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The joint outcome of a “community jury” workshop in North Sulawesi, Indonesia

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The Bunaken National Park (BNP) is a multiple-use marine national park in North Sulawesi, Indonesia. Decisions about how to balance the conservation, tourism, extractive and subsistence needs of different stakeholder groups of the BNP are challenging and often undermined by institutional failure. Most official organisations charged with managing the BNP must be supported and shadowed by multi-stakeholder collaborations that can buffer the impacts of institutional failure. This means attempting to build capacity within the community for making difficult decisions. An evaluation process – a “Community Jury” – was undertaken for the BNP with the primary purpose of providing a comparison to the results of a valuation exercise. A joint outcome of the evaluation process was the introduction of workshop participants to a community-level deliberative tool, and the empowerment of workshop participants, expressed through a declaration to undertake such a process for future decisions about matters of public importance. The community jury process is here described, and hypotheses are made about the role it played in supporting institutional arrangements for Park management.