



starling
resources
sustainability consulting

Indonesia Sustainable Development News Digest

2023 Issue 1 — 12 January 2023

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

CONTENTS

- A. Marine and Fisheries
 - B. Forests and Land Use
 - C. Biodiversity, Conservation, and Protected Areas
 - D. Climate Change, Energy, and Mining
 - E. Pollution and Waste
 - F. Investment and Finance
 - G. Human Rights and Gender Equality
-
- I. Developments in the Papuan region (*Tanah Papua*)
 - II. Emergency regulation replaces “omnibus” Jobs Creation Law
-

A. Marine and Fisheries

[ADB provides US\\$93 million for seafood sector improvements in Indonesia](#)

—Toan Dao, *SeafoodSource*, 4 January 2022

The Asian Development Bank has approved US\$93 million in funds to support smallholder shrimp farming in seven provinces in Indonesia. The funding is for infrastructure improvements under a Shrimp Agriculture Project to be implemented in Bali, Banten, Central Java, East Java, Lampung, Aceh, and South Sulawesi. The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DKP) said the ADB funding would help

sustainably increase the productivity, quality, profitability, and environmental sustainability of smallholder shrimp farming.

[Indonesia sets ambitious US\\$7.6 billion fishery export target for 2023](#)

—Herman, *Jakarta Globe*, 27 December 2022

Indonesia has targeted US\$7.6 billion in fishery and marine exports for 2023. Fishery and marine exports from January to November 2022 were US\$5.71 billion and were expected to reach US\$6.2 billion by year-end 2022. The US imported US\$2.15 billion worth of Indonesian fish products in the first eleven months of 2022, followed by China (US\$1.02 billion), Japan (US\$678 million), ASEAN (US\$651 million), and the EU (US\$357.12 million). Indonesia's largest export item to the US last year was shrimp, worth US\$1.33 billion. Annual global demand for shrimp now stands at US\$30 billion, according to Fisheries Minister Sakti Wahyu Trenggono. Indonesia plans to expand modern shrimp-farming ponds in order to expand shrimp production to 2 million tonnes by 2024, the minister said, noting that tuna, cuttlefish, blue swimming crab, and octopuses are also leading wild-caught fish commodities. "We already have a number of aquaculture villages in place for farming shark catfish [Note: *Pangasius spp.*] and seaweed.

[Recovery of manta ray populations attributed to strong Marine Protected Areas \(MPAs\)](#)

—Cassie Freund, *Mongabay*, 22 December 2022

Oceanic sharks and rays, including the majestic reef manta ray (*Mobula alfredi*), have declined globally by an estimated 71% since 1970, but two new studies in Indonesia's Raja Ampat archipelago show that reef manta populations in the region saw a compounded annual increase of up to 10.7% over 2009-2019, attributed to well-implemented conservation measures by Indonesian authorities, conservation groups, and local communities. Ray conservation in Raja Ampat began in 2007 when the local government and other stakeholders began to establish a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) across the islands. In 2012, Raja Ampat became Southeast Asia's first shark and ray sanctuary, and in 2014 the Indonesian government declared the reef and giant manta rays to be nationally-protected species. This year a team led by Edy Setyawan attempted to confirm anecdotal reports of recovering manta populations in Raja Ampat by quantifying reef manta populations in the Dampier Strait and Southeast Misool, the two Raja MPAs where the most extensive survey data exists.

Paper: Edy Setyawan et al, "[Population estimates of photo-identified individuals using a modified POPAN model reveal that Raja Ampat's reef manta rays are thriving](#)", *Frontiers in Marine Science* 15 November 2022. doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2022.1014791

Paper: Edy Setyawan et al, "[A holistic approach to manta ray conservation in the Papuan Bird's Head Seascape: Resounding success, ongoing challenges](#)", *Marine Policy* 137 (2022)

[From bombs to seasonal closures, Indonesian fishers move toward sustainability](#)

—Wahyu Chandra, *Mongabay*, 21 December 2022

Kahu-Kahu village on South Sulawesi's Selayar Island is implementing its first season- and location-based fishery closure. The three-month closure of a 6-ha stretch of coastal water is intended to allow local octopus populations to replenish by reducing fishing pressure. For three months, fishers have committed to zero extraction or exploitation of the marine area off Jeneiya Kahu-Kahu Beach, which means no fishing, no seaweed cultivation, no shellfish collection, no throwing of trash, and definitely no fish bombing, said Andri Mustain, who is coordinating the Selayar Islands program of the Bali-based Indonesian Nature Foundation, known locally as Yayasan LINI. The fishers will also be actively involved in restoration work, including the construction of artificial reefs from reinforced concrete to create more habitat for octopuses and other reef creatures.

[Indonesia blocks auction of development rights for protected Widi islands](#)

—Dio Suhendra, *The Jakarta Post*, 15 December 2022

The government halted a deal to lease development rights for more than 100 islands in the protected Widi Reserve in North Maluku following a backlash over their listing in the catalogue of Sotheby's auction house. "Exclusive rights" to develop the reserve were supposed to go up for sale in December before Sotheby's postponed the auction, but officials now claim that PT Leadership Islands Indonesia (LII) had not obtained the proper licenses, including a utilization permit that would address environmental concerns. "The government will cancel the MOU with PT LII because the procedures carried out were not in line with applicable regulations," Mahfud MD, the Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs said after a crisis meeting with Home Affairs Minister Tito Karnavian, Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Sakti Wahyu Trenggono, and Minister of Environment and Forestry Siti Nurbaya Bakar. PT LII had advertised the archipelago as a chance to build luxurious resorts and homes across 17 islands with the potential for a 1,000-m private airstrip.

B. Forests and Land Use

Palm oil in focus during Malaysian premier's first overseas visit to Indonesia

—Dio Suhenda, Yvette Tanamal, and M. Taufiqurrahman, *The Jakarta Post*, 10 January 2022

Indonesia and Malaysia, the world's two biggest palm oil producers, agreed to build stronger collaboration to develop the palm oil market and combat discrimination against the commodity following a meeting between President Joko Widodo and visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim at the Bogor Palace. In another meeting, Anwar said the two countries were looking to form an organization similar to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) for palm oil. The EU, which plans to phase out palm oil by 2030, passed a law in December barring companies from selling palm oil and other products linked to deforestation. Widodo and Anwar also discussed Indonesia's new capital city pr Nusantara (IKN) in East Kalimantan, with Anwar noting that developing Nusantara would bring benefits to the wider region, including Sabah and Sarawak, two Malaysian states also on the island of Borneo. Widodo noted that the two countries had signed several memoranda of understanding (MOUs) and made progress in regard to border disputes and the protection of Indonesian migrant workers in Malaysia.

Jail, but no justice, for those convicted in Indonesia palm oil corruption case

—Hans Nicholas Jong, *Mongabay*, 9 January 2022

Anti-corruption activists have criticized as too lenient the sentences handed down by an Indonesian court against officials at the center of a cooking oil shortage that rocked the world's top producer of palm oil. A trade ministry official, a prominent economist, and three palm oil executives were convicted and sentenced to between one and three years in prison and fined Rp 100 million (US\$6,400) for violating a requirement to ensure palm oil supplies for Indonesia's domestic market. Three companies—the Permata Hijau Group, Wilmar Nabati Indonesia, and Musim Mas—managed to skirt obligations to allocate 20% of their production to the domestic market and continued to sell their Crude Palm Oil (CPO) abroad where prices were higher by securing export permits from Indrasari Wisnu Wardhana, at the time Director-General of Foreign Trade at the Ministry of Trade. Prosecutors said they would appeal for longer prison terms, higher fines, and a demand for Rp 15 trillion (US\$ 959 million) in restitution for losses to the state.

For Indonesian smallholders, EU deforestation rule is a threat—and an opportunity

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

New regulations being adopted by the European Union could result in excluding independent smallholder farmers managing 6.72 million ha of oil palm plantation in Indonesia from European palm oil supply chains. Smallholders are already struggling to meet sustainability requirements, according to the Indonesian environmental NGO Madani. Traceability would be the biggest challenge. Fewer than 2% hold plantation registration certificates or evidence of clear title to their land. Most smallholders cannot sell fruit directly to palm oil mills but instead rely on informal networks of intermediaries and middlemen. The new EU regulation thus could lead to European importers purchasing only from large-scale corporate plantations, excluding independent smallholders; reduction in total palm oil production and job losses; and inducing Indonesian producers to sell more to countries with weaker sustainability requirements such as

China, South Korea, and India. To help Indonesian smallholders cope, it would be better if the EU provided support, such as a premium price for palm oil produced from legal sources and without deforestation, CIFOR scientist Herry Purnomo said.

[Indonesian Ministry and USAID announce new climate partnership](#)

—Information and documentation office, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, 16 December 2022

Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF/KLHK) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) signed a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) to jointly support Indonesia's Forestry and Other Land Use (FOLU) Net Sink 2030 Operational Plan targets during the G20 meeting between Indonesian President [Joko Widodo] and US President Joe Biden. Under the MOU, the US government and the KLHK announced their intention to enter a framework agreement of up to US\$50 million to launch a new climate partnership. "We support [KLHK's] leadership on sustainable land use and protection of valuable forests across Indonesia," said USAID Mission Director Jeff Cohen. The new climate partnership will include support to conserve orangutans and other charismatic species such as elephants, tigers, and rhinoceroses in Sumatra and Kalimantan. Bolstering ongoing conservation efforts, the partnership will provide support to the KLHK's priorities, including through the Indonesia Environment Fund, and will strengthen the collaboration among stakeholders to continue advancing sustainable, equitable management of Indonesia's extraordinary natural resources.

[UN recognizes Indonesia's Building with Nature initiative to protect coastal mangroves](#)

—Press Release, *Wetlands International*, 14 December 2022

The United Nations has recognized the Building with Nature initiative's use of mangrove trees as a natural barrier against the sea to protect Indonesia's coast against flooding as one of ten pioneering World Restoration Flagships. The initiative, which becomes eligible to receive UN support, funding, and technical expertise, showcases how environmental advocates are mending damaged ecosystems across the planet. Indonesia is replete with mangrove forests, but mangroves in many areas have been cut down to make space for development and fish farming. Focused on Demak on the island of Java, Wetlands International and the government of Indonesia and other partners are helping local communities regrow mangroves along a 20 km stretch of coastline. Instead of simply planting mangroves, the initiative employs an innovative approach using semi-permeable sea walls made of natural materials to trap mud and sediments. Mangroves then regrow naturally, with a survival rate of 70%, significantly higher than the 15-20% survival rate for replanted mangroves. Over time, soil builds up in the roots which can prevent rising seas from inundating communities.

[Note: Indonesia's Building with Nature Indonesia initiative is coordinated by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP), the Indonesian Ministry of Public Works and Housing (PU), Wetlands International, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Ecoshape, with support from Witteveen + Bos, Deltares, TU Delft, Wageningen University & Research, UNESCO-IHE, Blue Forests, Kota Kita, Von Lieberman, the Diponegoro University, and local communities.]

Paper: Ian H. Luby, Steve J. Miller, and Stephen Polasky, "[When and Where to Protect Forests](#)", *Nature* 17 August 2022.

C. Biodiversity, Conservation, and Protected Areas

[Indonesia will build wildlife crossings to reduce infrastructure disruption to conservation](#)

—A. Muh. Ibnu Aqil, *The Jakarta Post*, 8 January 2023

President Joko Widodo said more wildlife crossings would be constructed across the archipelago in order to reduce infrastructure development disruption to wildlife conservation and protected species. “Elephants are visible walking under the Pekanbaru-Dumai toll road this morning, the president said during a visit to wildlife crossings in Riau Province. “There are six crossings available along this road.” The Sumatran elephant is one of 25 species under threat of extinction listed in Decree No. 80/20115 by the Director General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation. The IUCN Red List has classified the Sumatran elephant as “critically endangered” since 2011. But over the past 25 years, the Sumatran elephant has lost more than 70% of both its habitat and its population. At current rates of tropical forest destruction, some scientists predict the species will be extinct in the wild by 2030. Minister of Environment and Forestry Siti Nurbaya Bakar said conservation efforts like wildlife crossings are a response to concerns that massive infrastructure development could disrupt ecosystems and species.

[Sumatran tiger arrives at Tacoma captive-breeding program facility](#)

—Jeremy Hance, *Mongabay*, 6 January 2022

An 11-year-old known breeding male Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris sondaica*) has arrived at Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium in Tacoma, Washington state where he will join two other tigers in a captive-breeding program which has successfully bred Sumatran tigers before, including triplets in 2014. “[Sanjiv] is a very social and expressive tiger who loves to interact with his keepers and our two female tigers,” assistant curator Erin Pritchard said in a press release. “He’s always chuffing and vocalizing, and he’s fascinated with the swinging gibbons and other species that share his Asian Forest Sanctuary home.” Fewer than 400 Sumatran tigers survive in the wild today, according to some exports, due to loss of habitat, poaching for body parts, and human-tiger conflicts. There are 72 Sumatran tigers living in accredited US zoos. This captive population is managed by a Species Survival Plan under the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

[China-led dam project under fire in Sumatra](#)

—Muhammad Zulfikar Rakhmat and Yeta Purnama, *Asia Sentinel*, 3 January 2022

A subspecies of Indonesia’s critically endangered orangutan population, whose numbers have fallen by 83% over the past 75 years faces a major threat from the Batu Boru dam, a Chinese-backed 510-megawatt hydroelectric dam under construction in northern Sumatra. The dam has been under construction since 2015, part of China’s trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative, but it also lies near the Sumatra Fault, which caused 947 earthquakes in Aceh and North Sumatra since 2019. There are fears of a repeat of the 7.7 1892 Tapanuli earthquake which struck within a few kilometers of the dam site. Orangutan extinction across Indonesia has been mainly caused by hunting and loss of habitat to infrastructure construction. In the Tapanuli area there are only 800 orangutans left. In 2017, the Tapanuli orangutans were confirmed to be members of a new species. According to a 2020 report, the Batang Toru dam will not be sufficient to improve access or regularity of electricity supply in the North Sumatra Region, which has a surplus of electric power.

Report: David W. Brown and Jeffrey D. Brown, Brown Brothers Energy and Environment LLC, “[Analysis of Electricity Demand in North Sumatra Province and Planned Batang Toru Hydroelectric Power Plant’s Impacts](#)”, January 2020.

[Indonesia’s essential mangroves, seagrass, and corals remain unprotected](#)

—Basten Gokkon, *Mongabay*, 30 December 2022

Much of Indonesia's mangrove forests, seagrass beds, and coral reefs fall outside protected areas, which could thwart efforts at effective marine conservation. Indonesia has 284,000 km² of the marine area under protection and plans to expand the size of its marine protected areas (MPAs) to 325,000 km² or 10% of its territorial waters by 2030. But 84% of the country's 2.79 million ha of mangroves, 55% of its 295,000 ha of seagrass meadows, and 57% of its 2.52 million ha of coral reefs fall outside these MPAs, according to a report by WRI Indonesia. "These essential ecosystems ... function as habitat and protection for sea organisms ... including nurseries," according to Tezza Napitupulu, lead author of the report. With the threat of the climate crisis, there's been a growing appreciation of these ecosystems' importance as barriers against ocean disasters and as stores of carbon dioxide, especially mangroves and seagrass, Napitupulu said, adding that "declaring an MPA is not always the end game."

Report: Lucentazza Napitupulu et al, "[Trends in Marine Resources and Fisheries Management in Indonesia: A Review](#)", World Resources Institute Indonesia, December 2022

[Unsustainable fishing to be banned in Irrawaddy's Indonesian Borneo sanctuary](#)

—Basten Gokkon, *Mongabay*, 22 December 2022

The threatened Bornean populations of Irrawaddy dolphins (*Orcaella brevirostris*) in the Mahakam River in East Kalimantan is set to get a much-needed reprieve as Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries officials working with an Indonesian NGO roll out a ban on unsustainable fishing gear in a key stretch of the river. The plan calls for banning fishing with a type of gillnet, electrofishing, poison fishing, and monopolizing fisheries that rig an entire cross-section of the river with a net. The Mahakam population of Irrawaddy dolphins is estimated at only 80 individuals, most inhabiting the planned conservation area, and considered to be critically endangered. Fishers in the area will need assistance to switch to more sustainable fishing gear, such as traps, cages, and longlines, according to Danielle Krebs, scientific program manager for the Conservation Foundation for Rare Aquatic Species of Indonesia (YK-RASI), the NGO working with the fisheries ministry. The freshwater dolphins of the Mahakam represent one of just three riverine populations of Irrawaddy dolphins in the world.

[China, Indonesia, and Brazil ensure COP15 biodiversity deal passed despite objections from Congo](#)

—Gloria Dicke and Isia Binnie, *Reuters*, 20 December 2022

A UN summit approved a landmark deal to protect nature and provide billions of dollars for conservation, but objections from key African nations home to large tracts of tropical rainforest delayed final passage. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, led by China and Canada, is intended to guide global conservation efforts around the target of protecting 30% of the world's land and ocean areas by 2030 (or "30-by-30"). The deal directs developed countries to provide US\$25 billion in annual funding from 2025 and US\$30 billion by 2030 and replaces the 2010 Aichi Biodiversity Targets in place through 2020 with 23 new targets. None of the Aichi targets were actually achieved, but targets in the new deal are more easily expressed as quantifiable objectives. But the rejection of a demand that developed countries create a separate fund to support developing countries led to a protest by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) calling the final deal illegal, but China, Brazil, and Indonesia ultimately brokered a last-minute solution.

Agreement: Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 15th Meeting (COP15), [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (Text of Draft Decision submitted by the President), 18 December 2022.

[New biodiversity framework abandons Aichi target of halting wildlife extinctions](#)

—Center for Biodiversity Press Release, biologicaldiversity.org, 19 December 2022

The old targets, set in 2010 in Aichi Japan, included an agreement to prevent the extinction of known threatened species by 2020. But the new Kunming-Montreal framework does not call for an immediate halt to human-caused extinctions. “Basically, the agreement is a watered-down version of business as usual when it comes to fighting wildlife extinction,” said Tanya Sanerib, international legal director of the Center for Biodiversity. “UN scientists said we need transformative change or we risk losing a million species, [but] what we got when it comes to halting species’ extinctions is backtracking on biodiversity.” The framework also contains targets for curtailing pesticide and plastic pollution, addressing the intersection of climate and biodiversity, and addressing invasive species threats, [and] calls for reducing but not eliminating the risk of pathogen spillover. “This framework doesn’t do enough to prevent future pandemics despite the tragic reality that millions have died from a pandemic of likely zoonotic origin,” Sanerib said.

D. Climate Change, Energy, and Mining

[Tesla nears deal to build auto production facilities in Indonesia](#)

—Reuters via ChannelNewsAsia, 11 January 2023

Tesla is nearing a preliminary deal to build electric vehicle (EV) production facilities in Indonesia with an annual capacity of one million units, Bloomberg News reported. Tesla currently manufactures cars at gigafactories located in Shanghai, China; Austin, Texas, US; Berlin, Germany; and Fremont, California, US. The company is also reportedly about to announce a new factory in Mexico’s Nuevo Leon state. Tesla CEO Elon Musk reportedly said South Korea was among the top candidates for an EV factory in Asia, according to the South Korean President’s office last November. Tesla signed contracts worth about US\$5 billion to buy materials for their batteries from nickel processing companies in Indonesia, CNBC reported last year. However, Indonesian President Joko Widodo urged the EV maker to manufacture automobiles as well as batteries.

[Coal may scupper Indonesia’s pretensions to a green future](#)

—Johannes Nugroho, *Asia Sentinel*, 10 January 2023

Indonesia scored at the G20 summit in Bali when it signed the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP), a US\$20 billion agreement with donor countries and institutions to help Indonesia phase out coal as a source of energy. But can Indonesia deliver on its emissions pledges? Indonesia is one world’s biggest exporters of thermal coal. Leading politicians and members of the economic elite are deeply involved in the sector. Indonesia’s five biggest coal mining companies are controlled by a handful of “coal oligarchs”, according to Project Multatuli, including Aburuzall Bakrie, Fuganto Widjaja, Minister of Tourism Sandiaga Uno, Minister of State-owned Enterprises Erik Thohir, Agus Lasmono and Low Tuck Kwong, while Coordinating Minister of Maritime Affairs and Investment Luhut Binsar Panjaitan, who played a crucial role in securing the JETP loan, is also invested in coal. Incestuous links between the economic and political interests of key coal sector players and a public not committed to ending coal emissions are reminders that turning Indonesia into an emission-free country by 2050 will be challenging.

Johannes Nugroho is a journalist based in Surabaya, Indonesia

Report: Viriya Singgih, “[Profil & Peta Koneksi Bisnis dan Politik 10 Oligark Batubara Terbesar di Indonesia di bawah Pemerintahan Jokowi](#)” [Profile and map of the political and business connections of Indonesia’s ten biggest coal oligarchs under the Joko Widodo administration], 4 February 2022.

[Indonesia’s biofuel push must go beyond palm oil to reduce risks](#)

—Hans Nicholas Jong, *Mongabay*, 10 January 2023

From February diesel fuel sold in Indonesia must be B35, a blend of 65% fossil diesel and 35% palm oil biodiesel. By 2025, the blend will be 50% palm oil. Increasing the share of palm oil in fuels will lead to expanding oil palm plantation area, increasing the risk of further deforestation. This jump from B30 to B35 will increase annual demand for palm biofuel from 10.6 billion to 13.1 billion liters. Fewer than 4 million ha of available land suitable for new sustainable palm oil plantations is available in Indonesia, but these are in scattered fragments. Capping palm oil plantation area would force producers to boost their productivity, but the Russia-Ukraine war has contributed to fertilizer prices tripling since early 2022. To ensure sufficient supply to meet domestic demand, the government will restrict exports of crude palm oil (CPO). Last year, producers were allowed to export eight times domestic sales volume, but as of January 2023, the ratio has been reduced to six.

Paper: John Frederick D. Tapia et al, “[How much land is available for sustainable palm oil?](#)” *Land Use Policy* 102 (March 2021). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2020.105187>.

[Opinion: Is Indonesia serious about stopping climate change and boosting renewable energy?](#)

—Firdaus Cahyadi, *Mongabay*, 9 January 2023

During the 2022 G20 Summit in Bali, the Indonesian government announced a new energy transition funding mechanism. Under the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP), Group of Seven (G7) members and EU partner countries will mobilize US\$20 billion (Rp 310.4 trillion) in funding for Indonesia’s energy transition. A true energy transition is not just a matter of funding. Is Indonesia really serious? President Joko Widodo recently issued a presidential regulation concerning the accelerated development of renewable energy for electricity, but despite the title, the Regulation actually provides ‘protection’ for plans to build new power plants powered by coal, one of the fossil energy sources that has caused the climate crisis. Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources is also openly developing CCS/CCUS technology to capture and store CO₂ from fossil fuel exhaust. State-owned banks are also not serious. Bank Mandiri issued US\$3.19 billion in loans to ten coal companies over 2015-2021.

Firdaus Cahyadi is Indonesia Team Leader for the climate campaign group 350.org.

[BP’s West Papua LNG production contract extended by 20 years](#)

—Deni Ghifari, *The Jakarta Post*, 26 December 2022

The Indonesian government has granted UK-based oil and gas producer BP a 20-year extension of its contract to produce liquified natural gas (LNG) in West Papua. BP is the operator of the Tangguh production-sharing contract covering three blocks in Bintuni Bay that were due to expire in 2035 but now will be extended to 2055. Tangguh is the largest gas-producing field in Indonesia. Its two production trains have a combined annual capacity of 7.6

million tonnes of LPG accounting for about 20% of national gas production. In addition to a third production train under construction that will come online in 2023, increasing Tangguh's production capacity by an estimated 50%, BP and partners are planning the Tangguh UCC project comprising the development of the Ubadari gas field in the South China Sea; enhanced gas recovery through carbon capture, utilization and storage (EGR/CCUS) in the Vorwata field in the South China Sea; and onshore compression.

Indonesia's new bauxite ban drops a trade war gauntlet

—John McBeth, *Asia Times*, 24 December 2022

Doubling down on Indonesia's value-added mineral policy which has drawn fire from the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Europe, a defiant President Joko Widodo insists his administration will go ahead with plans to ban bauxite exports in June 2023. Widodo made the announcement after returning from a visit to Brussels where attended the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-European Union (EU) summit. "If we want to build a good partnership, then (it) must be based on equality, there should be no coercion," Widodo told the meeting. Industry players are worried about the availability of clean energy to run the smelters in North Kalimantan, a province that has only 425 megawatts of electricity capacity. Many banks and other financial institutions are refusing to fund projects that use coal-fired power plants for future operations. The government is relying on a proposed 9,000 MW hydro plant on the Kayan River that would supply power to North Kalimantan's 10,000-hectare Tanah Kuning Industrial zone.

President Widodo confirms bauxite ban will proceed as scheduled

—Fransiska Nangoy and Bernadette Christina, *Reuters*, 21 December 2022

Indonesian President Joko Widodo confirmed that an export ban on bauxite planned for June 2023 will proceed as scheduled, despite the recent WTO ruling in favor of the EU against Indonesia regarding nickel ore exports. Widodo said the bauxite ban aimed to replicate Indonesia's success in developing its nickel processing capacity after halting exports of raw nickel ore in January 2020, which succeeded in enticing foreign investors to build smelting facilities in Indonesia. China imported 17.8 million tonnes of Indonesian bauxite in 2021 and 18.0 million tonnes during the first 11 months of 2022. Indonesia has four bauxite processing facilities with 4.3 million tonnes of alumina output capacity, with additional facilities with a planned capacity of nearly 5 million tonnes under construction, said Coordinating Minister of Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto.

Climate Research Consortium: Indonesia's renewed climate targets remain critically insufficient

—Yerica Lai, *The Jakarta Post*, 20 December 2022

The updated Nationally Determined Contribution commitments Indonesia submitted to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) calling for reducing carbon emissions by 31.89% independently or 43.2% with international assistance by 2030 remain "critically insufficient", according to the Climate Action Tracker (CAT), a global climate research consortium, the same lowest possible rating that Indonesia received last September before the new targets were announced. If all governments adopted targets rated critically insufficient, global warming would exceed 4° C by 2100, CAT said. Fabby Tumiwa, Executive Director of the Institute for Essential Services Reform (IESR), said Indonesia should have adopted more ambitious targets in the energy and forest sectors. For the world to hold global warming to 1.5° C, Indonesia's emission level would need to peak before 2030. Erik Armundito at the National

Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) said the Indonesian government remains optimistic about reaching net zero emissions by 2060.

E. Pollution and Waste

[Opinion: Has the tide been turned on ocean plastic?](#)

—Dini Trisyanti, *The Jakarta Post*, 7 January 2023

Ocean Conservancy, a US-based NGO recently apologized for publishing a 2015 report “Stemming the Tide”, stating that the report created a misframing and false narrative about the countries to blame for ocean plastic pollution, naming Indonesia as the world’s second-worst contributor to the problem. While this framing succeeded in leveraging the plastic pollution issue at the global level and had a positive impact by building public awareness of the need for better waste management, it neglected the criticality of other solid-waste issues. We should not lose focus on how to comprehensively address waste management, for which the key problem lies in the disconnected waste-management system rather than any particular type of waste. Now global funding is pouring in, supporting projects and technical assistance. However, we seem to be gradually losing focus and becoming overwhelmed by things that have to be tackled simultaneously. Even before the ocean plastic crisis, coordination has been our weak point. But we also need to be more critical of arguments coming from foreign sources.

The author is the Director of Sustainable Waste Indonesia

F. Investment and Finance

[Minister of Finance warns return to ‘Cold War’ geopolitics will damage global economic growth](#)

Fadhil Haidar Sulaeman, *The Jakarta Post*, 10 January 2023

Finance Minister Sri Mulyani warned that a fundamental shift in the global geopolitical environment had created a Cold War-like situation in which a Western bloc is standing against Russia and China and preventing global economic growth from reaching its full potential. “We have a new wall now, and the supply chain is shifting,” she said, adding that banks should be “cautious before being optimistic” and noting that as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had downgraded its global economic growth forecast to just 2.7%, a third of the world economy is expected to slide into recession and more than 63 countries face possible debt crises. The minister also observed that global decision-makers have made climate change a “mainstream issue” compelling bankers to reconsider their current policies and reflecting greater awareness of the systematic risks that climate change poses to financial markets.

G. Human Rights and Gender Equality

[President Widodo expresses regret over past human rights abuses in Indonesia](#)

—AFP via *The Jakarta Post*, 11 January 2022

President Joko Widodo expressed regret over mass human rights violations committed in the country’s past, including a violent anti-communist purge in the 1960s and the disappearance of student protestors in the late 1990s. More than half a million leftists were murdered across the country in the mid-1960s, a bloody spectacle that ushered in the long rule of Suharto, whose fervent anti-communist stance remains in place decades later. The president also mentioned the abduction and murder of dozens of student protesters and activists during mass street

rallies in 1998 that brought down the Suharto government and went on to list ten other violations which took place between the 1960s and the early 2000s, including rights abuses in the Papua region, including an army and police operation in 2003 leaving dozens of civilians dead in which officers were accused of murder, torture, and abduction. Usman Hamid, director of Amnesty International Indonesia, said the president did not go far enough. “It should not have been only regret, but also apology, Hamid said.

Indonesian government considers redress for past atrocities

—Nur Janti, *The Jakarta Post*, 7 January 2022

The government is preparing to “rehabilitate” the rights of victims and families of victims of serious past human rights violations after President Joko Widodo acknowledged and expressed regret over the dark events. Coordinating Political, Legal, and Security Affairs Minister Mahfud MD said the government was considering reparations in the social and health sectors, scholarships, and “physical rehabilitation” following recommendations from a non-judicial settlement team headed by veteran diplomat and human rights activist Makarim Wibisono, *Tempo* reported. The move came after the nonjudicial settlement team submitted its 11-point recommendations last month, including that the government should acknowledge and express regret over past atrocities, restore victims' rights and build an oversight mechanism for recommendations implementation.

AGO appeals against the ‘Bloody Paniai’ ruling

—Nur Janti, *The Jakarta Post*, 7 January 2022

The Indonesian Attorney General’s Office (AGO) has filed an appeal against a ruling acquitting the sole defendant in the 2014 fatal shooting of civilians in Papua’s Paniai Regency. Security forces opened fire on a crowd of demonstrators protesting the alleged beating of a youth by the Indonesian military, causing the deaths of five people, including four teenagers. The Makassar Human Rights Court in South Sulawesi ruled in December that the ‘Bloody Paniai’ incident was a gross human rights violation, but Isak Sattu, a retired army major who was liaison officer with the Paniai Military Command (Kodim) and the only accused on trial, was cleared of all charges. Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs Mahfud MD has said President Joko Widodo told him to “just bring the case to court even though it will lose.” Tioria Pretty Stephanie of the Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence, said she doubted this violation of human rights could have been committed only by one actor.

Empowerment of Demak fisherwomen

—Dini Pramita, *Tempo English*, 2 January 2022

Hidayah Masnuah, known as “Dayah”, set up Puspita Bahari in Demak, Central Java, in 2005 out of concern that women in fishing families have almost no say on important matters and how young girls in fishing families are hastily married off so they can become their husbands’ responsibilities, but her efforts were seen as “threatening and going against nature”. In 2009, Dayah revived Puspita Bahari as an economic and promotional organization, helping women make products to sell. In 2018, she campaigned on the basis of new legislation, Law 7/2016 on Protection and Empowerment of Fisherfolk, Fish Cultivators, and Salt-Pond Farmers, arguing that 31 Demak fisherwomen had been unfairly denied insurance comparable to that made available to menfolk. The climate crisis has pushed Dayah to become active in educating coastal communities about environment-friendly fishing methods and the importance of mangrove ecosystems. Masnuah has been recognized for advocating for coastal communities

and promoting an ecosystem of female social entrepreneurship which is providing models for women's leadership.

[Indonesia's new criminal code seen as blow to human rights](#)

—John McBeth, *Asia Times*, 9 December 2022

The Indonesian parliament's decision to criminalize extramarital sex and freedom of speech in the newly enacted Criminal Code (KUHP) dealt a potentially damaging blow to the country's international reputation. The US and Australia have warned that the tone of the legislation could scare off investors and foreign visitors, and the United Nations said some of the 624 articles are incompatible with basic freedoms and human rights, including the right to equality. Civil society activists have threatened protests, and police blamed the KUHP for the suicide bombing of a police station in Bandung. "Articles in the new code violate the rights of women, religious minorities and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, and undermine the rights of freedom of speech and association," New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a statement. The KUHP also lays down a maximum three-year jail term for insulting the president, vice president, parliament, and other state institutions, the Pancasila national ideology, and the national flag.

Law: UU Nomor 1 Tahun 2023, *Undang-undang Republik Indonesia Nomor 1 Tahun 2023 tentang Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Pidana KUHP*, [Law Number 1 of 2023 concerning Statutes of Criminal Law (KUHP).]

I. [Developments in the Papuan region \(*Tanah Papua*\)](#)

[Indonesian president supports plan to scale back troops in restive Papua](#)

—Stanley Widiyanto, *Reuters*, 19 December 2022

President Joko Widodo said he supports the plan to scale back the presence of troops in the eastern region of Papua where the country's military has been accused of human rights abuses in tackling a long-running independence movement that has intensified in recent years. When asked whether troops in Papua would be reduced, Widodo's newly-installed military chief, Yudo Margono, told reporters on Monday that he would go to Papua and evaluate the situation before making a decision but did not provide details. The outgoing former military chief Andika Perkasa had called for a "humanistic approach" in Papua emphasizing communicating with rebel groups. According to the Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict, the frequency of insurgency-related violence in Papua increased from 11 incidents a year over 2010-2017 to 52 incidents a year over 2018-2021.

[Indonesian government recognizes indigenous Papuans' ancestral forests](#)

—Asrida Elisabeth and Hans Nicolas Jong, *Mongabay*, 1 December 2022

The Indonesian government has recognized the claims of indigenous communities to ancestral forests in the Papua region for the first time in history. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) handed over decrees recognizing customary forests for seven Papuan indigenous groups: the Syuglue Woi Yansu (who received title to 16,493 ha), Yano Akrua (2,226 ha), Yano Meyu (501 ha), Yosu Desoyo (3,394 ha), Yano Wai (594 ha), Yano Takwobleng (405 ha), and Ogoney (16,299 ha). The total area, 39,911 ha, represents only small fraction of the millions of ha of ancestral forest in Tanah Papua where indigenous community claims are still pending, including forest sites where Indigenous peoples were living centuries before the state of

Indonesia existed. In 2013 a Constitutional Court ruling ordered the government to relinquish customary forests that overlap with state forests. However, until last October only 108,577 ha had been returned to Indigenous communities in the entire country, and none in the Papua region.

II. Emergency regulation replaces “omnibus” Jobs Creation Law

Indonesia issues emergency regulation replacing omnibus jobs law

—Ananda Teresia and Gayatri Suroyo, *Reuters*, 30 December 2022

Indonesia's President Joko Widodo signed an emergency regulation [Note: *perppu*, or Decree-in-lieu-of-law] replacing the controversial job creation law the Supreme Court had ruled was flawed. The move was criticized as an attempt to bypass debate in parliament, but Economics Minister Airlangga Hartoto said global economic uncertainty next year gives him the legal basis for such a move. Indonesia's Constitutional Court, ruling that the “omnibus” Jobs Creation Law in 2020 contained many typographical errors and that its enactment lacked adequate public consultations, ordered lawmakers to restart the process. The law had sparked nationwide protests from workers, students, and green groups who said it eroded labor and environmental protections, citing relaxed rules on severance pay, changes to the minimum wage formula, and a stipulation that environmental studies would only be required for high-risk investments. An emergency regulation is usually effective immediately but must be endorsed by parliament by the end of its next session to become permanent legislation.

Ends