



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. Marine & Fisheries

[Shining a light on Indonesia's murky shark fishery and trade](#)

—Carolyn Cowan, *Mongabay*, 5 November 2021

Indonesia is home to one fifth of all known shark and ray species and the world's biggest shark and ray fishery, but gaps in regulations are facilitating illegal and unregulated trade, and discrepancies between Indonesia's export figures and data from its trading partners document a complex domestic trade in shark and ray products and a recent surge in live exports. Hong Kong has declared larger imports of shark fins from Indonesia than indicated by Indonesia's export figures. From 2012 to 2018, export-import discrepancies amounted to roughly half of Indonesia's total export volume of these products, valued at US\$43.6 million for fins and US\$20.9 million for meat. Of the 221 species known from Indonesian waters, only six are fully protected—whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*), giant manta rays (*Manta birostris*), reef mantas (*Manta alfredi*) and three species of sawfish. In addition, four globally threatened species—oceanic white tips (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) and three species of hammerhead shark—are banned from export, but domestic fishing and trade is permitted.

Paper: Andhika P. Prasetyo et al, "[Shark and ray trade in and out of Indonesia: Addressing knowledge gaps on the path to sustainability](#)", *Marine Policy* 133 (November 2021).

Paper: Holley Booth et al, "[Shark and ray conservation and management in Indonesia: Status and strategic priorities 2018-2023](#)", [Researchgate.net](https://www.researchgate.net), *Wildlife Conservation Society* (January 2018).

[Solar ice machines for fresh fish](#)

—*International Climate Initiative*, 18 October 2021

The Indonesian archipelago is the world's second largest producer of fish, yet inadequate storage facilities at smaller ports and small-scale fisheries result in reduced quality and financial losses. The main problem is the lack of high quality ice that threatens to break the cold chain at the outset. The Explore project aims to secure a sustainable cold chain through use of a solar photovoltaic system integrated with a conventional ice maker to produce up to one tonne of ice daily, independently of grid electrical or diesel power, ensuring the catch can be cooled as soon as it is brought ashore. Compared to diesel-powered ice makers, the solar ice machine will save 40 tonnes of CO₂ and 14,000 litres of diesel per year while

cutting operating costs by 30%. A prototype will be installed in Kupang, NTT. Partners include Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Indonesia's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR), Ministry of Development Planning (BAPPENAS), Ministry of Finance, and the state-owned electric power utility PLN.

Paper: Developing sustainable small-scale fisheries livelihoods in Indonesia

—Natasha Stacey et al, *Marine Policy* 132, October 2021

Indonesia's small-scale fisheries (SSF) encompass capture fisheries, aquaculture and mariculture activities, employing labor intensive harvest, processing, and distribution technologies and make crucial contributions to livelihoods, food and nutrition. Yet Indonesia's 2.5 million SSF are characterised by poverty rates and vulnerability due to declining ecosystems and climatic change, while sustainability is challenged by overfishing, destructive fishing practices, pollution, and inappropriate coastal development, while poor fish handling and post-harvest practices and inadequate infrastructure leads to high discards and losses. Livelihood-focused interventions are at the core of many coastal development programs, but evidence of the effectiveness of these interventions, measured primarily in economic terms, is mixed, while many positive impacts assessed against three domains of poverty (security, opportunity, empowerment) did not continue after external support was withdrawn. Evaluations to assess trade-offs between livelihoods and sustainability, improved governance, mitigation of conflicted role of markets and cross-sector collaboration is needed to improve outcomes and strengthen pro-poor marine and fisheries resource management and livelihoods.

Indonesia suspends joint patrols with Australia after three Indonesian fishing boats burned

—Caesar Akbar, *Tempo*, 9 November 2021

Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries announced cancellation of its joint patrols against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) with the Australian Border Force (ABF) after Australian authorities set fire to three Indonesian fishing vessels that had allegedly violated maritime borders to fish in Australian waters near Rowley Shoals Marine Park. Thirteen other Indonesian vessels were escorted from Australian waters. "The Jawline-Arafura [Sea] joint patrol is postponed" pending ABF's providing an official explanation of the incident, Rear Admiral Adin Nurawaluddin, Director General of the Marine and Fishery Resources Supervision said in a statement on 8 November.

Confrontation between Australian authorities and Indonesian fishing vessels

—[VOI.id](https://www.voi.id), 8 November 2021

The Australian Border Force (ABF) recently burned three small fishing boats on fire following a three-day operation near Rowley Shoals Marine Park off the northern coast of Western Australia. The operation took place over concerns about the presence of foreign vessels and hijacking incidents. Thirteen others escorted out of Australian waters. Fishing gear and 630 kg of sea cucumbers were confiscated. None of the fishers were detained. The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) said the Maritime Border Command (MBC) and ABF were deploying Operation JAWLINE, a targeted operation to combat IUU fishing and counter the increase in attacks by foreign fishing vessels operating in Australian waters. Between 1 July and 15 October 2021, Operation Jawline has resulted in the destruction of 15 illegal foreign fishing vessels and confiscation of gear and catch from an additional 86 foreign vessels. The AFMA is working with Indonesian officials to distribute fisheries law enforcement hats to fishing communities in the port of Kupang and on the island of Rote.

"Awkward" fisheries intervention clouds visit by Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne

—Dian Septiari, *The Jakarta Post*, 9 November 2021

Australia's Maritime Border Command (MBC) raised eyebrows when they intercepted 16 Indonesian fishing vessels in the Rowley Shoals about 160 miles (258 km) just ahead of Foreign Minister Marise Payne's visit to Jakarta and meeting with Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno LP Marsudi, setting three of the boats on fire. Under a bilateral deal, Indonesia's traditional are allowed to fish at Ashmore Reef in Australian waters based on historic and ongoing cultural and economic associations, but Ashmore Reef is

much further north. Responding to local reports of the Australian ship-sinking, former Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) Susi Pudjiastuti reportedly said “[It’s high time to revive [Indonesia’s] policy of sinking illegally poaching vessels in Indonesia’s territorial waters.” Payne’s visit was part of a four-country tour to reassure neighboring countries over Australia’s recently announced security partnership with the UK and the US (AUKUS), which includes plans for Canberra to procure nuclear-powered submarines. Indonesia and Malaysia are two countries that have expressed reservations about Australia’s plan.

B. Forests & Land Use

B-1. Special Section: COP26 UN Climate Change Conference reports

COP26: Which countries are leaders in reducing deforestation? And which are not?

—Rhett A. Butler, *Mongabay*, 5 November 2021

The 127 signatories to the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use account for 90% of global tree cover and 85% of the world’s primary tropical forests, making the declaration a larger constituency than the 39 countries that signed the New York Declaration in 2014—a pledge which failed badly in its ambition to halve deforestation by 2020—forest loss instead rose substantially in those territories. Indonesia, which signed both the 2014 New York Declaration and the 2021 Glasgow Declaration, experienced the biggest decline in primary tropical forest loss from 2010-2014 to 2016-2020, falling 31% from 3.22 million ha to 2.24 Mha. With regard to tree cover loss, which is a different metric than deforestation, Indonesia ranked second after Canada with a decline in its tree cover loss of 1.04 Mha (13%) between 2010-2014 and 2016-2020, while the countries showing the greatest increase in tree cover loss over the period were Brazil (6.67 Mha), Russia (5.3 Mha), Australia (3.84 Mha) the DRC (2.62 Mha), and the US (1.48 Mha). (170)

COP26: Indonesian Minister — Development must not be stopped for the sake of deforestation

—Francisca Christy Rosana Fajar Pebrianto, *Tempo.co*, 4 November 2021

Minister of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) Siti Nurbaya asserted that halting economic development for the sake of reaching zero deforestation is contrary to Indonesia’s 1945 Constitution, because she believes development is a national goal intended to improve the economy and welfare of the people. “The massive development of President [Joko “Jokowi” Widodo’s] era must not stop in the name of [reducing] carbon emissions or deforestation”, she explained. Siti said Indonesia has reasserted its commitment to control emissions from the forestry and other land use (FoLU) by 2030, but stressed that the FoLU program cannot be interpreted as zero deforestation and that forests must continue to be managed sustainably. “The President’s message is clear, there must be balance,” Siti said. While the government claimed deforestation has dropped significantly, Forest Watch Indonesia (FWI) executive director Mufti Barri said deforestation in Indonesia had actually increased from 1.1 million hectares (MHa) over 2009-2013 to 1.47 million MHa from 2013 to 2017.

COP26: Indonesia says UK misrepresented the deforestation pledge

—Claire Jiao and Jess Shankleman, *Bloomberg Green*, 4 November 2021

The dispute kicked off after Zac Goldsmith, a minister at the UK Environment Department, tweeted on 2 November that more than 100 countries had signed up to “end deforestation by 2030.” The next day, Indonesia’s Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mahendra Siregar said Goldsmith’s tweet was “false and misleading” and that Indonesia had only agreed to keep net forest cover steady over the period, meaning that trees could still be cut down and replaced.” The forest pledge is one of dozens of side deals the UK urged countries to join at COP26. While it is backed by US\$18 billion public and private financing, it isn’t legally binding. Indonesian Minister of Environment and Forestry Siti Nurbaya Bakar said that forests are part of Indonesia’s “natural wealth” and must be managed for its benefit, while observing principles of sustainability. The country aims to reach [overall] carbon neutrality in its forestry sector by 2030, while

also making way for infrastructure to connect over 34,000 villages located in forested areas and surrounds.

Cop26: Which part of “No” did we not understand?

—Editorial Board, *The Jakarta Post*, 11 November 2021

Almost as soon as President Joko Widodo, along with more than 100 other leaders attending the COP26 Climate Change Conference, signed the agreement on “no deforestation” by 2030, Minister of Environment and Forestry Siti Nurbaya Bakar put out a qualifier that for Indonesia this did not mean a complete stop to deforestation. Which part of “no” did we not understand? Minister Siti’s comment came within 24 hours at a meeting with overseas Indonesian students and she posted a statement to the same effect to her social media accounts. Should she not have explained this to the global audience at the conference? For years, the government promises to slow deforestation have been disregarded in the name of economic development, but the real beneficiaries have not been people living in forest areas as the government claims, but rather big corporations that convert large tracts of forest primarily into palm oil plantations. Why did Indonesia sign the deal, when it was obvious to all that the agreement meant zero deforestation by 2030?

As fossil fuel use surges, will COP26 protect forests to slow climate change?

—Justin Catanoso, *Mongabay*, 1 November 2021

Since the 2015 Paris Agreement, the world was supposed to cut greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel burning to slow global warming. Yet carbon emissions continue to rise and impacts escalate, putting the world on track for a catastrophic 2.7° C increase in temperature over pre-industrial levels by 2100. According to the UN, 15 major fossil-fuel producing countries, including Indonesia, Australia, India, Indonesia, Russia and the US plan to produce *more* oil, natural gas, and coal by 2030, not less. Meanwhile, natural sinks and reservoirs are disappearing as tropical forests in Indonesia, Central Africa and South America are replaced by cattle ranches, soy oil palm and soy plantations. In 2020, carbon emissions from tropical forests were more than double the emissions from all cars on US highways, according to the World Resources Institute. “I am more worried today for the state of our forests than I have ever been in my career,” said Dominick DellaSala, forest ecologist and chief scientist at Oregon-based NGO Wild Heritage.

Cop26 cop-out? Indonesia’s clean energy pledge keeps coal front and center

—Hans Nicholas Jong, *Mongabay*, 10 November 2021

Indonesia has signed another seemingly landmark pledge at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, this time to phase out the use of coal, the dominant source in its energy mix, by the 2040s. But as with its earlier pledge at COP26 to end deforestation by 2030 from which it immediately backed away, details of the coal pledge suggest no actual intent to reduce use of the polluting fossil fuel in real terms, activists say. The figure Indonesia is touting under the new clean energy agreement is retirement of 9.2 gigawatts (GW) of coal-fired power plants by 2030, representing a quarter of its total coal generating capacity, but the reduction is meaningless because Indonesia will build 13.8 GW of new coal plants during the same period, says Greenpeace’s Adila Isfandiari. “We won’t be able to increase the [share of renewables] because the space [for new energy will] already have been occupied by these new coal plants, which would produce 83 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions a year,” Adila said.

COP26: Indonesia plans to increase biomass utilisation to achieve near decarbonisation

—Sam Hong, *ArgusMedia*, 29 July 2021

Indonesia plans to have 13 gigawatts (GW) of biomass and 23 GW of biomass-coal co-firing installed power generation capacity connected to carbon capture and storage (CCS) by 2050, according to new report by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Only a small amount of biomass energy was previously used in rural residential areas, and biomass-coal co-firing with CCS accounted to none of Indonesia’s 2019 power mix. Indonesia is the biggest palm kernel shell (PKS) exporter and the world’s third largest wood pellet exporter after Vietnam and Malaysia, exporting 3.18 MTonnes of PKS

and 311,000 tonnes of wood pellets in 2020. The surging and highly subsidized wood pellet industry is classified as “carbon neutral” by global climate change policy bodies, but critics say wood pellets create more carbon emissions than coal per unit of energy produced.

Paper: Eric Johnson, “[Goodbye to carbon neutral: Getting biomass footprints right](#)”, *Environmental Impact Assessment Review* 29 (April 2009)

B-2. Special Section: Forests and Land-use (other than COP-26)

[Indonesia’s deforestation vow spurs focus to replant \[oil\] palm trees](#)

By Eko Listiyorini, *Bloomberg Green*, 3 November 2021

A new commitment to reduce deforestation is pushing Indonesia, the world’s biggest producer of palm oil, to accelerate efforts to replant oil palm to ensure it is able to maintain production of the commodity. The industry will step up efforts to help smallholder farms covering 6.7 million ha (about 75% of the total oil palm acreage) to replace old, declining trees with new trees that will be more productive and profitable, according to Sahat Sinaga, acting chair of the Indonesian Palm Oil Board. This is expected to enable annual yield of fresh fruit bunches from smallholder plantations to be increased from about 9.2 tons per ha currently to 22 tons per ha. This would make it possible to increase annual output of crude palm oil (CPO) to increase from 48 million tonnes now to as much as 64 million tonnes, without requiring conversion or expansion into new forest areas.

[Indonesian farmers resisting an iron mine run up against a sultan](#)

—Arif Koes Hernawan et al, *Mongabay*, 28 October 2021

Chili pepper farmers in Kulon Progo, part of the Yogyakarta Sultanate, one of Indonesia’s oldest kingdoms, are facing eviction as a mining company controlled by senior Yogyakarta royals seeks to mine the iron sand for iron oxide and titanium. Sultan Hamengkubawono X is governor for life of the Yogyakarta Special Autonomous Region, the only province of Indonesia not administered by an elected governor. Seventy percent of the mining company’s shares are held by a steel company based in Tianjin, China, while 30% is held by senior royals, including Gusti Kanjeng ratu Mangkubumi, the eldest daughter and heir apparent of the current sultan. Farmers in Kulon Progo have established an association and protested to retain their fields, but like most rural Indonesians, they lack title to the land, though they have tilled their farms for many generations. In 2020 Kulon Progo produced 37,000 tonnes of chilis, as well as watermelon and vegetables. “If anyone invades the space where we live, we resist,” said Widodo, coordinator of the Kulon Progo Coastal Farmers’ Association.

C. Energy, Mining and Climate Change

[Indonesia’s ‘green’ electricity plan undermines its climate vows, activists say](#)

—Basten Gokkon, *Mongabay*, 28 October 2021

Indonesia’s new 10-year plan for electricity generation, the *Rencana Usaha Penyediaan Tenaga Listrik* (RUPTL), calls for adding 40.8 gigawatts (GW) of new electric power by 2030. Half would come from renewable energy, but a third would come from further expanding coal generating capacity, while the definition of “renewables” includes questionable sources such as gasified coal, biomass (burning wood pellets and nuclear power). Clean energy activists say the new RUPTL is far from green and would put the country “way off track” from achieving national and international goals. Adding 13.8 GW of new coal-fired capacity by 2030 would lock Indonesia into 83 million tonnes of annual emissions, the equivalent of running 40 million cars per year, from now until 2060, ten years after the world is supposed to have reached net zero emissions, said Adila Isfandiari, a Greenpeace researcher. Adila also pointed out that the planned increase in renewable share of Indonesia’s energy mix by 2030 would be just 24.8%.

[Energy minister outlines Indonesia’s plan for phasing out coal-fired power plants \(PLTU\)](#)

—Sugiharto Purnama, Uyu Liman, *Antara*, 2 November 2021

“We expect 57% of power plants in Indonesia will use solar, hydro, and geothermal energy by 2035, said Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Arifin Tasrif, outlining Indonesia’s plan to phase out coal-fired power stations (*pembangkit listrik tenaga uap*, or PLTU). Tasrif affirmed that no additional PLTU projects would be commissioned from 2026 to 2030, explaining that the country would only complete projects already being built and ones for which contracts have already been signed. From 2041 to 2045, a large-scale tidal power station and Indonesia’s first nuclear generator will begin operation, the minister said, adding that the remaining coal-fired power plants would be terminated from 2051 to 2060. In an earlier AntaraNews report, Deputy Minister of Finance Suahasil Nazara said Indonesia would need as much as Rp 3.5 quadrillion (US\$250 billion) to reduce the use of coal-fired power plants (PLTU) to reach carbon emission targets. “Most of our electricity is generated using coal and diesel, and many PLTUs operate under contracts with the state-owned electric power utility PT PLN.

[Pertamina keen on optimizing geothermal utilization in Indonesia](#)

—*Tempo*, 9 November 2021

State-owned energy company PT Pertamina wants to optimize utilization of geothermal as an important source of renewable energy. With 2,133 MW installed capacity, Indonesia has the second largest geothermal potential in the world after the United States, but only 10% of the reserves have been exploited. Most of Indonesia’s geothermal reserves are located in Sumatra, Java, and Bali. “This is in line with the national strategy to increase New Renewable Energy (NRE) to 24% of Indonesia’s total energy mix by 2030,” said Danif Danuaputro, PT Pertamina Power Indonesia CEO at a talk on the sidelines of the COP26 conference in Glasgow. Geothermal is the only renewable energy source which can provide baseline instead of intermittent energy, with an average availability factor of 90%. Pertamina is currently consolidating geothermal assets owned by other state-owned firms and government entities in order to optimize geothermal utilization.

[Indonesia on course to become major solar power exporter](#)

—Divya Karyza, *The Jakarta Post*, 30 October 2021

Institute for Essential Services Reform (IESR) Executive Director Fabby Tuiwa, called recently-announced solar power projects harbingers of an export-focused strategy to sell solar power exports from Indonesia to neighboring countries, and said they would be largely driven by Singapore’s plan to diversify its electricity supply by importing energy from new and renewable energy (NRE) sources. Tumiwa cited the recent announcement by Singaporean Trade and Industry Minister Gan Kim Yong that the city state was targeting 4 gigawatts worth of low-carbon electricity imports by 2035. Rising demand for low-carbon electricity presents NRE power developers with new opportunities to export energy to Singapore and other countries, he said. One question is who would get to claim the emissions reduction credit in joint venture projects. “If the reduction has been claimed by Indonesia, it cannot be claimed by Singapore, and vice versa,” according to Erika Hamdi, an energy analyst.

[Medco Power to export solar power to Singapore](#)

—Divya Karyza, *The Jakarta Post*, 26 October 2021

PT Medco Power Indonesia, a subsidiary of Indonesian oil company PT Medco Energi Internasional, announced it will develop a pilot project for exporting solar power from Indonesia to Singapore. Sited on Bulan island in Riau province. The Bulan Solar PV Project would have 670 MW installed capacity in its initial phase, which will be designed to provide 100 MW equivalent of non-intermittent electricity starting from 2024. “The inaugural 100 MW solar power export from Bulan Island is a milestone for Indonesia to provide clean and renewable energy, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Arifin Tasrif said. A Sunseap Group-led consortium has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a similar solar power export project using a floating solar farm on Batam, also in Riau. The project is planned to have an installed capacity of 7 GW peak, to provide 1 GW of non-intermittent solar power to be shared between Singapore and Indonesia.

D. Pollution and Waste Management

Trash and Burn: Big brands' new plastic waste plan

—Joe Brock et al, *Reuters Special Report*, 28 October 2021

A swarm of excavators tearing in to a stinking mound of garbage on the outskirts of Jakarta are unearthing enough discarded plastic rubbish to power a nearby cement plant. The project, funded in part by Unilever PLC, is part of an effort by multinationals to burn more plastic waste in cement kilns. Energy recovery initiatives like this are the centerpiece of a new partnership between consumer product giants and cement companies aimed at burnishing their environmental credentials. Converting waste plastic to energy keeps it out of landfills and oceans while allowing cement plants to move away from burning coal, a major contributor to global warming. In addition to Unilever, The Coca-Cola Company, Nestle S.A., and Colgate-Palmolive are plastic packaging sources involved in similar projects, while four major cement producers are also involved—Switzerland's Holcim Group, Mexico's Cemex SAB de CV, Indonesia's PT Solusi Bangun Indonesia Tbk (SBI) and Republic Cement and Building Material Inc. from the Philippines. But critics say plastic burned in cement kilns emit harmful air emissions.

Indonesia affirms commitment to phase out use of mercury at Minamata COP-4

—Prisca Triferia V, Suharto, *AntaraNews*, 2 November 2021

Indonesia affirmed its commitment to environmental diplomacy for phasing out the use of mercury while hosting the Fourth Conference of the Parties (COP-4) to the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Indonesia has succeeded in lowering the use of mercury in the lamp and battery industry, in the energy industry, in the health sector, and in the small-scale gold mining sector, according to Rosa Vivien Ratnawati, Director General of Toxic and Hazardous Waste Control at the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry. However, ending the use of mercury in small-scale gold mining remains the biggest challenge, Ratnawati said. Many communities involved in the small-scale gold mining sector are located in remote areas and have no other livelihood. The ministry is cooperating with provincial and district governments to promote eradication of mercury use, which is damaging to health and harms pregnant women.

E. Conservation and Protected Areas

Police arrest two men selling hornbills on Indonesian Facebook

—Ahmad Supardi, *Mongabay*, 10 November 2021

Police in Banten province arrested two men using social media to sell dozens of hornbills, an iconic bird under threat from habitat loss and poaching. Didin Hendiana, 35, procured the birds from people living near Ujung Kulon National Park on Java while his confederate, Luki Hamjah, 20, was in charge of selling them. Police confiscated 13 adult and 7 baby oriental pied hornbills (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) and three adult and two baby wreathed hornbills (*Aceros undulatus*) as well as 11 common hill mynas. The traffickers had set up a Facebook account "Ca Pets" to sell the birds and were also hawking them over WhatsApp for US\$30-40 each. According to Rangkong Indonesia, a hornbill conservation group, trafficking of hornbills is rampant with the illegal trade moving increasingly online. From January 2017 to August 2021, Rangkong Indonesia identified 51 cases of hornbills sold online. About half the cases were live hornbills offered as pets, while the rest were for body parts. "Protecting the hornbill in nature means we are also protecting the forests and their carbon reserves," said Yokyok Hadiprakarsa, founder of Rangkong Indonesia.

Straight outta Borneo: New gecko species just dropped

—Ahmad Spardi, *Mongabay*, 2 November 2021

Scientists have recently described a new species of gecko from Kalimantan [Indonesian Borneo]. *Cyrtodactylus hamidyi*, or the Hamidy bent-toed gecko was introduced to the world in August. The species is named after the leading Indonesian herpetologist Amir Hamidy, who has discovered many

previously unknown reptiles and amphibians. Borneo is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots where forests hold tens of thousands of known plant and animal species as well as many that are still undiscovered and unidentified, but wildlife poaching, forest fires, and deforestation for logging and industrial plantations are depleting key ecosystems and habitats.

Paper: Awal Rlyanto et al, "[Another bent-toed Gecko, genus *Crotodactylus* Gray 1837 \(Squamata: Gekkonidae\) from Borneo](#)", *Zootaxa* 5026:2 (25 August 2021).

[Starved and injured Sumatran tiger dies in captivity after being captured from the wild](#)

—Lili Rambe, *Mongabay*, 10 November 2021

A severely injured, emaciated Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*) has died in captivity at a wildlife rehabilitation center after being trapped in the wild in October. The adult female tiger was caught following a series of deadly tiger attacks on villagers living near Indonesia's Kerinci Seblat National Park. Fewer than 400 critically-endangered Sumatran tigers are alive in the wild today, more than a third in Kerinci Seblat. The tiger population has plunged in line with loss of its forest habitat due to logging and expanding oil palm and pulpwood plantations. Only two populations in Sumatra maintain long-term viability with more than 30 breeding females each. Rahmad Saleh, the head of the Jambi conservation department, said recent tiger attacks on people could be linked to a suspected local outbreak of African swine fever among wild boars (*Sus scrofa*) that are a staple of the tigers' diet.

F. Other

[Indonesia forms tourism holding company to boost sector revival](#)

—Tiara Maharani, *TTG Asia*, 27 October 2021

Indonesia's Ministry of State-Owned Enterprises (BUMN) has formed a state-owned holding company for aviation and tourism-related enterprises in a bid to revive the pandemic-ravaged sectors. The new holding company, Aviata Wisata Indonesia (Aviata), currently consists of the two airport management authorities, Angkasa Pura I and II, Hotel Indonesia Natour, the Sarinah department store, Taman Wisata Candi Borobudur, and the Prambanan and Ratu Boko temple parks. The Indonesian Tourism Development Corporation is set to join Aviata by the end of the year, and national airline Garuda Indonesia is expected to become part of the holding company in 2023, pending its restructuring process. Trawan Munaf and Dony Oskaria, both former Garuda Indonesia executives, will serve as Aviata's President Commissioner and President Director, respectively. Endra Gunawan, Acting Assistant Deputy for Tourism and Supporting Services at BUMN, said "[Aviata] is an ecosystem to integrate various forces to become a driving force that has a positive impact on the tourism industry. The holding company is mandated to carry out investment and management consulting activities in the transportation, tourism, retail and other sectors, and to develop an integrated tourism strategy to boost international arrivals and make Indonesia a world-class tourism destination.

[Papua: UNESCO reiterates dangers as Indonesia doubles down on Lorentz National Park highway](#)

—Hans Nicholas Jong, *Mongabay*, 9 November 2021

UNESCO has renewed its call to close a road running through Lorentz National Park after Indonesia's Minister of Environment and Forestry said shutting it down would be impossible. Lorentz, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, encompasses a range of biodiversity-rich ecosystems. The 190-km Habema-Kenyam road is part of the Trans-Papua Highway, a series of road segments, some still under construction, spanning thousands of kilometres on the Indonesian half of New Guinea. "It is not possible to close the road because it is an inter-district road," Minister Siti Nurbaya Bakar said during a parliamentary hearing in August. The ministry's Director General for Conservation, Wiratno, said infrastructure development would only be a problem if it resulted in encroachment, which he said wouldn't happen in Lorentz, noting that construction of the road broke no rules. But UNESCO Jakarta director Mohamed Djelid stated that the road nonetheless represents a threat because roads bring with them other associated developments, including settlements. Djelid said UNESCO's concern is not about

whether the project violates national regulations and that UNESCO Jakarta had not been involved in the environmental impact assessment process for the road. “The government, especially the environment ministry, should be honest by saying that besides road development, there is also a project to massively exploit natural resources which [will be] facilitated by the Trans-Papua highway in Lorentz National Park,” said Veronika Kusumaryati, a Georgetown University anthropologist who works in Papua province. “The ecological problems raised by UNESCO aren’t only related to the road as infrastructure, but deeply connected to land acquisition projects,” she said.

Papua: Indonesia Restricts Coverage of Restive Province

—A Correspondent, *Asia Sentinel*, 6 November 2021

Although reports hint at rising tensions in Indonesia’s most restive province, the government is tightly limiting access by domestic and international journalists. Papua, a former Dutch colony, was only declared part of Indonesia following a referendum of 1,000 representatives handpicked by the Indonesian military in 1969, a vote recognized internationally but rejected as fraudulent by many Papuans. Separatist struggles have been burning since. A firefight in October between the West Papua National Liberation Army (TPNPB) and Indonesian security forces in Intan Jaya District killed a toddler and forced 1,000 residents to seek refuge in a church. In April, the government officially labelled the TPNPB a terrorist organization. Intan Jaya came under the spotlight after its citizens rejected a gold mining plan to be carried out by companies from Jakarta in Blok Wabu, about 40 km north of the Grassberg mine managed by PT Freeport Indonesia. “[The news blackout] is not only about violence and human rights violations here (Papua), but also about the massive exploitation of natural resources,” according to Victor Mambor, leader of the local media outlet Jubi. Colonel Muhammad Aidi, head of Information for the XVII Cenderawasih Military Regional Command, denied accusations that journalistic access in Papua is restricted. “Indonesia, including Papua, has never been closed to anyone, as long as [they] follow the procedures applicable in this country,” he told local media.

Incoming Indonesian Military (TNI) commander outlines “softer” approach to Papuan separatism

— Dio Suhenda, *The Jakarta Post*, 10 November 2021

Incoming Indonesian Military (TNI) commander Gen. Andika Perkasa, President Joko Widodo’s sole nomination for the post, was grilled by lawmakers from House Commission I prior to his confirmation. At the hearing, Andika outlined a “softer” approach to handling Papuan separatism. Commission I member and House Deputy Speaker Lodewijk F. Paulus said that Andika would move away from deploying combat units in favor of using territorial units such as district military commands (Kodim), enlisted officers (Tamtama) and non-commissioned officers deployed as village supervisory officers (Babinsa). Andi Muhammad Rezaldy, a researcher at the Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence (Kontras), said that while he welcomed a more humanitarian approach to resolving the Papuan conflict, Andika’s commitment was overshadowed by his questionable track record. “We at Kontras doubt that [Andika] will employ such a humanitarian approach [in Papua] because he has a dark track record on human rights,” Rezaldy said. Andika, allegedly linked to the killing of Papuan activist Theys Hiyo Eluay in 2001, had previously said he was “not afraid” of further investigation of the allegation.

Ends