



Indonesia Sustainable Development News Digest

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*The **Indonesia Sustainable Development News Digest** is a biweekly collection of brief summaries of English-language articles related to conservation, environment and sustainability that have appeared in print or online in Indonesian, regional or global media. We welcome all comments, suggestions, and corrections.*

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A. The Covid-19 Crisis in Indonesia

[Indonesia greets Ramadan with mass prayer as Covid-19 activity curbs are eased](#)

—Yuddy Cahya Budiman, *Reuters*, 3 April 2022

Thousands gathered after dusk on 2 April at Istiqlal Mosque in Jakarta to welcome the start of the holy fasting month of Ramadan in the world's largest Muslim-majority nation, donning masks and using check-in apps to participate in the event. The plateauing of coronavirus cases is allowing for eased restrictions this year. Since 2020, Indonesia has grappled with one of the highest rates of Covid-19 in Asia, but this Ramadan, traditionally a time for community, reflection and prayer, cases have eased enough to allow for mass prayers and the annual *mudik* or exodus tradition, when millions travel to visit their families across the sprawling archipelago. "The improving Covid situation has brought optimism as the Ramadan holy month is upon us," President Joko Widodo told a news conference. The start of Ramadan, during which observers abstain from food and drink from dawn until sunset, can fall on different dates according to differences in sightings of the new moon.

[Demand for Covid booster shots picks up in anticipation of 'mudik'](#)

—Nina A. Loasana, *The Jakarta Post*, 2 April 2022

Public demand for Covid-19 vaccines, particularly booster doses, has picked up after a series of conflicting announcements about who would be permitted to engage in the Idul Fitri tradition of *mudik* (exodus) this year. On 23 March President Joko Widodo said "Muslims can hold congregational *tarawih* (Ramadan evening prayers) and gather to pray at mosques, [and those who] also want to go on *mudik* are welcome to do, as long as they have received a booster shot." The demand for Covid-19 booster doses increased by 21% the following week. But last week Lt. Gen. Suharyanto, head of the National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) said those who have not yet received a booster shot or completed their primary vaccination courses would still be allowed to travel. "Domestic travellers who have received two vaccine doses must show a negative antigen test taken 24 hours before their trip, or a negative PCR test taken a maximum of three days before the trip", Suharyanto said.

[New Indonesia Covid-19 cases dropped to 7 per 100K people over last week, 5% of February peak](#)

—*Reuters World Coronavirus Tracker*, 5 April 2022

Covid-19 infections are decreasing in Indonesia, with the average daily number of new reported cases over the past week falling to 3,004 or 7 per 100,000 population in the country, just 5% of the peak daily average on 20 February. There have been 6,019,981 cases and 155,288 coronavirus-related deaths since the pandemic began. The country has administered at least 379,419,843 doses of Covid vaccines so far, enough to have double-vaccinated 70.1% of the total population.

At the current rate, it will take a further 43 days to administer enough doses to reach another 10% of the population.

[G20 chair Indonesia seeks standardised health requirements for international travel](#)

—Stanley Widiyanto, *Reuters*, 28 March 2022

Group of 20 chair Indonesia has begun talks on standardising health protocols for travel, stressing the importance of harmonising rules as global travel resumes after the Covid-19 pandemic, Minister of Health Budi Gunadi Sadikin said at a news conference. G20 member countries are preparing to roll out a global website to scan and verify travellers' vaccination status. All G20 members support the rollout, according to Setiaji, an aide to the minister, but China will not participate yet "due to technical reasons". Indonesia has proposed that standardisation must adhere to the Covid-19 policies of different countries, including which vaccines, tests, and testing authorities would be recognized, Minister Budi said. Indonesia has also discussed streamlining protocols with ASEAN and the EU. Garrett Mehl, head of the World Health Organization's Digital Health Technology unit, said standardising health protocols is crucial because currently certificates issued in different countries are not compatible with each other. A standardised system "would ensure that certification would be functional in another country and be trusted and verifiable."

B. Marine & Fisheries

[Bakamla prepared to take on greater security role under new regulation](#)

—Yerica Laii, *The Jakarta Post*, 3 April 2022

Indonesia's Maritime and Security Agency (Bakamla) will play a greater role as the coordinating agency for maritime security, Bakamla chief Vice Admiral Aan Kurnia said. Government Regulation (PP) No. 13/2022, aimed at improving inter-institutional coordination among various government stakeholders on maritime security and safety, mandates Bakamla to lead maritime law enforcement operations; act as the official government representative in international forums on maritime security; and coordinate with other stakeholders in investigating law violations at sea. Kurnia expressed hope that Bakamla would have integrated functions similar to the coast guards of developed nations. Besides the Navy, the Transportation Ministry currently runs the Coast and Sea Guard (KPLP), while the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, the Customs and Excise Agency, and the National Police each have their own divisions dealing with maritime security and enforcement, which often causes confusion due to overlapping roles. Ultimately the government plans to revise the 2014 Maritime Law to give Bakamla a stronger mandate as Indonesia's coast guard institution.

[Indonesia's twelve Marine Zones to be completed in 2024](#)

—Diana Mariska, [TheIndonesia.id](#), 23 March 2022

The Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment (Kemenko Marves) has targeted completion of zoning plans for twelve inter-regional marine areas by 2024. Rasman Manafi, Deputy Assistant for Marine Spatial Management Coordination for Kemenko Marves, said the zoning plans will subsequently be regulated in a presidential regulation (PerPres). As laid out in Government Regulation (PP) No. 32/2019 on Marine Spatial Planning, the zoning plan for inter-regional areas including seas, straits, and bays must be regulated in a PerPres. Three such regulations have been issued in 2022 on the zoning plans for the Java Sea, Sulawesi Sea and Tomini Bay in Sulawesi. The government is working on zoning plans for Natuna and the North Natuna Sea; Bali Sea; Halmahera Sea; Seram Sea; Maluku Sea; Flores Sea; Sawu Sea; Malaka Strait; Bone Bay; Cendrawasih Bay; Sumatra Western Sea; Southern Java, Bali and Nusa Tenggara Seas; and the Papua Northern Sea. The zoning plans will be used as references for granting business permits.

[Aquaculture start-up Delos secures US\\$8 million Seed extension financing round](#)

—Alpha JWC Ventures, 23 March 2022

Delos, an Indonesian aquaculture-tech company founded in 2021, has raised US\$8 million in a seed extension financing round co-led by Centauri, a collaborative fund between MDI Ventures and KB Investment Co., Ltd. and AlphaJWC Ventures, a Southeast Asian venture capital fund. Delos seeks to drive growth and modernization of Indonesia’s aquaculture and its integration into global seafood supply chains. “Indonesia is the third-largest exporter of shrimp in the world, but the market is still highly fragmented and stuck with legacy inefficient farming practices that have been around for decades,” said Eko Kurniadi, a partner at Alpha JWC Ventures. Kenneth Li, Managing Partner of Centauri Fund, argues that the shrimp industry is the largest contributor to Indonesia’s overall fishing industry due to higher selling price of shrimp. In its initial months of operation following the first seed round, Delos has worked to develop its main product lines, AquaHero, a full-stack farm productivity system using enhanced data collection methods and a cutting edge biological model to predict and mitigate harvest risk; AquaLink and Aquabank.

[WCPFC Pacific bluefin tuna quota increase was too hasty](#)

—Ding Yutian, *China Dialogue Ocean*, 29 March 2022

The decision by participants in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) to increase the catch quota for Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*) by 15% last December was premature and inconsistent with trends for other tuna species in WCPFC-managed waters. The biomass of bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) remains at historically low levels. Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) stocks have slightly improved, but the data used to estimate Pacific bluefin stocks comes mainly from longline boats from Japan, which also takes 78% of the bluefin quota. Bluefin is classified as “Near Threatened” in the IUCN Red List, while bigeye tuna is classified as “Vulnerable”. The impacts on bigeye fisheries are most severe in the tropical Western Pacific waters managed by the WCPFC, where juvenile bigeye tuna suffer particularly high fishing mortality. With the erosion of commercial fish species populations by industrialized fishing, hopes for a healthy ocean may be long gone, but looking back only a decade and concluding that quotas can be increased takes us even further away from that goal.

C. Forests & Land Use

[FSC-certified Moorim Paper linked to massive forest clearing in Indonesia’s Papua](#)

—Hans Nicholas Jong, *Mongabay*, 28 March 2022

PT Plasma Nutfah Marine Papua (PNMP), a subsidiary of the South Korean paper company Moorim, cleared more than 6,000 ha of natural forest for its pulpwood plantation between 2015 and 2021, according to a report by the Environmental Paper Network (EPN) and other NGOs. The Moorim subsidiary reportedly cleared the forests without obtaining free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) of indigenous and local communities. Moorim has denied these allegations, but the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), which certifies the company’s paper products as sustainably sourced, says it has begun assessing the case to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to indicate violation of its policies.

Report: Environmental Paper Network et al, “[Trashing the last rainforest: How Papua treasures are being dumped into the wastepaper bin](#)”, *Environmental Paper* (March 2022),

[Indonesia’s Riau province declares state of emergency ahead of fire season](#)

—Suryadi, *Mongabay*, 5 April 2022

Riau province governor Syamsuar declared an emergency alert for forest and land fires extending to November 2022 following emergency status declarations by the Riau districts of the Meranti Islands and Bengkalis. Most of Riau is expected to experience peak dry season conditions

between May and June, but fire hotspots and incidents have already begun to spread in the province, according to Riau's weather and climatology agency (BMKG). Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) data show that fires in Riau have already burned across 421 ha. Boy Jerry Even Sembiring, executive director of Walhi Riau, questioned the value of efforts to protect against fires through cloud seeding as opposed to addressing the root of the fire problem, such as evaluating and revoking licenses of plantation corporations that fail to comply with environmental standards. "It's very strange that the budget is wasted on this type of technology," he said. "Especially if a fire in a company's concession area is handled by the state, even though the company is responsible."

[Indonesia revokes forest concession covering 482,198 ha](#)

—Bernadette Christina Munthe, *Reuters*, 30 March 2022

Indonesia has withdrawn forest concession permits from 15 companies covering 482,198 ha to improve governance and transparency. In January, President Joko Widodo announced more than 2,000 mining, plantation, and forest-use permits had been revoked due to non-compliance or because they had remained unused, tightening oversight of the country's natural resources sector.

Minister of Investments Bahlil Lahadalia said in a statement the permits were revoked based on recommendations from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, noting that companies had been given time to clarify and verify the status of their operations before the permit removal became permanent. Companies that had their permits revoked included PT Aceh Intitimber and PT Melapi Timber, as well as others operating palm and timber plantations and logging operations across Sumatra, Kalimantan and the Papua provinces. In early March, the Ministry of Investments had also revoked 283 mineral mining permits and 131 coal mining permits, the statement said.

[Palm oil firm that cleared forest in Papua after losing its permit is still at it](#)

—Hans Nicholas Jong, *Mongabay*, 5 April 2022

Satellite monitoring shows continued deforestation within the oil palm concession of PT Permata Nusa Mandiri (PNM) in Papua Province long after Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) cancelled PNM's permit in January and after the Jayapura district government ordered the company to halt land-clearing activities. Monitoring showed 130 ha had been cleared since the beginning of the year by early March. The Namblong Indigenous community, whose ancestral lands overlap the PNM concession, also reported land clearing after the local government's order was issued. In a letter to the Jayapura district government, PNM claimed owners of ancestral rights in the area asked the firm to begin cultivating the concession to provide jobs, but Rosita Tecuari, who heads the Namblong Indigenous women's group, denied the community had ever accepted PNM's presence. Piter Roki Aloisius, from the Samdhana Institute, said the concession area has a high level of biodiversity, including ten different species of Birds of Paradise. Rosita Tecuari said the government should revoke the company's other permits.

[Out of the frying pan: Indonesia, the world's biggest producer, has a palm oil crisis](#)

—*The Economist*, 2 April 2022

Indonesia's government capped the retail price of premium cooking oil (palm oil) at IDR 14,000 (US\$1.00) a litre and IDR 11,500 for the cheaper version. Overnight, store shelves emptied across the country. When the price cap was lifted on 16 March, cooking oil stocks miraculously reappeared, but in the process prices more than tripled. Hoping to curb the retail price of this key commodity, the government had imposed a 20% "domestic market obligation" (DMO) on producers in January and increased it to 30% in March, but subsequently abandoned the DMO in the face of resistance, switching to charging higher crude palm oil (CPO) export levies. Arie Rompas of Greenpeace Indonesia says the government should "go after the oligarchs of the industry, which frequently stockpile supplies." In mid-March, a government commission indeed found millions of tonnes of cooking oil stockpiled by conglomerates. State prosecutors say they

are looking into the role of cartels. Whatever the cause of the crisis, few want to make do with less cooking oil.

[Comment: EU response to palm oil is opportunity, not threat](#)

—Andrew Barahamin, *Mongabay*, 29 March 2022

Policy moves by the European Union (EU) to scrutinize palm oil links to deforestation have been portrayed as a smear campaign in Indonesia and Malaysia, the two top producers of the commodity who account for 85% of global exports. For Indonesia, however, the EU effort also presents an opportunity to devise better criteria for sustainable palm oil, covering relevant environmental, social, labour and human rights issues. Indonesia's palm oil industry provides employment to 16 million workers, both directly and indirectly, but it also headlined many agrarian conflicts. The EU voted to phase out palm oil from its renewable energy program in 2018. The following year, the EU adopted the European Green Deal (EGD) and entered into other commitments to promote consumption of deforestation-free products. The European Palm Oil Alliance (EPOA) believes these moves were based on the belief that palm oil production was closely linked to rapid deforestation, but argues that 70% of the Indonesian palm oil products entering Europe were already certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO).

Andrew Barahamin is a forest campaigner at the NGO Kaoem Telepak.

[Opinion: Ukraine crisis dampens Europe's anti-palm oil sentiment](#)

—Edi Suhardi, *The Jakarta Post*, 31 March 2022

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has left in disarray global supply chains that are vast networks of resources, money, information, and people that companies have relied upon to get goods or services to consumers and threatened a global food security crisis. Yet the biggest advantage for Indonesia is that Russia and Ukraine together account for 70% of the world's sunflower oil. As sunflower stocks decrease and its price becomes increasingly unaffordable for many consumers, palm oil has become the most popular alternative. Globally palm oil accounts for 35% of vegetable oil, compared to soybean 25%, rapeseed 15%, sunflower 10% and others 15%. With regard to land use, palm oil is the most productive as its per ha yield is 8-10 times higher than soybean or rapeseed. Indonesia should take advantage of the vegetable oil supply disruption and reversal of anti-oil palm sentiment overseas not by recklessly expanding oil palm estates at the expense of primary forests, but through increasing oil palm productivity, promoting sustainable production, and empowering smallholder farmers.

The writer is a sustainable palm oil analyst.

[Opinion: What Indonesia's palm oil is losing in trade deal with Switzerland](#)

—Adisti Sukma Sawitri, *The Jakarta Post*, 12 March 2022

The narrow survival of the Swiss free trade deal with Indonesia after a narrow referendum of only 51.6% was a lesson for the country's palm oil industry. Indonesia narrowly escaped rejection because of palm oil, but import duties on the Indonesia's flagship product were not completely eliminated and importers now must prove their products meets environmental and social standards. All this would not have been necessary if only the Indonesian government and industry players worked more effectively to erase palm oil's reputation as the major cause of deforestation in tropical forests. In fact, as the most productive vegetable oil commodity, palm oil has the potential to reduce deforestation. An IUCN study in 2018 showed that as the highest yielding crop per unit area, oil palm produces 35% of the world's vegetable oil but occupies less than 10% of the land allocated to edible oil crops. If palm oil were replaced by rapeseed, soy or sunflower oils, different natural ecosystems and species would suffer.

The writer is the managing editor of The Jakarta Post.

[In Indonesia palm oil is everywhere but on supermarket shelves](#)

—Hans Nicholas Jong, *Mongabay*, 4 April 2022

Cartel prices are blamed for cooking oil shortages in the world's top producer of palm oil, but government policies are also under scrutiny. Households across Indonesia have experienced acute shortages of cooking oil. When supplies are available, prices are astronomical, prompting complaints from consumers. Four major players control nearly half the domestic market for cooking oil, with businesses throughout the supply chain, from palm oil plantations to processing mills to refineries, giving rise to collusion to fix prices and limit competition. In February, police in North Sumatra found three warehouses stockpiling more than 71,000 litres of cooking oil. Two of the warehouses belonged to the country's biggest convenience store chains, Alfamart and Indomaret, while the third belonged to PT Salim Ivomas Pratama, like Indomaret affiliated with the Salim Group, one of Indonesia's largest conglomerates. On 28 March, the government's business competition watchdog announced it had launched a formal investigation. Companies found to be engaging in cartel practices face fines amounting to half their profits arising from the violations.

[APRIL group invests US\\$2.3 billion to build paperboard factory in Sumatra](#)

—Fransiska Nangoy, Bernadette Christina, *Reuters*, 29 March 2022

Pulp and paper maker Asia Pacific Resources International (APRIL) has begun construction on an IDR 33.4 trillion (US\$2.33 billion) paperboard facility in Riau province on the island of Sumatra. The factory will have the capacity to produce 1.2 million tonnes of fully recyclable and biodegradable folding box board annually. The investment aims to fulfil growing demand for environmentally-friendly packaging products amid a global focus on reducing use of fossil fuel-based plastic packaging, the company said. APRIL, one of Asia's largest pulp and paper firms, is owned by Indonesian businessman Sukanto Tanoto. It is among several plantation companies criticized for rampant land clearing and has often been blamed for annual forest fires in Indonesia. April denies any involvement in illegal land clearing and says its sustainability policies include "no deforestation". The new facility, to be completed in the third quarter of 2023, will also be able to produce 1.06 million tonnes of kraft pulp and 600,000 tonnes of Bleached Chemi-Thermo Mechanical Pulp (BCTMP), both used to make paper.

D. Energy, Mining and Climate Change

[The hypocritical politics of fuel subsidies](#)

—Yopie Hidayat, *Tempo English*, 28 March 2022

Once upon a time, back in 2015, President Joko Widodo halted fuel subsidies. Instead of spending money on private car owners, the government would instead use it for urgent needs. Oil was cheap. The Indonesian Crude Price (ICP) dropped from US\$61.9 per barrel in May 2015 to US\$27.5 by January 2016. But that narrative faced a challenge after the ICP crept upwards after 2019. Retail fuel prices should have increased in line with the ICP, but the government any increase in fuel prices. Instead of an explicit subsidy, the government promised to compensate Pertamina for its losses. By February, Pertamina had an outstanding compensation bill of IDR 99.4 trillion (US\$6.9 billion) for 2019-2022. Russia's invasion of Ukraine pushed the story into the deciding chapter. The government must end the hypocritical politics of disguised subsidies. Retail fuel prices must rise. If not, a fuel crisis could erupt due to thin supplies. Long queues for fuel would feel ironic next to the now ubiquitous ballyhoo proclaiming support for President Joko Widodo.

[Minister Sri Mulyani says high oil prices weigh on state budget](#)

—Vincent Fabian Thomas, *The Jakarta Post*, 29 March 2022]

Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said soaring global oil prices had hit home as the state budget bears the costs of mounting fuel and electricity subsidies. Ministry data shows subsidy spending in January and February reached IDR 11.48 trillion (US\$799.72 million), exceeding the IDR 10.73 trillion cost of subsidies over the same period in 2019, on top of unpaid subsidies and compensations from last year—IDR 10.17 trillion and IDR 109 trillion, respectively, owed to state-

owned oil giant Pertamina and the state-owned electricity company PLN. The Brent crude benchmark price reached US\$ 110 a barrel last week, while the 2022 state budget had assumed a price of US\$ 63 per barrel. Despite this, the government is sticking with current subsidized prices and will continue using the state budget as a “shock absorber” for the public, Mulyani said. “Indonesians will not need to feel the impact because there is a state budget that can take that impact.” The increased subsidy cost will offset windfalls from high earnings on export commodities.

[B30 biodiesel policy to stay despite cooking oil shortage](#)

—Vincent Fabian Thomas, *The Jakarta Post*, 23 March 2022

The government will maintain its current mix of 30% palm oil in biodiesel (B30) despite calls from oil palm smallholders to scale back. Lowering the blend to 20% as requested by the smallholders would mean increasing oil imports, which would strain the state budget through higher subsidy costs, Coordinating Economic Minister Airlangga Hartoto said on 22 March. The Palm Oil Smallholders Union (SPKS) and Indonesian Farmers Union (SPI) have called for scaling back the B30 policy rather than raising palm oil export levies to ensure sufficient cooking oil supplies. The SPKS said the export levy hike will erode the price for fresh oil palm fruit bunches, a benchmark for purchasing oil palm fruit from farmers. Palm oil producers, including smallholders, prefer to export the commodity as global crude palm oil (CPO) as export prices have risen 25% this year to US\$ 1,532 per tonne. Tumanggor, chairman of the Indonesian Biodiesel Producers Association (APROBI) lauded the government’s stance. “There will never be a shortage of raw materials for cooking oil and biodiesel,” he said.

[Indonesia’s gasification plans could be costly for the budget and the environment](#)

—Nithin Coca, *Mongabay*, 30 March 2022

Indonesia has broken ground on a US\$2.1 billion coal gasification plant and plans to build ten more. Supporting coal gasification allows the government to bolster coal production even if export demand continues to diminish. The plant would produce dimethyl ether (DME), a liquid fuel that can replace imported liquified petroleum gas (LPG). However, an analysis by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis concluded that coal gasification will require massive government subsidies to be commercially viable in Indonesia. The costs of what would amount to a new fossil fuel subsidy would be borne by consumers and taxpayers. Trend Asia’s Andri Prasetyo said he is concerned the government trying make the gasification project sound more feasible than it really is. “The government is setting a lower cost because they want to find a way for the coal industry to survive.” Advocates for renewable energy say funds that might be used to subsidize coal gasification would be better spent supporting renewable energy projects.

[Indonesian bill turns coal-derived fuels clean by ignoring true scale of emissions](#)

—Hans Nicholas Jong, *Mongabay*, 29 March 2022

A bill under consideration by parliament would define fuels derived from coal as “new energy” with “minimal” carbon emissions, but energy experts say producing and burning gasified coal will generate more emissions than simply burning solid coal for the same amount of energy. The bill formally defines hydrogen, coal bed methane, liquified coal and gasified coal—all derived from fossil fuels—as “new” energy sources alongside nuclear. Eddy Soeparno, deputy chairman of the parliamentary commission on energy affairs, said the downstream coal products would be processed to eliminate carbon content. Coal gasification can be used to produce both hydrogen and dimethyl ether (DME). While burning DME generates less emissions and particulate matter than burning coal, this does not take into consideration emissions associated with the gasification process. Over its entire life-cycle, turning DME into energy emits 1031 g of CO₂ equivalent per kWh, which is higher than the carbon intensity of just burning coal for electricity, less than 1,000 g CO₂e/kWh.

[Indonesia’s new carbon pricing: green transition or greenwashing?](#)

—Adila Isfandiari and Margo Prebenda, *The Jakarta Post*, 4 April 2022

Indonesia's government planned to start enforcing new carbon tax and carbon trade regulations from 1 April, but implementation of the regulations has been postponed until July in order to protect consumers from rising prices and allow for better preparation. The government plans to address carbon emissions from the biggest polluters first, starting with the energy sector. Under the regulations, polluters will have to pay IDR 30,000 (US\$2.01) per tonne of CO₂ equivalent that exceeds an emissions cap determined by the government. It is expected that carbon pricing will have real impacts on the electricity sector, which is largely powered by coal. However, if not regulated effectively, there is a risk that carbon pricing will merely result in “greenwashing”—misleading the public to think some companies are more environmentally friendly than they really are. The focus of the carbon tax could potentially shift to individuals and small businesses through increasing the price of electricity, allowing fossil fuel companies to pass on their increased costs to consumers.

[Insufficient efforts to face the winds of climate change](#)

—Retno Sulistyowati, *Tempo English*, 28 March 2022

Indonesia's Ministry of National Development/National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) government estimates that economic losses due to climate change over 2020-2024 could reach IDR 544 trillion (US\$37.88 billion). The hardest hit sectors are likely to be agriculture, coastal and maritime areas (IDR 408 trillion), health (IDR 31 trillion) and the water sector (IDR 28 trillion). However, the total climate change budget allocation for 2021 was only IDR 86.7 trillion. In reality, at least IDR 266 trillion will be needed each year, Finance Minister Sri Multani Indrawati said at the University of Indonesia in June 2021. According to a Bappenas report, East Java, South Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi, North Sulawesi, East Kalimantan, Maluku, West Nusa Tenggara and West Papua are the most vulnerable regions in the maritime and coastal sector and most likely to suffer the greatest losses.

[Climate change wreaking havoc on Indonesian islands](#)

—Dody Hidayat, *Tempo English*, 28 March 2022

Hydrometeorological disasters caused by climate change are occurring more frequently. Several small islands and coastal towns are becoming inundated and are in danger of going completely underwater. Of the 5,402 natural disasters causing deaths or material losses recorded in 2021, 1,794 (33%) were floods; 1,577 (29%) were tropical cyclones and tornadoes; 1,321 (24%) were landslides, and 91 (0.2%) were caused by storm surges and coastal abrasion. Nearly 75% of Indonesia's 17,504 islands are small islands, with a combined area of about 2,000 km². Rising sea levels has reduced the land area of the 19 outermost islands by an average of 5.08%. Researcher Heri Andreas of the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) identified 112 cities and regencies in danger of losing coastline and 50 locations that are already having trouble with flash floods. “Pasir Jaya village in Muaragembong is now a kilometer out to sea. Seni village in Demak (Central Java) has already moved two kilometers out to sea, while Semut village (Central Java) has disappeared,” Andreas said.

[Failures and successes using mangrove and coffee to mitigate climate change](#)

—Abdul Manan et al, *Tempo English*, 28 March 2022

Local government and communities in Sayung Sub-District, Demak Regency, Central Java launched a new initiative in 2015 to mitigate local impacts of climate change by planting mangroves to battle coastal abrasion and rising waves. But this effort failed when strong ocean currents wiped off the 20,000 mangrove seedlings in 2017xx. Successive efforts to replant over a million mangroves that year and in 2019 had the same result—the seedlings were swept away. Residents in South Kalimantan's Central Hulu Sungai Regency planted trees after floods in January 2021 that submerged 102,340 houses. The Indonesian Farmers Union (SPI), which started as a volunteer group distributing basic goods to flood victims, started planting coffee trees on

slopes in the Meratus mountains in 2021, including arabica, robusta, liberica, and excelsa cultivars. “Liberica and excelsa coffee trees grow to heights of 10 meters and can act as a barrier to landslides as they have deep taproots and fiber roots. “The water catchment areas must be fixed first,” SPI head Dwi Putra Kurniawan said.

[Interview: We need three months of food reserves](#)

—Abdul Manan, *Tempo English*, 4 April 2022

Arief Prasetyo Adi, Chief of the new National Food Agency and CEO of the state-owned food company ID Food cited disruptions in global supply chains caused by the war between Russia and Ukraine as a focal point for Indonesia’s effort to secure its food reserves. The National Food Agency is in charge of downstream management of nine commodities: rice, corn, soybeans, consumer sugar, onions, eggs, beef, poultry and chilis. The agency is empowered to direct the National Logistics Agency (Bulog) in executing national food policies via the food state-owned enterprises, namely Bulog and ID Food. We have calculated what is needed to ensure three months supply of food, and have given that information to President Joko Widodo, and will also share it with Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Adi said. For Ramadan, the supply of beef, rice and garlic is secure, also shallots, chilis, and consumer sugar. There may be shortages of beef near the end of Ramadan, and also soybeans.

E. Pollution and Waste Management

[Marine debris removal effort must become part of national agenda](#)

—Azmi Ma’arif, Yuy Liman, *Antara News*, 12 March 2022

Indonesia’s national solid marine debris handling and reduction must become a regular program carried out in collaboration with local governments, the private sector, and communities, said Alue Dohong, Deputy Minister of Environment and Forestry (KLHK). Dohong, who joined clean-up activities at Teluknaga Sub-District, Tangerang District, Banten Province to commemorate Forester Service Day, said the government has taken strategic steps to reduce marine debris by 30% and handle 70% of it by 2025. “We have been monitoring marine debris in Indonesia since 2017,” Dohong explained. “In 2021, it was found that 40% of the waste found at beaches was plastic waste, so this matter must be immediately addressed by all parties.” Plastic waste is the most common waste found in Indonesian waters, accounting for 44% of the total, followed by glass and ceramic waste (15%). “Plastic bags and fast-food containers were the most commonly found marine trash in 2021,” Dohong added.

[War on plastic waste ramps up across the Indo-Pacific region](#)

—News release, CSIRO, 7 March 2022

Australia’s national science agency, CSIRO, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade launched a new US\$ 1.3 million partnership, *Plastics Innovation Hub Indonesia*, to work with Indonesia to tackle plastic pollution in the Indo-Pacific. The program will bring together researchers, investors, business, community and government leaders from around the region to develop solutions that can be implemented in Indonesia to address the challenge of plastic waste in oceans and waterways. Each year 90 billion tonnes of primary materials are extracted and used globally to produce plastics, but only 9% is recycled. Within the Indo-Pacific region, it is estimated that there are between 5 and 10 billion pieces of plastic on the coastlines. CSIR Chief Executive Dr. Larry Marshall said ocean pollution is a challenge that Australia can assist with. “Science can turn this environmental challenge into an economic opportunity by changing the way we behave, and how we make, use, recycle or dispose of plastic, but it will take partnerships to turn the best ideas into real-world solutions.

F. Conservation and Protected Areas

[Shell of a comeback—awareness campaigns bring hope for critically endangered hawksbill turtles](#)

—Carly Nairn, *Mongabay*, 6 April 2022

Hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), currently classified as “Critically Endangered” (CR A2bd) on the IUCN Red List of threatened species are due for a status assessment. One threat is the continued illegal tortoiseshell trade between Japan and Indonesia, the top exporter. Hawksbills preferred habitats are coral reefs where sponges are abundant, so the sea turtles are important to coral reef ecosystems because sponges can overgrow and suffocate reefs. Hawksbill populations declined drastically in the 19th and 20th centuries in response to intense and prolonged exploitation for food and tortoiseshell. A comeback has been underway since a ban on tortoiseshell trade was put in place in 1977 under CITES, but not all countries signed up at once. “Shell was being funnelled into Japan from CITES signatory states through non-signatory states,” according to Jeanne Mortimer, a sea turtle researcher. Key threats today also include loss of nesting and foraging coral reef habitat, incidental capture, and marine and oil pollution.

[It's a girl—Super rare Sumatran rhino born in captive-breeding center](#)

—Basten Gokkon, *Mongabay*, 28 March 2022

Indonesia has reported the birth of a Sumatran rhinoceros at the Way Kambas Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Lampung Province, rekindling hopes for more newborns in the future. The calf is the third Sumatran rhino born at the Way Kambas sanctuary and the sixth born since intensive efforts to breed the species began in the 1980s, the result of a consensus that the species will go extinct without intervention. Eight captive individuals live in Way Kambas National Park, while a lone female is kept at the Kelian sanctuary in Indonesian Borneo. The wild population is estimated at only 80 individuals living in small, fragmented habitats in Sumatra and Borneo. The species once ranged across South and Southeast Asia, from the Himalayas to southern China and the Malay Peninsula.

[Online trade in rare silvery pigeon is cause for concern, researchers say](#)

—Sean Mowbray, *Mongabay*, 30 Mar 2022

The silvery pigeon (*Columba argentina*) is a critically endangered bird endemic to islands in western Indonesia and Malaysia. Believed to be extinct for decades, the species was rediscovered in 2008, and is now estimated at between 50 and 1,000 individuals in the wild. Yet despite being a rare species that is legally protected both in Indonesia and Malaysia, the silvery pigeon continues to be offered for sale online in the international pet trade. A team led by Simon Brusland, lead author of the study, identified at least ten silvery pigeons for sale from three sellers in Indonesia, with interest from abroad in South Korea and Qatar. Brusland has called on Indonesian authorities to list the silvery pigeon on Appendix III of CITES, the global convention on wildlife trade.

Paper: Brusland, Simon., et al, “[Online Trade as a serious additional threat to the critically-endangered silvery pigeon *Columba argentina* in Indonesia](#),” *Nature Conservation* 46 pp 41-48, (22 February 202), doi:10.3897/natureconservation.46.80064)

[How many orangutans does \\$1 billion save? Depends how you spend it, study finds](#)

—Jim Tan, *Mongabay*, 1 April 2022

A study found habitat protection to be the most effective measure for protecting orangutans, followed by patrolling. Habitat restoration; orangutan rescue, rehabilitation, and translocation; and public outreach were less cost-effective. Over the past 20 years, more than US\$1 billion has been spent on orangutan conservation, yet all three orangutan species remain classified as critically endangered and continue to decline. “It was important to robustly quantify it and say, OK, we have invested a billion dollars and still managed to lose 100,000 orangutans,” said study co-author Erik Meijaard. “We probably would have lost 135,000 if we had not done anything—it’s up to you to decide if that’s a positive or a negative story.” The study adds to questions raised about the effectiveness of orangutan rehabilitation and wild-to-wild translocation programs, both of which resonate well with Western donors and so raise significant sums of money. NGOs

working in the space argue that the money comes from the animal rights movement and would otherwise not necessarily be spent on conservation.

Paper: Truly Santika et al, "[Effectiveness of 20 years of conservation investments in protecting orangutans](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2022.02.051)", *Current Biology* (2022), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2022.02.051>

G. Banking and Finance

[Green infrastructure investment opportunities in Indonesia—Green Recovery 2022 Report](#)
—Asian Development Bank, March 2022

The Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI), in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility, and PT Sarana Multi Infrastruktur under Indonesia's Ministry of Finance, prepared an updated report following previous editions published in 2018 and 2019 to promote green financing among various stakeholders and development partners in the public and private sectors, including project developers, institutional investors, asset managers, financial institutions, government bodies and international organizations. The report covers Green Recovery and Sustainable Finance investment opportunities in Indonesia, including ADB funds and products, the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund, climate change, climate finance and finance sector development.

Report: Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI), "[Green Infrastructure Investment Opportunities — Indonesia Green Recovery: 2022 Report](http://dx.doi.org/10.22617/TCS220077-2)", <http://dx.doi.org/10.22617/TCS220077-2>

[Policy insight from renewable energy, foreign direct investment \(FDI\) and urbanization towards climate goals: insight from Indonesia](#)
—Springer Link, 18 March 2022

Examination of Indonesia's environmental performance focusing on use of renewable energy sources, urbanization and foreign direct investment (FDI) and assessment of prospects for achieving carbon neutrality in Indonesia based on policy framing to reduce fossil fuel impacts.

Paper: Edmund Ntom Udemba and Lucy Davou Philip, "[Policy insight from renewable energy, foreign direct investment \(FDI\) and urbanization towards climate goals: insight from Indonesia](#)", *Environmental Science and Pollution Research* (18 March 2022)

H. Special section on push to postpone the 2024 Elections

[Ganjar overtakes Prabowo in latest presidential poll](#)
—Dio Suhenda, *The Jakarta Post*, 4 April 2022

Central Java Governor Ganjar Pranowo is now projected to win a presidential contest against six leading potential presidential candidates including Gerindra Party leader Prabowo Subianto, Jakarta Governor Anies Baswedan, Indonesian Party of Struggle (PDI-P) politician and House Speaker Puan Maharani, Democratic Party leader Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono, State-Owned Enterprises Minister Erick Thohir and Coordinating Economic Affairs Minister Airlangga Hartono. The survey, conducted by pollster Indikator Politik in February, found that the charismatic PDI-P politician and governor is becoming more popular as the 2024 election date approaches. According to Indikator Politik Executive Director Burhanuddin Muhtadi, the decline in Prabowo's popularity may be because the former general shied away from public attention while serving as Minister of Defense. Ganjar is less well-known than Prabowo or Anies, but 89.4% of those who are aware of Ganjar say they would give him their support in a presidential election, whereas 98% of the respondents said they were familiar with Prabowo but only 76% said they would vote for him. (162)

[Contested push to extend Widodo's term as president of Indonesia](#)

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

The decision by the ruling Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) to stop pushing for a constitutional amendment on state policy-making reflects the realization that this would open the door for another amendment aimed at extending President Joko Widodo's second five-year term beyond 2024. Led by former president Megawati Sukarnoputri, whose only daughter, House of Representatives (DPR) speaker Puan Maharani, has presidential aspirations, PDI-P's opposition is crucial to heading off what activists say would be a backward step for democracy. In a rare interview last week, Maharani hinted at dissenting "voices" within the PDI-P, describing them as "personal and private" and insisting they did not reflect the party's official position or that of a majority of the DPR. The divisions within the PDI-P stem in part from friction between supporters of charismatic Central Java Governor Ganjar Pranowo, 53, a party functionary, and those of Maharani, fed by the yawning lead Pranowo has over her in presidential polls. The latest clash came over construction of a dam in Benser, Central Java, with Ganjar backing the project against the opposition of four-term PDI-P legislator Bambang "Pacul" Wuryanto, considered to be Maharani's closest associate. Equally concerning is Megawati's three-month absence from public life since early December. Without Megawati and the authority she exercises over the 128-seat PDI-P, Indonesia's political landscape would be transformed. (220)

[Opinion: Is Indonesia heading toward a militarized democracy?](#)

—Evan A. Laksmana, *The Jakarta Post*, 21 March 2022

The Indonesian Military (TNI) has come under fire for proposing to expand its force structure and assign more officers to civilian agencies and ministries, an effort to address promotional logjams within the officer corps which have left hundreds of officers without billets. Civil society groups charge that the TNI is bent on resurrecting the now defunct *dwi fungsi* (dual function) doctrine that allowed the military to have both socio-political and security roles, but the logjams are not a pretext to return to the New Order era. The organizational problem stems in part from the extension of the retirement age in 2004 from 55 to 58, which kept older officers within the structure longer; the absence of an "up-or-out" policy giving officers a limited time to get promoted; and the proliferation of "horizontal" rotation (moving officers from one equivalent-ranked post to another) during the presidency of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. To address this, TNI began assigning hundreds of officers to non-TNI agencies and ministries during Yudhoyono's second term.

The writer is a senior researcher at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta. (166)

I. Special section on Indonesia's hosting the G20 summit

[G20 gives up issuing communique due to split over Russia's invasion of Ukraine](#)

—*Kyodo News*, 4 April 2022, via *Jakarta Post*

Finance chiefs from the Group of 20 major economies have decided not to issue a statement following their 20 April meeting amid conflicts over Russia's participation following its invasion of Ukraine. The G20 finance ministers and central bank governors will instead have Indonesia release the results of the meeting in Washington, D.C. Indonesia is this year's rotating chair of the group. US President Joe Biden has said Russia should be removed from the group, but Brazil, India, China and South Africa have distanced themselves from excluding Russia. Russia was formerly a member of the Group of Eight, but it was dropped from that framework following the international outcry over its annexation of Crimea in 2014.

[G20 Summit a diplomatic minefield for host Indonesia](#)

—John McBeth, *Asia Times*, 1 April 2022

Slammed for his unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, Russian president Vladimir Putin claims he still wants to attend what would almost certainly be a hostile G20 Summit in Bali in October—a meeting that may not happen if Putin’s presence triggers a boycott. Indonesian president Joko Widodo is sticking to what critics claim is a naïve belief that he can convince G20 leaders to set the Ukraine war aside and focus on economic issues. Indonesian politicians and academics have called on him to use his position as President of the G20 to resolve the Ukrainian conflict instead of simply acting as what legislator Effendi Simbolon referred to as an “event organizer”. Widodo’s inexperience in foreign affairs and desperation to salvage one of the landmarks of his presidency was clearly a factor in the soft tone of Indonesia’s response to the invasion, but some diplomats and academics blame it on broader anti-American and anti-West sentiments among the Muslim majority who see Washington treating Ukraine—and Jewish president Volodymyr Zelensky—differently than Palestine.

J. Special section on Papua provinces

Three killed in attacks in Papua province

—Alfian Kartono, *AP News*, 31 March 2022

A government soldier, his wife and an independence fighter were killed in two separate attacks in Indonesia’s Papua province. Attackers from the West Papua Liberation Army, the military wing of the Free Papua Organization (OPM), fatally shot a soldier, killed his wife, and injured their two children in an assault at a house in Yalimo district on 31 March. The soldier’s wife, a midwife, died on the way to a clinic. Rebel spokesman Seby Sambom confirmed that the group’s fighters carried out the attack, which he said was part of their struggle for independence from Indonesia. Separately, Indonesian security forces fatally shot a local rebel commander, Toni Tabuni, who was resisting a raid in Nabire district, on 30 March. Papua police spokesman said Tabuni had been involved in at least nine deadly attacks on security forces and civilians, including an Indonesian brigadier general, two teachers and a health worker.

Spaceport ambition in Papua

—Dini Pramita, *Tempo English*, 4 April 2022

Alex Abrauw still resents Laksana Tri Handoko, chief of the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) who visited the prospective spaceport location in Saukoby village, North Biak District, Biak Numfor, Papua last October. Alex and other youths from the Abrauw clan held a demonstration against the visitors from Jakarta. “They came secretly without telling us, the customary landowner,” Alex explained. The Abrauw clan rejects construction of the spaceport in the customary forest belonging to the Abrauw-Rumander clans.

According to the spatial map of the Papua Province Development Planning Agency, the Abrauw clan’s customary land is a protected forest region. The forest site is habitat to the blue spotted cuscus (*Spilocuscus wilsoni*), megapode (*Megapodiidae*) and lorinii (*Loriinae*) birds and junglefowl (*Gallus spp*), all among endemic species on the IUCN red list with the status of critical or vulnerable.

Andrew’s father, clan head Marthen Abrauw said their ancestors never approved release or the land to the National Institute of Aeronautics and Space (LAPAN), part of BRIN. The dispute began in 1980, when the North Biak District was designated as a military operations area to quell Free Papua Organization (OPM) insurgents. Village residents were forced to sign a document relinquishing land rights to LAPAN or be considered part of the OPM. Pastor Gerson Abrauw said there was no explanation about what would be built. They were summoned one after another the sign the list.

The compensation to be given at the time was IDR 150,000 (US\$10.46 at current exchange rates) per hectare, but the people of Abrauw refused to sign, so the release was signed by people from another clan. Abrauw clan’s rejection of the spaceport on their customary land is supported by the Biak Customary Council.

Presidential Chief of Staff Moeldoko mentioned the plan to build a spaceport in Biak in late March. Biak Numfor Regent Herry Ario Naap said that based on the latest discussions with BRIN, Elon Musk's SpaceX is still expected to become an investor. As for people rejecting the spaceport, Herry said they are not natives of Biak. "They do not live in Biak, they were not born in Biak, and they did not grow up in Biak," he said.

This article is a collaborative reporting of Tempo, Jubi, [Suara.com](#), and Project Multatuli.

K. Other

[Extremist charities and terrorist fund-raising in Indonesia](#)

—IPAC Report No. 76, *Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict*, 31 March 2022

Charities have evolved to become an important source of funds for violent extremist organizations in Indonesia over the past two decades. Funds raised through humanitarian appeals both from committed supporters as well as the unsuspecting public defray organizational expenses, finance terrorist organizations, and support arrested members and their families. The government has made progress stemming flow of funds to terrorist groups since adoption of a comprehensive anti-terrorist financing law in 2013, but more needs to be done to monitor charitable organizations suspected of terrorist links. "Although there are important differences between various extremist organizations, they have followed a similar model for using charities," says Sidney Jones, IPAC Senior Adviser. "This involves identifying a concrete humanitarian need; giving it a religious justification; raising funds as broadly as possible; claiming transparency by periodically publishing accounts; and then diverting funds for jihad and support to arrested members." The report analyses three types of violent extremist organizations that have used charities to raise funds: KOMPAK, Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), and pro-ISIS groups.

[Senior member of Islamic Defenders Front \(FPI\) jailed for "consciously aiding terrorism actors"](#)

—Stanley Widiyanto, *Reuters*, 6 April 2022

An Indonesian court sentenced Munarman, a senior member and spokesman for the defunct Islamic Defenders Front (IDF), to three years in prison for "consciously aiding terrorism actors" following the imprisonment of FPI leader Rizieq Shihab last year for spreading false information about Covid-19. The FPI, outlawed in 2020, had gained a reputation for raiding bars and brothels and confrontations with members of religious minorities, but built support among some members of the public for its charity work, including distributing aid during national disasters. In 2016, Rizieq and the FPI spearheaded massive protests in Jakarta against Basuki Tjahaja Purnama (Ahok), Jakarta's governor, a Christian who was subsequently jailed for insulting Islam. Prosecutors accused Munarman of failing to notify authorities about events where people pledged allegiance to the ultra-violent, Islamic State, and called for an eight-year sentence. Benar News reported that Munarman blasted what he called a show trial and said authorities wanted him jailed because he had spoken out against the killing of six FPI members by police in 2020.

[Prabowo ventures into the Middle East as Indonesia widens its defence security net](#)

—Muhammad Zulfikar Rakhmat and Yeta Purnama, *Asia Sentinel*, 30 March 2022

Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto's visit to Saudi Arabia in March to discuss cooperation on defense industry and education signifies Jakarta's belief that Indonesia needs to search elsewhere for non-traditional security partners in the face of evidence of Washington's renewed interest in Quadrilateral Dialogue with Japan, India and Australia and the Biden administration's AUKUS agreement to provide nuclear submarine technology to Australia. The Indonesian government managed to avoid aligning with major powers during the Cold War and became one of the leading members of the non-aligned movement, but China's new assertiveness in the South China Sea has caused Indonesia to seek to broaden its defense capabilities. Prabowo and Prince Khalid bin Salman Saud, Saudi Arabia's deputy defense minister, agreed to follow up on a 2018 defense cooperation agreement between Jakarta and Riyadh. Earlier, Prabowo also stopped in

Paris to meet with French president Emmanuel Macron to finalize purchase of 42 Rafale jet fighters and two Scorpene submarines.

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