

PARTICIPATIVE STRATEGIC PLANNING IN LASALIMU PANTAI VILLAGE,
BUTON REGENCY

**Enabling a group to accomplish its vision together for the future
and to create its own detailed action plan**

By: Yayasan Lestari Alam Indonesia (YLAI) staff

Lasalimu Pantai village is located on the east side of Buton island and is in the South Lasalimu sub district in Buton regency in South East Sulawesi. Lasalimu Pantai has a strong local neighborhood unit (RW). The community lobbied throughout their neighborhood to design a strategic plan for Lasalimu Pantai village. On the night of 9 April 2005, 25 neighborhood representatives consisting of 20 men and 5 women gathered at Mr. Dahlan's house to begin the participative strategic plan process which was facilitated by *Yayasan Lestari Alam Indonesia (YLAI)*.

The meeting began with a review of the Increased Living Standard for Farmers Program (P3MT) which had been running in Lasalimu Pantai village for 12 months. Then the community representatives determined strategies for their community for 2005. They spoke of their strengths and the obstacles that they will face and then they came up with three concrete strategies.

The first strategy was to form a Small Enterprise Cooperative (KUK) for equipment and harvesting machines, Farmers Enterprise Body (BUKP) for farming produce varieties and Village Economy Institute (LED) as a local finance center. The second strategy was to get four of the old KUK members to make two KUK groups and then form another new KUK group for those in the community who wish to join the P3MT activities. The third strategy was to vote and form a new board for LED using a voting method based on individual recommendations for credibility and cooperation in developing Lasalimu Pantai village. They made a deadline of one month to implement these strategies.

The 25 neighborhood representatives had a follow up meeting where they sat together to discuss local problems that are of concern and to exchange ideas on what participative action could be taken. The participants are people who are intent on implementing plans that will have positive outcomes.



The participative strategic planning process that was facilitated by YLAI refers to a standard process that was developed by the Institute of Culture Affairs (ICA) that consists of four half day meetings. This process uses a round table for brainstorming ideas and concepts, exploring ideas and opening up new dialogue and for decision making in order to sharpen the group consensus.

The four half day meetings covered the following:

- 1. *Practical Vision :***
This is the aim or vision of the group to eliminate poverty in Lasalimu Pantai village by managing local institutes professionally.
- 2. *Basis of various obstacles :***
These are the obstacles or problems that hinder the accomplishment of the above aim. What issues and obstacles must be addressed in order to accomplish the aim?
- 3. *Strategy direction :***
The strategy direction is a range of innovative actions that the group can do to address and overcome the obstacles in order to attain the vision.
- 4. *Implementation Plan:***
This is a series of practical actions that will guide the journey of the group from the start through to attainment of the aim. It is a broad outline that gambles on what has to be done, why, how and by who.

The outcome of the four half day meetings was well documented in a booklet on management of Sukamaju Enterprise, Dermaga Bersatu Small Enterprise Cooperative, Bisa Lestari Small Enterprise Cooperative and the Village Economy Institute groups.

