



**RAJA  
AMPAT  
RESEARCH &  
CONSERVATION  
CENTRE**

RAJA-AMPAT - PAPUA

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# RAJA AMPAT PAPUA

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THE **INDONESIAN ISLANDS OF RAJA AMPAT** ARE SO REMOTE THAT HUMANS  
HAVEN'T DISCOVERED EVERYTHING YET.

EVERYONE WHO DARES TO VENTURE HERE IS AN EXPLORER.

The Raja Ampat islands or Four Kings islands are a group of islands located in the Indonesian province Papua, more precisely the Western point of the Bird's Head peninsula. This group of islands consists of 4 major islands, Waigeo, Batanta, Sulawati and Misool, and lots of smaller islands like Kofiau and Gag.

The interior of all these islands has been hardly visited by man and is mostly uninhabited and due to that they are still covered in dense tropical vegetation and forests.

Parts of Waigeo, Batanta and Sulawati are famous for their high natural assets and biodiversity and have been declared nature reserve. Waigeo and Batanta are famous for their endemic bird species and insects.

Beside that, the Raja Ampat islands harbor probably the richest reefs on earth and have become famous in the rest of the world by a featured article of two of the most prestigious magazines in that field: National Geographic and GEO Magazine.

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# THE RARCC

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OUR ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN TAKING THE INITIATIVE INTRODUCING  
CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY RELATED PROJECTS IN THE  
RAJA AMPAT SINCE 1993.

The centre is situated in the heart of the coral triangle on the island "Kri" adjunct to Sorido Bay Resort - 75 km (1,5-2h by boat) northwest off the coast of West Papua (Sorong). Due to this location we are very accessible. We believe we are blessed to be able to work in this location and see ourselves as stewards of God's creation.

Since we have established RARCC we have formed close working relationships with Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, WWF and some of the local NGO's. We take initiative in conservation and strive to create alternatives among others in the form of sustainable marine tourism industry initiatives. Having indigenous communities participate in tourism projects we see as the key solution to conserve the Raja Ampat. Only when the local people can directly benefit from this industry will they have a reason to protect their surroundings.

We do not work by telling the local Papuan people what not to do, however by offering better alternatives. Being the pioneer who have been actively diving the Raja Ampat for over 20 years, we hired local people from day one. We created an alternative for destructive livelihood gathering. Several of our staff have been involved in illegal logging, blast fishing, shark finning and turtle poaching before. They were offered new positions in our team. Their experience helps us understand and counter these problems.

We welcome the opportunity to work on this with like minded persons and organizations and offer a well established base to conduct environmental research, do conservation work and community development projects.



#### The RARCC Foundation aims to:

- *Protecting and preserving the natural heritage of the Raja Ampat archipelago*
- *Encourage, assist and facilitate research on the flora and fauna*
- *Combat poverty among the local population*
- *Teaching the local community member in sustainable use of their natural resources*
- *Promoting green awareness among the local population*
- *Assist the local population to work in sustainable tourism*
- *Promote the Raja Ampat to actively engage more institutions, companies and individuals with similar goals to work together in this unique area*
- *The foundation complies with the Dutch ANBI status (public benefit organization)*

# OUR PROJECTS

## RESEARCH AND PROTECTION OF THE “BULLS EYE” OF ECOSYSTEMS

### BOOK PROJECT



Creation of a 288 pages hardcover book, in cooperation with several professional photographers. The book illustrates the Realm of the Four Kings in spectacular color, both above and below the water through the lens

of the world's top photographers. All profits go directly to conservation.

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS



With support from Papua Diving, monitoring and regular patrols have put an end to shark finning, turtle hunting, any destructive extractive fishing activities.

Create awareness amongst their guests and staff. Present and explain research results and share a conservation message on how we can all work together for a biologically sustainable future.

### COMMUNITY PROJECTS



Teaching the villagers how to grow crops, how to harvest with as little as possible impact on the environment in order to supply their families with a healthy plate

of food. We are currently also trying to source vitamins for children of the local villages. They show the signs of Micronutrient deficiency. By supplying them with a Vitamin A food supplement we aim to prevent this lack, at the same time teaching them on how to have a balanced diet.

### RESEARCH PROJECTS



The building and construction of the centre is funded by Papua Diving, dedicated to conservation and research of this area. Offering some key utilities to help you with any research or expedition projects. *Refer to realized projects*

### KAYAK 4 CONSERVATION



An initiative to promote eco tourism, by creating jobs that are sustainable and eco friendly. Aim is to create a platform for local people to start their own business.

The idea is to give them interest free loans to built their own a home stays and finally provide a network of those for our kayak project. Income through kayak4conservation are the means to help fund their work.

### BELL 47 HELICOPTER



Support for arial & or expedition research. The Bell 47G-3B-1 helicopter on floats (registered as an experimental but 100% maintained according to specifications).

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# CURRENT & REALISED PROJECTS

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THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES TOOK PLACE IN 2013:

**Kuwama Mountain expedition conducted with Richard Sneider & Jared Diamond.**

**Research Center was completed and the first scientists welcomed.**

**Land contracts have been made for an additional hangar/covered area to do fiberglass projects and conduct training.**

**Part of the RARCC maps & Terrain studies and related documentation have been transferred from storage in the Netherlands to the RARCC library.**

**A Bell 47G-3B-1 was donated to the RARCC by Richard Sneider (One World).**

**Visit to UNIPA (University of Manokwari) to make an MOU between UNIPA & RARCC.**

**An agreement for the funding of 3 years (2014 – 2016) operational cost for the Bell helicopter was made between Conservation International and the RARCC.**

**Large parts spare inventory & special tools were donated for the helicopter.**

**Scripps Institution of Oceanography team to be the first larger (8 pax) group of scientist to use our facilities.**

**Donation of one Longboat built by the fiberglass students to a local Church.**

**There is land cleared for a temporary (new) building for the fiberglass education center.**

**Second donation of one Longboat built by the fiberglass students to a local Church.**

**Local government and the RARCC for the building of 3 education centers to make an MOU between RA government & RARCC**

# CURRENT & REALISED PROJECTS

## ASSISTED RESEARCH:

### RAPID ASSESSMENT IN 2002



We assisted a team of researchers doing a Rapid Assessment Program conducted in the Raja Ampat Islands in 2002.

### MARINE LAKES



We have assisted Lisa Becking who has been working on the underwater wonders of Indonesia for over ten years.

### WORLD RECORD FISHCOUNT



We assisted world's-reknown ichthyologist Dr. Gerry Allen breaking his former Cape Kri fish count by 91 species and breaks the world record of 374 different species

in one dive, right in front of our field centre.

### GIANT CLAMS



Tricadanca Gigas, common name the Giant Clam is an endangered species. Over harvested for food and exports throughout it's range. Conservation International

came to us with an initiative to replenish reefs around the Raja Ampat by placing several mature adults in our lagoon right in front of our Centre.

### GREEN TURTLE RESEARCHERS



Researcher Marjolijn Christianen and her team know from tagging that turtles are migrating as far as Papua. They were collecting 'foraging data' of Green Turtles in Raja Ampat.

### MANTA TRUST



We are supporting Project Manager Sarah Lewis and her team from Manta Trust in gathering data on the Mantas in our area.

### CORAL FARMING



Help set up small community based coral farms in some villages. Some hard corals and soft corals grow fast and are in demand from the aquarium trade.

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# FACILITIES & SERVICES

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OUR CENTRE CAN OFFER SOME KEY UTILITIES TO HELP YOU WITH ANY RESEARCH OR EXPEDITION PROJECTS.

## The utilities we have that might assist you:

- **Accommodation** Within our own center we are able to house 6 scientists/students.

We offer this within the set 'bench fee'.

As part of the lodging we have a communal kitchen available which includes all common cooking utilities needed. In 2012 the RARCC completed the Main building. This includes the office, board room, a wet research- and a dry research area and jetty with boat access. All of this is on the ground floor. Accommodation including two bed rooms with a single bath room on the second floor is where the manager lives.

Besides this there is a permanent staff room in the roof (attic) + accommodation for two scientists/students.

**Utility building.** Here we have on the ground floor shaded open space with working benches and running water. Accommodation for two scientists/students (including shower/toilet) is on the second floor as well as a dining area. An additional accommodation building for up to 4 scientists/students (including shower/toilet) is at just 30 meters distance from the main building away.

We hope to complete an additional dorm building that is planned to have basic accommodation for 8 more scientists/students (including shower/toilet). With the wooden frame work complete at date, we believe to be done with this building before January 2015.

## Further options are:

- Kri Eco and Sorido Bay Resort with Papua-Diving (Combined there are 38 beds available for larger groups)
- Network of homestays that may serve as field posts around islands
- Forestcamps for forest expeditions

- **Laboratory** - At current have a wet research-rooms and a dry research-room ready for laboratory use. These rooms have ample tables, chairs and shelves but are not yet equipped with research equipment. We hope to build this up in due time but until then all necessary equipment will need to be brought in. We do have numerous containers and some aquariums to keep specimens alive + two sizable work benches in a shaded environment. If you will need special equipment pls. contact us or bring this equipment with you.
- **Office:** The office of the RARCC is stocked with books about the area, scientific writings (on both land and under water topics), history and military terrain studies.
- We have 24/7 220V stable electricity supply and good Wifi internet connection that is kindly supplied to us by Papua Diving.

## Additional support we would be happy to assist:

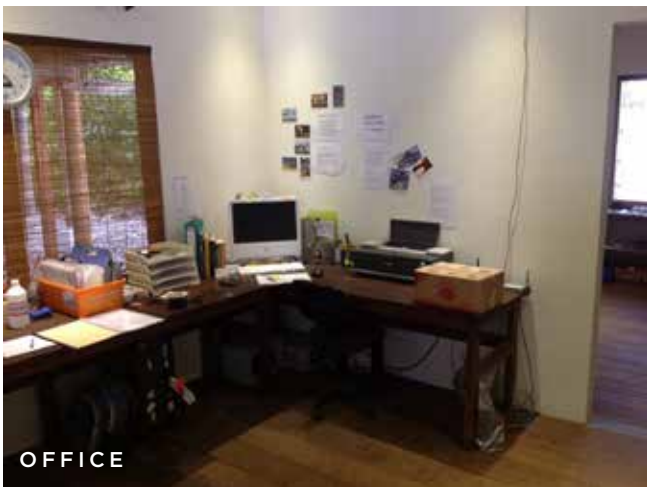
- **Cook/assistant** - the use of kitchen facilities is included in the bench fee however not a cook. Having one appointed will give you more time for field work.
- **Dive-guides/assistants** - above & below water
- **Support for areal surveys** - Bell 47 helicopter
- **Boat-drivers/crew** - this is key to any research, conservation or expedition project, as this is the ONLY form of transport around this area.
- **Maps** - We can boast with some of the most detailed maps of the Raja Ampat and most of the rest of Papua. The 1:100.000. maps were done by the Dutch military during 1958 - 1960
- **Computers** - Fast satellite Internet connection for research support



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# THE CENTRE

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LARGE BEDROOM



LAB



SHOWER/WC



SUPPORTING LOCALS



OFFICE



WET LAB INSIDE



SUPPORT STAFF



WETLAB OUTSIDE



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# CONTACT US

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GET IN TOUCH FOR ANY INQUIRIES, QUESTIONS & SUGGESTIONS

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## CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

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## OUR PARTNERS

