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SMALL ISLAND SOLUTIONS TO A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Kepulauan Seribu (Thousand Islands) is an ecologically sensitive chain of islands off the coast of Jakarta, Indonesia. The growing number of tourists and the islands' position as a catchment area for marine currents carrying plastic pollution from the mainland is significantly impacting the surrounding marine environment. During the rainy season up to 40,000 tons of garbage end up in the waters around the islands, much of it plastic waste.¹

The project Save our Small Islands works to increase plastics recycling and improve livelihoods by expanding the number of local participants engaged in the community-based solid waste management (SWM) system; improving the solid waste collection services provided by the government and the private sector; and linking informal waste collectors with the local recycling system. The initiative is implemented by Divers Clean Action, a youth-led organization engaged with over 1,000 young volunteers.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES, JOINING HANDS WITH BUSINESS

To promote and facilitate community-based SWM practices, the project provides training for community residents and business partners on how they can participate in the SWM system. The project also expands recycling services by connecting the informal sector to recycling companies and promotes the sale of goods in bulk to reduce the use of plastic packaging. The initiative builds on Divers Clean Action's existing partnerships with the private sector, including Danone-AQUA and H&M, to connect recycling efforts on the island with the recycling value chain in Jakarta and pursue the upcycling of plastic waste into fabrics and clothing.

STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENT COORDINATION AND CAPACITY

The Divers Clean Action team works closely with PPSU—the government entity responsible for handling solid waste collection and transport to the mainland of organic, recyclable, and residual/hazardous materials—to improve its collection and storage methods to foster better community cooperation and recycling. Through technical assistance and research, including data collection, household surveys, institutional analyses, market studies, solid waste management planning, and information, education, and communication campaigns, the project is reinforcing the capacity of the local environmental authorities to address the problem of post-consumer plastic waste entering the ocean.

¹ "10,000 tons of waste litters Pari Island." *Jakarta Post*. Accessed May 21, 2019. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2018/11/28/10000-tons-of-waste-litters-pari-island.html>

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Expanding recycling by households and small businesses**, especially in the tourism sector where recycling can generate employment.
- Piloting of **bulk stores that avoid plastic packaging**, which is especially important on small islands where the first step is to reduce the volume of plastics waste that must be managed.
- Improved coordination among SWM stakeholders in the region will enable the development of **effective SWM plans and regulations**.

PROJECT: Save Our Small Islands | **DURATION:** March 31, 2019 – July 31, 2021 | **IMPLEMENTER:** Divers Clean Action (DCA)
LOCATION: Kepulauan Seribu (Thousand Islands), Indonesia | **BUDGET:** \$195,262