



BANDA ISLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISE

Nature is not
a place to visit.
It is home.

Gary Snyder

WELCOME TO BANDA

Dear guests, you have now arrived at the Banda Islands, a place that is unique in its history, culture and nature.

Please take a few minutes to read this brochure and you will make the best of your visit, leaving the islands as you found them: with smiling people, thriving forests and colorful coral reefs. They are home.

EXTRAORDINARY RESILIENCE

The 7400m deep Banda Sea is the deepest sea in Indonesia and covers the world's deepest point in the ocean, not associated to a trench. Oceanographers call the Banda Sea "the heart of the Indonesian throughflow" as it stores and pumps huge amounts of water from the Pacific into the Indian Ocean. These conditions are responsible for the fact that coral reefs found here, are better protected from rising sea temperatures than others. When, e.g., the 2016 ENSO caused large areas of the Australian Great Barrier reef and other coral reefs around the world to bleach and die, cold upwelling at the Banda Islands occurred just on time to allow the corals recover. Where climate change-related factors are unlikely to threaten a reef, it is even more important to be sensitive and responsible to not add any anthropogenic stress!



Christian Siegenthaler



MARINE TREASURES



During your visit at the Banda Islands you may be lucky and become a witness of the Banda Sea's secrets. Sightings of blue whales, sperm whales, pilot whales, orcas, hammerhead sharks, schooling devil rays, Marlins and many more are possible. For the greatest experience, however, don't be distracted by looking out only for the big creatures and pay attention to the corals. You will not find such healthy and diverse reefs in many other places of the world. To give these organisms the chance for a long-lasting future, please consider the dos and don'ts we have compiled on the following page. And please, do not only follow these rules when you are in Banda, but keep them in mind when you continue your travels through Indonesia and beyond!

**EVERY MINUTE THE
EQUIVALENT OF ONE
GARBAGE TRUCK OF
PLASTIC IS DUMPED
INTO THE WORLD'S
OCEANS**



**MARINE ANIMALS
SWALLOW THESE
PLASTICS AND DIE
OF HUNGER OR
CONSTIPATION**



**WHAT BREAKS UP
INTO MICROPLASTICS
REACHES THE FOOD
CHAIN AND ENDS UP
ON OUR PLATES**



Image: AP Images European Union-EP

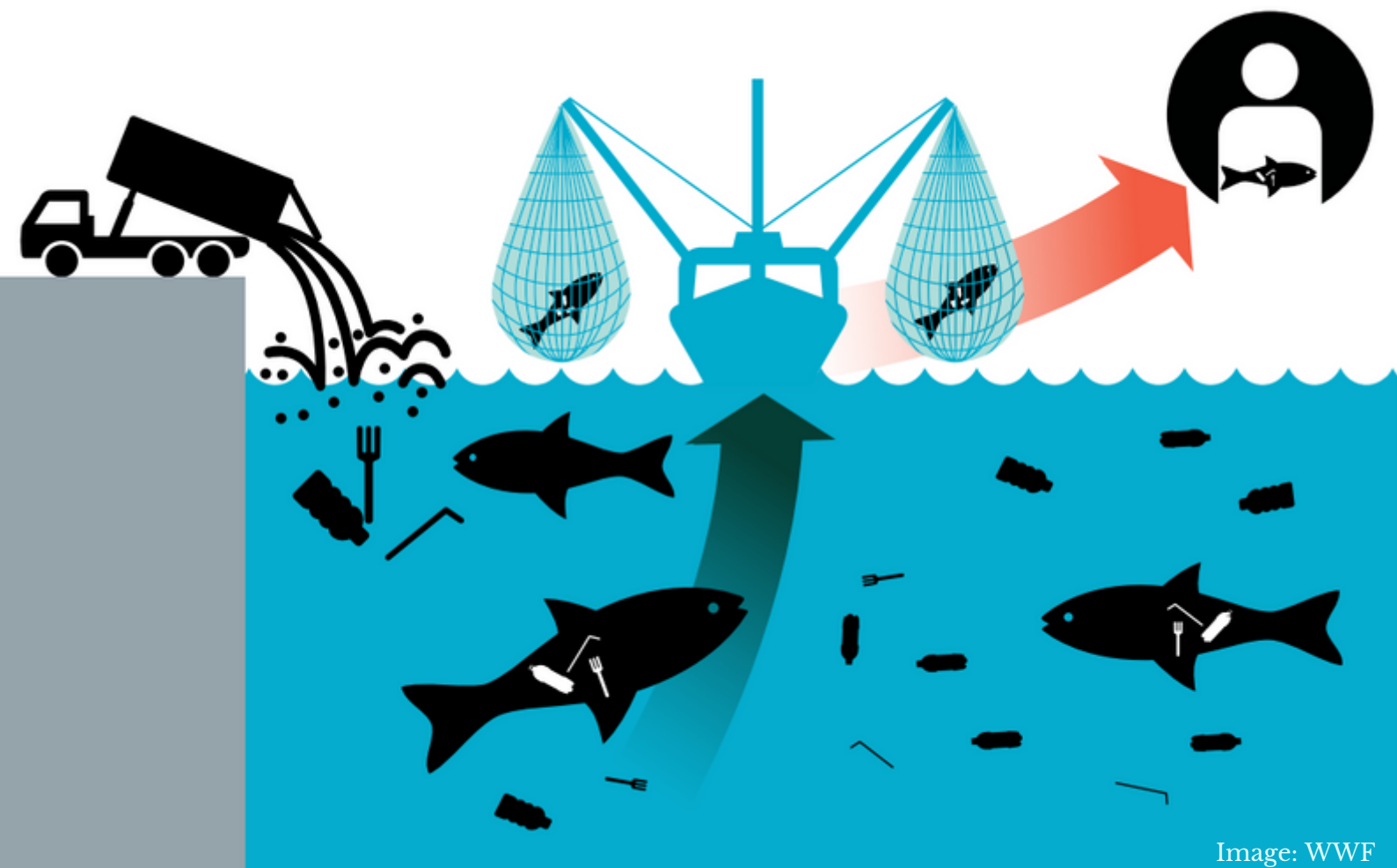


Image: WWF



**EVERYONE OF US IS
RESPONSIBLE TO
CHANGE HER OR HIS
OWN HABITS!**

PLASTIC WASTE: PREVENTION & RECYCLING ON THE BANDA ISLANDS

Disposal and recycling of waste, especially plastics is a huge challenge for Indonesia as island nation. Proper recycling facilities only exist in Surabaya on Java. Thus, when visiting small islands, you have to assume that there is no possibility to dispose waste. The best for the environment, therefore, is to make an effort to reduce plastic waste even more than at home, as long as you are on a boat or a small island. Bringing refillable water bottles, e.g., can reduce your plastic waste immensely.

On Banda, we have initiated a waste collection, funded by the German association BandaSEA e.V., and are setting up a recycling and sorting facility near the airstrip. It is going to open in November 2019 and is a unique pilot project in the Moluccas. Our project leader, Maga, is happy to give you a tour to introduce you to all waste education and management initiatives that are ongoing. For example, you can visit our office and afternoon school in the village Kampung Baru in front of the Mosque. You can also buy souvenirs there, such as wallets made via upcycling.



**SORTING AND
RECYCLING FACILITY**



**WASTE PICKUP ON BANDA
NAIRA AND BANDA BESAR**





**WALLETS UPCYCLED
FROM PLASTIC PACKAGES**



OCEAN CLEANUPS



**SCHOOLS BECOME DISPOSABLE
PLASTIC-FREE SCHOOLS**



**ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION**

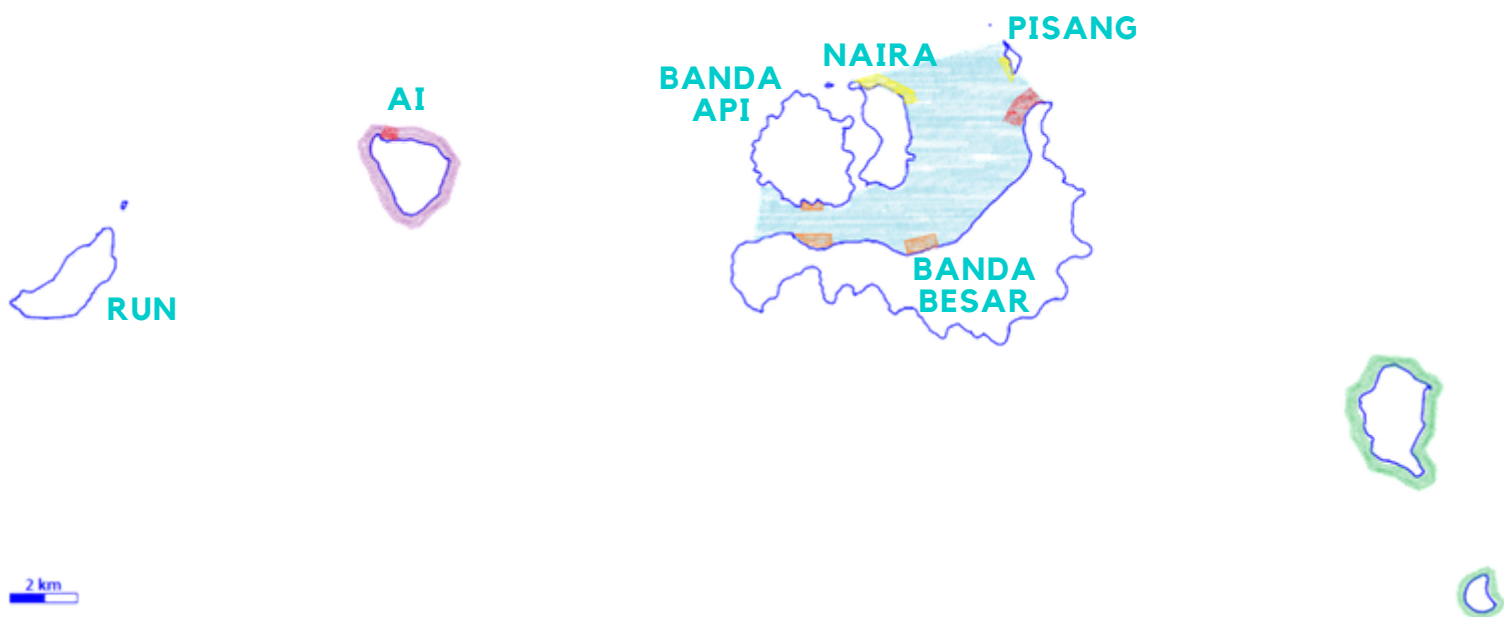








BEACH CLEANUPS





MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AT THE BANDA ISLANDS



-  Recreational marine park Laut Banda (TWP), considerate fishing methods
-  Locally managed marine protected area Pulau Ai
-  Locally managed marine protected area Pulau Hatta & Skaru
-  No-take zone (TWP & Pulau Ai; no fishing, no anchoring, no water sports)
-  Sustainable fishing zone (TWP)
-  Utilization zone (TWP)



There are 3 marine protected areas (MPAs) that fall under different levels of protection and underlie different management bodies. All require reporting and paying a fee (IDR 50,000-100,000 per day and diver, less for snorkelers) for conducting any activities within the MPA. The MPAs of Pulau Ai and Pulau Hatta are managed by representatives of the villages. In Pulau Ai, there is an information center that you can visit to obtain more information on regulations. The Taman Wisata Pereiran (TWP) between Naira, Pisang and Banda Besar is an official national marine park and is managed by the conservation office of the Ministry of Marine Affaires and Fisheries on Banda Naira (BKKPN). Please check for current information and regulations before entering the water at any of these parks.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOS AND DON'TS



Never touch any marine organisms or substrates. What you think is rock might be coral. Never walk on corals!



Remind the boat crew not to anchor anywhere near the reef.



Neither remove nor eat rare animals like lobsters and clams. They are important for ecosystem stability.



Don't chase after marine animals. Be calm and let them come to you.



Don't go spearfishing. Spearfishing reduces the average size of target fish in the ecosystem coral reef. It contradicts natural selection.



Reduce the amount of fish and meat you consume. A veggie day protects resources and is a wellness cure for our planet.



Avoid buying disposable plastics. Bring your own shopping bag and refill your water bottle.



Remind the boat crew not to dispose any waste on Banda or similarly small islands. There rarely are proper disposal facilities available.



Use only reef safe sunscreen. These are mineral-based sunscreens without oxybenzone, octinoxate and nanoparticles.



Don't "overcrowd" the reef. Ask the crew to move the boat to a different site or wait if there is another snorkel or dive boat already present. Don't dive inside the no-take zones!