



Indonesia Sustainable Development News Digest

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*The **Indonesia Sustainable Development News Digest** is a biweekly collection of summaries of articles related to conservation, the environment, and sustainability in Indonesia that have appeared in print or online in local, regional, and global English-language media. We welcome comments, suggestions, and corrections. To learn more about us and to access previous editions of the News Digest, please visit our website at www.starlingresources.com. If you would like to add colleagues or friends to our distribution list or unsubscribe, please contact us at newsdigest@starlingresources.com.*

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A. Marine and Fisheries

[Shrimp Exports to the US Are Still Subject to Dumping Tariffs Even if They Drop](#)

—BM Lukita Grahadyarini, *Kompas*, 28 October 2024

Indonesia's shrimp exports to the U.S. face challenges as anti-dumping duties were lowered to 3.9% from 6.3% after a U.S. Department of Commerce and International Trade Commission investigation into price discrimination. The probe, examining if Indonesian shrimp was sold below domestic prices, impacts the U.S., which accounts for 64% of Indonesia's shrimp exports. While no countervailing duties were applied due to insufficient subsidy evidence, anti-dumping duties remain. PT Bahari Makmur Sejati (BMS), one of the two reviewed Indonesian exporters, received a zero percent duty rate. The Indonesian Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries credits the outcome to collaboration with trade officials and the Indonesian Embassy in Washington. The shrimp sector, already struggling with an 8.1% decline in exports in 2024, partly due to lower U.S. demand, now faces additional strain. Indonesia is engaging in further negotiations to remove the anti-dumping tariff and is seeking alternative markets, including China, Japan, and South Korea, to stabilize the industry.

[BRIN encourages optimization of mangrove use for carbon trading](#)

—Sean Muhamad and Aditya Wicaksono, *AntaraNews*, 28 October 2024

Arief Darmawan, an engineer with Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), emphasized the need to optimize mangrove forests for carbon trading, given their substantial carbon sequestration capacity. Indonesia, holding the world's largest mangrove area of around 3.3 million hectares, could leverage these ecosystems as valuable assets in carbon markets. Mangroves, along with seagrass meadows and salt marshes, are key blue carbon ecosystems crucial for CO₂ absorption and storage. Darmawan highlighted that mangroves absorb three to five times more carbon than tropical forests, with 100 hectares capable of capturing up to 1,835 tons of tradeable CO₂ annually. He advocated for tailored mangrove

rehabilitation to enhance growth and emphasized identifying specific mangrove species suited for carbon trading. Such efforts, he suggested, could establish Indonesia as a carbon export leader, benefiting both the state and companies engaged in mangrove management. This initiative aligns with Indonesia's broader goals to enter the global carbon market and mitigate climate change.

Protecting coral reefs boosts fish numbers by 10%: Study

John Cannon, *Mongabay*, 25 October 2024

New research has found that the protection of coral reefs has boosted the amount of fish they harbor by around 10%. The scientists note their findings demonstrate that protections like marine protected areas (MPAs) are working and that greater coverage could lead to even more gains in fish biomass. However, only 8.4% of the ocean is under MPAs, with less than 3% fully protected. This research used data from 2,600 reefs and simulated the effects of removing protections, finding a 10% decrease in fish biomass. Expanding MPAs to 30% could increase fish biomass by 28%, aligning with the global 30×30 conservation target set by the U.N. Biodiversity Framework. Compliance, local involvement, and the choice of restrictions, such as simpler fishery regulations, were critical for success. Lead author Iain Caldwell emphasized the positive impact of current protections, and marine ecologist Kirsten Grorud-Colvert noted the importance of respecting Indigenous and community rights. These insights underscore the need for local context and cooperation in managing MPAs effectively.

Caldwell, I. R., McClanahan, T. R., Oddenyo, R. M., Graham, N. A., Beger, M., Vigliola, L., ... Cinner, J. E. (2024). [Protection efforts have resulted in ~10% of existing fish biomass on coral reefs](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 121(42), e2308605121.

Grorud-Colvert, K., Sullivan-Stack, J., Roberts, C., Constant, V., Horta e Costa, B., Pike, E. P., . . . Lubchenco, J. (2021). [The MPA Guide: A framework to achieve global goals for the ocean](#). *Science*, 373(6560).

Indonesia applies interventions in blue economy programs

—Sinta Ambarwati and Raka Adji, *AntaraNews*, 24 October 2024

Indonesia's Marine Affairs and Fisheries Minister, Sakti Wahyu Trenggono, is implementing government intervention to boost the marine and fisheries sectors, aligning with the government's blue economy initiatives. This strategy aims to

improve infrastructure and increase productivity among key fisheries players, thereby supporting national food security. Trenggono has previously applied this approach by developing a Modern Fishers' Village in Biak, Papua, transforming traditional fishing communities into productive hubs. He plans to enhance fisher and farmer welfare by raising the exchange rate—a measure of their purchasing power—from around 104–106 points to 200. Over his nearly four-year tenure, Trenggono has also launched sustainable aquaculture projects, including lobster farming in Batam, white shrimp farming in Kebumen, seaweed farming in Wakatobi, and salt-tolerant tilapia cultivation in Karawang. These initiatives are designed to increase productivity, strengthen food security, and elevate the economic status of those working in Indonesia's fisheries sector.

[Is the Vision of the World Maritime Axis Sinking?](#)

—BM Lukita Grahadyarini, *Kompas*, 21 October 2024

The Prabowo Subianto-Gibran Rakabuming Raka administration has shifted its focus from Indonesia's "global maritime axis" to food sovereignty, removing the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment. Prabowo's recent inauguration emphasized economic, political, and foreign policies but omitted maritime priorities, signaling a new direction toward becoming a "global food barn" with fisheries as a key food security element. A new coordinating agency for food aims to integrate land and sea resources for food self-sufficiency. Experts, such as IPB Professor Luky Adrianto, express disappointment, noting the absence of a dedicated maritime focus is a shift away from Indonesia's maritime heritage. The Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries will oversee maritime responsibilities, continuing the blue economy through expanded conservation, sustainable fisheries, and coastal monitoring. However, concerns remain about losing maritime emphasis in policies amid Indonesia's complex maritime challenges, climate issues, and natural resource conflicts. The administration aims to balance these priorities while involving farmers and fishers in achieving national food sovereignty.

B. Forests and Land Use

Forests' Ability to Absorb Carbon Declines, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Hit Record High

—Ahmad Arif, *Kompas*, 30 October 2024

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reports that greenhouse gas levels reached record highs in 2023, driven by high fossil fuel emissions and intensified forest fires that have reduced carbon absorption by forests. CO₂ levels now stand at 420 ppm, methane at 1,934 ppb, and nitrous oxide at 336.9 ppb, reaching 151%, 265%, and 125% of pre-industrial levels, respectively. This marks a 12th consecutive year of a CO₂ increase exceeding 2 ppm. The report warns that rising emissions and weakened carbon sinks put the world far from meeting Paris Agreement targets. WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo highlighted the urgent impact of each ppm increase, signaling an intensified risk of surpassing 1.5°C in global warming. WMO Deputy Secretary-General Ko Barrett added that climate change is creating a potential “vicious cycle,” where warming and forest fires could further increase emissions. The last time CO₂ levels were this high was 3-5 million years ago when Earth was warmer, with sea levels 10-20 meters higher.

Peat Ecosystems Increasingly Fragile and Prevention Weak, Land Fires in West Kalimantan Continue to Recur

—Emanuel Edi Saputra, *Kompas*, 29 October 2024

Peatland fires have worsened air quality in West Kalimantan, with fires recurring three times this year. The most recent blaze began in Pontianak City and Kubu Raya Regency on October 27, 2024, after a week without rain, producing smoke that spread ash across the area. Despite firefighting efforts, the fires persist due to dry conditions and the depth of the peat—up to 4 meters—which allows smoldering below the surface, often rekindling in hot, windy weather. The root causes of the fires include fragile peat ecosystems, land-use pressures, and inadequate prevention. Only rain can fully extinguish the fires, as the dry peatlands, largely degraded (80% of West Kalimantan’s peatland), are highly flammable. Local residents report the smoke’s pungent odor, with air quality in Pontianak and Kubu Raya reaching unhealthy levels, risking harm to health. Officials, including the Acting Mayor of Pontianak and the West Kalimantan BPBD, continue efforts to extinguish fires and warn landowners against open burning. The West Kalimantan Environmental Forum advocates for stronger prevention measures and law enforcement to protect the fragile peatlands.

[Indonesian forests pay the price for the growing global biomass energy demand](#)

—Victoria Milko and Yuri Kageyama, *AssociatedPress*, 27 October 2024

Large areas of Indonesia's forests are being cleared to meet the growing global demand for biomass, particularly from South Korea and Japan, which have invested millions to support biomass production in Indonesia. Since 2021, wood pellets produced from deforested lands are shipped mainly to these two countries. Indonesian authorities also plan to increase biomass use domestically, aiming to co-fire biomass with coal in 52 power plants. However, experts fear this biomass expansion will accelerate deforestation, worsen carbon emissions, and threaten biodiversity. Forest clearances for biomass plantations impact carbon-rich regions like Sulawesi, where thousands of hectares have been converted. Auriga Nusantara reported that 9,740 hectares were cleared in biomass production areas, endangering habitats of species like the Sumatran rhino and orangutan. While Indonesia's state utility claims biomass will come from organic waste, limited regulation and oversight raise concerns of continued forest loss. Environmental advocates urge a shift toward sustainable practices to protect Indonesia's forests from the surging biomass industry.

[Revealed: Biomass firm poised to clear Bornean rainforest for dubious 'green' energy](#)

—Hans Nicholas Jong, *Mongabay*, 21 October 2024

Indonesia's plan for increasing renewable energy production could see Indigenous communities lose huge swathes of their forests to biomass plantations. Ipu Angit, a Punan elder in Borneo, expresses deep concern over the potential destruction of his rainforest home for a biomass plantation by PT Malinau Hijau Lestari (MHL). As a significant source of food and resources for Ipu and his community, the forest's loss would jeopardize their livelihood. The push for biomass energy aims to reduce reliance on coal but threatens vast rainforest areas. A 2022 report warned that reaching biomass targets could require clearing over 1 million hectares of natural forest. While MHL claims to use degraded land, villagers argue that much of the land acquired remains forested. Reports indicate that MHL has secured land from several nearby villages, but many residents feel pressured into agreements without fully understanding the long-term impacts. Villagers in Long Loreh have resisted MHL's offers, citing inadequate compensation, outright land grabbing and prior failed promises from another company.

[Indonesia investigates suspected corruption in palm oil amnesty program](#)

—Hans Nicholas Jong, *Mongabay*, 17 October 2024

Indonesian prosecutors are investigating the Ministry of Environment and Forestry for suspected corruption linked to the palm oil industry, particularly regarding oil palm plantations within forest areas from 2005-2024. The attorney general's office stated that the corruption has led to significant economic losses. On October 3, 2024, investigators conducted a search at the ministry's building in Jakarta, seizing documents and electronic evidence related to the rezoning of forest areas. Experts believe the inquiry may focus on a government program that has allegedly allowed illegal plantations to operate with reduced fines. Indonesia has approximately 3.37 million hectares of oil palm plantations deemed illegal, accounting for a substantial portion of its palm oil production. The controversial Omnibus Law of 2020 has drawn criticism for minimizing penalties for illegal operators and allowing them to legalize their plantations through an amnesty scheme. Critics argue the government's blanket figure does not account for variability and the simplified formula for calculating fines significantly undervalues forest resources, resulting in substantial potential revenue losses for the state.

Suyanto, S., Nugroho, Y., Harahap, M., Kusumaningrum, L., & Wirabuana, P.Y. (2022). [Spatial distribution of vegetation diversity, timber production, and carbon storage in secondary tropical rainforest at South Kalimantan, Indonesia](#). *Journal of Biological Diversity*, 23(12).

C. Biodiversity, Conservation and Protected Area

[Indonesia study evaluates potential of alternative measures for biodiversity conservation](#)

—Andrea Daschner, *PhysScienceNews*, 29 October 2024

At COP16 in Cali, Colombia, member states are discussing the implementation of the 2022 global nature agreement's goal to protect 30% of the world's land and sea by 2030. A new study by the Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Research explores how alternative conservation forms, or other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), could help achieve this goal by complementing marine

protected areas (MPAs). Indonesia's coastal waters host 382 potential OECMs spanning over 10 million hectares, enhancing protection for key habitats like mangroves, seagrasses, and coral reefs. Unlike traditional MPAs, OECMs are often managed by Indigenous Peoples or local communities, providing ecological corridors that improve habitat connectivity and resilience to climate change. This study, led by a marine biologist Estradivari and consists of Indonesian, American and German scientists, found that incorporating OECMs with MPAs could increase Indonesia's marine conservation network by 13% by 2030. The findings highlight the socio-economic benefits of inclusive conservation, offering a model for other countries aiming to integrate OECMs into biodiversity conservation strategies.

Estradivari et al, Prospective ecological contributions of potential marine OECMs and MPAs to enhance marine conservation in Indonesia, *Ocean & Coastal Management* (2024). DOI: [10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2024.107411](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2024.107411)

COP16: Indigenous peoples call for recognition, support in protecting nature

—Kharishar Kahfi, *TheJakartaPost*, 28 October 2024

Indigenous communities worldwide are calling for recognition and support at COP16, the UN biodiversity conference in Cali, Colombia. The conference aims to finalize commitments made at COP15 in Montreal to protect biodiversity and the role of Indigenous peoples in conservation. However, progress on recognizing Indigenous contributions has stalled, prompting advocates like Monika Maritjie Kailey of Aru Islands to urge for acknowledgment of their work in safeguarding biodiversity against industries like sugarcane plantations and cattle farming. Limited national policies protect biodiversity, and existing regulations fail to adequately include Indigenous communities' rights. Advocates at COP16 criticized Indonesia's delegation for rejecting proposals to establish dedicated Indigenous support and funding, instead favoring central government control of resources. Activists are pushing for transparent, direct funding for Indigenous conservation efforts. With only five years left to meet the global 30x30 target, COP16 President Susana Muhamad highlighted funding as a major challenge, urging richer nations to fulfill their financial commitments to the Global Biodiversity Framework, which aims for \$200 billion in annual support by 2030.

UN biodiversity summit making 'very good progress': Officials

—AFP, *TheJakartaPost*, 26 October 2024

At COP16 in Cali, Colombia, UN negotiations are underway to develop funding and monitoring mechanisms needed to meet global biodiversity targets by 2030. The conference, themed “Peace with Nature,” runs from Oct. 21 to Nov. 1 and seeks to implement 23 goals outlined in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework established in 2022. COP16 president Susana Muhamad reported "very good progress" but noted resource mobilization as a major challenge due to differing views among parties. UN Secretary-General António Guterres called on the 196 signatories to act on their commitments, emphasizing contributions to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, which aims to reach \$200 billion annually by 2030. A key focus of COP16 is profit-sharing from genetic resources with Indigenous communities, with progress toward a “common vision” on this issue. With five years left to meet the 30x30 protection target, UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen stressed the urgency of halting biodiversity loss, highlighting the need for momentum in these critical discussions.

[UN biodiversity conference: what's at stake?](#)

—Benjamin Legendre, *TheJakartaPost*, 20 October 2024

The UN's COP16 biodiversity summit aims to implement the 2030 Global Biodiversity Framework, agreed two years ago, which includes 23 targets like protected areas, habitat restoration, and Indigenous rights recognition. However, meeting these targets remains challenging. COP16's primary focus will be establishing a robust monitoring mechanism to hold nations accountable, though the specifics are still undecided. Financial commitments are crucial, with rich countries pledging \$20 billion per year by 2025 and \$30 billion by 2030 to support biodiversity efforts in developing nations. Yet, only \$15.4 billion had been raised by 2022. Calls for an independent biodiversity fund from developing countries are contentious, as richer nations prefer single-fund solutions. Issues like biopiracy—using genetic resources without consent—remain complex, especially with the rise of digital genetic data. A global profit-sharing scheme may emerge, but questions around contributions and distribution remain unresolved. Indigenous communities seek greater recognition and direct support, emphasizing their role in conservation and protection of ancestral lands.

[Tangkahan: Between logging and tourism, sustainability hangs in the balance](#)

—Camilla Lowe, *TheJakartaPost*, 18 October 2024

The village of Tangkahan in North Sumatra, bordering Gunung Leuser National Park, is a conservation success story. In the 1990s, illegal logging for hardwood and oil palm plantations severely threatened the area. Environmental activists Muhammad Syukur “Sugeng” and forest guide Raniun “Wak Yun” collaborated to develop ecotourism as an alternative income source, founding the Tangkahan Tourism Association. Their efforts led former loggers to become forest rangers and tour guides, turning Tangkahan into a popular ecotourism destination. Today, Tangkahan’s tourism boom poses new challenges. During peak periods like Idul Fitri, large crowds disrupt the environment, and a lack of waste disposal facilities has led to litter in the park and surrounding areas. Additionally, locals worry about plans for a hydroelectric dam that could jeopardize the river and tourism. Despite these issues, ecotourism has safeguarded Tangkahan’s rainforest and wildlife, including orangutans and macaques, from deforestation, making it a model of community-led conservation in Indonesia.

D. Climate Change, Energy and Mining

[The Climate and Environmental Crisis Missed from Prabowo's Speech](#)

—Ahmad Arif, *Kompas*, 28 October 2024

Prabowo Subianto, the new Indonesian President for the 2024-2029 term, emphasized goals of food and energy self-sufficiency during his inaugural speech. He expressed confidence that Indonesia would become self-sufficient in food within 4-5 years, citing various sources for energy, including palm oil, geothermal, and coal. However, Prabowo's speech did not address the pressing planetary crises of environmental pollution, climate change, and biodiversity loss, despite a recent UN report indicating that current policies could lead to a 3.1°C increase in global temperatures. This increase poses significant risks to the environment and economy, making Indonesia's inadequate Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) concerning. The Indonesian Environmental Law Study Institute (ICEL) urged the government to consider these crises while pursuing self-sufficiency, especially with plans for extensive food estate projects. Past large-scale agricultural initiatives have often led to social and environmental harm, raising concerns about the sustainability of Prabowo's proposals. The call for a shift towards renewable energy and careful

consideration of the impacts of food and energy policies is crucial to avoid worsening Indonesia's environmental and social challenges.

[Report details fossil fuel threat to 'Amazon of the seas'](#)

—AFP, *TheJakartaPost*, 27 October 2024

A new report warns that fossil fuel exploration is endangering the Coral Triangle, a critical marine biodiversity hotspot covering over 10 million square kilometers across Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and other Indo-Pacific nations. Often referred to as the "Amazon of the seas," the Coral Triangle is home to three-quarters of the world's coral species, six of seven marine turtle species, and supports over 120 million people reliant on its resources. Yet, extensive oil, gas, and LNG expansion threaten this biodiversity, with 100 offshore production areas and another 450 blocks under exploration. The [Coral Triangle at Risk: Fossil Fuel Threats & Impacts](#) report, by Earth Insight, SkyTruth, and the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development, calls for a moratorium on fossil fuel activities in sensitive marine zones, noting that since 2020, satellites have identified 793 oil slicks, covering over 24,000 km². The authors urge the UN to designate the area as a "particularly sensitive sea area" and advocate for a rapid transition to clean energy, bypassing LNG as a transition fuel. The report coincides with COP16 discussions on achieving the Kunming-Montreal biodiversity goals.

[G20 affirms commitment to transition from fossil fuels](#)

—AFP, *TheJakartaPost*, 26 October 2024

G20 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to move away from fossil fuels after recent talks in Washington, aiming for a "just, orderly and equitable" transition by 2050 to achieve net zero emissions. The ministerial statement aligns with prior commitments from COP28 in Dubai, recognizing that the coming decade is essential to meet climate targets. Founded in 1999, G20 brings together 19 of the world's largest economies, including oil producers such as Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Russia, as well as the European Union and the African Union. The G20 discussions included foreign, finance, and climate ministers, and central bank governors, alongside IMF and World Bank meetings. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged wealthy G20 nations to strengthen their upcoming climate pledges, warning that the current rate of climate action could lead to a catastrophic 3.1°C warming this century. A UN Environment Program report stressed the need for immediate action to avoid

surpassing the critical 1.5°C threshold. G20 transition from fossil fuels is essential for global climate progress.

[Miners are razing forests to meet surging demand for metals and minerals, report says](#)

—Victoria Milko, *AssociatedPress*, 23 October 2024

A World Resources Institute (WRI) [report](#) reveals that global mining has surged since 2000, leading to significant deforestation, environmental degradation, and displacement of Indigenous and local communities. Between 2001 and 2020, mining caused the loss of nearly 1.4 million hectares of forests, including highly carbon-dense tropical rainforests, contributing 36 million tons of CO₂ emissions annually—equivalent to Finland’s fossil fuel emissions in 2022. Mining-driven deforestation affects biodiversity and climate regulation, exacerbating climate impacts and environmental disasters. Major deforestation contributors include Indonesia, Brazil, and the U.S., where coal and gold mining are primary drivers. Critical material extraction for tech products, such as Indonesia’s nickel and Congo’s cobalt, has also increased forest loss. Gold and coal mining alone contributed to over 70% of mining-related deforestation between 2001 and 2019. WRI calls for sustainable practices to reduce environmental harm, with expert Michael Goodsite advocating for advanced technologies, rehabilitation plans, and systematic monitoring in mining operations to meet mineral demands responsibly.

[Indonesia’s 2024 election: Navigating energy transition amid growth ambitions](#)

—Pratiksha Khanduri, *E3GNews*, 22 October 2024

Indonesia’s recent election saw former general Prabowo Subianto become the country’s eighth president, endorsed by outgoing President Joko Widodo. This transition, beginning at the close of Widodo’s decade in office, places Prabowo in charge of driving Indonesia’s climate commitments, particularly the implementation of Jakarta’s \$20 billion Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) aimed at reducing coal dependence. Indonesia, a major coal producer and high emitter, faces climate risks, yet its progress on climate action remains gradual. The nation’s economic ambitions, including OECD membership, require adopting strict environmental standards. Prabowo’s administration plans to prioritize biofuel programs, EV development, infrastructure, and foreign investment, with a focus on economic growth and youth employment. Indonesia’s 2022 enhanced climate targets commit to reducing emissions by 31.89% unconditionally and by 43.20% with international

aid by 2030, yet these are not aligned with the global 1.5°C target, according to the IESR. While renewable energy targets may be scaled back to 17-19% by 2025, eased local content rules aim to attract more green investment, though coal remains central to the energy mix.

E. Pollution and Waste

[Behind Indonesia's Hottest Daily Temperature Record in October 2024](#)

—Ahmad Arif, *Kompas*, 30 October 2024

October 2024 has seen exceptionally high temperatures in Indonesia, with a record daily maximum of 38.4 degrees Celsius reported at the Gewayantana Meteorological Station in East Flores on October 27. This year's monthly average temperatures are nearly one degree Celsius higher than the 30-year average, attributed to global climate change. The Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) noted similar highs across the country, with temperatures reaching 37-38 degrees Celsius in various regions. The current heat is influenced by the Sun's position directly over parts of Indonesia and a lack of cloud cover, exacerbated by the prevailing eastern monsoon winds. Long-term data indicates that 2024 is likely to be the hottest year on record for Indonesia, following the impact of a strong El Niño in 2023. Rising greenhouse gas emissions have contributed significantly to these temperature increases, with carbon dioxide levels reaching 420 parts per million, the highest in human history. This alarming trend signals greater risks associated with climate change, emphasizing the urgent need for action.

[Peat Fires in West Kalimantan, Air Quality in Pontianak and Kubu Raya Worsens](#)

—Emanuel Edi Saputra, *Kompas*, 28 October 2024

Peat fires have returned to West Kalimantan, causing unhealthy air quality in Pontianak City and Kubu Raya Regency on Sunday evening (October 27, 2024). This marks the third instance of such fires this year, with previous occurrences in July and September. A fire broke out in the Pontianak Tenggara District, with smoke detected across Southeast Pontianak, although visibility on main roads remained unaffected. The fires are attributed to dry weather conditions, and while the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) managed to extinguish the fire around 10 PM, it approached residential

areas, with flames estimated to be 150-200 meters away. The PMI team used a 2,000-liter water tank due to limited nearby water sources and remains on standby, deploying drones to monitor hotspots. As of Monday, air quality in Southeast Pontianak was reported as unhealthy, with similar conditions noted in Kubu Raya. The Meteorology Agency reported 31 hotspots across West Kalimantan, with potential rain predicted to help mitigate the fire risk beginning October 30. So far in 2024, 13,057.70 hectares have burned, primarily in non-forest areas.

[Indonesia's Environment Ministry plans to end waste imports this year](#)

—M. Riezko and Raka Adji, *AntaraNews*, 28 October 2024

Environment Minister Hanif Faisol Nurofiq announced plans to end waste imports this year, aiming to reduce the country's waste management burden and address health concerns. During a visit to the Bantargebang Integrated Waste Management Site in Bekasi, West Java, the Minister emphasized the need for waste-exporting countries to process their waste within Indonesia rather than merely shipping it there. He explained that imported waste often lacks full decomposition, creating additional environmental challenges. The minister outlined a five-year plan to focus on managing domestic waste, which has exceeded the country's capacity. In 2023, 38.21% of Indonesia's 38.2 million tons of waste remained unmanaged, underscoring the urgency of improving facilities like Bantargebang. Currently, this site holds over 55 million tons of waste and receives up to 8,000 tons daily from Jakarta. Plans are underway to convert waste into compost and fuel, a strategy that Nurofiq hopes to replicate nationwide. The initiative supports Indonesia's goals for public health, environmental sustainability, and a green economy.

[Melting Arctic Sea Ice Affects Global Ocean Circulation](#)

—Ahmad Arif, *Kompas*, 28 October 2024

The Arctic is warming at a rate three to four times faster than the global average, with temperatures projected to increase by 8-10 degrees Celsius by the century's end. This rapid warming is expected to alter ocean currents and lead to more extreme weather events. A recent study in *Nature Communications* indicates that historical increases in freshwater flow from melting Arctic sea ice into the Nordic Seas significantly affected ocean circulation, leading to temperature drops in northern Europe during the Last Interglacial Period (128,000-117,000 years ago). Lead author Mohamed Ezat emphasized the fragility of the planet's climate, warning that the current warming trend could result in ice-free summers in the Arctic Ocean by 2050.

Melting sea ice disrupts salinity and density, changing circulation patterns and heat distribution in the oceans. Furthermore, dozens of climate scientists have warned of the risk of massive changes in ocean circulation, which could have severe impacts globally. As Arctic sea ice continues to diminish, the implications for ecosystems, weather patterns, and freshwater availability could be profound.

Ezat, M.M., Fahl, K. & Rasmussen, T.L. [Arctic freshwater outflow suppressed Nordic Seas overturning and oceanic heat transport during the Last Interglacial](#). *Nature Communications* 15, 8998 (2024).

[World more prepared than ever for tsunamis: Experts](#)

—AFP, *TheJakartaPost*, 26 October 2024

Global readiness for tsunamis has significantly improved since the catastrophic 2004 Indian Ocean disaster, which claimed over 170,000 lives, thanks to advanced early warning systems and increased community preparedness, experts highlighted ahead of the tragedy's 20th anniversary. The United Nations now supports 1,400 global monitoring stations, drastically reducing warning times to just minutes after a tsunami forms. Bernardo Aliaga, UNESCO's tsunami resilience head, emphasized the importance of these systems in saving lives but cautioned that preparedness remains uneven worldwide. Through UNESCO's Tsunami Ready program, efforts focus on equipping coastal communities with essential awareness, evacuation plans, and response exercises, with a goal of ensuring 100% of at-risk areas are resilient by 2030. Preventative measures include ocean buoys that alert communities to possible tsunamis and familiarizing people with warning signs, such as a roaring sound before waves strike. Laura Kong from the International Tsunami Information Center stressed that while tsunamis remain unpredictable, minimizing their impact through preparation is vital.

F. Technology, Investment and Finance

[Forcing Prabowo's 8% growth 'risks economy overheating'](#)

—Deni Ghifari, *TheJakartaPost*, 29 October 2024

Indonesia's economy risks overheating if President Prabowo Subianto pursues 8% GDP growth annually, analysts caution, suggesting the economy lacks the capacity for such rapid expansion. An overheated economy can lead to inflation, rising interest rates, and currency instability. Currently, Indonesia's sustainable growth rate is around 5%, said BCA chief economist David Sumual, who likened the ambitious target to "forcing a car to go beyond its design limits." To achieve 8% growth, he noted, Indonesia would need a fivefold increase in foreign direct investment (FDI) from its current level of \$47 billion annually. Coordinating Economic Minister Airlangga Hartarto acknowledged that domestic consumption, which drives over half of GDP, is insufficient to support such growth. He emphasized boosting exports, FDI, and job creation, though specific strategies remain unclear. Analysts argue that Indonesia needs structural reforms, such as in education, healthcare, and infrastructure, which take time to implement. Economist Wen Wei Tan added that without these conditions, achieving 8% growth within Prabowo's first term is unlikely, although programs like housing construction could modestly boost GDP.

Energy Security and Digitalization Key to Indonesia's Economic Growth

—Arnoldus Kristanus, *JakartaGlobe*, 29 October 2024

The Indonesian government is focusing on long-term economic growth through energy security, digitalization, and natural resource industrialization, according to Deputy Minister of Finance Thomas Djiwandono. He emphasized that these themes are crucial for identifying growth engines and attracting global investors. The Finance Ministry is also exploring new growth sources in sectors like infrastructure, tourism, and digitalization. The government aims to keep the budget deficit below 3%, with a target of 2.53% for next year. Current efforts are geared towards creating job opportunities for youth and supporting the middle class. The Finance Ministry projects economic growth of 5.1% by the end of 2024, slightly below the 5.2% target in the 2024 state budget but higher than the 5.05% recorded in 2023. The Central Statistics Agency reported a 5.05% economic growth rate for Q2 2024, while the World Bank has upgraded its GDP growth forecast to an average of 5.1% from 2024 to 2026. President Prabowo Subianto aims to achieve 8% GDP growth in his first three years.

Prabowo Leads Cabinet Meeting to Address Challenges Facing the Textile Industry

—Mita Amalia Hapsari, *JakartaGlobe*, 29 October 2024

President Prabowo Subianto met with ministers from the Red and White Cabinet at the Presidential Palace in Jakarta to address challenges facing Indonesia's textile industry, specifically focusing on textile giant Sri Rejeki Isman (Sritex). Chief Economic Affairs Minister Airlangga Hartarto stated that the president's directive was for Sritex to continue operations while the government seeks technical solutions. Initial steps include ensuring Sritex can maintain its import-export activities. Discussions are ongoing about potential emergency funding for Sritex, which has been declared bankrupt by the Semarang Commercial Court. Airlangga emphasized the importance of keeping Sritex operational to preserve jobs for its 50,000 workers. The Industry Ministry recently released its monthly industrial confidence index, which registered 52.48 in September, indicating slight expansion in the manufacturing sector, despite ongoing layoffs in textiles. The Manpower Ministry reported that 42,863 individuals were laid off as of July, with significant job losses attributed to the influx of cheaper Chinese imports. To protect the domestic industry, the government has extended safeguard tariffs on textile imports for three years.

Indonesia blocks Apple iPhone 16 sales over lack of investment

—AFP and TheGuardian Staff, *TheGuardian*, 28 October 2024

Indonesia has banned the marketing and sale of the iPhone 16 due to Apple's failure to comply with local investment regulations, according to the industry ministry. Despite having a tech-savvy population of over 100 million people under 30, Apple lacks an official store in Indonesia, forcing customers to rely on resale platforms. The ministry's spokesperson, Febri Hendri Antoni Arif, stated that Apple's local unit has not met the requirement for 40% of phones to be manufactured with local parts. Apple must invest in Indonesia and source local materials for iPhone components to fulfill this obligation. The company had previously committed to investing 1.7 trillion rupiah but has only invested 1.5 trillion as of earlier this month. While approximately 9,000 iPhone 16 units have entered the country legally, selling them commercially is prohibited. Indonesia has used similar bans to promote domestic production in the past, achieving mixed results. In the second quarter, the smartphone market was dominated by Chinese brands Xiaomi, Oppo, Vivo, and South Korea's Samsung. Apple's CEO, Tim Cook, visited Indonesia in April to explore investment opportunities.

'No doubt' Nusantara megaproject will continue, govt vows

—Ni Made Tasyarani, *TheJakartaPost*, 25 October 2024

The Nusantara Capital City (IKN) project remains a priority for Indonesia's new administration, despite its absence from President Prabowo Subianto's inauguration speech. The project, initiated by former President Joko Widodo in 2019, aims to establish a new capital in Kalimantan, easing Jakarta's overcrowding and sinking issues. Officials reassured the public of Prabowo's commitment to the project, with IKN Authority spokesperson Troy Pantouw and Forestry Minister Raja Juli Antoni confirming continued development. The 466 trillion rupiah (\$30.82 billion) project, projected to finish by 2045, relies on significant private investment, with 20% of funding from the state budget. Immediate efforts will focus on setting up judiciary and legislative compounds, with toll roads connecting Nusantara to other Kalimantan cities underway. Finance Minister Thomas Djiwandono noted public facilities are a priority, but budget adjustments are possible. Analysts expect slower progress, with Prabowo's other priorities potentially affecting the project's pace. The private sector's involvement will likely depend on consistent government commitment to infrastructure and relocation, critical to spurring local economic growth and attracting investment.

G. Human Rights, Indigenous People and Gender Equality

East Kalimantan, IKN, Land Control, and Eroded Local Wisdom

—Sucipto, *Kompas*, 25 October 2024

Mining and plantation expansions in East Kalimantan have eroded indigenous wisdom and traditional land-use practices, according to a study by the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN). Researchers, led by I Made Geria, studied six villages in Penajam Paser Utara and Kutai Kartanegara, areas impacted by mining and oil palm plantations. Indigenous communities like the Dayak and Paser tribes previously had a strong relationship with nature, performing rituals such as *belian* and *nondo*, which use natural resources sustainably. However, forest and land conversions to plantations and mining sites have diminished access to clean water and forced some residents to abandon traditional livelihoods. While the new Capital City of Nusantara aims for eco-friendly design, experts warn that

development without adequate cultural and environmental safeguards may further erode indigenous practices. In response, the East Kalimantan government is working on a High Conservation Value Areas roadmap to balance economic growth with environmental sustainability in the palm oil sector.

[New abuse allegations hit China ghost ships in Indonesia waters](#)

—Philip Jacobson, *Mongabay*, 25 October 2024

Labor abuses on foreign-flagged fishing vessels in Indonesia's eastern seas are ongoing, heavily impacting Indonesian crew members amid weak law enforcement, according to [Kejahatan Perikanan di Indonesia Timur](#) report, published on October 3. Crew member Sanusi, aboard the Russian-flagged Run Zeng 03, reported receiving spoiled food and contaminated water, leading to desperate conditions where crew members jumped overboard in April. Most were rescued, but one man drowned. Despite increased awareness of maritime criminality since the Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of forced labor in Southeast Asia, abuses continue, particularly on vessels like those operated by Dalian Ocean Fishing. Earlier this year, 27 Indonesian workers were dismissed and left near Dobo harbor with minimal severance pay. The Run Zeng 03 was seized by authorities in May after an international operation, while its sister ship initially evaded capture. The vessels are owned by Donggang Runzeng Ocean Fishing Co. Ltd., which has faced numerous labor disputes and lawsuits. The report raises concerns over missed opportunities by Indonesian officials to investigate the vessels while docked.

[Indigenous advocates lament decade of failures by Indonesia's Jokowi](#)

—Hans Nicholas Jong, *Mongabay*, 24 October 2024

When Joko Widodo became Indonesia's president in 2014, he was seen as a transformative leader committed to environmental stewardship and Indigenous rights. He promised to pass an Indigenous rights bill, which aimed to legally recognize Indigenous rights and establish frameworks to resolve land conflicts. This commitment earned him the endorsement of the Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN) in his 2014 campaign. However, by the end of his presidency on October 20, 2024, Jokowi had not fulfilled these promises, leaving the Indigenous rights bill stalled in parliament for over a decade. His administration prioritized economic development over Indigenous welfare, leading to widespread land conflicts and criminal persecution of community members. AMAN recorded 687 land conflicts over 11 million hectares of Indigenous lands during his tenure. On

October 11, 2024, activists protested in Jakarta, demanding accountability for Jokowi's policies harming Indigenous communities. With the new president, Prabowo Subianto, activists urge immediate action to pass the Indigenous rights bill and rectify the injustices faced under Jokowi's administration, emphasizing the need for Indigenous representation in decision-making processes.

Prabowo Heralds an Uncertain Future For Fundamental Freedoms in

Indonesia

—Rosalind Ratana and Cornelius Damar Hanung, *TheDiplomat*,

23 October 2024

Indonesia's recent presidential inauguration of Prabowo Subianto on October 20 marks a critical shift, raising concerns over the protection of civil liberties. The former general's controversial human rights history is compounded by recent reports of state repression against peaceful protestors, particularly youth, climate activists, and community members opposing rapid development projects. Cases of violence, allegedly involving both authorities and vigilantes, remain largely unaddressed, fostering a climate of impunity. In August, protests erupted against the Regional Election Bill, seen as supporting President Jokowi's son's political aspirations. Komnas HAM documented 159 arbitrary detentions, and protesters faced police force, including tear gas and water cannons. Journalists were also reportedly intimidated and assaulted while covering the events. On September 27, plainclothes thugs disrupted a climate protest in Jakarta. Similar incidents have targeted Indigenous communities opposing development projects, such as the Poco Leok villagers in East Nusa Tenggara. Human rights organizations, including FORUM-ASIA, have called on the government to address this ongoing repression to preserve democratic freedoms and ensure justice for victims of state violence.

Indonesia: New government must ensure accountability for human rights violations

—News Desk, *AmnestyInternational*, 18 October 2024

Amnesty International Indonesia urges Indonesia's new government under President Prabowo Subianto to prioritize human rights, highlighting abuses under outgoing President Joko Widodo's administration. Despite progress in infrastructure, the Widodo era saw widespread rights violations, with Indigenous groups, journalists, and activists facing repression, especially under the Electronic Information and Transaction (EIT) Law, which criminalized dissent. Amnesty recorded 454 attacks on human rights defenders and 521 EIT charges from 2019 to 2024. Human rights

concerns include forced land seizures affecting Indigenous communities in East Nusa Tenggara, Papua, North Sumatra, and East Kalimantan, often without consultation or fair compensation, and worsening environmental degradation. The Trans-Papua Highway and food estate projects in Papua have been particularly contentious. Violence continues in Papua, with unlawful killings by state forces contributing to ongoing conflict. Amnesty calls on Prabowo to honor Indonesia's human rights commitments, address past abuses, and ensure justice for victims. Without accountability, Amnesty warns Indonesia risks repeating its troubled human rights history, urging Prabowo's administration to uphold justice, transparency, and Indigenous land rights.

I. RI General Elections

[Allegations of Village Head Mobilization in Central Java Regional Elections, What are the Sanctions if Proven?](#)

—Prayogi Dwi Sulisty, *Kompas*, 28 October 2024

The Ministry of Home Affairs is investigating alleged campaign activities involving village heads in Central Java during a recent gathering at a hotel in Semarang. The event, which reportedly mobilized support for specific candidates in the upcoming regional elections (Pilkada), was attended by about 90 village heads who quickly dispersed when Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) officers entered. This is the second instance of such a gathering, with a similar event on October 17 in the West Semarang area involving around 200 village heads. Bawaslu officers have reported these activities to provincial authorities for further investigation. Under Regional Election Law, Article 71 Paragraph 1, state officials, members of the TNI/Polri, village heads and other civil servants are prohibited from participating in campaign activities, and violators face penalties of up to six months in prison and a fine of up to Rp 6 million. The Ministry of Home Affairs has reiterated the importance of neutrality for civil servants in elections, emphasizing sanctions for those who do not comply.

[East Java election: All-women race for NU votes](#)

—Dio Suhenda, *TheJakartaPost*, 27 October 2024

Former governor Khofifah Indar Parawansa is leading in East Java's gubernatorial race, with polls indicating her as the frontrunner among 31 million voters in Indonesia's second-largest regional election. Khofifah, backed by eight parties, including the influential Nahdlatul Ulama (NU)-aligned coalition, has strong ties to NU through her past role in its women's wing, Muslimat NU. Her opponents, PKB's Luluk Nur Hamidah and PDI-P's Tri Rismaharini, face challenges in rallying NU supporters, crucial for success in the region, where NU holds significant influence. Khofifah's campaign emphasizes her achievements as governor, including boosting East Java's rice production. In contrast, Luluk, a former House lawmaker, focuses on free education to combat poverty, while Risma highlights anti-corruption efforts and a people-centered economy. The race also reflects recent strains between NU and PKB, following disputes involving NU leadership. Experts note Khofifah's NU association could grant her a strategic advantage over her rivals, despite NU's traditional PKB support base.

New President Subianto swears in Indonesia's largest Cabinet since 1966, with 109 members

—Niniek Karmini, *AssociatedPress*, 21 October 2024

Indonesia's new President Prabowo Subianto inaugurated the nation's largest Cabinet since 1966, with 109 members, signaling his intent for a "strong government." Named the "Red and White Cabinet" after Indonesia's flag colors, the lineup includes ministers, vice ministers, and heads of national agencies from a coalition of seven supporting parties, alongside several figures from former President Joko Widodo's Cabinet, as a political nod for Widodo's election support. Subianto, a longtime rival who eventually allied with Widodo, won the February election by promising to continue key policies, such as the multibillion-dollar new capital project and domestic industry protections. Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati, a respected figure who has served under three presidents, was reappointed to help drive Subianto's economic targets, including an ambitious 8% growth goal. Other returning ministers include Tito Karnavian, Zulkifli Hasan, and Erick Thohir. Subianto's administration also aims to increase defense spending, boost civil servant salaries, and launch a free meals program for 83 million children, reflecting his broader spending agenda.

Former president Jokowi asked to campaign for local election candidates

—News Desk, *TheJakartaPost*, 21 October 2024

After leaving office with a high approval rating, former President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo returned to his hometown, Surakarta, Central Java, where several regional election candidates quickly sought his support. Among the visitors were Central Java gubernatorial candidate Ahmad Luthfi, Surakarta mayoral candidate Respati Ardi, Karanganyar regent candidate Ilyas Akbar Almadani, and East Java deputy governor candidate Emil Dardak. These candidates are affiliated with the Onward Indonesia Coalition (KIM), backing the new administration of President Prabowo Subianto and Vice President Gibran Rakabuming Raka, Jokowi's son. Although many candidates asked Jokowi to campaign for them, he humorously replied that he wanted to rest but remained open to future involvement, saying, "Let's wait and see." His endorsement remains powerful, as his loyal "Jokowers" supporters could significantly influence upcoming elections. Despite expressing a desire to retire in Surakarta, some speculate Jokowi may continue to exert political influence as an informal advisor to the new administration.

[Who is Prabowo Subianto, the former general who becomes Indonesia's new president?](#)

—Victoria Milko, Niniek Karmini and Edna Tarigan, *AssociatedPress*, 18 October 2024

Prabowo Subianto, a wealthy former general with ties to Indonesia's authoritarian past, will be inaugurated as president, succeeding the popular Joko Widodo. Subianto, Widodo's former defense minister, has pledged to continue his predecessor's modernization agenda, which has driven rapid economic growth. However, his controversial human rights record and connections to the Suharto dictatorship raise concerns about Indonesia's democratic future. During the election, Subianto presented himself as Widodo's successor, choosing Widodo's son as his vice-presidential running mate, stirring worries about political dynasties. While he campaigned on defending the people and maintaining loyalty to the nation, he has offered few specifics about his plans. Human rights groups have long criticized Subianto's alleged involvement in abuses during Indonesia's East Timor occupation and his role in the Suharto regime's repression. Although he has denied these allegations, Subianto's close ties with influential business interests and former hard-line groups continue to stir debate. Despite concerns, he won a decisive 59% of the vote, reflecting strong support among Indonesian voters.

II. Indonesia in Geopolitics

[Indonesia and Russia to hold first joint naval drills](#)

—AFP, *TheJakartaPost*, 29 October 2024

Indonesia and Russia will conduct their first joint naval exercises from November 4 to 8 in the Java Sea, near Surabaya, East Java, signaling Indonesia's intention to strengthen ties with Moscow. Indonesia's new President Prabowo Subianto, who has pledged a bolder international stance, visited Russian President Vladimir Putin in July and maintained a neutral stance on the Ukraine conflict and U.S.-China power competition. The drills, confirmed by Russian Ambassador Sergey Tolchenov, aim to enhance naval capabilities rather than target any rival power. Russia will contribute three corvette-class warships, a tanker, helicopter, and tugboat. Despite Indonesia's neutral position, Prabowo's 2023 proposal for Ukraine peace—suggesting demilitarized zones and referendums—received criticism from Kyiv. Indonesia continues to advocate for peaceful resolutions, as evidenced by former President Joko Widodo's visits to Kyiv and Moscow in 2022. Recently, Indonesia also began its process to join the BRICS economic bloc, reflecting its growing alignment with Russia, Brazil, India, China, and South Africa in global economic initiatives.

[Israeli attack on Iran violates international law: Indonesia](#)

—Cindy Frishanti Octavia and Yashinta Difa, *AntaraNews*, 26 October 2024

Indonesia condemned Israel's recent airstrikes on Iranian military targets as violations of international law, urging restraint to avoid further regional instability. The Foreign Ministry emphasized that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories is the core issue driving Middle Eastern conflicts, calling for a two-state solution to establish lasting peace. Indonesia urged the UN Security Council to act immediately to end hostilities, including alleged acts of genocide in Gaza and attacks on UN peacekeeping forces, while stressing the need to end the occupation. The escalation began with Israel's October 1 airstrikes, a response to Iran's missile attacks following the recent killings of Hamas and Hezbollah leaders. Earlier this year, tensions mounted when Israel bombed the Iranian Embassy in Syria, killing high-ranking officials, leading Iran to retaliate with drone and missile strikes on Israel.

[Indonesia wants to join BRICS, ministry says](#)

—Stanley Widiyanto and Lincoln Feast, *Reuters*, 25 October 2024

Indonesia has announced its intent to join BRICS, a major emerging economies group representing 35% of global output, to bolster the influence of developing countries, its foreign ministry stated during the ongoing BRICS summit in Kazan. Foreign Minister Sugiono emphasized that joining BRICS aligns with Indonesia's independent, non-aligned foreign policy, focusing on active participation rather than bloc affiliation. President Prabowo Subianto, inaugurated recently, has reiterated Indonesia's commitment to maintain friendships globally, including with both China and the U.S., without joining any military alliances. Sugiono noted that BRICS aligns well with Prabowo's policy priorities—such as food and energy security, poverty reduction, and human resource development—and serves as a platform to advance Global South interests. Though some analysts question the tangible benefits of joining BRICS over bilateral relations, they agree that Indonesia aims to avoid being left behind in global alliances. Indonesia also intends to join the OECD within the next two to three years to attract more investment and trade opportunities.

[Indonesia says its coast guard drove away Chinese ship that interrupted survey in disputed sea](#)

—Edna Tarigan, *AssociatedPress*, 24 October 2024

Indonesian patrol ships repelled a Chinese coast guard vessel from approaching the survey ship MV Geo Coral in disputed waters of the South China Sea twice this week, according to Indonesia's Maritime Security Agency. The incidents interrupted a seismic survey by Indonesia's state-owned PT Pertamina in an area both countries claim. China's Foreign Ministry stated the vessel was conducting "routine patrols" within Chinese jurisdiction, citing the "nine-dash line" that defines China's extensive South China Sea claims, which overlap with Indonesia's exclusive economic zone near the Natuna Islands. Although Indonesia has no formal territorial dispute with China, it has reinforced its rights in the North Natuna Sea as Chinese vessels frequently enter the area, raising tensions. A released video shows coast guard officers disputing the Chinese vessel's presence, asserting it was within Indonesia's waters. Indonesia pledged to continue patrols to protect its sovereignty. Tensions over the South China Sea have escalated as China's claims have faced challenges from neighboring countries and the U.S., despite a 2016 ruling invalidating much of China's maritime claims.

[Prabowo: A Thousand Friends Too Few, One Enemy Too Many](#)

—Luki Aulia, *Kompas*, 20 October 2024

In his inaugural speech, President Prabowo Subianto reaffirmed Indonesia's commitment to a non-aligned foreign policy, prioritizing a friendly approach with all nations while supporting anti-colonialism and the independence of oppressed people. Prabowo highlighted Indonesia's historic experiences with colonization as a foundation for solidarity with oppressed communities, emphasizing ongoing support for Palestine, including medical aid in Gaza. Global leaders congratulated Prabowo, expressing hopes for strengthened partnerships. China's President pledged to deepen the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two nations, while Dutch Prime Minister and Malaysian Prime Minister affirmed close bilateral cooperation. Singapore's Prime Minister and UK Foreign Minister highlighted priorities in green growth, security, and sustainability. Australian Deputy PM underscored Indonesia as a key partner. Collectively, these leaders view Indonesia as essential to regional stability and global environmental efforts.