



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 which 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*

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A. Marine & Fisheries

[Indonesia issues long-delayed rules to protect migrant fishing workers](#)

—Basten Gokkon, *Mongabay*, 14 June 2022

Indonesia has issued a much-anticipated decree to boost protection of Indonesians working aboard foreign commercial and fishing vessels, including distant water boats. The regulation adopts working conditions standards based on the global convention on work in fishing by the UN International Labour Organization, introduces collective bargaining agreements, and establishes an integrated database on migrant workers covering related government agencies. The decree comes in the wake of a lawsuit filed on 31 May by three former migrant deckhands against the government for failing to ratify the regulation by 2019 as required under the 2017 migrant worker law. The draft decree had been stuck in limbo for years awaiting signatures from multiple ministries. Former migrant deckhands from Indonesia have reported abusive and even deadly working conditions on board foreign vessels, including overwork, withholding of wages, debt bondage, and physical and sexual violence, forcing some workers to cut short their contracts, forfeiting the deposits they were typically required to pay to get the jobs.

[US risk losing supply of seafood from Indonesia to China due to overly stringent import controls](#)

—Mark Godfrey, *Seafood Source*, 7 June 2022

Suppliers of Indonesian seafood to US markets increasingly are turning to the China market due to increased focus on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and labour abuse issues in the US, according to Jerry Knecht, founder and former owner of US-based North Atlantic Inc. “The US has made the process of importing seafood so complicated ... that Indonesian processors prefer less-complex Asian buyers,” Knecht said. “We have to have FIPs, social audits and labour contracts. Indonesian processors are saying they can sell to [South] Korea with no complications.” Knecht blames NGO pressure for moves by the US government to tighten enforcement of labor issues aboard Asian fishing vessels. Meanwhile, Indonesia's seafood sector is increasingly absorbing investment from China, in part due to clampdowns on illegal fishing, which he says is forcing Indonesian suppliers to look to China where demand for premium seafood is rising rapidly as a primary market. Knecht said NGOs should support “quiet efforts” to rescue victims of forced labour rather than politicizing the issue.

[Phytoplankton calamity in Bima Bay](#)

—Dini Pramita, *Tempo English*, 13 June 2022

Explosive phytoplankton growth has turned the waters of Bima Bay on Sumbawa Island into a vast puddle of brown jelly-like matter. Local fishers stopped going out to sea in April. Initial suspicions pointed to the possibility of oil spillage from tankers or a leak from underwater oil pipes. But research confirmed explosive growth of *Bacillariophyceae* phytoplankton of up to 100 billion cells per liter, higher than the worst historic phytoplankton overflows in Jakarta Bay, likely caused by nitrate and phosphate nutrients in the water from agricultural wastewater in the Bima area, stimulated by higher sea temperatures. Outbreaks of the phytoplankton can form in large areas, covering the sea surface, reducing oxygen levels and causing mass death of fishes. According to Aisyah Hadi Ramadani, of the Indonesian Biology Foundation, the provincial government does not currently require monitoring for concentrations of phosphates and nitrates in wastewater. “This is the first time this has happened, so we don’t have experience in dealing with it.

Indonesia and US collaborate to preserve fish supply and protect Indonesian fishers’ livelihoods

—Swiny Andina, USAID (Press Release), 3 June 2022

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) has been collaborating with Indonesia’s Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) since 2016 to pilot technology to measure, monitor and manage fish stocks. USAID SNAPPER has helped the KKP bring 26.5 million ha of biologically-significant areas under improved management, trained more than 900 people in methods for collecting data on size, catch, and species for the snapper and grouper fisheries, and implemented at-sea data collection programs in all 11 of Indonesia’s Fisheries Management Areas (WPPs) to provide reliable data for the top 50 deep water snapper-grouper fisheries. The program consults with communities and companies to prevent overfishing and to enhance fisheries regulation and controls. USAID partners with the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Walton Family Foundation to co-fund USAID SNAPPER. Indonesia has the largest snapper and grouper production in the world, catching 119,000 tonnes each year to supply world markets.

Walton Family Foundation poll finds Americans want sustainable seafood

—Chris Chase, *SeafoodSource*, 7 June 2022

A Walton Family Foundation poll found that a majority of Americans want assurances that the seafood they’re eating has been sustainably caught or raised. The survey by Morning Consult found that 72% of consumers support increasing the traceability of seafood and considered sustainability to be the second-most important factor in purchasing seafood after price, while 60% said they would be less likely to purchase seafood if slave labour was involved and 58% that they would be less likely to buy if illegal fishing were a factor. “The challenges of climate change intersect with building resilient food systems in our world’s oceans,” Walton Family Foundation Environment Program Director Moira McDonald said in a media release. “Americans want to know where the seafood they eat comes from and that responsible fishing practices are being used,” McDonald explained. “We need industry and government to work together to strengthen our systems so that fishers who are doing the right thing are not at a competitive disadvantage.” 163

Indonesia investigating report that Navy asked for payment to release tanker

—Joe Brock, *MarineLink*, 12 June 2022

<https://www.marinelink.com/news/indonesia-investigating-report-navy-asked-497263>

Gen. Andika Perkasa, Commander of Indonesia’s National Armed Forces (TNI) said he is investigating a Reuters report that navy officers asked for a payment of US\$375,000 to release a fuel tanker detained on suspicion of anchoring illegally in its waters. Naval officers at Batam naval base near Singapore requested the unofficial payment to release the Nord Joy fuel tanker, security sources involved in the negotiations told Reuters. The incident follows Reuters reports of a dozen similar detentions last year in which ship owners made unofficial payments of about US\$300,000 each and the vessels were released. “It’s really embarrassing if it’s true,” Andika reportedly said on the side-lines of the Shangri-La Dialogue, a security summit underway in Singapore. On 10 June, Rear Admiral Arsyad Abdullah, the Indonesian

naval fleet commander, told reporters that no payments had been requested and that the Nord Joy was still being detained under investigation.

B. Forests & Land Use

[Satellite data show deforestation surging in Sumatra's Tesso Nilo National Park](#)

—Zamzami, Morgan Erickson-David, *Mongabay*, 9 June 2022

Tesso Nilo National Park, ostensibly a sanctuary for wildlife, including critically endangered Sumatran tigers and elephants, is under threat. Officially declared a national park in 2004, Tesso Nilo lost 67% of its primary forest between 2010 and 2021. While the rate of deforestation slowed after 2012 due to expanded conservation efforts, data from the University of Maryland (UMD) on Global Forest Watch show that deforestation rate in the park nearly tripled between 2020 and 2021. New satellite imagery suggests the trend is accelerating this year, with huge swathes of the park's remaining primary forest cleared in 2022. Most of the deforestation is due to illegal development of large-scale plantations to grow oil palm and other tree crops. Yuliantony, Executive Director of the Nesso Nilo Foundation, said reduced conservation efforts during the pandemic contributed to acceleration of forest loss, adding that record high prices for palm oil are now driving encroachment. "Verbal reports tell of unabated land clearing for oil palm planting, Yuliantony said.

[President Widodo: Indonesia reduces forest fire losses to only 358,000 ha in 2021](#)

—Fajar Pebrianto, *Tempo English*, 26 May 2022

Indonesian President Joko Widodo highlighted Indonesia's achievement in fighting forest fires at the recent 7th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bali. The president noted that the worst forest fires in Indonesia's history occurred over 1997-1998 when over 10 million ha of land was burned. Since then, "Indonesia has succeeded in reducing forest fire [loss] from 2.6 million ha [in 2015] to only 358,000 ha in 2021." This success was partly based on the restoration of 3.4 million ha of peatland and the revitalizing and maintenance of 3.3 million ha of mangrove forest, the president explained. The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) is an international forum aimed at accelerating implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, a global collaboration.

[Extractive industries multiply impacts and social fractures in Indonesian Borneo](#)

—Elizabeth Fitt, *Mongabay*, 13 June 2022

Industrial logging, rubber and oil palm plantations, and coal mining—these snowballing impacts of extractive industries have divided local communities and destroyed livelihoods in parts of Kalimantan, according to a new study. "Communities who had their land 'grabbed' by previous phases of industrial land use will experience cumulative impacts of intensified extraction without necessarily deriving any benefits," lead author Tessa Toumbourou of the University of Melbourne said. Some landscapes in East Kalimantan have been transformed from thriving primary forest to bare rock, passing through successive stages of logging, monocrop plantation and then open-cast coal mining. Most of the region falls somewhere on that trajectory, with just 15% still under intact primary forest. The study, focused on a pseudonymous village, found that once land is released for one form of industrial extraction, deals are struck between companies and the government for successive permits, leaving communities to face the damaging effects as industrial logging, plantations and mining degrade ecosystems they inhabit, leading to food and livelihood insecurity.

Paper: Tessa D. Toumbourou et al, "[Plantations enabling mines: Incremental industrial extraction, social differentiation and livelihood change in East Kalimantan, Indonesia](#)". *Land Use Policy* 119, August 2022. doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2022.106157.

[Oil palm plantations are the usual suspects as unusual burning razes West Sumatran peatlands](#)

—Hans Nicholas Jong, *Mongabay*, 2 June 2022

Fires have swept large swaths of carbon-intense peatland forest in Sumatra in areas which usually only see smaller, controlled fires. The fires, which appear to have been set in and around oil palm plantations, burned 6,168 ha of peatlands in Pesisir Selatan Regency, West Sumatra between January 28 and April 23, according to satellite data. While Sumatra is a hotspot for fires, provinces like South Sumatra, Riau and Jambi typically experience the largest fires—set deliberately to clear land ahead of planting, while West Sumatra historically had fewer and smaller fires set by farmers. Since the entire burned area is peatland, environmental activists have called for an investigation. The burned area is surrounded by large industrial oil palm plantations, according to David Gaveau, founder of the technology consultancy TheTreeMap. After forest areas are burned, they are classified as degraded under zoning regulations. While the forest area is legally off-limits for plantations, degraded areas can be rezoned for cultivation, including for oil palm plantations.

Opinion: Indonesia's green belt — protecting and restoring mangroves

—André Rodrigues de Aquino, *The Jakarta Post*, 13 June 2022

Indonesia harbours the largest area and diversity of mangrove ecosystems in the world. Mangroves support coastal livelihoods through fisheries; protect the country's coasts; and store 3.14 billion tonnes of CO₂, playing a significant role mitigating global climate change. World Bank research found that Indonesia's mangroves are worth approximately US\$15,000 per ha, with some locations near developed coastal areas worth US\$50,000 per ha due to their role in flood protection. Yet mangroves are regularly lost and converted to other uses, including aquaculture, agriculture, and infrastructure. Mangrove conversion leads to biodiversity loss and significant greenhouse gas emissions. Indonesia has committed to restore 600,000 ha of mangroves by 2024, but restoration is costly and has high failure rates. Based on Indonesia's National Mangroves Map (2022), over 90% of Indonesia's mangroves are in "good condition", suggesting there is ample room for conservation. Mangrove restoration needs to be anchored in "integrated landscape management" and must go beyond planting seedlings to include hydrological works to re-establish tidal flows and allow for mangrove seeds to disperse.

André Rodrigues de Aquino is a Senior Natural Resources Management Specialist at the World Bank's Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice.

C. Conservation & Protected Areas

West Papua's Raja Ampat archipelago is a key nursery for young reef mantas

—Basten Gokkon, *Mongabay*, 9 June 2022

Wayag lagoon in Indonesia's Raja Ampat archipelago is a globally rare nursery for juvenile reef manta rays (*Mobula alfredi*), a new study has found. Visual observations from 2013 to 2021 show juvenile reef mantas were repeatedly encountered without the presence of adult mantas, spending months at a time inside the lagoon and never venturing out. Confirmation of three other potential *M. alfredi* nurseries in Raja Ampat which are potential *M. alfredi* nurseries would solidify the status of two Indonesian marine protected areas—Raja Ampat and Komodo National Park—as key sanctuaries for reef mantas. Reef mantas are classified as "Vulnerable" to extinction by the IUCN Red List, "The authorities are already revising management of the lagoon", said Edy Setyawan, a marine scientist at the University of Auckland and a co-author of the study. "In the manta nursery zone, tourists and visitors will still be allowed to view and interact with the manta rays under a strict code of conduct, but no fishing is allowed, Setyawan said.

Paper: Edy Setyawan, Mark V. Erdmann, Ronald Mambrasar, et al, "[Residency and use of an important nursery habitat, Raja Ampat's Wayag lagoon, by juvenile reef manta rays \(*Mobula alfredi*\)](#)", *Frontiers in Marine Science* 9, 26 May 2022, doi:10.3389/fmars.2022.815094

Indonesian official charged but not jailed for trading in Sumatran tiger parts

—Junaidi Hanafiah, *Mongabay*, 7 June 2022

Ahmadi, the former head of Bener Meriah Regency in Aceh Province, who was previously convicted of corruption, has been charged for allegedly selling the hide and bones of a critically-endangered Sumatran

tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*), but was released from detention shortly after being charged. Observers said this treatment is emblematic of one of the root causes of Indonesia's wildlife trafficking problem: the fact that perpetrators are often influential figures such as politicians or military officers. Despite the jail term and fines prescribed in Law 5 of 1990 on Conservation of Living Resources and Ecosystems (The Conservation Act), offenders are rarely prosecuted and when they are, typically receive token sentences far below the maximum, which critics say fails to create a deterrent effect. Aceh province is believed to hold about half the world's remaining population of Sumatran tigers. "The extinction of the Sumatran tiger will affect the functional sustainability of forest ecosystems," said Rasio Ridho, Director-General of Law Enforcement at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

[Indonesia teams up with Germany on Sumatran rhino breeding efforts](#)

—Basten Gokkon, *Mongabay*, 3 June 2022

Indonesia's Bogor Institute of Agriculture (IPB) and Germany's Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (Leibniz-IZW) are cooperating to advance the science and technology for captive-breeding of critically endangered species in Indonesia, starting with the Sumatran rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*). Indonesia today has nine Sumatran rhinos in two sanctuaries, one in southern Sumatra's Way Kambas and another in the Kelian forest in eastern Borneo. A third facility is being developed in the Leuser ecosystem in northern Sumatra. The last Sumatran rhinos in Malaysia went extinct in the wild and in captivity in 2019, leaving an estimated 30 individuals in Indonesia as the last of their species. "Sumatran rhinos are now on the brink of extinction, so we have to act very fast," said Steven Seet, head of science communication at Leibniz-IZW. "What we can't do is trial and error because the material is too precious, and as we're working against time, we have to take the opportunity to save the species."

D. Energy, Mining, & Climate Change

[Draft Indonesia renewables bill slammed for including coal-based fuels as "new energy"](#)

Stefanno Sulaiman and Stanley Widiyanto, *Reuters*, 8 June 2022

Environment experts slammed a parliamentary proposal for a bill aimed at promoting renewables which prominently features development of coal-based energy. The draft bill proposes classifying coal bed methane, coal liquefaction, and coal gasification as sources of "new energy" alongside nuclear and hydrogen power. Indonesia has signed up to a global pledge to phase out the use of coal, the most polluting fossil fuel, seen as a key to cutting emissions and holding global warming below 1.5° C, and has also pledged to reach net-zero emissions by 2060. Indonesia is the world's biggest exporter of thermal coal, a major source of government revenue. Coal also powers about 60% of Indonesia's electricity output, compared to 12% from renewables. The Institute for Essential Services Reform (IESR), an energy research group, said that the draft bill accommodates the interests of the coal industry "which wants to continue to gain market share when the market for coal-based electricity generation declines". Indonesia's state utility PLN has pledged to retire all coal power plants by 2056.

Policy Brief: Frenky Simanjuntak, Mohamad Nasir, Ahmad Muhaimin, "[The Role of Coal in the Energy Transition in Indonesia's National Energy Plan \[RUEN\]](#)", *Publish What You Pay Indonesia*, 13 June 2022.

[Indonesia woos Tesla with green energy](#)

—Vincent Fabian Thomas and Divya Karyza, *The Jakarta Post*, 11 June 2022

In order to attract foreign investment by multinational firms conscious of their carbon footprint, Indonesia has proposed that Tesla build a factory in Batang Regency, Central Java, with the capacity to produce 500,000 electric vehicles (EV) annually, Coordinating Minister of Maritime Affairs and Investments Luhut Pandjaitan disclosed. The site is close to geothermal power sources with 400 MW of electric generating capacity. "We could ... channel this green energy [to Tesla's factory], Luhut told lawmakers. Indonesia has become increasingly protective of its "new and renewable energy" (*energi baru terbarukan*, or EBT) as it steps up commitment to decarbonizing the economy, including making the energy transition the

focus of its Group of 20 leadership. In May, the Ministry of Investment (KI/BKPM) called for a ban on export of electricity from EBT sources, raising questions about projects for export of renewable energy, including a deal to export solar-generated electricity from Batam, Riau Islands to Singapore that has already been signed by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR).

[Tropical Forests Credit Integrity guide offers help to companies shopping for quality carbon credits](#)

—Maxwell Radwin, *Mongabay*, 10 June 2022

Forest carbon credits allow companies to offset their carbon emissions by paying for the conservation of forests. A newly-published Tropical Forest Credit Integrity (TFCI) guide provides support to companies seeking to purchase high-quality tropical forest credits. The voluntary carbon market has been criticized for allowing companies to continue to emit greenhouse gases, with some calling it a “license to pollute”. But as long as credits are being created, purchased, and traded, there is a need for strong recommendations for companies seeking best practices, the guide says, urging companies not to use forest credits to replace other emissions reduction strategies but rather to complement them and ensure that creation of credits prioritizes the rights of indigenous and local communities as well as women and other underserved groups by treating them as partners. The guide was funded by the Bezos Earth Fund. Authors include the Environmental Defense Fund, Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, the Wildlife Conservation Society, World Resources Institute, WWF, IPAM Amazônia, and others.

E. Pollution & Waste

[Opinion: Indonesia should take a leadership role in negotiating the Global Plastics Treaty](#)

—Aristyo Rizka Darmawan, Bella Nathania, *Mongabay*, 8 June 2022

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) has passed a draft resolution creating a legally-binding international instrument to end plastic pollution. Indonesia is one of the world’s biggest producers of plastic, generating around 7.8 million tonnes annually, more than half mismanaged. The country is also the second-largest marine polluter after China, contributing to 10% of the world’s marine pollution. In light of the significant threat posed to Indonesia’s environment by plastic waste and Jakarta’s commitment to reduce 70% of plastic waste by 2025 under its National Plan of Action on Plastic Waste, Indonesia should take a leadership role in creating a legally-binding treaty to reduce global plastic pollution. Initial steps could include creating an inclusive forum of stakeholders to formulate Indonesia’s position in negotiating the treaty; acknowledgement of the full life-cycle of plastic; and taking a strong position on producers’ responsibility for plastic pollution. Top global plastic polluters include multinational companies such as Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Nestlé, and Unilever, so a global effort to hold multinational companies responsible is needed.

Aristyo Rizka Darmawan is a lecturer in international law at the University of Indonesia. Bella Nathania is a researcher at the Indonesian Center for Environmental Law (ICEL).

F. Investment & Finance

[Indonesia’s SDGs financing gap reaches US\\$ 1 trillion](#)

—*Voice of Indonesia*, 23 May 2022

The financing gap for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Indonesia is estimated at US\$1 trillion, according to Vivi Yulaswatri, expert staff of the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas for Social Affairs and Poverty Reduction, who was speaking at a Group of 20 (G20) side event. “Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the global annual financing gap for the SDGs had reached US\$ 2.5 trillion, but this widened to US\$4.2 trillion due to the pandemic, Vivi said. To close this gap, countries are looking to mixed financing combining investment from the government and the private sector to realize SDG goals. In 2020, Asia accounted for 36% of mixed financing-related transactions, mainly conducted in Vietnam, Myanmar, and Indonesia. “We have created a sustainable ecosystem by

producing a sustainable finance roadmap, green taxonomy, mapping SDGs investors, Indonesia Impact Fund, and mainstreaming SDGs in corporate investment and government policies,” the expert staff said.

Sector Paper: AGR13 Fund—Supporting the mobilisation of funds from commercial banks to finance forest conservation and sustainable agriculture in Indonesia

—IDH the sustainable trade initiative, April 2022

Deforestation and fires linked to oil palm expansion threaten Indonesia's tropical forests and protected landscapes, cause losses of endemic species, and contribute globally to significant greenhouse gas emissions. Farmers and agribusinesses are often best placed to implement the solutions required to bring about change in the sector, but shifting to more sustainable, deforestation-free agricultural production in key sectors, such as palm oil, requires significant amounts of finance directed at sustainable business models and production practices. But Indonesia still has a significant funding gap to reach broader sustainability targets. In collaboration with IDH and its partner banks, AGR13 aims to support mobilisation of commercial finance toward sustainable production in key agricultural sectors in Indonesia—particularly palm oil. The report analyses the critical interventions and financing needs in the palm oil sector as well as the resources available to help producers shift to practices that conserve forest areas, implement sustainable agriculture, and support rural livelihoods, providing details of intervention areas and examples of potential financing models to mobilize finance in each.

G. Other

Australian Prime Minister Albanese pledges US\$482 million for ASEAN, Indonesia

—Erwida Maulia, *Nikkei Asia*, 6 June 2022

On a visit to Jakarta, Australia's new prime minister Anthony Albanese pledged to make relations with the country's largest neighbour a foreign policy priority and announced an aid package for Southeast Asia of A\$670 million (US\$482 million) as he seeks to deepen engagement with the region at the center of a new Indo-Pacific security campaign. Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest economy, will receive a grant of A\$200 million for infrastructure and climate resilience, while the remaining A\$470 will be disbursed to the ten members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) through bilateral and regional assistance programs. Albanese and Indonesian President Joko Widodo discussed plans to accelerate implementation of the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IACEPA) and discussed strengthening their agriculture sectors and food security as Russia's war in Ukraine has disrupted supply chains and sent global food prices soaring. Albanese said his government will work with superfunds and major investors to explore investment opportunities in Indonesia, which is “on track to be one of the world's five largest economies.”

President Widodo names Zulkifly Hasan as new Minister of Trade

—Agencies via *The Jakarta Post*, 15 June 2022

President Joko Widodo announced a cabinet reshuffle, appointing a new trade minister following controversy over policy flip-flops over palm oil exports. The new minister, Zulkifly Hasan, is a former Minister of Environment and Forestry and chairman of the National Mandate Party (PAN). The reshuffle comes after former trade minister Muhammad Lutfi came under pressure over efforts to contain surging cooking oil prices, which including a shock three-week ban on palm oil exports by the world's biggest exporter of the edible oil and arrests of Trade Ministry officials. Minister Lutfi blamed a “palm oil mafia” for undermining government efforts to contain cooking oil prices. [Zulkifly Hasan] will be good as trade minister,” the president said. “Right now for food problems, the people need someone experienced, someone who goes to work on the ground directly.” Indonesia produces about 60% of the world's palm oil. Widodo also appointed Hadi Tjahjanto, a former head of the Indonesian military (TNI) to be the new Minister of Agrarian and Spatial Planning, and introduced three new deputy ministers.

I. Indonesia's presidency of the Group of 20

Russia and Ukraine laud Indonesia's stance amid conflict

—Yvette Tanamal, *The Jakarta Post*, 10 June 2022

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/indonesia/2022/06/09/russia-ukraine-laud-indonesias-efforts-amid-conflict.html>

The Russian and Ukrainian governments have praised the stance and efforts by Indonesia, which holds the Group of 20 (G20) presidency and will host the summit later this year. Russian Ambassador to Indonesia Lyudmila Vorobieva said she was appreciative of Indonesia's commitment to remaining neutral and impartial in this conflict, but reiterated that Russian President Putin's "special military operation" was necessary and would not cease unless Ukraine was willing to negotiate on the basis of Russia's demands. At the same time, Ukrainian Ambassador to Indonesia Vasyl Hamanianin said he was grateful that Indonesian President Joko Widodo took the war very seriously. In an online briefing, Ambassador Hamanianin quoted President Widodo in Indonesian, noting that "[the President] has said that the war in Ukraine has to stop because it endangers the world, war brings misery to mankind and puts the world at risk." Ambassador Hamanianin added that "negotiations will start immediately [only] after the defeat of the Russian Federation in this war."

Indonesia shifts G20 focus from global energy transition to energy security

—Fadhil Haidar Sulaeman, *The Jakarta Post*, 8 June 2022

Indonesia's office of the Coordinating Economic Minister has vowed to focus on energy security in the first round of G20 sherpa track working groups as the war between Russia and Ukraine and sanctions on Russia exacerbate increases in global energy prices. Indonesia's G20 presidency originally focused on three pillars: global healthcare architecture, digital transformation, and the energy transition [from fossil-based to net zero carbon emissions by 2050]. "Now, however, it is not only about the energy transition [but also] energy security, Deputy Coordinating Minister Edi Prio Pambudi said, explaining that because of the war in Ukraine, some G20 member states were considering re-allocating significant portions of their energy transition budgets to energy security. As a result, Indonesia as G20 president faces a severe challenge in balancing the need for energy transition as its main agenda point with the need for energy security. "When we talk about climate change [and] reducing carbon emissions, [other G20 members] want to return to [fossil fuel] energy to maintain their energy security," Edi added.

G20's US\$14-trillion economic stimulus reneges on emissions pledges

—Jonas M. Nahm, Scott M. Miller, and Johannes Urpelainen, *Nature* 603 (3 March 2022)

Members of the Group of 20 (G20) largest economies are spending unprecedented amounts to escape the recession caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, more than US\$14 trillion in 2020 and 2021—close to China's annual gross domestic product (GDP). Much of that went to shoring up health-care systems, wages and welfare, but promises for climate action were not met. Overall, only US\$860 billion or 6% of total stimulus spending by G20 governments was allocated to areas that will also cut emissions, and almost 3% of stimulus funding has targeted activities that are likely to increase global emissions, such as subsidizing the coal industry. Global emissions must peak within four years to avoid catastrophic climate change, but current rates of green investment are not enough to reach 'net zero emissions' by 2050 and limit warming to 1.5 °C. The EU and South Korea led in focusing their investing on ways to reduce carbon emissions, but countries relying heavily on fossil fuels often boosted sectors that increase emissions, including South Africa, Indonesia, China, and India.

Tourist fee uproar breaks the calm of Borobudur

—John McBeth, *Asia Times*, 8 June 2022

As foreign tourists trickle back to Indonesia, Coordinating Minister of Maritime Affairs and Investments Luhut Panjaitan created a furor by announcing plans to charge domestic tourists Rp 750,000 (US\$52) to visit Central Java's iconic Borobudur temple complex, a 1400% increase over the current Rp 50,000 and half the new US\$100 fee imposed on foreigners, who previously paid only US\$12-25 to enter one of the world's largest Buddhist temples near Yogyakarta. "We are taking these measures purely to preserve the rich historical and cultural values of the archipelago," Luhut said in announcing the proposed price

increase, which is to compensate for a new limit on those permitted to climb the temple to 1,200 people. But within days a public outcry forced the coordinating minister to postpone the decision to carry out an immediate review of the tariff. Borobodur attracted more than 5 million visitors a year, compared to 6.3 million who visited Bali in 2019, and the number of daily visitors can reach as many as 300,000 during holidays.

II. Advance manoeuvring for Indonesia's 2024 presidential election

Ganjar Pranowo's 2024 electability rating continues to climb, polls show

—Yerica Lai, *The Jakarta Post*, 11 June 2022

Central Java Governor Ganjar Pranowo's electability rating ahead of the 2024 presidential election continued to rise. A new poll by Saiful Mujani Research and Consulting (SMRC) found that Ganjar's popularity had risen 4.4% to 22.5%, up from 18.1% in March. Ganjar topped the four-candidate survey, followed by Defense Minister and two-time Gerindra Party candidate Prabowo Subianto and Jakarta Governor Anies Baswedan, who saw their own electability ratings slide by 0.1% and 1.2%. The survey also found that a third of the 71.9% of respondents who approve of President Joko Widodo's administration would vote for Ganjar, who led other candidates in another survey released 9 June by Poltracking. Like President Jokowi Ganjar is a member of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P), whose leaders support the candidacy of Puan Maharani, daughter of PDI-P Chairwoman and former president Megawati Sukarnoputri.

President Widodo drops broadest hint yet about his preferred successor

—John McBeth, *Asia Times*, 29 May 2022

Risking confrontation with ruling Indonesian Democratic Party for Struggle (PDI-P) leader and former president Megawati Sukarnoputri, President Joko Widodo dropped the broadest hint yet that he will endorse Central Java Governor Ganjar Pranowo as his preferred successor for the 2024 presidential election. With Pranowo sitting in front of him at a "Projo" (Pro-Joko Widodo) working meeting on 21 May, Widodo said "Speaking of politics, let's not be hasty, even though the one we may support [in 2024] is actually here." This will have upset Megawati, who has been grooming her daughter, parliament speaker Puan Maharani, as the running mate to Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto, head of the Great Indonesia Movement Party. A week later, PDI-P secretary general Hasto Kristiyano revealed that Megawati had invited Widodo her to meet "at a special place" to discuss the party's 2024 ticket, making it clear that Widodo's role at their meeting would be as a PDI-P cadre, a reflection of Megawati's refusal to see him as anything but a party functionary whom she helped win election.

III. The state of Covid-19 in Indonesia

Indonesia detects first four cases of Omicron subvariants BA.4, BA.5

—Nina A. Loasana and Dio Suhenda, *The Jakarta Post*, 11 June 2022

Indonesia announced its first cases of the highly transmissible Omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5 as the country experiences an uptick in cases following the Idul Fitri holiday season in May. Health Ministry spokesperson Mohammad Syahril said one case of the BA.4 subvariant and three cases of BA.5 had been detected, all linked to an international event in Bali. "The patients, one Indonesian and three foreigners, were all fully vaccinated," Syahril said. Three of the patients are asymptomatic and one is suffering mild symptoms. Studies have found that the BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants can evade immunity from prior infection and vaccination. Indonesia's Covid-19 weekly caseload increased from 1,794 cases to 3,394 over the past two weeks, while active cases increased from 3,715 to 4,341. However, positivity stands at just 1.1%. The Home Ministry lowered pandemic curbs in all cities and regencies except one—Bintuni Bay in West Papua—to level one, the lowest in the four-tiered public activity restriction (PKKM) system. 160

Vaccination is key to curbing recent Covid-19 spike, says epidemiologist

—Antara news via *Tempo English*, 12 June 2022

Increasing vaccination coverage is the key to curbing the recent spike in the Covid-19 caseload in Indonesia, epidemiologist Pandu Rioni from the Medical School of the University of Indonesia (UI) on 11 June. “The key is increasing vaccination coverage as much and as quickly as possible, ranging from administration of the first dose to the booster dose. “With higher immunity rate in the community, the current case rates and mortality rates hopefully can be lowered,” he said, adding that it is important for the government to keep reminding the public about the importance of wearing masks, keep physical distance, and washing hands so they are aware of the importance of health protocols, he said. Earlier, Minister of Health Gunadi Sadikin said the positivity rate and community transmission of Covid-19 in the country over the past three weeks is still relatively safe. The positivity rate—the proportion of positive Covid-19 cases among all people tested—is below 5%.