

“ ... all the information available at the moment indicates that Indonesia is fully capable of managing the habitat and species well

withdrawn. It was at this meeting that Indonesia was invited to submit the reports mentioned above.

‘Invited’ or ‘encouraged’ are not as gentle as they sound, of course, since failure to respond to the ‘invitation’ or ‘encouragement’ would, undoubtedly, bring with it serious consequences. Therefore, for ‘invited’ and ‘encouraged’ read ‘instructed’!

It has to be said that Indonesia has responded magnificently, producing a report that focusses on the six major areas agreed at CoP 17:

- > "availability of information on Banggai Cardinal Fish populations in its natural habitats and other geographic areas
- > "implementation of protection and preservation of Banggai Cardinal Fish and its natural habitats
- > "sustainable use and trade of Banggai Cardinal Fish
- > "improvement of human resources capacity to conserve and manage Banggai Cardinal Fish
- > "improvement of conservation governance
- > "implementation of restocking of Banggai Cardinal Fish population."

It is heartening to be able to report that progress has been made with regard to every single one of these six criteria. The degree of progress, obviously, varies between them, especially when one accepts that many of the measures being considered and implemented are long term ones. Nonetheless, progress is undeniable. It is therefore not surprising to hear that AC30 reacted so favourably to the extensive Indonesia report (see access details below). It is also not surprising that the AC wants to buy some more time (until, at least, AC31 in January 2020). All the signs are, however, that 2020 will mark further significant progress on this long-running and complex issue. As things stand at the moment, we can allow ourselves some cause for optimism. Will time prove this optimism to be justified? I think and hope so. ■

FURTHER READING

Indonesia's comprehensive and very professional report may be accessed at: [E-AC30-21-02.pdf](#)

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TESTIMONIAL...

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