment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy, Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Ministry of Transportation, the Komodo National Park Authority and the Labuan Bajo Flores Tourism Authority. The mission also thanks the UNESCO Jakarta Office for its logistical support throughout the mission, the World Bank for its engagement, and all civil society stakeholders who participated in stakeholder meetings for their time and dedication to the protection of the World Heritage property.

The mission particularly notes the additional logistical complexities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic regarding travel, visa and health requirements. Special thanks are extended to Ms Lenni Hasan from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and Ms Siti Rachmania from the UNESCO Jakarta Office, and their teams, for their central role in logistical coordination such as domestic travel arrangements, field visit to the property and stakeholder meetings.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

BKSDA	Natural Resources Conservation Agency (<i>Balai Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam</i>)
BPOLBF	Labuan Bajo Flores Tourism Authority (<i>Badan Pelaksana Otorita Labuan Bajo Flores</i>)
MHDCA	Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Cultural Affairs
MMI	Coordinating Ministry for Maritime and Investment
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
Ha	Hectares
ITMP	Integrated Tourism Master Plan
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUCN Advice Note	IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment
KNP	Komodo National Park
KSP	Komodo Survival Program
MOEF	Ministry of Environment and Forestry
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOTCE	Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy
MPWH	Ministry of Public Works and Housing
MOT	Ministry of Transportation
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OUV	Outstanding Universal Value
rSOUV	retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SOC	State of conservation
UKL-UPL	Environmental Management Efforts and Environmental Monitoring Efforts (<i>Upaya Pengelolaan Lingkungan Hidup dan Upaya Pemantauan Lingkungan Hidup</i>)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
WH	World Heritage

Executive Summary and List of Recommendations

On 1-7 March 2022, the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, including Mr Amran Hamzah and Ms Katherine Zischka representing IUCN and Mr Hans Dencker Thulstrup representing the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, visited the Komodo National Park World Heritage property in response to the World Heritage Committee request (Decision **44 COM 7B.93**), to address the following: assess the status of existing and planned tourism infrastructure developments within and around the World Heritage property including on Rinca and Padar islands; review progress towards the revision of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the tourism infrastructure on Rinca Island; the Integrated Tourism Master Plan for Labuan Bajo Flores (ITMP); the status of the Komodo dragon; progress towards strengthening marine management; and any other relevant issues that may negatively affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property (see Terms of Reference, Annex I).

The mission held meetings with government stakeholders in Jakarta and with government, business, civil society and local community stakeholders in the town of Labuan Bajo on Flores Island, which is the access point to Komodo National Park (KNP). From Labuan Bajo, the mission undertook a field visit via speedboat to the three larger islands in KNP: Komodo, Rinca and Padar (see Programme and list of stakeholders, Annexes II & III). Photos of the mission are included in Annex VII.

The mission observed various pressures and potential threats. The State Party's prioritization of Labuan Bajo, the gateway to KNP, as a Super Priority Tourism Destination for Indonesia, the development of a new ITMP for the wider Labuan Bajo and Flores region, as well as the reported shift away from mass-tourism, provide an opportunity to position KNP as a leading, high-quality visitor experience and sustainable tourism destination. However, noting the planned expansion of tourism in the Labuan Bajo region, the anticipated increase in visitation levels, the plans to expand tourism infrastructure within KNP including private concessions, and the potential introduction of exclusive high-cost entry fees (US\$ 1,000) that would limit access to Komodo Island, increased tourism pressure may also pose a significant potential threat to the OUV if it is not effectively planned, monitored and managed in line with the management of KNP and the protection of its OUV.

It is important that any large-scale expansion of tourism is undertaken strategically and in line with global best practice standards for sustainable tourism related to World Heritage. This includes the need to ensure a strategic and transparent approach to planning and decision-making for both government-managed ranger stations (known as "resorts") and visitor facility developments such as Loh Buaya Resort (Rinca Island) and Loh Liang Resort (Komodo Island), as well as the potential permitting of any private tourism concessions within the property. Importantly, it is essential that any potential impacts of individual projects on the OUV of the property are appropriately assessed prior to making any decisions that may be difficult to reverse, in line with Paragraph 118bis of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (Operational Guidelines) and the new *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* (which replaces the *IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment*). Impact assessments are a critical tool for decision-makers to consult with relevant rightsholders and stakeholders, and to identify, avoid and mitigate any potential impacts of development proposals on the values and attributes that underpin the OUV. Further capacity building and communication in this regard is recommended.

The confirmation that no relocation of the local communities on Komodo Island will be undertaken is positive. Noting the concerns expressed by third parties regarding reported mass-tourism developments in KNP and the potential relocation of the community on Komodo Island, it is recommended that the State Party strengthen stakeholder consultation and public communication processes related to the management of the property.

It is positive that the Komodo dragon population has remained stable in recent years. Given that the species moved from Vulnerable to Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 2021, it is important that the authorities ensure management measures are in place to effectively plan, monitor and manage the growing pressures, particularly the planned increase in tourism in the region. Regarding marine management, whilst the measures taken in recent years including the development of a 2020 *Outline for the Future Marine Management of the Komodo National Park World Heritage Site* and ongoing patrolling are noted, recalling concerns regarding threats to the marine environment and the request of the Committee to strengthen marine management measures, and especially considering the projected increase in tourism to the property, marine monitoring and management require further strengthening.

The mission makes the following recommendations to the World Heritage Committee for implementation by the State Party of Indonesia:

Tourism related infrastructure and impact assessment processes

- **Ensure that all proposed development projects within the property and its wider setting, irrespective of the zoning, are assessed in line with the new *Guidance and Toolkit on Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*¹, including:**
 - **that the assessment of potential impacts is undertaken prior to the approval and construction of a project and not retrospectively during or after the construction phase in order to ensure that any potential impacts on the OUV of the property can be identified and addressed at an early stage, prior to taking any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;**
 - **ensure consultations and communications with relevant rightsholders and stakeholders;**
 - **submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse including the issuing of concessions or approval of development projects, and**
 - **ensure that no development is approved that would negatively impact on the OUV.** [R1] [R5]
- **Conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of tourism development within the property and its wider setting prior to the approval of individual projects, including private tourism concessions.** [R4]
- **Implement the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for Loh Buaya Resort (Rinca Island) and ensure a proactive management approach to monitor and address any potential impacts of increased tourism pressure on the OUV, especially the Komodo dragon population on Rinca Island.** [R2]
- **Provide training and capacity building to key stakeholders on impact assessment processes to support planning and decision-making for the protection and management of the property.** This should include park authorities, local and federal government agencies involved in the management of the property, developers, civil society and local communities. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN can provide technical support if required. [R7]

¹ The new *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* was published in July 2022 and is available from <https://whc.unesco.org/document/195279>, replacing the 2013 *IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment*. For impact assessments predating the publication of the new guidance, the 2013 Advice Note may be used. For all future projects, the new 2022 Guidance is the appropriate reference document.

Sustainable tourism development

- **Ensure a proactive and strategic management approach to sustainable tourism development under the Integrated Tourism Master Plan (ITMP) which includes an assessment of the carrying capacity for the property, prior to approving tourism developments.** The carrying capacity assessment should include the physical capacity based on the availability of water supply and psychological capacity to minimize the feeling of overcrowding as well as calculating the threshold limit for tourist boats mooring at the jetties that should facilitate the formulation of a boat mooring management plan. [R6]
- **Ensure the engagement of local communities in decision-making processes in line with international best-practice standards, including tourism development. Tourism development should be focused on high-quality experience tourism that includes providing opportunities and benefits for local communities.** [R3]
- **Finalize the Integrated Tourism Master Plan (ITMP) to enable the State Party to provide guidance to stakeholders, incorporating the following [R8]:**
 - a) **Clarify the definition of “super premium” or “quality” tourism to emphasise high quality visitor experience tourism that adheres to the principles of sustainability** - covering, among others, sustainability certification, responsible tourism, environmental education and environmental stewardship among the local community.
 - b) **Ensure the ITMP provides best practice guidance for future tourism development in terms of the process, protocol and business models, linking to available guidelines** (such as the new *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* and the *UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Toolkit*), **to ensure that these would protect the OUV, support local livelihoods, and provide business and economic opportunities from conservation.**
 - c) **Incorporate the education of tourism industry players, tourists and the local community about the OUV and the importance of its protection**, including to develop a communications plan as a subset of the ITMP to integrate responsible marketing and promotion as well as a social media strategy to increase overall awareness and commitment.
 - d) **Include actions to combat climate change** which is increasingly becoming a major concern for World Heritage (Decision 44 COM 7C, 2021). Although the BPOLBF Road Map recommends “adaptation to climate change and the environment”, the milestone for achieving this is relatively late, i.e. in 2032. Given the vulnerability of the marine ecosystems which are under threat from tourism development supported by affirmative government policies, the ITMP final report should prioritize climate change interventions in its recommendations.

The Komodo dragon and terrestrial management

- **Implement the necessary management and monitoring measures to ensure the long-term protection of the Komodo dragon, its prey species, and important habitats, including to effectively plan, monitor and manage key pressures, such as poaching and the projected increase in tourism, including through the ITMP.** [R9]

Marine management

- **Recalling the importance of the marine ecosystem to the OUV, concerns raised regarding marine management, and the Committee request to strengthen marine monitoring and management measures, the mission recommends to [R10]:**
 - a) **Review the marine management of the property and provide further information on the Committee's request to “urgently strengthen marine management and law enforcement capacities in the property, with a specific emphasis on controlling illegal fishing activities and**

boat anchoring, and to allocate a sufficient budget for marine research, monitoring, education and compliance with marine regulations."

- b) Ensure the effective regulation of the liveaboard (LOB) and cruise tourism industry** to maximise benefits to the conservation of the property and local communities and minimise the adverse impacts on the marine ecosystems, including to formulate a dedicated management plan for the industry as a subset of the ITMP.
- c) Establish a systematic and transparent revenue capture mechanism with a taxation system that ensures income is returned into the protection and management of KNP.**
- d) Incorporate a marine monitoring programme into the core management of the property.** Presently, monitoring the health of the marine resources is not carried out by government agencies despite the need to periodically assess the health of the marine ecosystem including coral reefs, marine mammals and fish populations, as important attributes of the OUV. Since regular monitoring involves high cost, a collaborative approach could be used by empowering the 20 certified divers to conduct a periodic reef assessment in collaboration with regional and national NGOs and social enterprises such as Reef Check International (Malaysia).
- e) Review the existing Carrying Capacity Study for KNP**, where threshold limits should be developed as a 'warning' mechanism for the formulation of management strategies. The scope of the carrying capacity should include the management of visitor behaviour, especially divers and snorkelers, mooring lines for the LOB, etc.
- f) Extend the training programme for diving guides conducted in 2020**, preferably as a collaborative effort between the relevant government agencies, dive operators and local community, to empower the youth through job creation besides strengthening the local environmental stewardship.
- **Explore the potential for utilizing the multi-stakeholder Komodo Biosphere Reserve Coordinating Forum as a mechanism to support the management of the World Heritage property. [R11]**

1. The property

1.1 Brief Summary of the Outstanding Universal Value based on the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

The following text reflects the information outlined in the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (rSOUV) adopted in 2013 (Annex IV).

Komodo National Park (KNP), located in the center of the Indonesian archipelago between the large islands of Sumbawa and Flores, is composed of three major islands (Rinca, Komodo, and Padar) and numerous smaller ones, all of them of volcanic origin. Located at the juncture of two continental plates, this national park constitutes the “shatter belt” within the Wallacea Biogeographical Region, between the Australian and Sunda ecosystems. The property is identified as a global conservation priority area, comprising unparalleled terrestrial and marine ecosystems and covers a total area of 219,322 ha. The dry climate has triggered specific evolutionary adaptation within the terrestrial flora that range from open grass-woodland savanna to tropical deciduous (monsoon) forest and quasi cloud forest. The rugged hillsides and dry vegetation highly contrast with the sandy beaches and the blue coral-rich waters.

The most remarkable inhabitant of KNP is the Komodo Lizard, *Varanus komodoensis*. These giant lizards, existing nowhere else in the world, are of great scientific interest, especially for their evolutionary implications. Most commonly known as 'Komodo Dragons', due to their appearance and aggressive behavior, the Komodo Lizard is the largest living species of lizard, growing to an average length of 2 to 3 meters. The species is the last representative of a relic population of large lizards that once lived across Indonesia and Australia. As well as being home to the Komodo dragon, KNP provides a refuge for many other notable terrestrial species such as the orange-footed scrub fowl, an endemic rat, and the Timor deer. The rich coral reefs of Komodo host a great diversity of species, and the strong currents of the sea attract the presence of sea turtles, whales, dolphins and dugongs.

The property is inscribed on the World Heritage List under criteria (vii) and (x):

- *Criterion (vii): Komodo National Park is a landscape of contrasts between starkly rugged hillsides of dry savanna, pockets of thorny green vegetation, brilliant white sandy beaches and blue waters surging over coral, unquestionably one of the most dramatic landscapes in all of Indonesia. Demonstrating exceptional natural beauty that is all the more remarkable as a counterpoint to the dominant lushness of vegetation which characterizes vast areas of forested Indonesia, and with which most of the world associates the archipelago. An irregular coastline characterized by bays, beaches and inlets separated by headlands, often with sheer cliffs falling vertically into the surrounding seas which are reported to be among the most productive in the world adds to the stunning natural beauty of landscapes dominated by contrasting vegetation types, providing a patchwork of colours.*
- *Criterion (x): Komodo National Park contains the majority of the world's areas in which wild populations of the Komodo dragon lizard still exist. The largest and heaviest of the world's lizards, the species is widely known for its impressive size and fearsome appearance, its ability to effectively prey on large animals, and a tolerance of extremely harsh condition. The population, estimated at around 5,700 individuals is distributed across the islands of Komodo, Rinca, Gili Motong and some coastal regions of western and northern Flores.*

Other fauna recorded in the park are characteristic of the Wallacean zoogeographic region with seven species of terrestrial mammal, including an endemic rat (*Rattus rintjanus*) and the crab-eating macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) and 72 species of birds, such as the lesser sulphur-crested cockatoo

(*Cacatua sulphurea*), the orange-footed scrub fowl (*Megapodius reinwardt*), and noisy friarbird (*Philemon buceroides*). The coral reefs fringing the coast of Komodo are diverse and luxuriant due to the clear water, intense sunlight and rapid exchange of nutrient-rich water from deeper areas of the archipelago. The marine fauna and flora are generally the same as that found throughout the Indo-Pacific area, though species richness is very high, notable marine mammals include blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) and sperm whale (*Physeter catodon*) as well as 10 species of dolphin, dugong (*Dugong dugon*) and five species of sea turtles.

Encompassing the rugged topography that reflects the position of the park within the active volcanic shatter belt between Australia and the Sunda shelf, the boundaries of KNP encircle the main park features, including the outstanding scenery and the unique species it hosts; Komodo lizard, birds, marine mammals, coral reef-species, and others. The boundaries are considered adequate to secure the habitat and the main ecological processes to preserve them. The extensive marine buffer zone surrounding the park is key to maintaining the integrity and intactness of the property and the number of exceptional species that it hosts.

The rSOUV outlined that illegal fishing and poaching remain the main threats to the values of the property and its overall integrity. There is an extensive marine buffer zone to the park, in which management authority staff has authority to regulate the type of fishing permitted and to some extent the presence of fishing vessels from outside the area. This buffer zone, which assists in controlling poaching of the terrestrial species that provide the prey species for the Komodo lizard, will become significant in the overall long-term protection of the property.

Protection and management requirements

Komodo National Park is managed by the central government of Indonesia through the Directorate General of Forest Protection and Natural Conservation of the Ministry of Forestry. The history of protection afforded the site goes back to 1938 while official protection began when Ministerial Decree declared the area as a 72,000 ha National Park in March 1980. This area was subsequently extended to 219,322 ha in 1984 to include an expanded marine area and the section of mainland Flores. Comprised of Komodo Game Reserve (33,987 ha), Rinca Island Nature Reserve (19,625 ha), Padar Island Nature Reserve (1,533 ha), Mbeliling and Nggorang Protection Forest (31,000 ha), Wae Wuul and Mburak Game Reserve (3,000 ha) and surrounding marine areas (130,177 ha), the Komodo Biosphere Reserve was accepted under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme in January 1977. In 1990 a national law, elevating the legislative mandate for conservation to the parliamentary and presidential level significantly empowered the legal basis for protection and management. Following a 10-year periodic review conducted in 2013, the Komodo Biosphere Reserve was expanded in 2014 to a total area of 1,118,003 hectares, comprising 332,951 hectares of terrestrial area and 785,052 ha of marine area (see section 2 below for further details).

In order to ensure the effective management and protection of the park and its exceptional landscapes and biota, the park is governed through a 2000-2025 Management Plan and a 2010-2014 Strategic Plan, which will require revision and updating. These plans are important for ensuring the effective zoning system of the park and guaranteeing the sustainability of the ecosystems of the property. The management authority is known for designing specific plans to guide management decisions which will require updating in line with changes to priorities and threats, in particular expected increases in visitor numbers and impacts from tourism.

The KNP receives strong support and resources from the central government of Indonesia. As a tourism location known worldwide, the Indonesian Government has a specific program for ecotourism management to promote the park at the international level and to ensure the sustainability of tourism activities. Additionally, in order to address illegal fishing and poaching, regular patrolling of the marine and terrestrial areas is carried out for law enforcement and a number of the problems and impacts associated with these activities have decreased. Community awareness and empowerment programs are being implemented to engage the local villagers regards

to the sustainable use of natural resources and park conservation. Research and study of the unique biological features of the park is also being promoted and supported by the management authority. Increasing levels of tourism and matters related specifically to the Komodo lizard are the major management issues that have been focused on to date. A broadening of the management focus to address issues within the marine area of the park along with other terrestrial species is required to ensure the long-term effective conservation of the property. A focus on the issue of depletion of Komodo monitor prey species stocks has resulted in some success and the same efforts need to be focused on the issues of damaging fishing practices and impacts on other unique species contained within the property.

1.2 Summary of recent State of Conservation reporting, Committee Decisions and issues

The 2020 IUCN World Heritage Outlook assessment of KNP, finalized on 2 December 2020, assessed the Conservation Outlook of the property to be of “significant concern”. The report took note that:

- impacts have been reported on the physical state and behavior of Komodo dragons subjected to a high incidence of visitation.
- the property's marine component faces a multitude of threats that include over-exploitation, illegal and destructive fishing practices, and infestation by a coral-killing alien species.
- in the medium term, KNP faces a large increase in visitor numbers, the pressures of an expanding local and regional population, and climate change. Altered fire regimes could damage the savannah and forest habitats of the Komodo dragon; warmer waters could bring an increase in coral bleaching; more energetic storm events combined with sea-level rise could wreak damage on reef systems.
- the property has the foundations of a good management system but this could be overwhelmed by threats exacerbated by unmanaged high numbers of visitors and the infrastructure they demand, as well as damaging phenomena caused by climate change. Additional resources and updated 'state of conservation' reporting are urgently required.

In light of these concerns, the Outlook rated the overall state of the values of KNP as “deteriorating”, and the overall threat level to the property as “high”. The report noted with particular concern the use of destructive and illegal fishing practices, boat anchoring and marine litter, as well as over-exploitation. Finally, regarding the overall protection and management of KNP, the assessment noted with “some concern” that KNP has an active management agency, a management-planning system, a current management plan, adequate boundaries and a solid legal framework, however that the positive foundation is challenged by the lack of a whole-of-government approach to management of tourist numbers, by a rapidly increasing local and regional population, and by the difficulties of policing a large area of ocean teeming with resources. Finally, the assessment noted that the absence of official reporting through the formal World Heritage processes since 2002 in the form of state of conservation reports made it difficult to confidently assess the overall effectiveness of management.

On 9 March 2020, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party requesting clarification regarding third-party information about planned developments in the property, along with other urgent threats to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), as follows:

- Infrastructure development on Rinca Island in anticipation of the G-20 Summit to be held in 2023, and construction of tourism facilities on Padar Island without notifying the Committee, despite the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
- Significant tourism growth targets and announced tourism reforms that could potentially affect the livelihoods of local communities and trigger local protests;
- A significant increase in illegal fishing activities in the property, including in no-take zones;
- Management issues in the property's marine area, including lack of enforcement of sustainable tourism practices, such as observing no-anchoring zones.

On 30 April and 6 May 2020, the State Party provided the following information:

- The State Party is developing an Integrated Tourism Master Plan (ITMP) for Labuan Bajo (on the west of the island of Flores, outside of the property) and including the islands of Rinca and Padar (which are part of the property), and is moving away from mass tourism and towards quality tourism;
- The 10-year Medium-Term Management Plan of the property (2016-2025), which is part of the Long-Term Plan 2000-2025, identifies seven goals for the property to become a “World-Class Ecotourism Destination” and “the Leading National Pride in Conservation Area Management”. Periodic monitoring and reporting will be conducted in order to measure progress with the implementation of the Medium-Term Management Plan;
- Facilities located within the “utilization zone” of the property are being updated to improve their quality and strengthen their resilience to natural disasters and climate change. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), realised in accordance with the *IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment*, is underway and several other actions are planned to address the potential urgent risks to the OUV of the property;
- The Komodo dragon population in the property has fluctuated between 2,430 and 3,022 during the 2015 to 2019 period, based on the ecological study conducted by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

On 30 October 2020, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party not to proceed with any tourism infrastructure project that may affect the OUV of the property prior to a review of the relevant EIA by IUCN. On 30 October 2020, the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre an EIA for tourism infrastructure construction on Rinca Island.

Following the review by IUCN, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party to revise and resubmit the EIA in accordance with the *Operational Guidelines* and the IUCN Advice Note, both in writing and during an online meeting with the State Party on 5 November 2020. The World Heritage Centre also reiterated the request through letters dated 12 January and 12 March 2021. The revised EIA was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in early 2022.

In the letter dated 12 March 2021, the World Heritage Centre further requested comments from the State Party following third-party information about significant changes made to the zoning system of the property in 2020, which appeared to show a decrease of the wilderness zone to one-third of the previous area, the attribution of further tourism concessions within and near the property, and reported new legislation that would exempt infrastructure works in the property from the obligation of undergoing an EIA.

At its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online) in 2021, the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to halt the ongoing tourism infrastructure project in Rinca Island – as well as any other potential developments in and around the property with potential impact on its OUV - until a revised EIA is submitted and reviewed by IUCN. The World Heritage Committee also requested the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to Komodo National Park (Decision 44 COM 7B.93).

Despite the request to halt all infrastructure development, developments at the Rinca Island site continued. On 9 August 2021, the World Heritage Centre requested clarification with regard to the State Party’s compliance with World Heritage Committee Decision 44 COM 7B.93. No direct response to this communication was received until January 2022, when the State Party submitted a revised EIA for the infrastructure development on Rinca Island as part of its State of Conservation report.

2 Summary of the national management system for the preservation and management of the World Heritage property

According to the description included with the original nomination dossier at the time of inscription, as well as maps submitted by the State Party to the World Heritage Centre in early 2022, the KNP World Heritage property covers 219,322 hectares (ha), comprising KNP (described in Chapter I and depicted in Figure 4) as well as the Wae Wuul Nature Reserve, the Mburak Forest, and the Mbeliling and Nggorang Protected Forests located on Flores island (**Error! Reference source not found.**). However, it should be noted that, while the latter three protected areas were described in the original nomination dossier, the IUCN Evaluation of the nomination file recommended that the property boundaries should encompass the offshore island groups only and not the reserves on Flores island, and that these reserves were also not included in the nomination dossier map² and have not been managed in an integrated manner with the KNP. It is further noted that the three reserves frequently do not feature in documentation related to the property. In light of this lack of clarity, the mission recommends that the boundaries of the property, and specifically the status of the three reserves, be clarified between the State Party and the World Heritage Centre.

The key regulation providing the legal framework and determining the management and protection of KNP is [Law No. 5 of 1990 on the Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems](#).

In addition, Law No. 23 of 2014 Concerning Local Governments impacts the management of the property. The law includes an annex outlining the division of concurrent governmental affairs between central and provincial governments and between provincial and regency/city regions with regard to government affairs in the forestry sector. According to this annex, the division of responsibility among the three principal levels is organized as follows:

CENTRAL	PROVINCIAL	REGENCY/CITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Administrating the management of nature reserves area and nature preservation areas. b. Administrating the conservation of plants and wildlife. c. Administrating the sustainable utilization of environmental conditions of the nature preservation areas. d. Administrating the utilization of plants and wildlife species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Managing the protection, preservation, and sustainable utilization of the forest park (TAHURA) across Regencies/cities. b. Managing the protection of plants and wildlife that are unprotected and/or unlisted in the CITES Appendix. c. Administrating the management of the important ecosystem values areas and the buffer zones of nature reserves and nature conservation areas 	Administrating the management of TAHURA in the regency/city

² IUCN Evaluation of the nomination dossier and official map of the property on UNESCO website: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/609/documents/>

The entry fee for KNP is regulated through Government Regulation No. 12/2014 concerning tariff and type of non-tax revenue applicable at the Ministry of Forestry for the utilization of environmental services on natural tourism.

The annual budget for KNP in 2021 was approximately IDR 21,000,000,000 corresponding to USD 1,346,000 at current exchange rates, with the budget for 2022 at a similar level. KNP employs 221 staff, of which 156 are civil servants. KNP is managed by the KNP Office while the Wae Wuul Nature Reserve is managed by the Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA), both are under the Directorate General of Nature Resources and Ecosystem Conservation, Ministry of Environment and Forestry. The West Manggarai (East Nusa Tenggara Province) Environment and Forestry Agency manages the Mburak, Mbeliling and Nggorang Protected Forests on Flores. As noted above, these areas have never been managed in an integrated manner with KNP as a World Heritage property.

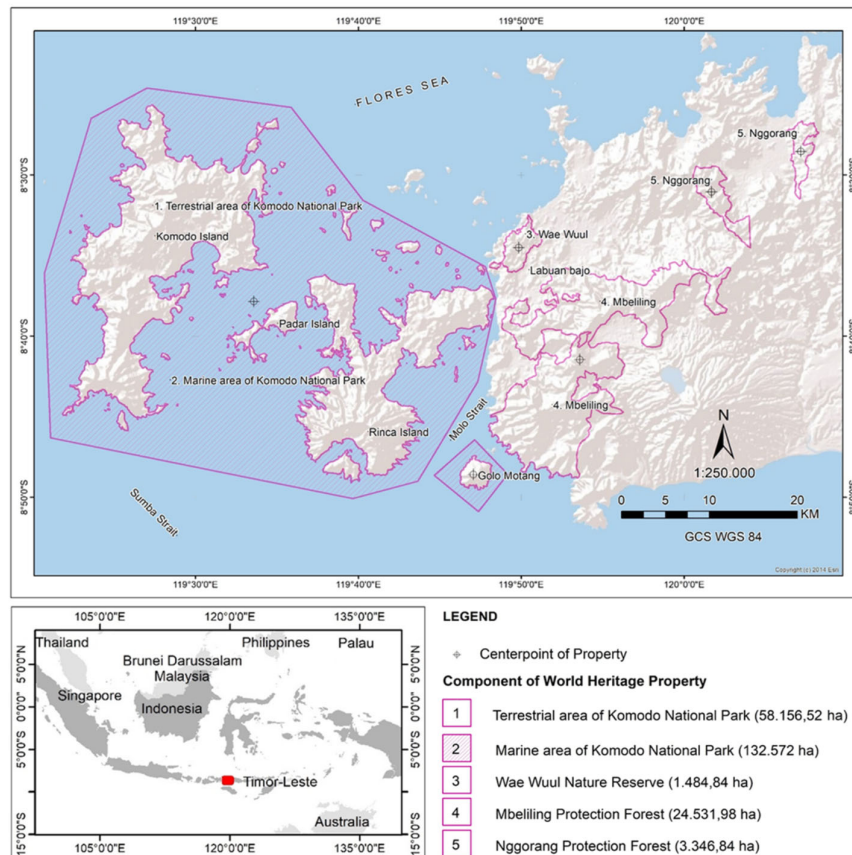


Figure 1: Komodo National Park World Heritage Property. Source: Government of Indonesia, February 2022.

KNP was established through the Announcement of the Minister of Agriculture No. 811/Kpts/Um/II/1980 dated 6 March 1980, when it became one of Indonesia's five first national parks. The KNP itself has a total area of 173,000 ha, which includes both terrestrial (40,728 ha) and marine areas (132,572 ha). KNP was recognised as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1977. The Biosphere Reserve was rezoned in 1999 and expanded in 2014 following a 2013 Periodic Review, extending the site to the western part of Flores Island. The biosphere reserve zonation areas are: core area(s) 173,300 ha; buffer zone(s) 288,353 ha and transition zone(s): 656,350 ha (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

While the Komodo Biosphere Reserve holds significant potential to serve as a vehicle for integrated management of the World Heritage property, the integrated management framework proposed in the context of the 2014 expansion of the Biosphere Reserve with the establishment of a multi-stakeholder Komodo Biosphere Reserve Coordinating Forum has yet to be fully implemented in practice. To ensure the effective management and protection of the KNP, the MOEF has developed and endorsed a 25-Year Master Plan for Management of Komodo National Park (2000-2025), with the support of the Nature Conservancy and the University of Gajah Mada (Indonesia) and assisted by Manggarai District Authority in western Flores. However, the Management Plan only covers the terrestrial area. In 2019, KNP received assistance from the World Heritage Centre to develop the outline for the management plan for the marine area.

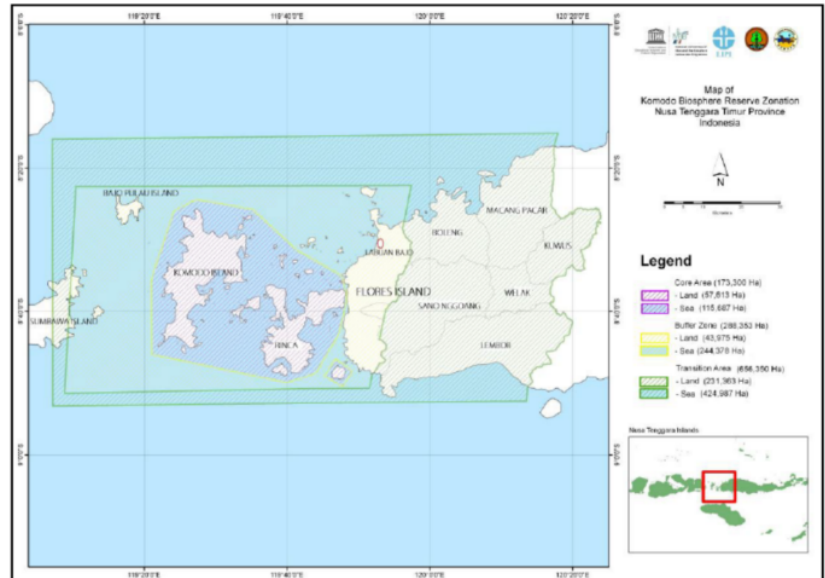


Figure 2: Map of Komodo Biosphere Reserve (Source: UNESCO/MAB)

Under the government's objective of increasing foreign and domestic tourism, KNP was identified as one of five areas designated as Super Priority Tourism Destinations (see Chapter I). These Super Priority Tourism Destinations are enacted in [Government Regulation No. 50 of 2011 regarding National Tourism Development Planning 2010-2025](#). Through this Regulation, KNP is targeted as the new epicentre of tourism investment in Flores Island.

3 The mission

At its extended 44th session in 2021, the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party of Indonesia to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to Komodo National Park (Decision **44 COM 7B.93**). The objectives of the mission were as follows (Terms of Reference (TOR), Annex I):

1. Assess the status of any existing and planned infrastructure developments within and in the vicinity of the property, including the tourism infrastructure projects on Rinca and Padar Islands, and the actual and potential impacts of these projects on the OUV of the property;
2. Review the progress made with the revision of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the tourism infrastructure projects on Rinca Island, in line with the IUCN *World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment*;
3. Review the status of the Komodo dragon population and the management measures taken by the State Party, including terrestrial management and especially the fire response plan, as a response to the World Heritage Committee's request in Decision **44 COM 7B.93**;
4. Review the progress made with the development of the Integrated Tourism Master Plan for Labuan Bajo, including the islands of Rinca and Padar, and provide any necessary technical advice to the State Party to ensure that tourism plans do not compromise the protection of the OUV of the property;
5. Review the State Party's progress towards strengthening marine management and law enforcement capacities within the property, with a specific emphasis on the control of illegal fishing activities and boat anchoring, and provide any necessary technical advice to the State Party in this regard;
6. In line with paragraph 173 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, assess any other relevant issues that may negatively affect the OUV of the property, including its conditions of integrity and its protection and management.

The mission was undertaken from 1 to 7 March 2022 by Mr Amran Hamzah and Ms Katherine Zischka representing IUCN and Mr Hans Dencker Thulstrup representing the World Heritage Centre. The mission held meetings with government stakeholders in Jakarta and with government, business, civil society and local community stakeholders in the town of Labuan Bajo on Flores Island, which is the access point to KNP. From Labuan Bajo, the mission undertook a field visit via speedboat to the three larger islands in KNP: Komodo, Rinca and Padar (see Programme and list of stakeholders, Annexes II & III). Due to time limitations, it was not possible to visit and meet with local communities on Komodo Island as per the planned programme.

4 Assessment of the state of conservation of the property

Chapter 4 addresses the key issues outlined in the TOR regarding existing and planned tourism infrastructure developments within and around the World Heritage property, including on Rinca and Padar islands, ITMP, the status of the Komodo dragon, and progress towards strengthening marine management. It provides an analysis of these issues in relation to impacts on the OUV of the property, an assessment of the overall state of conservation, and management recommendations to the State Party.

4.1 Issue 1: Tourism infrastructure development

As outlined in chapter 1, since 2020 the World Heritage Centre has received various third-party concerns regarding the announced development of tourism infrastructure in KNP. Specifically, reported changes to the KNP Zoning System to allow for tourism development (see chapter 4.1.2), the exemption of EIA requirements for tourism developments in KNP by Ministerial decree (4.1.3), a mass tourism development on Rinca Island (4.1.4), the proposed development of exclusive high-end tourism and relocation of the local community from Komodo Island (4.1.5), and the issuing of private tourism concessions in KNP (4.1.6).

These issues are addressed in relation to the mission mandate to assess the status of any existing and planned infrastructure developments within and in the vicinity of the property, including tourism infrastructure projects on Rinca and Padar Islands, and the actual and potential impacts of these projects on the OUV of the property, and to review the progress made with the revision of the EIA for the tourism infrastructure on Rinca Island.

4.1.1 Tourism and Komodo National Park

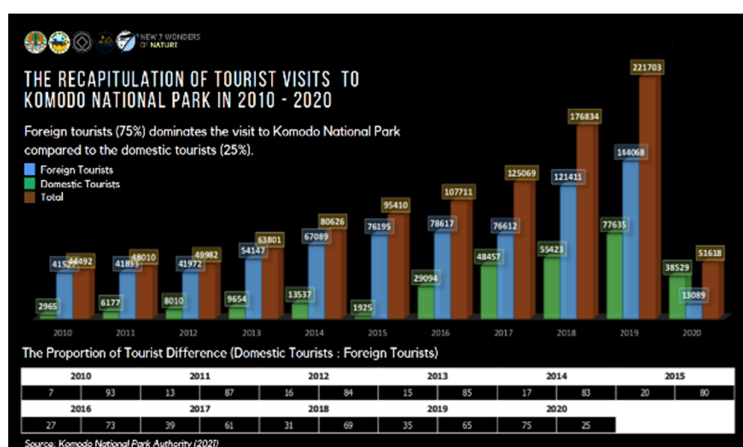


Figure 3: Tourist visitation to Komodo National Park 2010-2020 (Source: 2022 State Party report).

In its 2022 state of conservation report, the State Party outlines that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of visitors to KNP in the past decade, reaching 221,703 in 2019, before a decline due to COVID-19 (Figure 3). Furthermore, the Labuan Bajo Flores area has been identified as one of five high-priority tourism destinations for Indonesia (i.e. the *Labuan Bajo Flores Super Priority Tourism Destination*), which aims to position Labuan Bajo as a “world class sustainable premium quality tourism destination”, and for which an ITMP is being developed (see further details regarding ITMP below). The State Party report also notes the intention to attain a target set out by the President of Indonesia to boost socio-economic development for the people in Flores Island by bringing in 500,000 foreign tourists and 1,500,000 domestic tourists to the island within a period of 4 years (2016-19) (the mission notes that this refers to the wider Flores Island area that extends

beyond the property). Furthermore, the revised EIA for Loh Buaya states that, assuming the rate of increase in visitors is the same as prior to the pandemic, it is estimated that by 2030 the number of visitors to KNP will reach more than 381,000 per year.

4.1.2 The Komodo National Park Zoning System and tourism development

The management of KNP is carried out in line with the KNP Zoning System, which defines the level of protection and allowable activities within different zones in the property. As outlined in Figure 4, Core and Wilderness Zones provide the highest level of protection, Pelagic and Marine Protected Zones permit limited resource use and recreational activities, the Local Community Utilisation Zone permits activities linked to local livelihoods, and the Utilisation Zone permits tourism activities including tourism infrastructure development.

The mission was informed that the zoning system was amended by government decree in 2012³ and again in 2020⁴. In 2021, the World Heritage Centre received third party concerns regarding the zoning changes, including that the 2012 decree resulted in changes from Wilderness and Core zones to a Utilization Zone (e.g. on Padar Island), and that business concessions for tourism development were subsequently issued in these areas.

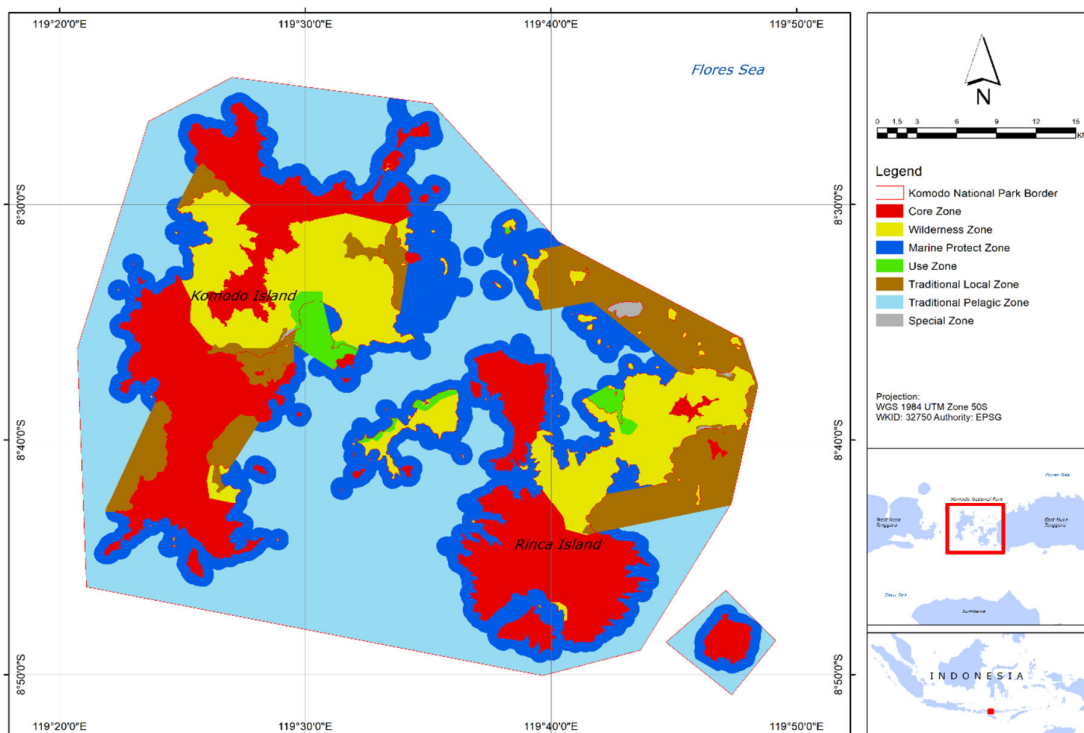
During the mission, the State Party confirmed that there has been no change in the zoning of the property between 2012 and 2020, only the optimization of zoning for protection and management, and that the size of the zones remained the same (see table in Figure 4).⁵ The next Zoning Plan review, which is undertaken every five years, is anticipated in 2025.

Whilst recognizing the State Party's confirmation that essentially no changes were made to the zoning system in 2020, the mission also notes the reported changes in 2012 to include utilization zones within the property to allow for potential tourism development. As outlined in greater detail in following sections, it is essential that no development should be approved or constructed within a World Heritage property or its wider setting that has a potential negative impact on its OUV. The sustainable tourism approach planned as part of the ITMP must ensure the protection of the OUV, and it is essential that international best-practice impact assessment processes are followed to assess any potential impacts of planned projects prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse. Furthermore, it is recommended that the World Heritage Centre be informed of any changes in the level of protection of a property. See following sections for further details.

³ Decree of the Director General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation Number SK.21/IV-SET/2012 dated February 24, 2012

⁴ Decree of Directorate General of Nature Resources and Ecosystem Conservation No. SK.212/KSDAE/SET.3/KSA.0/11/2020

⁵ Opening entry briefing presentation by the State Party.



Zoning 2012-2020 (SK.21/IV-SET/2012)	Zoning since 2020 (SK.212/KSDAE/SET.3/KSA.0/11/2020)	Area (Ha)
Core Zone	Core Zone	34,304.81
Wilderness Zone	Wilderness Zone	22,192.28
Pelagic zone	Pelagic Zone	59,601.00
Marine protected Zone	Marine Protected Zone	36,308.00
Traditional Marine Utilisation Zone	Local Community Utilisation Zone	18,172.59
Traditional Terrestrial Utilisation Zone		
Terrestrial Tourist Utilisation Zone	Utilisation Zone	2,408.23
Marine Tourist Utilisation Zone		
Settlement Zone	Special Zone	313,09
Special BTS Telkomsel Zone		
Special Settlement Zone		
Total Area		173,300

Loh Buaya Zone	Utilization/Purpose	Area (Ha)
Core Zone (<i>Zona Inti</i>)	This zone is absolutely protected. No disturbance of human activities is allowed, except from those related to science, education and research	34,11
Wilderness Zone (<i>Zona Rimba</i>)	No human activities are allowed in this zone, except for limited natural tourism activities	22,187
Marine Protected Zone (<i>Zona Perlindungan Bahari</i>)	Only limited natural tourism activities are allowed in this zone, and harvesting of marine products is not permitted in this zone.	36,308
Terrestrial Tourism Utilisation Zone (<i>Zona Pemanfaatan Wisata Daratan</i>)	This zone has been designated for the purpose of terrestrial nature tourism	824
Marine Tourism Utilisation Zone (<i>Zona Pemanfaatan Wisata Bahari</i>)	This zone has been designated for the purpose of marine nature tourism	1,584
Terrestrial Traditional Utilisation Zone (<i>Zona Pemanfaatan Tradisional Daratan</i>)	This is a zone where human activities can be carried out by the indigenous/local communities to accommodate their basic needs. A use permit is issued by the Head of the National Park to indigenous/local communities who would like to conduct activities in this zone.	879
Marine Traditional Utilisation Zone (<i>Zona Pemanfaatan Tradisional Bahari</i>)	This is a zone where indigenous/local communities can carry out activities to accommodate their basic needs. In this zone, the people can collect marine products using environmentally friendly tools.	17,308
Special Pelagic Zone (<i>Zona Khusus Pelagis</i>)	In this zone, fishing and the extraction of other marine products that are not protected can be carried out as well as tourism /recreational activities.	59,601
Special Settlement Zone (<i>Zona Khusus Permukiman</i>)	In this zone, indigenous/local communities can live and settle while respecting certain regulations imposed by the head of the Komodo National Park in collaboration with the local government.	298
Total Area		173,300

Figure 4: The KNP Zoning System (map); overview of changes in zonation between 2012 and 2020 (above table); and overview of permitted activities in each zone (below table). Sources: 2021 Loh Buaya EIA report (pages 4-7); Government of Indonesia presentation to the mission.

4.1.3 Ministerial decree exempting tourism developments from environmental impact assessment

The third party information raised concerns regarding a Ministerial decree issued in July 2020, which exempts tourism infrastructure in KNP from EIA requirements⁶ (Annex V). The information states that an EIA is not required since developments are already listed in the document on environmental management and environmental monitoring efforts (UKL-UPL) for protected areas. A UKL-UPL is “a guidance document to measure and achieve compliance with the environmental protection and mitigation requirements of a project, which are typically requirements for project permits/approvals”⁷.

Whilst acknowledging that the development of tourism infrastructure is permitted within Utilization Zones in principle, it is important to emphasise that, irrespective of the zoning, all proposed development projects that are planned within or in the vicinity of a World Heritage property should first be assessed to determine whether there would be any potential impacts of the project on the OUV of the property, before a decision is made on whether to proceed with approval or not. This is especially important for areas that include attributes of OUV, such as the populations of Komodo dragons present on both Komodo and Rinca Islands. It is therefore recommended that the State Party remove the exemption of EIA requirements for tourism infrastructure in KNP. Specific recommendations related to impact assessment are outlined in following sections below.

4.1.4 Rinca Island (Loh Buaya Resort) infrastructure development

One of the key concerns first raised by third parties in February 2020 is the announcement of a large-scale mass tourism development in the Loh Buaya area on Rinca Island. The concerns included that the proposed project would be a large-scale mass tourism development (referred to by media as a “Jurassic Park”) as part of the preparations for the G20 summit originally planned in Labuan Bajo, which was then moved to Bali and held in the second half of 2022; that the project had been fast-tracked without an adequate EIA or public consultation process to assess the impacts on the Komodo dragon population on Rinca Island (see 4.1.3); and that the island had been closed to the public since 2020 to allow for the development to proceed.

As outlined in Chapter 3, these concerns were transmitted by the World Heritage Centre to the State Party in various letters in 2020 and 2021, and raised by the World Heritage Committee in Decision **44 COM 7B.93** in 2021, requesting the State Party to revise the EIA submitted in 2020 in line with the *IUCN Advice Note* and not to proceed with the development until a revised EIA had been undertaken. The State Party submitted a revised EIA and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP)⁸ in January 2022. Noting that the mission mandate is to review progress on the revision of the EIA, the following provides an overview of the Loh Buaya project, a review of the revised EIA and EMP, and recommendations to the State Party.

During the mission, the team was provided with an entry briefing by MPWH officials, and visited the Loh Buaya site with representatives from MPWH, MOEF, KNP Authority (Superintendent, rangers and nature guides), and scientific experts who contributed to the revised EIA.

Overview of the Loh Buaya Resort, Rinca Island

The Loh Buaya “Resort” is one of thirteen publicly managed ranger posts in KNP and one of four open to ecotourism (Figure 5A). It is important to highlight that the term “resort” in the Indonesian national

⁶ July 13 2020. Decree No. S.576/KSDAE/KK/KSA.1/7/2020 concerning “The exemption of EIA for the construction of tourism infrastructure in Komodo National Park”.

⁷ MPWH entry briefing presentation.

⁸ EMP is a “plan constructed during the process of EIA that provides a description of the methods and procedures for mitigating and monitoring impacts”. Source: MPWH entry briefing presentation.

park context refers to government managed ranger stations, as opposed to the more widely used term referring to private tourism development.

The development at Loh Buaya is presented as an upgrade and expansion of existing tourism facilities and infrastructure to improve their quality, regulate the flow of large numbers of visitors and thereby limit the impact on the OUV of the property. The project includes an extension of the Loh Buaya jetty; construction of an elevated pathway from the jetty to the information centre (to minimize human interaction with wildlife including Komodo dragons in their natural habitat); the replacement of ranger, researcher and guide accommodation; a new information centre; and a Water Supply System and reservoir (**Error! Reference source not found.B**).⁹ During the field visit and meetings, the mission was able to confirm that development had continued during the EIA revision process and was largely completed, with internal infrastructure (e.g. visitor interpretation facilities) to be finalised, and plans to open the facility in mid-2022.

Regarding the EIA process, the mission acknowledges that the State Party mobilised significant resources to undertake a revision of the original EIA at the request of the World Heritage Committee, to ensure this is in line with the IUCN Advice Note, including by securing additional financial support from the World Bank. Regarding the revised EIA, the mission considers the following:

- **The construction of the project was not halted whilst the revision of the EIA was being undertaken, as requested by the World Heritage Committee in Decision 44 COM 7B.93.** In line with international best-practice impact assessment guidance, impact assessments must be undertaken prior to the approval and construction of a project, and not retrospectively during or after the construction phase, to ensure that any potential impacts on the OUV can be identified and addressed at an early stage, prior to taking any decisions that would be difficult to reverse. As noted in previous chapters, it is important that any developments within the property, irrespective of the zoning, are assessed for their potential impacts prior to approval or construction. This also means that a “no-project” option was not considered.
- **The mission considers that the Loh Buaya development is not a mass tourism development as was communicated through media outlets, but an upgrade and expansion of an existing publicly-managed ranger facility open to visitation,** which contributes to the protection and management of the property through factors such as an elevated pathway that ensures the separation of human-wildlife interaction (i.e. between visitors and wildlife such as Komodo dragons, see Figure 8b), provides improved accommodation facilities for rangers, guides and researchers undertaking monitoring and interpretive services, and plans for educational interpretive facilities in the new visitor centre.

The confirmation in the EIA report and State Party’s state of conservation report on the government’s intention to move away from mass tourism is positive, however the mission considers it important that this focus should be on establishing high-quality visitor experience tourism, as opposed to exclusivity. In this regard, it is useful to note that the upgrade is described as a measure to facilitate the expected increase in visitation following COVID-19 restrictions. Given the expected increase in tourism across the wider region, it is recommended that a proactive management approach is taken for Loh Buaya going forward, which ensures a clear analysis, monitoring and management of any impacts of increased visitation on the OUV, specifically the Komodo dragon population (including behavioural impacts) and other wildlife, and which ensures that visitor numbers are regulated as needed to avoid any negative impacts. It is acknowledged that the design of the project is reported to be in line with the Komodo National Park Medium Term Management Plan 2016-2025 based on the Komodo National Park Management Master Plan 2000-2025, and has taken into consideration disaster risk resilience and climate change.

⁹ Source: revised EIA report and government presentation to the mission.

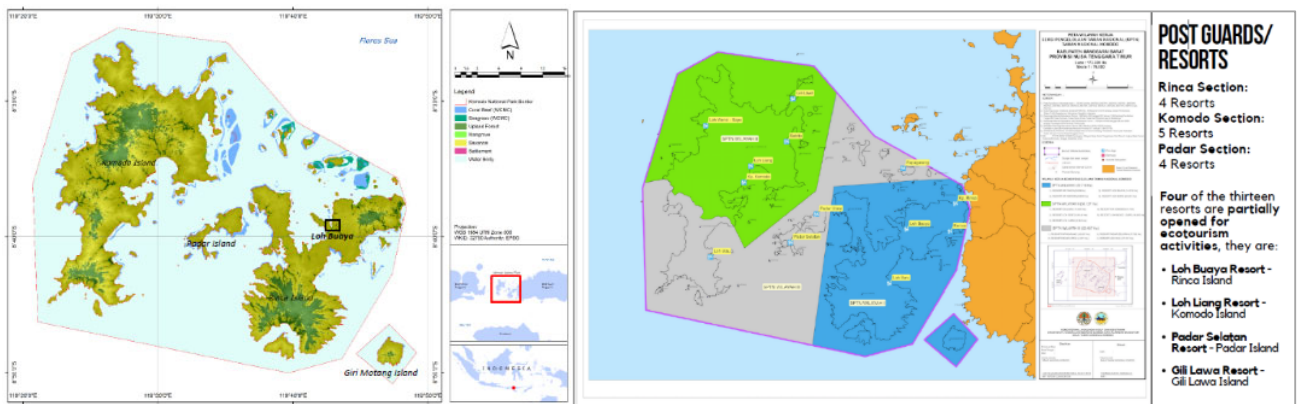
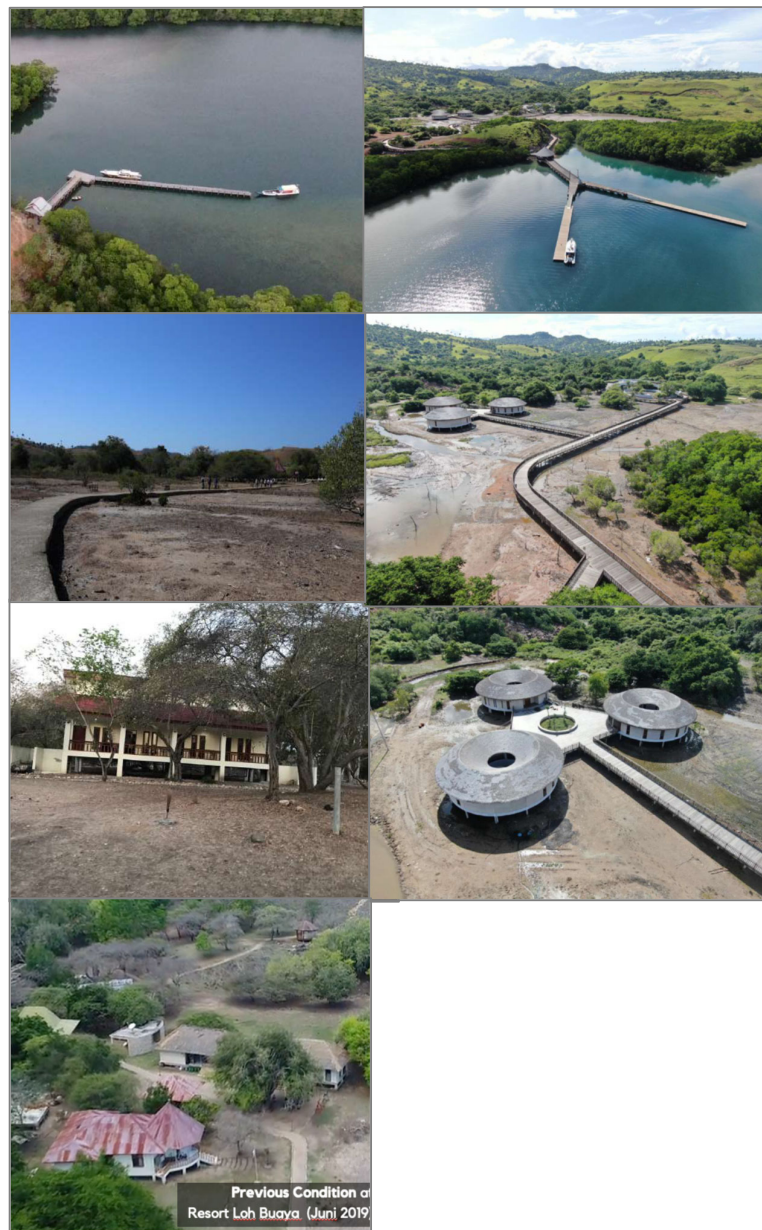


Figure 5: A) Location of Loh Buaya, Rinca Island (left). Distribution of 13 ranger posts/resorts in KNP including Loh Buaya Resort (right). Source: State Party of the Republic of Indonesia.



B) A comparison of infrastructure at Loh Buaya, Rinca Island before the construction (left column) and at the time of the mission in March 2022 (right column): 1) the jetty, 2) on-ground visitor pathway replaced by elevated pathway, 3) ranger, researcher and guide accommodation, 4) visitor centre. Source: MPWH.

It is important to note that Loh Buaya includes no large-scale mass tourism facilities that were raised as part of the third party concerns. In this regard, given the conflicting reports by different government officials (i.e. mass tourism versus high-quality experience tourism and upgrade of facilities) and the resulting significant concerns expressed by the public, the mission also recommends the State Party to strengthen consultation and clear communication with all stakeholders throughout planning and decision-making processes.

The State Party's commitment to revising the EIA to ensure it is in line with best practice principles of the IUCN Advice Note is positive and serves as an example to assess other potential future developments in KNP going forward, including those discussed in the next chapter. In this regard, the mission highlights that the new *Guidance and Toolkit on Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* developed under the World Heritage Leadership programme was published in July 2022, and replaces the 2013 IUCN Advice Note, providing an important resource to guide best practice impact assessment and decision-making. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN can be contacted for technical guidance and training, such as through the IUCN-ICCROM World Heritage Leadership programme.

The mission recommends the following, noting that further recommendations on impact assessments are provided in 4.1.5 below:

Recommendation 1: In line with international best-practice standards, ensure impact assessment processes include consultations and communication with relevant rightsholders and stakeholders, that the assessment of potential impacts is undertaken prior to the approval and construction of a project, and not retrospectively during or after the construction phase, in order to ensure that any potential impacts on the OUV of the property can be identified and addressed at an early stage, prior to taking any decisions that would be difficult to reverse.

Recommendation 2: Implement the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for Loh Buaya Resort (Rinca Island) and ensure a proactive management approach to monitor and address any potential impacts of increased tourism pressure on the OUV, especially the Komodo dragon population on Rinca Island.

4.1.5 Komodo Island (Loh Liang Resort) infrastructure development and relocation of local communities

Komodo Island is the largest island within KNP. Similar to Loh Buaya Resort (Rinca Island), Loh Liang Resort on Komodo Island is one of four existing ranger posts (i.e. “resorts”) within KNP that are open to ecotourism (Figure 5), and one of the main locations for visitors to view Komodo dragons within the property. See photo of the Loh Liang area on the report cover, in Chapter d) and Annex VII.

Third party concerns have been raised regarding the announcement to designate Komodo Island as an exclusive “super premium tourism zone” with an entrance fee of US\$ 1,000, and a public statement by the provincial government in 2019 that the local community on Komodo Island would be relocated from the island. These statements resulted in significant concerns expressed in the media and public protests by local communities¹⁰.

During the mission, the authorities advised that a proposal for a private concession in the Loh Liang area was submitted by the company PT FLOBAMOR (BUMD PROV. NTT) in 2021 and is currently under consideration (see Chapter 4.1.5 on private concessions). No further details were provided.

Regarding the community concerns over a potential exclusive US\$ 1,000 entry fee and related exclusion of local communities, the mission considers it important for the authorities to take a strategic approach to tourism for the entire property that ensures a high quality visitor experience in line with the World Heritage values, which provides opportunities and benefits for local communities, as opposed to an approach of exclusivity. Further details are provided in following chapters on the importance of assessing impacts (both positive and negative) of proposed developments and ensuring a high quality visitor experience approach to tourism.

Regarding the relocation of local communities, MOEF confirmed that a public response to the provincial government’s statement was issued at the time, confirming that no relocation of local communities would be undertaken. The superintendent of KNP further confirmed this commitment and the following government statement was provided to the mission: *“We had never and will never move local communities involuntary from protected areas. We had developed pro-rights legal instruments, granting communities access to natural resources & allowing them to conduct activities in protected areas (e.g. forest product collection, hunting, traditional cultivation).”*¹¹ The mission was also informed verbally of a presidential decree that does not allow the relocation of communities that have been established more than 20 years.

The mission welcomes the confirmation by authorities that no involuntary relocation of communities from the property will be undertaken and recommends the following:

Recommendation 3: Ensure the engagement of local communities in decision-making processes in line with international best-practice standards, including tourism development. Tourism development should be focused on high-quality experience tourism that includes providing opportunities and benefits for local communities.

¹⁰ <https://www.portalntt.com/2000-warga-pulau-komodo-memilih-mati-daripada-direlokasi/>

¹¹ Entry briefing presentation by the Government of Indonesia to the mission team.

4.1.6 Private tourism concessions in KNP

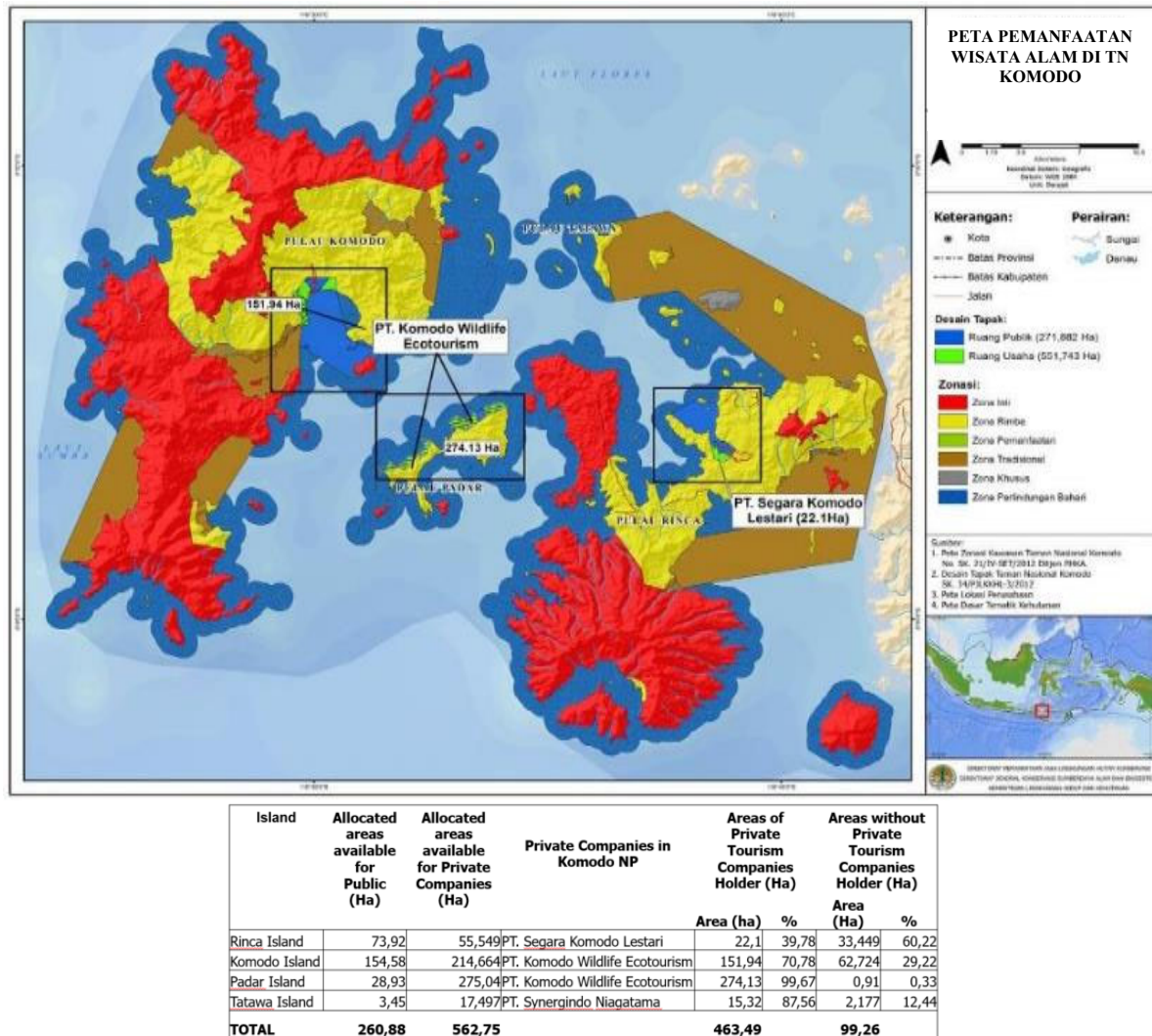


Figure 6: a) (above) Location of tourism concession facilities managed by private companies within KNP. b) (below) Business areas in KNP opened for investments. Source: KNP Authority.

Third party concerns were raised about concessions being granted to private developers for tourism infrastructure (hotels, villas, spas, cafes, etc.) within KNP (section 4.1). During the mission, the KNP Authority confirmed that five concession areas have been issued to three private tourism companies¹² within the utilization zones in KNP (in 2014, 2015 and 2020 respectively), each for a period of 55 years and requiring a 55-year management plan (RPPA), 5-year management year (RKL) and a 1-year management plan (RKT) (Figure 6). The presentation outlined tourism facilities proposed across various locations including, for example, guest houses, a cafeteria, a viewing deck, swimming pools, staff accommodation, etc. A further proposal for a concession at Loh Liang on Komodo Island submitted in 2021 is currently under consideration (see 4.1.5). The authorities advised that, in line with the precautionary principle¹³:

- Only 10% of the concession area will be allowed for tourism facility development.
- The companies are mandated to:
 - provide documents of Environment Management Plan (UKL-UPL) and EIA
 - obtain the community's consent and conduct intensive socializations before starting the constructions

¹² PT. KWE (Komodo Wildlife Ecotourism), PT. SKL (Segara Komodo Lestari), PT. SN (Synergindo Niagatama).

¹³ PowerPoint presentation to the mission.

- create a community beneficiaries plan for the local community: employment opportunity and financial supports for local businesses, and support the community development
- The KNP Authority has a full right and responsibility to supervise in every stage of construction and operational process.

It is positive that there is an emphasis on a precautionary management approach, the consideration of a limit to the total allowable development area, the requirement of an EIA and EMP, community consultations, and KNP oversight over the overall process. In this regard, it is important to recall again that an EIA is a critical decision-making tool that should be undertaken prior to taking any decision to approve an individual project within the concessions, in order to ensure that a proposed development is compatible with World Heritage status and would not negatively impact on the OUV. For example, in line with the principles of the IUCN Advice Note and the new *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*¹⁴, it is important to include a “no project” option, alternative options (e.g. design, size, technology, etc.), and to include wider indirect and cumulative impacts such as increasing tourism to the area, implications of opening up accommodation within the national park, access requirements, waste management, etc. Regarding the 10% limit, whilst it is positive that a limit had been established, it is important to note that the key consideration needs to be the potential impact on the OUV as opposed to the overall physical footprint of a project, since the size of a project is not a direct measure of its potential impact.

More generally, it is important that high-quality experience ecotourism in the World Heritage context is approached in a way that ensures an overall positive impact for World Heritage, for example tourism which protects and showcases the values and integrity, which provides a financial return for the protection and management of the site, and which engages and provides opportunities and benefits for local communities.

Since there are multiple concessions under consideration within the property, the State Party’s intention to conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to ensure that any development proposed within the ITMP will not have any negative impact on the OUV of the property¹⁵, is positive. Such a strategic level assessment will allow a more comprehensive overall assessment of the most beneficial approach to sustainable tourism development for KNP and the wider region, such as identifying areas within designated zones where construction could potentially take place; where construction should be avoided based on ecological and biological values; implications of tourism projections; effective revenue raising; community engagement; predicting potential adverse cumulative impacts; etc. The mission recommends that an SEA is carried out prior to approving individual projects including within the aforementioned concessions.

Regarding **environmental impact assessments, tourism development proposals and private tourism concessions**, the mission recommends the following:

Recommendation 4: Conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of tourism development within the property and its wider setting prior to the approval of individual projects, including private tourism concessions.

Recommendation 5: Ensure that all proposed development projects within the property and its wider setting, irrespective of the zoning, are assessed for their potential impact on the OUV in line with the new *Guidance and Toolkit on Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, and

¹⁴ The new *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context* was published in July 2022 and is available from <https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2465>, replacing the 2013 IUCN *World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment*. For impact assessments predating the publication of the new guidance, the 2013 Advice Note may be used. For all future projects, the new 2022 Guidance is the appropriate reference document.

¹⁵ 2022 State Party State of Conservation report (page 4).

to submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, including the issuing of concessions or approval of development projects, and that no development is approved that would have a negative impact on the OUV.

Recommendation 6: Ensure a proactive and strategic management approach to sustainable tourism development under the Integrated Tourism Master Plan (ITMP) which includes an assessment of the carrying capacity for the property, prior to approving tourism developments.

The carrying capacity assessment should include the physical capacity based on the availability of water supply and psychological capacity to minimise the feeling of overcrowding as well as calculating the threshold limit for tourist boats mooring at the jetties that should facilitate the formulation of a boat mooring management plan.

Recommendation 7: Provide training and capacity building to key stakeholders on impact assessment processes to support planning and decision-making for the protection and management of the property. This should include park authorities, local and federal government agencies involved in the management of the property, developers, civil society and local communities. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN can provide technical support if required.

4.2 Issue 2: The Integrated Tourism Master Plan for Labuan Bajo Flores

Globally, sustainable tourism provides various positive benefits to World Heritage, such as revenue raising to support management operations and increasing public awareness of the OUV for which the property is internationally recognized. However, tourism and visitation have also been identified as one of the top three threats to natural World Heritage properties (2020 IUCN World Heritage Outlook 3), if not effectively planned, monitored and managed.

The government's prioritization of Labuan Bajo as a "super priority tourism destination" for Indonesia and development of the new ITMP for the wider Labuan Bajo and Flores region covering the islands of Flores, Alor, Lembata, and Bima, including the World Heritage property (Figure 7, KNP in green), provides an excellent opportunity to position KNP as a leading, high-quality experience sustainable tourism destination, if well planned and managed.

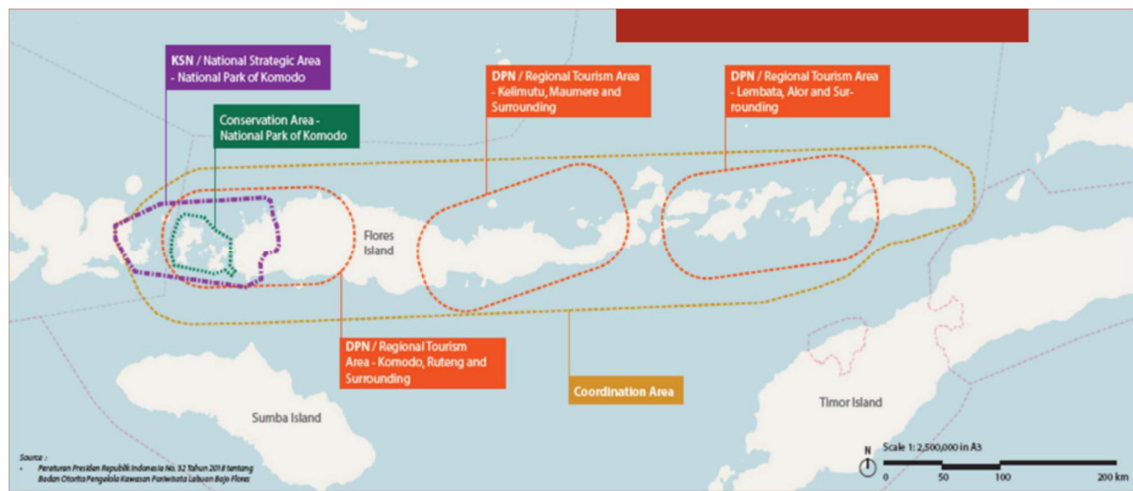


Figure 7: Scope of the ITMP including Flores, Alor, Lembata, Bima islands. KNP World Heritage property in green. Source: Presentation by the Labuan Bajo Flores Tourism Authority, MOTCE during the mission.

Regarding the development of the ITMP, based on best practice, there are 3 critical elements that the ITMP should provide, namely i) guidance on sustainable tourism practices for tourism industry players and concessionaires; ii) visitor management strategies to minimise adverse impacts due to the expected increase in tourist arrivals; and iii) managing the impact from the liveaboard industry and cruise ships on the marine water quality.

The ITMP for KNP and Labuan Bajo is being prepared by a consulting firm as part of a World Bank loan package that will include tourism infrastructure development and capacity building. However, it is not possible for the mission to review the full content of the ITMP given that the final report has yet to be completed. To date the ITMP has only produced a baseline study report which was made available during the mission. The full title of the baseline report is *Demand Analysis and Opportunities for Development of Tourism Destination Areas Document B. 12 December 2021 (first draft)* which contains the analysis, synthesis and main findings that will be used by the consultants to formulate the recommendations. The report starts with an overview of global, national and regional tourism trends including a summary of the negative impact of COVID-19 on the tourism industry. It then provides a reference to the importance of fostering synergy between tourism development and environmental conservation. The positioning of Labuan Bajo and KNP as a 'Super Priority Destination' is then presented in detail including its definition and components - to provide the context for leveraging on high value and 'quality tourism' as a major catalyst for economic development. The ITMP then provides a baseline on tourist demand, product development and tourism human capital which highlights capacity gaps and the dependency on Bali along the regional tourist flows.

In reviewing existing tourism policies and plans the ITMP baseline study report highlights several recent documents that provide the strategic direction for the development of tourism in Labuan Bajo

and KNP. It could be surmised that in terms of tourism policy direction, there has been a concerted effort to provide a road map for achieving high value or quality tourism that incorporates adherence to the principles of sustainable tourism.

The Tourism Development Study document (MOTCE, 2020) asserts that the KNP and its marine resources is very exclusive so it requires a sustainable management pattern so that the ecosystem is not damaged. In 2021, the MOTCE introduced the concept of Nature, Eco, Wellness, and Adventure (NEWA) in response to the perceived increase in consumer awareness of environmental sustainability which “will also change the face of Indonesian tourism”.

Given the multi-agency approach in tourism development and management in Indonesia, the implementing agency, BPOLBF (translated as the Implementing Agency for the Labuan Bajo Flores Authority) formulated the World Class Integrated Marine Tourism at DSP (i.e. Destinasi Super Prioritas (DSP) which translates to “Super Priority Destination”) Labuan Bajo Flores (BPOLBF, 2020a) document which specifically targets the ‘premium tourist segment’ i.e. expenditures above USD 1500. Towards this end BPOLBF refers to the Galapagos Islands and the Great Barrier Reef as benchmarks for Labuan Bajo/KNP – but the ITMP commented that the local tourism industry and tourists have not embraced sustainable and responsible practices. Furthermore, the ‘buy in’ from the tourism industry players as regards the USD 1500 target is problematic given the lack of participatory and transparent approach in the decision-making process. This sentiment was revealed during the stakeholder consultation meetings involving the tourism industry players, NGOs and local community during the mission in which ineffective communication had led to a physical demonstration in Labuan Bajo against this decision that lacked consensus.

The BPOLBF subsequently produced the Roadmap for Development of World Class Marine Tourism 2020-2044 (BPOLBF, 2020b). This document recommends three different development zones (WP) in relation to the protection of the OUV, namely,

Super Premium Zone WP1: Limitation of visits and distribution of visitors between destination points within this zone is dedicated to maintaining in-situ OUV, concentrated within Komodo National Park;
WP2: Premium managed zone, but the number of tourists could be more. Visitor management here is dedicated to buffering the OUV, becoming a filter area that gradually relieves stress; and
WP3: Zone where there are several conservation areas such as Nature Reserves, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Aquatic Conservation Areas, and National Parks (TN Laut Sawu) which can be considered as part of the WP1 zone. These areas which are more widely spread in West Manggarai and Bima are important to support the existence of OUV such as connectivity of seascapes and landscapes that support nutrient supply, animal corridors and socio-economic-cultural connectivity; this includes addressing potential stress risks. The success of maintaining this connectivity will significantly increase the robustness and resilience of the area socio-ecologically.

The three development zones correspond with the zoning for Komodo National Park as they are located within the Mainland Tourism Utilisation Zone and Marine Tourism Utilisation Zone.

In addition, the BPOLBF Roadmap recommends the “Implementation of a sustainable marine tourism governance” and “adaptation to climate change and the environment” to be achieved by the year 2032. The ITMP also referred to the Carrying Capacity Study for Komodo National Park which was prepared by the Bali and Nusa Tenggara Ecoregional Development Control Centre (P3E Bali Nusra) in 2018. The carrying capacity study produced threshold limits for trekking activities and based on the tourist arrivals in 2019 (221,703 persons) the ITMP report calculated that all the existing trekking trails would have exceeded these limits. However, this is a simplistic interpretation which is often associated with the ‘magic number’ approach in the application of the carrying capacity concept. Essentially carrying capacity should be used as a tool to formulate appropriate management strategies hence should not be limited to the setting of tourist quotas, implementation of codes of conduct, and

monitoring and evaluation – as prescribed in the Carrying Capacity Study for Komodo National Park. In this light the elevated pedestrian walkway at the new tourism infrastructure in Loh Buaya (Rinca Island) (**Error! Reference source not found.**, Figure 8b) is an excellent example of how the site hardening concept, according to carrying capacity principles, is being effectively applied as a management strategy that could accommodate higher tourist arrivals without jeopardizing their safety while at the same time avoiding the trampling of the island's ground vegetation. Site hardening is a term used in the carrying capacity concept which is defined as improvements to walking trails to accommodate higher visitor numbers without causing adverse environmental impact e.g. paved trails and elevated walkways, etc. hence limiting visitor movement to these facilities to prevent trampling on ground vegetation. In the case of Loh Buaya Resort the elevated walkway also separates tourists from the Komodo dragons which reflect its importance as a visitor management mechanism.

To summarise, although the ITMP has yet to be completed, the baseline study report has recognised and stressed the need for embracing the principles of sustainability in the future development of tourism in Labuan Bajo and KNP. In reviewing the existing policies and plans related to tourism development, the ITMP has identified successes and gaps in terms of policy planning which should provide the appropriate context and strategic direction for the formulation of the required action in the final report. Most of the policy documents reviewed in the ITMP include a commitment to nature conservation and the principles of sustainability – explicitly, the development zones in the Roadmap for Development of World Class Marine Tourism 2020-2044 (BPOLBF, 2020b) was designated in relation to the protection of the OUV. Given that the ITMP study is sponsored by the World Bank, it is expected that the final report shall contain recommendations that further strengthen the symbiotic relationship between tourism and conservation - specifically the protection of the OUV while in the pursuit of high value tourism.

Regarding the finalisation of the ITMP, the mission recommends the following.

Recommendation 8: Finalize the Integrated Tourism Master Plan (ITMP) to enable the State Party to provide guidance to stakeholders, incorporating the following:

- a) Clarify the definition of “super premium” or “quality” tourism to emphasise high quality visitor experience tourism that adheres to the principles of sustainability** - covering, among others, sustainability certification, responsible tourism, environmental education and environmental stewardship among the local community.
- b) Ensure the ITMP provides best practice guidance for future tourism development in terms of the process, protocol and business models, linking to available guidelines** (such as the new *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* and the *UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Toolkit*), **to ensure that these would protect the OUV, support local livelihoods, and provide business and economic opportunities from conservation.**
- c) Incorporate the education of tourism industry players, tourists and the local community about the OUV and the importance of its protection**, including to develop a communications plan as a subset of the ITMP to integrate responsible marketing and promotion as well as a social media strategy to increase overall awareness and commitment.
- d) Include actions to combat climate change** which is increasingly becoming a major concern for World Heritage (Decision 44 COM 7C, 2021). Although the BPOLBF Road Map recommends “adaptation to climate change and the environment”, the milestone for achieving this is relatively late, i.e. in 2032. Given the vulnerability of the marine ecosystems which are under threat from tourism development supported by affirmative government policies, the ITMP final report should prioritise climate change interventions in its recommendations.

4.3 Issue 3: Komodo dragon population and terrestrial management

The Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*) constitutes an important attribute of the OUV of the property. During the mission and in its 2022 state of conservation report, the State Party reiterated its commitment to ensuring the protection of the species. The mission was able to observe Komodo dragons on Rinca and Komodo Islands (Figure 8, photos), where KNP rangers, nature guides and the NGO Komodo Survival Program (KSP) provided interpretive information. During stakeholder meetings, KSP also presented the latest population monitoring data.

4.3.1 Status of the Komodo dragon population

The Komodo dragon is an endangered, island-endemic species with a naturally restricted distribution (Jones *et al.*, 2020). Populations of Komodo dragons are found in several locations within KNP and on the north and west of Flores Island, with the majority of individuals inhabiting Komodo and Rinca Islands (Figure 8, maps).

In 2021, the Komodo dragon was moved from Vulnerable to Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species based on concerns related to population fragmentation, relatively low numbers of individuals, and climate modelling which predicts a reduction in habitat due to sea level rise, amongst others (Jessop *et al.*, 2021; see full assessment for details). The assessment notes that long-term monitoring on Komodo and Rinca Islands has not recorded any declines, and that based on 19 years of data in areas of Komodo and Rinca most impacted by tourism and associated infrastructure, as well as on the three small islands within KNP, the population on these islands is stable or increasing. It further notes that whilst the population as a whole may be broadly stable, there are concerns that the species may be in decline in Flores Island (outside the property) where it survives and is under increasing pressure from habitat loss as well as direct killing or removal of individuals.

A 2020 climate change study has predicted a reduction in range-wide Komodo dragon habitat of 8%–87% by 2050, leading to a decrease in habitat patch occupancy of 25%–97% and declines of 27%–99% in abundance across the species' range (Jones *et al.*, 2020). This study highlighted that Rinca and Komodo Islands provide important safe havens for Komodo dragons under global warming, and that conservation actions are required to avoid risk of extinction with a focus on prioritising protection in these islands.

The mission was informed that monitoring is undertaken by KNP rangers and KSP researchers, who receive monitoring training and are expected to manage human-wildlife conflicts, conduct education, and undertake monitoring. It was reported that no robust population data were available before 2003, after which population monitoring was carried out through capture-mark-recapture methods. Since 2013, capture-mark-recapture continues at two ecotourism sites (Loh Buaya, Rinca Island and Loh Liang, Komodo Island) and camera trapping is undertaken at several sites. Camera trap data recorded between 2018 and 2021 indicates that the population within KNP has remained relatively stable over the past five years at around 3000 individuals (Figure 8, graphs). Monitoring data summaries provided for prey species Timor deer (2015-2020), wild boar (2002-2020) and water buffalo (2002-2020) appear to also show relatively stable populations.

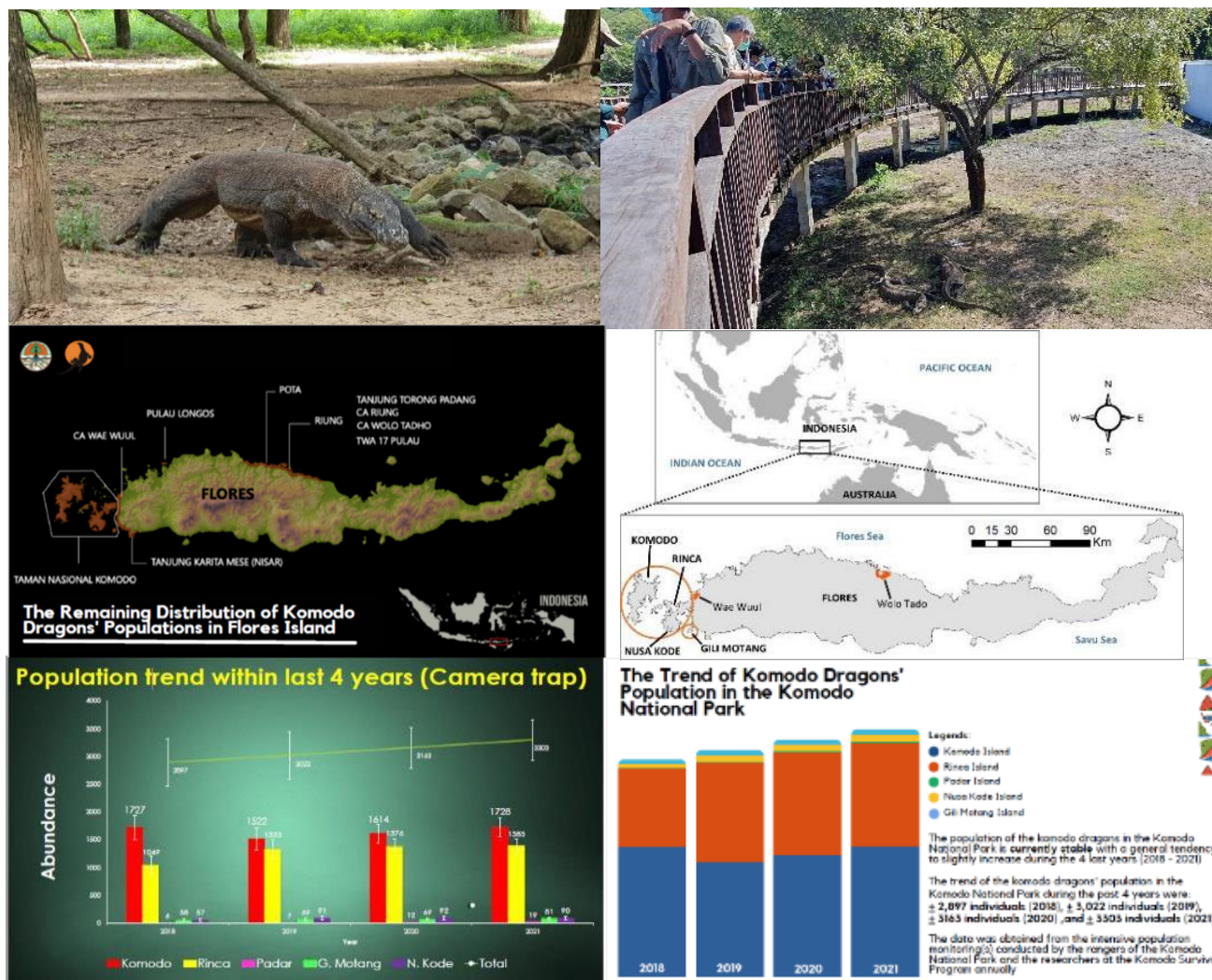


Figure 8: (top left) Komodo dragon viewing area, Komodo Island (@IUCN/KatherineZischka); (top right) Komodo dragons from new elevated platform at Loh Buaya, Rinca Island (@IUCN/KatherineZischka); (middle) Komodo dragon distribution in KNP and Flores Island from State Party of Indonesia (left) and Jones et al, 2020 (right); (bottom) Komodo dragon population trend based on camera trap data for KNP (2018-2021) (Source: State Party of Indonesia).

4.3.2 Terrestrial management

The 2022 State Party state of conservation report outlines that patrol and surveillance efforts continue in collaboration with national and regional law enforcement agencies, and that the rate of infringements, specifically poaching and illegal fishing, has significantly decreased compared to previous years. Whilst this report is positive, the current level of infringements and any potential impacts on the property are unclear.

The mission was advised that KNP conducts a series of annual Forest patrols¹⁶, covering an area of 102,800 hectares, with rangers stationed in ranger stations ("resorts") throughout the year

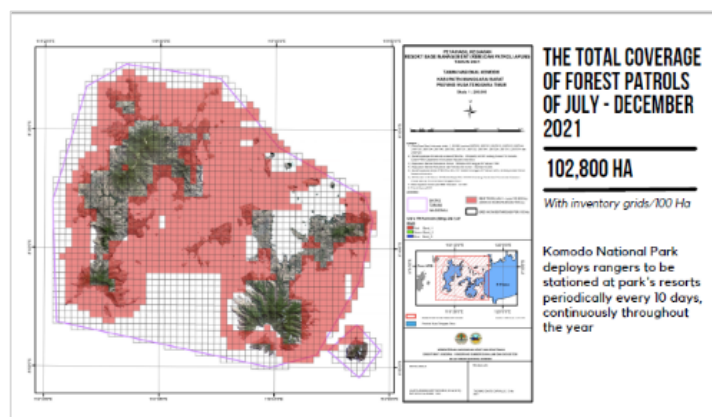


Figure 9: Forest patrol coverage (July-December 2021) in KNP. Source: State Party of Indonesia.

¹⁶ A presentation to the mission referred to "Forest patrols" as: 9 joint patrols; 7 Floating Patrols; 27 Community Rangers Patrols; 5 Fire Care Community Patrols; 144 Resorts' Marine Patrols; 858 Resort-Based Management Patrols.

(Figure 9). Specific to fire management, Fire Care Community groups have been established to allow local residents to participate in routine joint patrols. It is unclear to what degree fire impacts the property and what fire response measures are required and/or implemented. It is recommended the State Party provide an update on these matters in its next report.

In the context of tourism planning, considering that the Komodo dragon is an important part of the OUV, that it is listed as Endangered, and that Rinca and Komodo Islands represent important safe havens for the two largest sub-populations, it is particularly important that all populations are effectively protected, and that any planned tourism development is assessed for potential negative impacts on the species. This applies to developments planned for Rinca and Komodo islands, within KNP, as well as in the wider landscape of the property, and is particularly important in the context of the planned large-scale tourism expansion in the region. Any tourism development should ensure a positive impact for the protection and management of the OUV and avoid any negative impacts.

In this context, specifically regarding the Loh Buaya infrastructure area, the government states that only 0.5% of the total Komodo dragon population interacts with (i.e. passes through, rests in, etc.) the area, and that the EIA concluded the project would cause no impact on Komodo dragons since its footprint is a small area (1.3ha) which already contains buildings. The mission notes that the new elevated visitor walkway (Figure 8) will ensure a separation between visitors and wildlife (reducing human-wildlife conflict). However, the potential impact of increased visitor numbers should be proactively assessed, monitored and managed going forward to ensure that any increased tourism would not negatively impact the species, including its natural behaviour.

Noting the third party concerns raised in previous years regarding the feeding of Komodo dragons within KNP, the KNP Authority confirms that no Komodo dragon feeding activities occur by park staff in the national park.

The mission recommends the following:

Recommendation 9: Implement the necessary management and monitoring measures to ensure the long-term protection of the Komodo dragon, its prey species, and important habitats, including to effectively plan, monitor and manage key pressures, such as poaching and the projected increase in tourism, including through the ITMP.

4.4 Issue 4: Marine management

Komodo National Park is recognised as one of fifty marine World Heritage properties, and its marine ecosystem of islands, rich coral reefs, and a diversity of marine flora and fauna such as sea turtles, whales, dolphins and dugongs, constitutes an important part of its OUV (rSOUV, Annex IV: Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value).

Concerns regarding marine management have been raised since the time of inscription. For example, the aforementioned 2020 IUCN World Heritage Outlook assessment, and in 2021 the World Heritage Committee raised concerns regarding the lack of operational equipment and technical capacity to manage the property's marine area and requested the State Party to *"urgently strengthen marine management and law enforcement capacities in the property, with a specific emphasis on controlling illegal fishing activities and boat anchoring, and to allocate a sufficient budget for marine research, monitoring, education and compliance with marine regulations."* (Decision 44 COM 7.93).

In its 2022 state of conservation report, the State Party reports that protection and surveillance efforts for the marine environment continue in collaboration with national and regional law enforcement agencies. It is reported that the rate of infringements, specifically poaching and illegal fishing, has significantly decreased compared to previous years, and that various coral transplantation and reef check activities were undertaken between 2019 and 2021, in collaboration with local tourism operators, whom the mission was able to meet with during stakeholder consultations. It also reports

that following a workshop organised by UNESCO in 2019, in 2020 the *Outline for the Future Marine Management of the Komodo National Park World Heritage Site* was drafted to provide key recommendations for marine management going forward.

The aforementioned marine patrolling (Figure 9) and reported decrease in infringements are positive, however since no details are provided it remains unclear what the current status of the marine values is; to what degree infringements in the marine environment (e.g. fishing, anchoring, plastic pollution, etc.) continue; how these affect the World Heritage values; and to what extent overall marine management resources have been strengthened in response to the 2021 Committee Decision and the 2020 future of marine management report. It is recommended that the State Party provide further details on the progress of these matters in its next report to the World Heritage Committee.

Specific to the regulation of marine tourism, recent studies have been completed as part of the ITMP process, including an ITMP Baseline Report and an ITMB desk study report. A key concern regarding marine management is the impact of the unregulated liveaboard boats (LOB) (called *Phinisi*) and cruise tourism industry, as well as illegal fishing which is exacerbated by the lack of baseline and monitoring data to facilitate management interventions.

The impact of tourism on Labuan Bajo and KNP is largely influenced by the nature of the tourist flows. The ITMP baseline report asserts that “Labuan Bajo (and the KNP) is not positioned as a main destination, but tends to be a supporting destination for tourism development in Bali”. For example, there are even tour packages in the form of day trips from Bali to Labuan Bajo without an overnight stay - given that the flight time is only 1 hour 20 minutes. Increasingly sea transportation is becoming popular either in the form of LOB or cruise ships, both operating within the property. LOB tours on a traditional *Phinisi* ship allow tours to travel from island to island with flexible times ranging from 2 days to weeks. Diving, snorkelling, wildlife watching, trekking and visiting cultural destinations are the popular activities included in the LOB packages. The majority of LOB packages enter through Benoa, Lombok and Bima while some are part of a wider circuit that includes Raja Ampat.

Given that the liveaboard industry is relatively unregulated, the economic benefit to the local economy and community is limited. Central to this issue is the lack of effective revenue capture mechanism. The stakeholder meeting with the industry representatives revealed their reservations on the accuracy of the arrivals data by LOB, how levy is collected and how the revenue is being used. This adds weight to the complaints from the hotel managers and owners that guests staying on the *Phinisi* boats were exempted from paying hotel and restaurant taxes – and that the economic contribution of marine tourism to Labuan Bajo was insignificant (ITMB desk study report). As the LOB industry recovers from COVID-19 and moves into a post-pandemic tourism landscape, there is a need to improve regulation and taxation as well as infrastructure and facilities – including environmental regulations and safety (ITMP desk study report).

Besides the limited economic benefit, the ITMP desk study report also highlighted the limited carrying capacity of the islands within KNP. There are two main tourist activities usually sold as part of the LOB package, namely diving and snorkelling, which are stretching the threshold limits of the property’s carrying capacity. The ITMP baseline report states that 13 dive sites in KNP are being used intensively. The BPOLBF report (2020b) reported that diving and snorkelling activities are still below the carrying capacity threshold limits but visitor behaviour is a greater threat given that “reefs are trampled by snorkelling tourists who do not have the awareness that coral reefs are a fragile ecosystem”.

Considering that there is no regular marine monitoring framework for KNP, there is also a lack of baseline and monitoring data to support the BPOLBF report’s assertion that diving and snorkelling activities are still within the carrying capacity limits. An independent reef health assessment of KNP conducted by Reef Check International (Malaysia) in 2020 surveyed 57 sites and considered the reefs to be “relatively healthy” but with a need to “strengthen marine resource management and reduce impacts to coral reefs”. Overall, reefs were considered to be in “fair” condition, with a relatively high

level of living corals (48.5% average live coral cover), but with a wide range of reef health where some reefs were as high as 70% and others as low as 10%, indicating some disturbances (Reef Check, 2020). In terms of fish population, the assessment summarised that there was a high diversity of fish but the low abundance of high-value species such as the Napoleon Wrasse due to the “slow recovery from past overfishing and possible continuing problems with poaching inside the MPA”. The report provides recommendations for improving management and encouraging local stakeholder participation to conserve coral reefs including: the need to build resilience of coral reefs in the face of growing global threats from climate change (bleaching and ocean acidification) by managing local threats; to provide more mooring buoys to accommodate an increasing number of vessels in the park; to support further survey programmes; to strengthen local management (including local stakeholder participation in co-management); and to take steps to build resilience of coral reefs to enable them to withstand future bleaching and other climate-related events. It notes that whilst tourism is a valuable source of income, the government should ensure that the carrying capacity of the reef system is not exceeded and to require hotels and dive facilities to follow best practices including for sewage treatment and discharge, and educating clients so as to avoid damage to reefs (Reef Check, 2020). Further to the Reef Check assessment, in 2020 the dive operator Dive Diving secured funding to collaborate with Reef Check International (Malaysia) to train and certify 20 local dive guides, who were trained as reef checkers. However, funding ceased and the programme was discontinued in 2021.

The mission also received information that, during the two year hiatus from diving and snorkelling activities, forced by the pandemic, some of the local community who were gainfully employed by the tourism industry had to revert to fishing as their source of livelihood. Anecdotal evidence shared during the stakeholder meeting with the tourism industry representatives revealed that the fish population has remained low despite the two year lull from tourism activities. Furthermore, the dive operators counted more than 50 fishing boats off Padar Islands toward the end of February 2022.

According to the ITMP desk study, cruise ships pose a greater threat to the marine ecosystem within the property. The number of cruise ships making stopovers before the pandemic was relatively low - 24 to 30 times a year and each ship carried about 500-1500 tourists. However, the BPOLBR report (2020b) highlighted that if “all (cruise ship) visitors enter the destination at the same time, it will violate the carrying capacity, and this will damage the destination which has a long-term impact”. The BPOLBR report (2020b) also highlighted the potential negative impact of cruise tourism on the environment in the form of pollution that threatens marine and coastal ecosystems, dumping of oil, greywater and plastic at sea, noise and air pollution. Furthermore, the report argued that the economic benefits of cruise tourism to the local community had been limited – operators prefer passengers to spend more time and money in their luxury vessels and the limited stopovers at KNP were only for diving and snorkelling activities. According to existing regulation, the local government is given the authority to regulate only cruise ships of 15 tonnage and below (ITMP Baseline report).

In conclusion, considering the importance of a healthy marine ecosystem to the OUV, as part of a sustainable tourism industry for KNP and the wider region, and its vital role in supporting local community livelihoods, it is important that the State Party take actions to ensure the implementation of effective marine monitoring and management measures that enable the KNP authorities to: monitor the marine resources and any threats; ensure that existing threats are fully addressed; and proactively manage any potential future threats such as the expansion of sustainable tourism within the property and wider region. This includes ensuring sufficient financial and human resources for the KNP management authorities (such as funding for marine monitoring activities and recruitment of qualified staff). Public awareness raising, communication, and engagement of local communities in a participatory approach are important to ensure effective understanding and support for conservation needs and priorities. It is recommended that authorities review the recommendations of the 2020 marine management report, the World Heritage Committee, Reef Check and others, and implement the Committee’s request to *“urgently strengthen marine management and law enforcement capacities in the property, with a specific emphasis on controlling illegal fishing activities and boat anchoring, and*

to allocate a sufficient budget for marine research, monitoring, education and compliance with marine regulations.”

Recommendation 10: Recalling the importance of the marine ecosystem to the OUV, concerns raised regarding marine management, and the Committee request to strengthen marine monitoring and management measures, the mission recommends to:

- a) Review the marine management of the property and provide further information on the** Committee’s request to *“urgently strengthen marine management and law enforcement capacities in the property, with a specific emphasis on controlling illegal fishing activities and boat anchoring, and to allocate a sufficient budget for marine research, monitoring, education and compliance with marine regulations.”*
- b) Ensure the effective regulation of the liveaboard (LOB) and cruise tourism industry to** maximise benefits to the conservation of the property and local communities, and minimise the adverse impacts on the marine ecosystems, including to formulate a dedicated management plan for the industry as a subset of the ITMP.
- c) Establish a systematic and transparent revenue capture mechanism with a taxation system that ensures income is returned into the protection and management of KNP.**
- d) Incorporate a marine monitoring programme into the core management of the property.** Presently, monitoring the health of the marine resources is not carried out by government agencies despite the need to periodically assess the health of the marine ecosystem including coral reefs, marine mammal and fish populations, as important attributes of the OUV. Since regular monitoring involves high cost, a collaborative approach could be used by empowering the 20 certified divers to conduct a periodic reef assessment in collaboration with regional and national NGOs and social enterprises such as Reef Check International (Malaysia).
- e) Review the existing Carrying Capacity Study for KNP,** where threshold limits should be developed as a ‘warning’ mechanism for the formulation of management strategies. The scope of the carrying capacity should include the management of visitor behaviour, especially divers and snorkelers, mooring lines for the LOB, etc.
- f) Extend the training programme for diving guides conducted in 2020,** preferably as a collaborative effort between the relevant government agencies, dive operators and local community, to empower the youth through job creation besides strengthening the local environmental stewardship.

5 Conclusions and recommendations

Tourism can provide important benefits to natural World Heritage properties, such as revenue raising and increasing awareness of the OUV for which the property is nationally, regionally and internationally recognized. However, tourism and visitation have also been identified as one of the top three threats to natural World Heritage properties (2020 IUCN World Heritage Outlook 3), if not effectively planned, monitored and managed.

The State Party's prioritization of Labuan Bajo, the gateway to KNP, as a Super Priority Tourism Destination for Indonesia, the development of a new ITMP for the wider Labuan Bajo and Flores region, as well as the reported shift away from mass-tourism, provide an opportunity to position KNP as a leading, high-quality visitor experience and sustainable tourism destination. However, noting the planned expansion of tourism in the Labuan Bajo region, the anticipated increase in visitation levels, the plans to expand tourism infrastructure within KNP including private concessions, and the potential introduction of exclusive high-cost entry fees (US\$ 1,000) that would limit access to Komodo Island, increased tourism pressure may also pose a significant potential threat to the OUV if it is not effectively planned, monitored and managed in line with the management of KNP and the protection of its OUV.

It is important that any large-scale expansion of tourism is undertaken strategically and in line with global best practice standards for sustainable tourism related to World Heritage. This includes the need to ensure a strategic and transparent approach to planning and decision-making for both government-managed ranger stations and visitor facility developments such as Loh Buaya (Rinca Island) and Loh Liang (Komodo Island), as well as the potential permitting of any private tourism concessions within the property. Importantly, it is essential that any potential impacts of individual projects on the OUV of the property are appropriately assessed prior to taking any decision that may be difficult to reverse, in line with Paragraph 118bis of the *Operational Guidelines* and the new *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context* (which replaces the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment). Impact assessments are a critical tool for decision-makers to assess the potential impacts of development proposals and ensure that decisions can allow for sustainable tourism development whilst at the same time fundamentally ensuring the effective protection and management of the values and attributes that underpin the OUV. Further capacity building and communication in this regard is recommended.

The confirmation that no relocation of the local communities on Komodo Island will be undertaken is positive. Noting the concerns expressed by third parties regarding reported mass-tourism developments in KNP and the potential relocation of the community on Komodo Island, it is recommended that the State Party strengthen stakeholder consultation and public communication processes related to the management of the property.

It is positive that the Komodo dragon population has remained stable in recent years. Given that the species moved from Vulnerable to Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 2021, it is important that the authorities ensure management measures are in place to effectively plan, monitor and manage the growing pressures, particularly the planned increase in tourism in the region. Regarding marine management, whilst the measures taken in recent years including the development of a 2020 *Outline for the Future Marine Management of the Komodo National Park World Heritage Site* and ongoing patrolling are noted, recalling concerns regarding threats to the marine environment and the request of the Committee to strengthen marine management measures, and especially considering the projected increase in tourism to the property, marine monitoring and management require further strengthening.

The mission recommends the following:

Tourism related infrastructure and impact assessment processes

- **Ensure that all proposed development projects within the property and its wider setting, irrespective of the zoning, are assessed in line with the new *Guidance and Toolkit on Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, including:**
 - that the assessment of potential impacts is undertaken prior to the approval and construction of a project, and not retrospectively during or after the construction phase, in order to ensure that any potential impacts on the OUV of the property can be identified and addressed at an early stage, prior to taking any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;
 - ensure consultations and communications with relevant rightsholders and stakeholders;
 - submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review, prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, including the issuing of concessions or approval of development projects, and
 - ensure that no development is approved that would have a negative impact on the OUV. [R1] [R5]
- **Conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of tourism development within the property and its wider setting prior to the approval of individual projects, including private tourism concessions. [R4]**
- **Implement the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for Loh Buaya Resort (Rinca Island) and ensure a proactive management approach to monitor and address any potential impacts of increased tourism pressure on the OUV, especially the Komodo dragon population on Rinca Island. [R2]**
- **Provide training and capacity building to key stakeholders on impact assessment processes to support planning and decision-making for the protection and management of the property.** This should include park authorities, local and federal government agencies involved in the management of the property, developers, civil society and local communities. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN can provide technical support if required. [R7]

Sustainable tourism development

- **Ensure a proactive and strategic management approach to sustainable tourism development under the Integrated Tourism Master Plan (ITMP) which includes an assessment of the carrying capacity for the property, prior to approving tourism developments.** The carrying capacity assessment should include the physical capacity based on the availability of water supply and psychological capacity to minimize the feeling of overcrowding as well as calculating the threshold limit for tourist boats mooring at the jetties that should facilitate the formulation of a boat mooring management plan. [R6]
- **Ensure the engagement of local communities in decision-making processes in line with international best-practice standards, including tourism development. Tourism development should be focused on high-quality experience tourism that includes providing opportunities for local communities. [R3]**
- **Finalize the Integrated Tourism Master Plan (ITMP) to enable the State Party to provide guidance to stakeholders, incorporating the following [R8]:**
 - e) **Clarify the definition of “super premium” or “quality” tourism to emphasise high quality visitor experience tourism that adheres to the principles of sustainability** - covering, among others, sustainability certification, responsible tourism, environmental education and environmental stewardship among the local community.

- f) **Ensure the ITMP provides best practice guidance for future tourism development in terms of the process, protocol and business models, linking to available guidelines** (such as the new *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* and the *UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Toolkit*), **to ensure that these would protect the OUV, support local livelihoods, and provide business and economic opportunities from conservation.**
- g) **Incorporate the education of tourism industry players, tourists and the local community about the OUV and the importance of its protection**, including to develop a communications plan as a subset of the ITMP to integrate responsible marketing and promotion as well as a social media strategy to increase overall awareness and commitment.
- h) **Include actions to combat climate change** which is increasingly becoming a major concern for World Heritage (Decision 44 COM 7C, 2021). Although the BPOLBF Road Map recommends “adaptation to climate change and the environment”, the milestone for achieving this is relatively late, i.e. in 2032. Given the vulnerability of the marine ecosystems which are under threat from tourism development supported by affirmative government policies, the ITMP final report should prioritize climate change interventions in its recommendations.

The Komodo dragon and terrestrial management

- **Implement the necessary management and monitoring measures to ensure the long-term protection of the Komodo dragon, its prey species, and important habitats, including to effectively plan, monitor and manage key pressures, such as poaching and the projected increase in tourism, including through the ITMP. [R9]**

Marine management

- **Recalling the importance of the marine ecosystem to the OUV, concerns raised regarding marine management, and the Committee request to strengthen marine monitoring and management measures, the mission recommends to [R10]:**
 - a) **Review the marine management of the property and provide further information on the Committee’s request to “urgently strengthen marine management and law enforcement capacities in the property, with a specific emphasis on controlling illegal fishing activities and boat anchoring, and to allocate a sufficient budget for marine research, monitoring, education and compliance with marine regulations.”**
 - b) **Ensure the effective regulation of the liveaboard (LOB) and cruise tourism industry to maximise the benefits to the conservation of the property and local communities and minimise the adverse impacts on the marine ecosystems, including to formulate a dedicated management plan for the industry as a subset of the ITMP.**
 - c) **Establish a systematic and transparent revenue capture mechanism with a taxation system that ensures income is returned into the protection and management of KNP.**
 - d) **Incorporate a marine monitoring programme into the core management of the property.** Presently, monitoring the health of the marine resources is not carried out by government agencies despite the need to periodically assess the health of the marine ecosystem including coral reefs, marine mammals and fish populations, as important attributes of the OUV. Since regular monitoring involves high cost, a collaborative approach could be used by empowering the 20 certified divers to conduct a periodic reef assessment in collaboration with regional and national NGOs and social enterprises such as Reef Check International (Malaysia).
 - e) **Review the existing Carrying Capacity Study for KNP**, where instead of focusing only on the ‘magic number’ approach, the threshold limits should be developed as a ‘warning’ mechanism for the formulation of management strategies. The scope of the carrying capacity should include the management of visitor behaviour, especially divers and snorkelers, mooring lines for the LOB, etc.

- f) **Extend the training programme for diving guides conducted in 2020**, preferably as a collaborative effort between the relevant government agencies, dive operators and local community, to empower the youth through job creation besides strengthening the local environmental stewardship.
- **Explore the potential for utilizing the multi-stakeholder Komodo Biosphere Reserve Coordinating Forum as a mechanism to support the management of the World Heritage property [R11].**

6. Annexes

Annex I: Terms of Reference

**Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission
Komodo National Park (Indonesia)
1-7 March 2022**

At its extended 44th session, the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party of Indonesia to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the World Heritage property “**Komodo National Park**” (Decision **44 COM 7B.93**, Annex I). The main objective of the Reactive Monitoring mission is to assess the impact of the ongoing development of tourism infrastructure on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and review its state of conservation.

The mission will therefore carry out the following tasks:

1. Assess the status of any existing and planned infrastructure developments within and in the vicinity of the property, including the tourism infrastructure projects on Rinca and Padar Islands, and the actual and potential impacts of these projects on the OUV of the property;
2. Review the progress made with the revision of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the tourism infrastructure projects on Rinca Island, in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;
3. Review the status of the Komodo dragon population and the management measures taken by the State Party, including terrestrial management and especially the fire response plan, as a response to the World Heritage Committee’s request in Decision **44 COM 7B.93**;
4. Review the progress made with the development of the Integrated Tourism Master Plan for Labuan Bajo, including the islands of Rinca and Padar, and provide any necessary technical advice to the State Party to ensure that tourism plans do not compromise the protection of the OUV of the property;
5. Review the State Party’s progress towards strengthening marine management and law enforcement capacities within the property, with a specific emphasis on the control of illegal fishing activities and boat anchoring, and provide any necessary technical advice to the State Party in this regard;
6. In line with paragraph 173 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, assess any other relevant issues that may negatively affect the OUV of the property, including its conditions of integrity and its protection and management.

To facilitate the preparation of the mission, the State Party should, as soon as possible and preferably no later than one month prior to the mission, provide the World Heritage Centre and IUCN with necessary background information and technical materials on the property, including the following documents:

- a) Updated information on the current status of the tourism infrastructure projects on Rinca Island and the most updated version of the EIA with detailed project descriptions and design;
- b) The most updated version of the draft Integrated Tourism Master Plan;
- c) A list of all planned and ongoing development projects and tourism concessions within and near the property with a map showing their location;
- d) The most updated boundary map of the property;
- e) The current zoning system / zoning plan of the property and the associated activities allowed in each zone;
- f) The most recent management plan(s) of the property, and any other relevant management documents, regulations, or legislative changes related to the management of the property;
- g) Assessment of climate risks to the property and climate adaptation plans, if available;

This information should be made available in English (or accompanied with the necessary translation). Additional information may be requested during the mission, as required.

The State Party should facilitate necessary site visits to key locations, including Rinca Island. The mission should hold consultations with the relevant national and local Indonesian authorities, including with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, the Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO, the East Nusa Tenggara Provincial Government and the Komodo National Park Office, as well as other relevant stakeholders, including local communities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society and any relevant scientists and experts. The State Party should facilitate and organize the site visits and meetings with the above-mentioned stakeholders and submit a draft agenda for the mission one month prior to the mission. A concluding meeting with representatives from all relevant national ministries in Jakarta after the site visit is highly recommended.

Based on the results of the above-mentioned reviews, assessments and discussions with the State Party representatives, authorities and stakeholders, the mission will prepare a concise report (Annex II of the Mission Report Format) on the findings and recommendations following the site visit. The mission’s recommendations to the World Heritage Committee will provide guidance to the State Party to ensure the ongoing conservation of the property’s OUV. It should be noted that recommendations will be provided in the mission report and not during the mission.

Annex II: Itinerary and programme of the mission

Day/Date	Location	Time	Agenda	Topic	Participants	Information
Day 1 1 March 2022	Hotel	-	Arrived in Jakarta	-	IUCN Team	
Day 2 2 March 2022	Coordinating Ministry for Human Development & Cultural Affairs Office, Jakarta	10.00 - 12.00	Entry Briefing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction - Purpose of Mission - Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IUCN Team - KNIU - UNESCO Office Jakarta - EIA EMP Team - Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Coordinating Ministry for Human Development & Cultural Affairs - Coordinating Ministry for Maritime and Investment - Ministry of Environment and Forestry - Ministry of Public Works - Ministry of Tourism 	
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Transportation - Bapak Ir Wahjudi Wardoyo 	
	Coordinating Ministry for Human Development & Cultural Affairs Office, Jakarta	12.00 - 13.00	Break, Prayer, Lunch	-	All participants	
	Coordinating Ministry for Human Development & Cultural Affairs Office, Jakarta	13.00 - 14.00	Field Briefing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agenda - Preparation of documents - Etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IUCN Team - Field visit team 	
	Coordinating Ministry for Human Development & Cultural Affairs Office, Jakarta	15.00 - 17.00	Inter-ministerial meeting	Meeting on tourism infrastructure and development planning in Labuan Bajo Flores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IUCN Team - Coordinating Ministry for Maritime and Investment - Ministry of Tourism - Ministry of Public Works - Ministry of Transportation - Ministry of Environment and Forestry - World Bank 	
	Hotel	18.00	Rest Time			

Day/Date	Time (WITA)	Agenda	Locations	Topics	Participants	PIC
Day 3 March 3 2022	1 02:00 - 09:30	Arriving in Labuan Bajo (Lion Air/JT 800)	Komodo International Airport	-	(Check on List)	Mr. Jansam (BTN Komodo)
	2 09:30 - 10:00	Depart to Komodo Visitor Center	-	-	(Check on List)	Mr. Jansam (BTN Komodo)
	3 10:00 - 12:00	Key Stakeholders' Meeting	Komodo Visitor Center	Report of the conservation status and management of the Komodo National Park, including issues on: strengthening marine management and law enforcement capacities, illegal fishing activities and boat anchoring The progress of the revised EIA of the infrastructures improvement project at Loh Buaya Resort Rince Island The overview information on the trend of the komodo dragons' population at Komodo National Park	Komodo National Park (Mr. Lukta Awang Nisyanbara) CIA Experts (Mr. Lili Dudi Prasetyo) Komodo Survival Program (Mr. Dedi Purwandana)	Mr. Ihsal (BTN Komodo)
	4 12:00 - 13:30	Lunch with the Key Stakeholders	Praemnan di KVC	-	(Check on the PIC)	Mr. Bayung (BPOLBF) Mrs. Lily (BTN Komodo)
	5 09:35 - 13:05	Arriving in Labuan Bajo (Citilink/QS 632)	Komodo International Airport	-	(Check on List)	Mr. Jansam (BTN Komodo)
	6 13:30 - 14:00	Key Stakeholders' Meeting	Komodo Visitor Center	Brief explanation about the field visit preparation	Komodo National Park (Mr. Muhammad Dibal Putera)	Mr. Ihsal (BTN Komodo)
	7 14:00 - 14:30	Depart to Hotel(s)	-	-	(Check on List)	Mr. Jansam (BTN Komodo)
	8 14:30 - 15:00	Hotel Check in	LaPrima Hotel	-	(Check on List)	Mr. Danan (BTN Komodo)
	9 15:00 - 19:00	Free Time (No Activity)	Komodo Lodge Hotel	-	(Check on List)	Mr. Danan (BTN Komodo)
	10 19:00 - 20:00	Dinner with the Key Stakeholders	La Cecile Restaurant	-	(Check on the PIC)	Mr. Heru (PUPR)/Mrs. Lily (BTN Komodo) Mr. Jansam (BTN Komodo)
	11 20:00	Free Time (No Activity)	LaPrima Hotel	-	(Check on List)	Mr. Danan (BTN Komodo)
	1 07:00 - 07:15	Guests pick up at other hotels to LaPrima	Komodo Lodge Hotel	-	(Check on List)	Mr. Jansam (BTN Komodo)
	1 06:30 - 07:30	Depart to Komodo National Park (Island Hopping)	LaPrima Hotel Jetty	-	(Check on List)	Mr. Ayatullah Buaithi (BTN Komodo)
	2 07:30 - 09:30	Field visit to Loh Buaya Resort - Rince Island	Loh Buaya Resort - Rince Island	Infrastructures improvement project Impact analyses on wildlife and ecosystem	-	Mr. Juliar Raduan (BTN Komodo) Mr. Ghawan Syahri (BTN Komodo)
	3 09:30 - 10:30	Depart to Pader Selatan Resort - Pader Island	-	-	-	Mr. Ayatullah Buaithi (BTN Komodo)
Day 4 March 4 2022	4 10:30 - 11:30	Field visit to Pader Selatan Resort - Pader Island	Pader Selatan Resort Pader Island	Wildlife and ecosystem observations Tourism activities observation	-	Mr. Ayatullah Buaithi (BTN Komodo)/ Naturalist Guides Team
	5 11:30 - 12:00	Depart to Loh Liang Resort - Komodo Island	-	-	-	Mr. Ayatullah Buaithi (BTN Komodo)
	6 12:00 - 13:00	Lunch at Loh Liang Resort - Komodo Island	Loh Liang Resort Komodo Island	-	-	Mr. Gatot Kuncoro Edi (BTN Komodo)
	7 13:00 - 14:00	Field visit to Loh Liang Resort - Komodo Island	Loh Liang Resort Komodo Island	Wildlife and ecosystem observations Tourism activities observations Naturalist Guides and So activities observations	-	Mr. Gatot Kuncoro Edi (BTN Komodo)
	8 14:00 - 14:30	Depart to Komodo Village	Komodo Island	-	-	Mr. Ayatullah Buaithi (BTN Komodo)
	9 14:30 - 15:30	Field visit to Komodo Village Komodo Island	Komodo Island	Local community activities observations	-	Mr. Gatot Kuncoro Edi (BTN Komodo)
	10 15:30 - 16:30	Depart to Labuan Bajo	-	-	-	Mr. Ayatullah Buaithi (BTN Komodo)
	11 16:30 - 17:00	Return to Hotel	Labuan Bajo	-	(Check on List)	Mr. Jansam (BTN Komodo)
	12 17:00 - 19:00	Free Time (No Activity)	-	-	-	-
	13 19:00 - 21:00	Dinner with the Key Stakeholders	Mac Gunggo Restaurant	-	(Check on List)	Mr. Jansam (BTN Komodo)
	14 21:00	Free Time (No Activity)	Labuan Bajo	-	(Check on List)	Mr. Jansam (BTN Komodo)
Day 5 March 5 2022	1 09:30 - 10:00	Meeting with Stakeholders: Session I (NGO)	Green Prundi Hotel	Addressing issues delivered by the third part Obtaining insights on human rights advocacy in Komodo National Park based on their efforts and contributions	Sun Spirit for Justice and Peace	Mrs. Margaretha (BTN Komodo) Notulen: Dewi (Dik. POLK)
	2 10:00 - 11:30	Meeting with Stakeholders: Session II (NGO)	Green Prundi Hotel	Addressing issues happening in Komodo National Park territory Obtaining insights on community empowerment, research, and environmental awareness in and around Komodo National Park based on their contributions and efforts	Komodo Survival Program Sustainable Tourism Project - Swisscontact Indonesia International Waste Platform Trash Hero Komodo Shakti Tulus Negeri	Mrs. Margaretha (BTN Komodo) Notulen: Dewi (Dik. POLK)
	3 11:30 - 13:00	Lunch Antigen Test	Green Prundi Hotel Apotik Bunda	- -	- -	Mrs. Margaretha (BTN Komodo)
	4 13:00 - 14:30	Meeting with Stakeholders: Session III (Government)	Green Prundi Hotel	The status of any existing and planned infrastructure developments within and in the vicinity of the property, including the tourism infrastructure projects on Rince and Pader Islands, and the impacts of these projects on the OUV of the property	Local Government of Manggarai Barat Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing Coordinating Ministry for Maritime and Investment Ministry of Environment and Forestry Ministry of Transportation Labuan Bajo Flores Tourism Authority	Mrs. Margaretha (BTN Komodo) Notulen: (Staf BPOLBF) dan Dinda/Nova
	5 14:30 - 16:00	Meeting with Stakeholders: Session IV (Government)	Green Prundi Hotel	The progress in the development of the Integrated Tourism Master Plan document for Labuan Bajo, including the islands of Rince and Pader	Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing Coordinating Ministry for Maritime and Investment Labuan Bajo Flores Tourism Authority	Mrs. Margaretha (BTN Komodo) Notulen: (Staf BPOLBF) dan Dinda/Nova
Day 5 March 5 2022	6 16:00 - 17:30	Meeting with Stakeholders: Session V (Business Industry)	Green Prundi Hotel	Obtaining insights on tourism industry and development in Komodo National Park based on their efforts and contributions	GAHAWATRE Labuan Bajo Diving Operator Community Komodo (DOCK) Jaringan Kapal Rekreasi (JANGKAR) Aodora Kapal Wisata (ASKAWI) AGTA Manggarai Barat Koperal Serba Usaha TN Komodo PHRE Labuan Bajo Himpunan Pramuwisata Indonesia (HPI) DPC Labuan Bajo	Mrs. Margaretha (BTN Komodo) Notulen: (Staf BPOLBF) dan Dinda/Nova
	7 17:30 - 19:00	Dinner with the Key Stakeholders	Green Prundi Hotel	-	-	BPOLBF
	8 19:00 - 19:15	Return to Hotel	-	-	-	Mr. Jansam (BTN Komodo)
	9 19:15	Free Time (No Activity)	-	-	-	Mr. Jansam (BTN Komodo)
Day 6 March 6 2022	1 09:00 - 12:00	Wrap up Meeting with Key Stakeholders	Komodo Visitor Center	Summarizing the field visit results	All participants taking part in the field visit	Mr. Ayatullah Buaithi (BTN Komodo)
	2 12:00 - 13:00	Lunch	Komodo Visitor Center	-	All participants taking part in the field visit	Mrs. Lily (BTN Komodo)
	3 13:00 - 13:30	Depart to Komodo International Airport I	-	-	Mr. Unip Widodo and team (Check on List)	Mr. Jansam (BTN Komodo)
		Depart to Komodo International Airport II	-	-	Mr. Mohammad Djelid and all (Check on List)	Mr. Jansam (BTN Komodo)

Annex III: List of people met

Various stakeholders were met during the entry and exit briefings in Jakarta, on Labuan Bajo and during the field visits in KNP. The following includes stakeholders met during entry and exit briefings.

Entry Briefing attendance list

DAFTAR HADIR
Rapat Koordinasi Entry Briefing Reactive Monitoring Mission
Tanggal 2 Maret 2022

NO	NAMA	JABATAN / INSTANSI	GOLONGAN / PENDIDIKAN AKHIR
1	AMRAN HANZAH	IUCN	
2	KATHY ZISCHKA	IUCN	
3	Ite Chodigah	KNIV	
4	M. Irfan Purnadi	KNIV	
5	Pragudipranto.Ps	Kemlu	
6	Molly Prabawaty	KPMK	
7	Hans Thulstrup	UNESCO	
8	Siti Rachmanita	UNEPW	
9	KOEN MEYERS	WD	
10	JEFFREYS	PKIC	

Menyatakan bahwa nama-nama tersebut diatas adalah benar menghadiri rapat tersebut di atas.

Nuswardana Sarodja

DAFTAR HADIR
Rapat Koordinasi Entry Briefing Reactive Monitoring Mission
Tanggal 2 Maret 2022

NO	NAMA	JABATAN / INSTANSI	GOLONGAN / PENDIDIKAN AKHIR
1	Abdi Rizal	Roren. KPMK	IV-b/S2
2	Putri B.R		
3	Anggun Wahyu P		
4	Adh. Wulandari	UNESCO	
5	Narleni H	Dir. Ek. KLHK	IV/S2
6	Rini Fitriah Entebe	"	III/S2
7	Mohamed Djelid	UNESCO	
8	Zickayatul M	Koordinator Ekosistem / Dit. TKD Kemen Perikanan	III/S2
9	Kusumahardhani	Ksd Rentek PKP Kemen PUPR	IV/S2
10			

Menyatakan bahwa nama-nama tersebut diatas adalah benar menghadiri rapat tersebut di atas.

Nuswardana Sarodja

DAFTAR HADIR
Rapat Koordinasi Entry Briefing Reactive Monitoring Mission
Tanggal 2 Maret 2022

NO	NAMA	JABATAN / INSTANSI	GOLONGAN / PENDIDIKAN AKHIR
1	DYAH L. WIYANINGSI	TEKNIK TATA BANGUNAN, SEN PUPK	IIB
2	JIWADARA	STAF BIDJENCK, PUPP	
3	Hikmah Rafika Mufli	Kemenko PMK	
4	Arief Bachman H.	Kemenko PMK	
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

Menyatakan bahwa nama-nama tersebut diatas adalah benar menghadiri rapat tersebut diatas.

Nuswardana Sarodja

Exit Briefing attendance list:

Rapat Koordinasi Exit Briefing Pelepasan Tim RMM International U
 Senin, 7 Maret 2022

No	Nama	Asal Institusi	NIP (ASN) / NIK (Non ASN)
1	nuswardana sarodja	Kemenko PMK	No.197106101990091001
2	Danu Bramanto	Biro Kerja Sama dan Hubungan Masyarakat, Kementerian	No.199112082015040000
3	chandra putra	pjlkk	No.197210071999031003
4	Ismunandar	KWRIU	Dubes
5	Dewi Rahayu PN	KLHK	No.3201044806930000
6	Rante Sapan, S.H.S.Pd.	KNIU, BKHM, Kemendikbudristek	No.196412311993030000
7	Arief Bramono	Kementerian Luar Negeri/Dit. Keamanan Diplomatik	No.198204222005010000
8	Lynda Kurnia Wardhan	Kementerian Luar Negeri	No.197212171997102001
9	Inge Susilo	The World Bank	

10	Molly Prabawaty	Kemenko PMK	No.197205041999030000
11	Sapto Aji Prabowo	Dit PJLKK Ditjen KSDAE	No.197605222000030000
12	Muhammad Ikbil Putera, S.Hut., M.S.	Balai Taman Nasional Komodo	NO.199111142015020000
13	Rinanda Hayoe Crusita	Kementerian Koordinator Bidang Maritim dan Investasi	No.199506132022030000
14	RR. Puspita Narastiti A. Hajj	Kemenko Marves	No.199804072022030000
15	Christa Hardjasaputra	World Bank	
16	Lilik Budi Prasetyo	IPB	No.196203161988031002
17	Lukita Awang Nistyantara	Balai TN Komodo	No.197501122000031003

Annex IV: Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

The rSOUV for Komodo National Park was adopted in 2013. Available at: WHC-13/37.COM/8E Item 8E: Adoption of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value: <https://whc.unesco.org/document/123025>

Brief synthesis

Komodo National Park, located in the center of the Indonesian archipelago, between the islands of Sumbawa and Flores, is composed of three major islands (Rinca, Komodo, and Padar) and numerous smaller ones, all of them of volcanic origin. Located at the juncture of two continental plates, this national park constitutes the “shatter belt” within the Wallacea Biogeographical Region, between the Australian and Sunda ecosystems. The property is identified as a global conservation priority area, comprising unparalleled terrestrial and marine ecosystems and covers a total area of 219,322 ha. The dry climate has triggered specific evolutionary adaptation within the terrestrial flora that range from open grass-woodland savanna to tropical deciduous (monsoon) forest and quasi cloud forest. The rugged hillsides and dry vegetation highly contrast with the sandy beaches and the blue coral-rich waters.

The most remarkable inhabitant of Komodo National Park is the Komodo Lizard, *Varanus komodoensis*. These giant lizards, existing nowhere else in the world, are of great scientific interest, especially for their evolutionary implications. Most commonly known as 'Komodo Dragons', due to its appearance and aggressive behavior, the Komodo Lizard, is the largest living species of lizard, growing to an average length of 2 to 3 meters. The species is the last representative of a relic population of large lizards that once lived across Indonesia and Australia. As well as being home to the Komodo dragon, the Park provides a refuge for many other notable terrestrial species such as the orange-footed scrub fowl, an endemic rat, and the Timor deer. The rich coral reefs of Komodo host a great diversity of species, and the strong currents of the sea attract the presence of sea turtles, whales, dolphins and dugongs.

Criterion (vii): Komodo National Park is a landscape of contrasts between starkly rugged hillsides of dry savanna, pockets of thorny green vegetation, brilliant white sandy beaches and blue waters surging over coral, unquestionably one of the most dramatic landscapes in all of Indonesia. Demonstrating exceptional natural beauty that is all the more remarkable as a counterpoint to the dominant lushness of vegetation which characterizes vast areas of forested Indonesia, and with which most of the world associates the archipelago. An irregular coastline characterized by bays, beaches and inlets separated by headlands, often with sheer cliffs falling vertically into the surrounding seas which are reported to be among the most productive in the world adds to the stunning natural beauty of landscapes dominated by contrasting vegetation types, providing a patchwork of colours.

Criterion (x): Komodo National Park contains the majority of the world's areas in which wild populations of the Komodo dragon lizard still exist. The largest and heaviest of the world's lizards, the species is widely known for its impressive size and fearsome appearance, its ability to effectively prey on large animals, and a tolerance of extremely harsh condition. The population, estimated at around 5,700 individuals is distributed across the islands of Komodo, Rinca, Gili Motong and some coastal regions of western and northern Flores.

Other fauna recorded in the park are characteristic of the Wallacean zoogeographic region with seven species of terrestrial mammal, including an endemic rat (*Rattus rintjanus*) and the crab-eating macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) and 72 species of birds, such as the lesser sulphur-crested cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*), the orange-footed scrub fowl (*Megapodius reinwardt*), and noisy friarbird (*Philemon buceroides*). The coral reefs fringing the coast of Komodo are diverse and luxuriant due to the clear water, intense sunlight and rapid exchange of nutrient-rich water from deeper areas of the archipelago. The marine fauna and flora are generally the same as that found throughout the Indo Pacific area, though species richness is very high, notable marine mammals include blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) and sperm whale (*Physeter catodon*) as well as 10 species of dolphin, dugong (*Dugong dugon*) and five species of sea turtles.

Integrity

Encompassing the rugged topography that reflects the position of the park within the active volcanic “shatter belt” between Australia and the Sunda shelf, the boundaries of the Komodo National Park encircle the main park features, including the outstanding scenery and the unique species it hosts; komodo monitor, birds, marine mammals, coral reef-species, and others. The boundaries are considered adequate to secure the habitat and the main ecological processes to preserve them. The extensive marine buffer zone surrounding the park is key to maintaining the integrity and intactness of the property and the number of exceptional species that it hosts.

Illegal fishing and poaching remain the main threats to the values of the property and its overall integrity. There is an extensive marine buffer zone to the park, in which management authority staff has authority to regulate the type of fishing permitted and to some extent the presence of fishermen from outside the area. This buffer zone, which assists in controlling poaching of the terrestrial species that provide the prey species for the komodo lizard, will become significant in the overall long-term protection of the property.

Protection and management requirements

Komodo National Park is managed by the central government of Indonesia through the Directorate General of Forest Protection and Natural Conservation of the Ministry of Forestry. The history of protection afforded the site goes back to 1938 while official protection began when Ministerial Decree declared the area as a 72,000 ha National Park in March 1980. This area was subsequently extended to 219,322 ha in 1984 to include an expanded marine area and the section of mainland Flores. Comprised of Komodo Game Reserve (33,987 ha),


Rinca Island Nature Reserve (19,625 ha), Padar Island Nature Reserve (1,533 ha), Mbeliling and Nggorang Protection Forest (31,000 ha), Wae Wuul and Mburak Game Reserve (3,000 ha) and surrounding marine areas (130,177 ha) the Komodo Biosphere Reserve was accepted under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme in January 1977. In 1990 a national law, elevating the legislative mandate for conservation to the parliamentary and presidential level significantly empowered the legal basis for protection and management.

In order to ensure the effective management and protection of the park and its exceptional landscapes and biota, the park is governed through the 2000-2025 Management Plan and a 2010-2014 Strategic Plan, which will require revision and updating. These plans are important for ensuring the effective zoning system of the park and guaranteeing the sustainability of the ecosystems of the property. The management authority is known for designing specific plans to guide management decisions which will require updating in line with changes to priorities and threats, in particular expected increases in visitor numbers and impacts from tourism.

The Park receives strong support and resources from the central government of Indonesia. As a tourism location known worldwide, the Indonesian Government has a specific program for ecotourism management to promote the park at the international level and to ensure the sustainability of tourism activities. Additionally, in order to address illegal fishing and poaching, regular patrolling of the marine and terrestrial areas is carried out for law enforcement and a number of the problems and impacts associated with these activities have decreased. Community awareness and empowerment programs are being implemented to engage the local villagers regards to the sustainable use of natural resources and park conservation. Research and study of the unique biological features of the park is also being promoted and supported by the management authority.

Increasing levels of tourism and matters related specifically to the komodo lizard are the major management issues that have been focused on to date. A broadening of the management focus to address issues within the marine area of the park along with other terrestrial species is required to ensure the long-term effective conservation of the property. A focus on the issue of depletion of Komodo monitor prey species stocks has resulted in some success and the same efforts need to be focused on the issues of damaging fishing practices and impacts on other unique species contained within the property.

Annex V: Ministerial decree No. S.576/KSDAE/KK/KSA.1/7/2020: "The exemption of EIA for the construction of tourism infrastructure in Komodo National Park"

KEMENTERIAN LINGKUNGAN HIDUP DAN KEHUTANAN DIREKTORAT JENDERAL KONSERVASI SUMBER DAYA ALAM DAN EKOSISTEM <small>Gedung Mangala Winarabekti Blok I Lantai 8, Jalan Gatot Subroto Jakarta 10270 Telepon : (021) 5730315, Faksimili : (021) 5734619 Jalan Ir. H. Juanda Nomor 15 Bogor, Telepon : (0251) 8324014, 8311118</small>	
13 Juli 2020	
Nomor : S.576/KSDAE/KK/KSA.1/7/2020	
Lampiran : 1 (satu) berkas	
Isi : Pengecualian AMDAL terhadap Pembangunan Sarana Prasarana Wisata di TN Komodo	
Kepada Yth. Kepala Dinas Lingkungan Hidup dan Kehutanan Provinsi Nusa Tenggara Timur di Kupang	
Sehubungan dengan surat Kepala Balai Taman Nasional Komodo Nomor S. 756/T.17/UREN/7/2020 tanggal 10 Juli 2020 hal Arahkan Penapisan Kedua di Pulau Rinca Kabupaten Manggarai Barat yang tembusannya disampaikan kepada Saudara, dengan ini kami sampaikan hal-hal sebagai berikut:	
1. Memperhatikan surat Kepala Balai TN Komodo, Saudara menyampaikan surat Nomor DLHK.660/5/2020 tanggal 8 Juli 2020 hal Arahkan Penapisan Kedua di Pulau Rinca Kabupaten Manggarai Barat yang ditujukan kepada Balai Prasarana Permukiman Wilayah Nusa Tenggara, yang tembusannya disampaikan juga kepada Menteri LHK dan Kepala Balai TN Komodo.	
2. Berdasarkan dengan poin 1 di atas:	
a. Berdasarkan Peraturan Menteri LHK Nomor: P.38/Menlhk/Setjen/Kum.1/7/2019 tentang Jenis Rencana Usaha dan/atau Kegiatan yang Wajib Memiliki Analisis Mengenai Dampak Lingkungan Hidup, kami sampaikan hal-hal sebagai berikut:	
1) Pasal 7 ayat (1): Rencana usaha dan/atau kegiatan yang berdampak penting terhadap lingkungan hidup dikecualikan dari kewajiban menyusun AMDAL, diantaranya jika lokasi rencana usaha dan/atau kegiatannya berada pada kawasan lindung yang memiliki rencana pengelolaan dan/atau penataan ruang kawasan lindung detail yang dilengkapi dengan Kajian Lingkungan Hidup Strategis yang dibuat dan dilaksanakan secara komprehensif dan rinci sesuai dengan ketentuan Peraturan Perundang-undangan.	
2) Pasal 10 ayat (1): Rencana Usaha dan/atau Kegiatan selain sebagaimana tercantum dalam Lampiran I yang merupakan bagian tidak terpisahkan dari Peraturan Menteri ini, yang berbatasan langsung atau berada dalam kawasan lindung sebagaimana dalam Pasal 3 ayat (3) huruf b, dapat dikecualikan dari kewajiban memiliki AMDAL setelah mendapatkan penetapan pengecualian wajib AMDAL dari instansi yang berwenang dan bertanggung jawab terhadap pengelolaan kawasan lindung.	
b. Sesuai dengan poin 2 a di atas, kami menyampaikan bahwa kegiatan tersebut termasuk dalam kegiatan yang dikecualikan dari kewajiban AMDAL. Hal ini mengingat lokasinya yang berada di dalam kawasan lindung yang telah dilengkapi dengan:	
1) Rencana Pengelolaan Taman Nasional Komodo (SK Dirjen KSDAE Nomor SK. 254/KSDAE/SET/KSA.1/9/2016 tanggal 13 September 2016) dan Penataan Zonasi Taman Nasional Komodo (SK Dirjen PHKA Nomor SK.21/IV-SET/2012 tanggal 24 Februari 2012). Dokumen Rencana Pengelolaan dan Penataan Zonasi merupakan dokumen hasil kajian lingkungan yang disusun dengan kehati-hatian dengan memperhatikan prinsip kelestarian lingkungan, yang dalam hal ini merupakan mekanisme penapisan untuk kemungkinan terjadinya kerusakan lingkungan, dan dipandang setara dengan penapisan-penapisan dalam proses AMDAL.	
2) Desain Tapak Pengelolaan Pariwisata Alam yang telah disahkan (SK Direktur PJLHK Nomor SK. 38/PJLHK/PJLWAKSA.3/7/2018 tanggal 26 Juli 2018).	
3) Site Plan, Desain Engineering Detail (DED), dan AMDAL Sarana Prasarana Wisata Alam yang telah sesuai ketentuan dan telah disetujui Dirjen KSDAE.	
c. Mengingat bahwa dokumen-dokumen sebagaimana poin 2.b telah tersedia, maka pada dasarnya untuk kegiatan pembangunan sarana prasarana wisata alam di Loh Buaya Pulau Rinca TN Komodo oleh Kementerian PUPR dapat dikecualikan dari kewajiban menyusun Amdal. Untuk itu agar Saudara dapat mempedomani dokumen tersebut sebagai dasar pertimbangan dalam memberikan rekomendasi Upaya Pengelolaan Lingkungan Hidup (UKL) dan Upaya Pemantauan Lingkungan Hidup (UPL) atas Dokumen UKL-UPL, serta selanjutnya penerbitan Izin Lingkungan.	
3. Mempertimbangkan status TN Komodo sebagai Warisan Alam Dunia (<i>Natural World Heritage</i>), perlu kami sampaikan bahwa dalam penilaian dokumen UKL-UPL di Pulau Rinca TN Komodo agar juga memenuhi 8 prinsip, serta memperhatikan nilai <i>Outstanding Universal Value</i> (OUV) TN Komodo. Adapun 8 prinsip tersebut adalah:	
1) Melakukan Kajian Lingkungan yang ketat pada awal proses pengambilan keputusan;	
2) Melibatkan ahli Konservasi Wardun, kawasan konservasi dan keanekaragaman hayati;	
3) Lakukan kajian dampak lingkungan dan sosial terhadap nilai OUV, termasuk efek langsung, tidak langsung dan kumulatif;	
4) Mengidentifikasi dan merekomendasikan opsi alternatif untuk merekomendasikan opsi yang paling berkelanjutan kepada pembuat keputusan;	
5) Mengidentifikasi langkah-langkah mitigasi berdasarkan hierarki mitigasi;	
6) Harus ada bab dalam dokumen UKL-UPL yang fokus kepada Warisan Dunia;	
7) Kajian harus melakukan konsultasi publik, dan hasil harus dipublikasi;	
8) Mengusulkan dan mengimplementasikan rencana pengelolaan lingkungan, yang harus diaudit secara independen.	
Sedangkan OUV TN Komodo sebagai kawasan warisan dunia adalah:	
1) Memiliki ekosistem savanna, pantai, perairan yang spektakuler di dunia;	
2) Memiliki satwa komodo yang merupakan satu-satunya kadal terbesar di dunia.	
Demikian, atas perhatian dan kerjasamanya Saudara diucapkan terima kasih.	
 Direktur Jenderal, Ir. Wiratno, M.Sc. NIP. 19620328 198903 1 003	
Tembusan:	
1. Menteri Lingkungan Hidup dan Kehutanan (sebagai laporan).	
2. Wakil Menteri Lingkungan Hidup dan Kehutanan.	
3. Gubernur Nusa Tenggara Timur.	
4. Bupati Manggarai Barat.	
5. Sekretaris Jenderal Kementerian LHK.	
6. Sekretaris Jenderal Kementerian PUPR.	
7. Deputi Bidang Koordinasi Pariwisata dan Ekonomi Kreatif Kemenko Bidang Kemaritiman dan Investasi.	
8. Direktur Jenderal Planologi Kehutanan dan Tata Lingkungan, Kementerian LHK.	
9. Direktur Jenderal Cipta Karya, Kementerian PUPR.	
10. Direktur Jenderal Sumber Daya Air, Kementerian PUPR.	
11. Direktur Pemanfaatan Jasa Lingkungan Hutan Konservasi.	
12. Kepala Balai Taman Nasional Komodo.	

Annex VI: References

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Annex VII: Photos



(left) High-level entry briefing in Jakarta; (right) Meetings and field briefing with the KNP Authority in Labuan Bajo © IUCN/KatherineZischka



(left) Field visit - Labuan Bajo to KNP via speedboat; (right) Rinca Island (Loh Buaya) – jetty, walkway, KNP patrol boat. © IUCN/KatherineZischka



Rinca island (Loh Buaya) - (left) entry point; (right) new ranger facility buildings, elevated walkway, nature guide. © State Party of Indonesia.



Rinca island (Loh Buaya): (left) elevated walkway to ensure separation of humans and Komodo dragons on the ground below. (right) walking tour with information from the Komodo Species Programme research expert. © IUCN/KatherineZischka



Rinca island (Loh Buaya): Komodo dragon prey species Timor deer near ranger facility (left); Water buffalo mother and calf next to elevated walkway (right). © IUCN/KatherineZischka



Padar island: (left) pier, ticket office and walkway to summit; (right) ticket office. © IUCN/KatherineZischka



Padar island: (left) walkway © IUCN/KatherineZischka; (right) popular tourist viewpoint and walkway. © UNESCO/HansThulstrup



Komodo island (Loh Liang): (left) entry point © State Party of Indonesia; (right) local souvenir market. © IUCN/KatherineZischka



Komodo island (Loh Liang): (left) ranger and nature guide briefing; (right) Komodo dragon viewing point. © IUCN/KatherineZischka



Stakeholder consultation meetings with government, civil society and business in Labuan Bajo. © IUCN/KatherineZischka



Phinisi boat. © IUCN/KatherineZischka