



Indonesia Sustainable Development News Digest

2024 Issue 12 — 13 June

*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. Technology, Investment and Finance
 - G. Human Rights and Gender Equality
-
- I. RI General Elections
 - II. Indonesia in Geopolitics

A. Marine and Fisheries

[Focusing on expanding marine conservation: Maritime Affairs Minister](#)

—Sinta Ambarwati and Cindy Frishanti Octavia, *AntaraNews*, 11 June 2024

Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Sakti Wahyu Trenggono announced that his ministry is prioritizing marine health conservation, with a focus on coral reefs. He emphasized the goal of expanding protected areas to preserve coral reefs. To support this initiative, Trenggono proposed an additional budget of Rp4.47 trillion (US\$274 million) for the 2025 fiscal year to the House of Representatives. This budget increase is part of the ministry's eco-

focused blue economy policy, aiming to facilitate its smooth implementation. Trenggono hopes this proposal will inform the government's 2025 budget planning, setting the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries' indicative ceiling at Rp10.7 trillion. The ministry aims to expand conservation areas to cover 30% of Indonesia's marine territory by 2045, up from the current 28.9 million hectares. Conservation areas are vital for sustaining fisheries resources. The blue economy policy includes expanding marine conservation, implementing quota-based fishing policies, applying sustainable aquaculture development, monitoring coastal areas, and reducing marine plastic pollution through fishermen's participation.

[Indonesia's New Fishing Policy Targets Sustainability and Economic Growth, Official Says](#)

—Petir Garda Bhwana, *Tempo*, 9 June 2024

The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries has introduced a quota-based measured fishing policy to enhance fisheries management and balance economic and ecological needs. Tb. Haeru Rahayu, Acting Director General of Capture Fisheries, explained that the quotas are designated for local fishermen and exclude commercial, industrial, research, training, or recreational purposes. This policy aims to optimize and sustain fish resources, moving from input controls to output controls in six zones across 11 fisheries management areas. Fishing will be regulated based on the existing fish resources' potential, ensuring sustainable benefits and ecological balance. Tual City and the Aru Islands in Maluku have been selected as pilot projects for this policy, which is expected to bring about a new era in Indonesia's fisheries management. By adopting output controls, the policy seeks to foster ecological sustainability, economic growth, and equitable use of fisheries resources. Additionally, it aims to demonstrate to the global market that Indonesia is committed to sustainable fishing practices.

[Indonesian fishers mount a community-led fight against destructive fishing](#)

—Fathul Rakhman, Wahyu Chandra and Basten Gokkon, *Mongabay*, 4 June 2024

Local fishers are combating illegal and destructive fishing by forming volunteer patrol groups called Pokmaswas. These groups are vital for protecting Indonesia's vast marine resources amid limited government resources and infrastructure. In recognition of Pokwasmas' importance, the government has increased financial support for these community surveillance networks to bolster their efforts. *Mongabay Indonesia* highlighted the experiences of two such groups in Sulawesi and Lombok. Members like Mustam Daeng Beta and Herman recalled the past prevalence of destructive fishing methods such as dynamite and poison. Concerned about the long-term impacts on their livelihoods, they mobilized to patrol their waters and report illegal activities. Pokmaswas groups, established in 2001, play a crucial role in monitoring remote areas. Currently, 3,461 groups operate nationwide, acting as the eyes and ears of authorities. They have been instrumental in raising awareness about fisheries law and promoting conservation. The government supports these groups with training, resources, and increased budget allocations. Recognition, such as awards, motivates these volunteers to continue their environmental protection efforts.

['Reef stars' promote new growth in Bali's dying coral ecosystem](#)

—Sultan Anshori and Nyimas Laula, *Reuters*, 4 June 2024

Pariama Hutasoit of Nusa Dua Foundation dives down into the clear waters off the island of Bali to pull away plastic from a "reef star". The Foundation has installed almost 6,000 of the stars, hexagonal-shaped steel structures around a metre in diameter. The stars bridge gaps in the reefs where coral has died. The conservation group aims to expand outside Bali for coral reef restoration. Indonesia harbors more than 75% of the world's coral species, many of

which are facing erosion and bleaching every year, according to the Coral Triangle Initiative. Only just over half of Bali's coral reefs are considered to be in "good" condition with 30% in "poor" condition and the remaining 15% in "very poor" condition, according to a 2018 report by Bali's Marine and Fisheries Department. The damage has been attributed to human activity, including destructive fishing, global warming, and heavy waves. Part of the Foundation's remit is holding community outreach programs, attempting to educate local residents about the importance of protecting coral reefs.

[Measurable Fishing Efforts to Advance Maluku Fisheries](#)

—Raynard Kristian Bonanio Pardede, *Kompas*, 3 June 2024

Every year, hundreds of fishing boats head to the Maluku Sea, catching fish in the Banda, Seram, and Arafura Seas before returning to Java. This leaves local fishermen struggling as Java traders dominate the region's fishery resources. The Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries highlighted this issue during the trial launch of a measured fishery in Tual, Maluku. The policy aims to balance ecological sustainability and economic growth by allocating fishing quotas and ensuring catches are landed at the nearest ports. This initiative, governed by Regulation No. 11 of 2023, was delayed due to inadequate facilities but is set for full implementation in 2025. The measured fishery policy is designed to support coastal economies, reduce exploitation, and ensure sustainable fish stocks. It mandates vessel monitoring systems (VMS) for continuous oversight. Initially, 187 ships began landing catches in Maluku, promising a modest economic boost. The government aims to increase participation, ultimately enhancing Maluku's economy and making it a national fisheries hub.

B. Forests and Land Use

[Global climate action has failed to halt deforestation, United Nations Environment Programme warns](#)

—Xinhua, *The Straits Times*, 11 June 2024

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) reported on June 10 that nations are failing to meet deforestation targets, jeopardizing global climate efforts and the transition to a sustainable future. The UNEP's report, "Raising Ambition, Accelerating Action," highlights that many countries are not on track to halt and reverse forest loss by 2030. This failure threatens to exacerbate the climate crisis, poverty, hunger, and biodiversity loss. Forests are crucial for regulating climate and storing carbon dioxide, and their destruction endangers millions of indigenous livelihoods. Dr. Dechen Tsering, UNEP's acting director of Climate Division, stressed the need for ambitious and actionable forest conservation plans by 2025. The report noted that only eight of the top 20 forest-destroying countries have integrated forest protection into their national climate actions. Forests could contribute to one-third of global greenhouse gas emission reductions, as per the 2015 Paris Agreement. UNEP calls for sustained financing, harmonized climate policies, and alternative livelihoods for indigenous communities to conserve forests and support climate resilience.

[Water is key as study shows restoration of drained tropical peat is possible](#)

—Hans Nicholas Jong, *Mongabay*, 6 June 2024

Rewetting of tropical peatland that was drained for agriculture can lead to the recovery of the native ecosystem, a long-term study shows. Researchers studying the 4,800-hectare plot that was retired in 2015 by Asia Pulp & Paper (APP) found the water table had risen, soil carbon emissions had gone down, and native trees were springing up and replacing the planted acacia pulpwoods. They attributed these outcomes to APP's efforts to rewet the peat by blocking the canals previously dug to drain the waterlogged soil. They found that canal blocking led to a 30 cm rise in the water table and a significant decrease in land subsidence and carbon emissions. Spontaneous regrowth of 57 native tree species was observed, indicating forest recovery without extensive human intervention. This method could be scaled to restore millions of hectares of peatlands in Sumatra. The findings suggest that million hectares of peatlands in similar condition can be restored this way, should plantation owners aim to restore them in part or full.

Hooijer, A., Vernimmen, R., Mulyadi, D., Triantomo, V., Hamdani, Lampela, M., ... Swarup, S. (2024). [Benefits of tropical peatland rewetting for subsidence reduction and forest regrowth: results from a large-scale restoration trial](#). *Scientific Reports*, 14(1).

[Minister of Climate and Environment visits Indonesia and congratulates the country on low deforestation levels](#)

—News Team, *NICFI*, 6 June 2024

Deforestation in Indonesia has reached record lows recently. Norway's Minister of Climate and Environment, Andreas Bjelland Eriksen, visited Indonesia to discuss the forest partnership between the two countries. He met with President Joko Widodo, the Minister of Environment and Forestry Siti Nurbaya, and the Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani, highlighting Indonesia's effective policies and measures in reducing deforestation. Indonesia, home to the world's third-largest rainforest, has achieved significant progress in slowing deforestation, crucial for combating global climate change and biodiversity loss. During his visit, Eriksen toured the Law Enforcement Center in Jakarta, visited Gunung Leuser National Park to observe biodiversity, and participated in mangrove rehabilitation at Timur Laut Wildlife Reserve. The cooperation agreement supports Indonesia's Forestry and Other Land Use (FOLU) Net Sink 2030 Operational Plan, aiming to become a net sink by reducing emissions and enhancing carbon absorption. Norway's support is performance-based, contributing \$156 million since 2022 for verified emission reductions from 2016 to 2019, aiding forest and peatland protection, mangrove restoration, law enforcement, and social forestry initiatives.

[Climate Action Game Changers: The Forest Story from Indonesia](#)

—News Desk, *WB*, 5 June 2024

Indonesia's tropical forests, vital for over a fifth of its population, are crucial in fighting climate change. However, communities relying on these forests face economic challenges. The government's Agrarian Reform and the Social Forestry Program, launched in 2015, aim to alleviate poverty and promote rural development by granting legal access to 12.7 million hectares of state forests for sustainable management. By 2023, nearly 10,000 permits covering 6.4 million hectares were issued. In Taram Nagari, West Sumatra, the community-led an agroforestry and ecotourism project, turning 800 hectares into a thriving ecotourism spot, generating significant income and preserving the forest. Similarly, in North Maluku, social forestry licenses allowed the Todowongi Village to produce and sell red ginger and

rattan-based furniture, boosting local income. Supported by the World Bank, these initiatives demonstrate how social forestry can reduce emissions and enhance local economies. By 2025, it is expected to benefit 150,000 people, reduce 9.2 million tons of CO2 emissions, and rehabilitate degraded forests, highlighting a scalable model for sustainable development.

C. Biodiversity, Conservation, and Protected Area

[In eastern Indonesia, forest bird trade flies quietly under social media radar](#)

—Riza Salman, *Mongabay*, 11 June 2024

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Irwan discovered online marketplaces trading rare parrots. He found parrots being sold cheaply with little information about their origins. After investigating, Irwan uncovered a network transporting birds from eastern Indonesia, particularly around Kendari in Southeast Sulawesi, where many were likely taken from protected forests. Illegal wildlife trade, valued up to \$23 billion annually, often involves social media. Despite Facebook's efforts to curb wildlife trade since 2016, illegal sales persist. Several media tracked this trade, finding protected species like the yellow-crested cockatoo and black-capped lory openly sold online and in local markets. In Sulawesi, reporters linked a university student, WL, to the trade, who claimed to buy birds from "Mr Parrot," allegedly a licensed breeder. However, conservation authorities in Southeast Sulawesi had only one breeding permit holder, Asriaddin, who lacked a distribution license. This investigation highlights the challenges in combating illegal wildlife trade and the need for stricter enforcement of breeding and trading regulations.

[Maintaining Harmonious Relations between Humans and Whale Sharks in Cenderawasih Bay](#)

—Nasrun Katingka, *Kompas*, 7 June 2024

In Kwatisore Village, Nabire, Central Papua, whale sharks are a prominent feature of the local marine environment. Children like Alkis Dolpinus Siamba (4) are aware of the village's rich marine life, which includes the *Rhincodon typus*, or whale shark. The Cenderawasih Bay area, including Kwatisore waters, is a well-known habitat for these megafauna. Local fisherman Rajul attracts whale sharks by scattering anchovies, bringing them close to the fishing platforms, where their presence helps attract other fish like mackerel and tuna. The whale sharks, once considered "ghost fish" and feared, are now a source of pride and economic benefit for the community, attracting tourists. Despite decades of observation, much about their life patterns remains unknown, particularly their breeding habits. Research efforts, including tagging, are ongoing to better understand and protect these creatures. Pertamina International Shipping has introduced a new, less invasive tagging method to aid in these efforts. This initiative supports the Whale Shark Center managed by Cenderawasih Bay National Park, emphasizing the importance of preserving the marine ecosystem.

[Javan rhino poacher gets 12 years in record sentence for wildlife crime in Indonesia](#)

—Jeremy Hance, *Mongabay*, 7 June 2024

An Indonesian court has sentenced the head of a rhino poaching gang, Sunendi, to 12 years in jail for killing six critically endangered Javan rhinos. It marks the harshest punishment for

wildlife crime in the country's history. While poaching typically carries a maximum sentence of five years, Sunendi also faced charges of theft and illegal firearm possession, the latter influencing the severe penalty. The Javan rhino, found only in Ujung Kulon National Park, is one of the world's most endangered mammals. Sunendi's gang, active from 2019 to 2023, killed six rhinos, exacerbating the species' precarious situation. Another poaching gang led by Suhar has also contributed to the significant loss, with 26 rhinos killed since 2019. The sentencing has been praised by conservationists including International Rhino Foundation for its potential deterrence effect. Sunendi's sophisticated operation involved stealing and exploiting camera trap data to locate rhinos. Increased security measures and a strong judicial response are seen as crucial steps to prevent further poaching and support the recovery of the Javan rhino population.

[UNESCO Unveils New Tools for Greening Education on World Environment Day](#)

—Nabiha Zain, *Tempo*, 7 June 2024

On World Environment Day, UNESCO announced initiatives to integrate environmental awareness into global school curricula, emphasizing the urgent need for youth engagement with environmental issues. UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay highlighted the importance of "greening" education to combat climate change long-term, advocating for mainstreaming environmental education across all subjects with an action-oriented approach. This initiative responds to a 2021 UNESCO analysis revealing that nearly half of national curricula do not address climate change and only 23% of teachers feel equipped to teach it. Additionally, 70% of surveyed youths could not explain climate disruption and were dissatisfied with current education. UNESCO's Greening Education Partnership, supported by over 80 countries and 1,300 organizations, aims to improve climate education strategies. It calls for a shift from knowledge-focused to action-oriented education, promoting hands-on learning. UNESCO is introducing two key resources: the Greening Curriculum Guidance, a manual for integrating environmental topics into various subjects, and the Green School Quality Standard, which outlines criteria for sustainable school practices, teacher training, and more.

[Endangered zebra sharks hatch in Raja Ampat rewilding project](#)

—AFP News Desk, *TheJakartaPost*, 6 June 2024

At just a few dozen centimetres long, newly hatched zebra sharks Lingka and Spotty Dotty carry the weight of their species on their little dorsal fins. The two female hatchlings are part of a unique programme that hopes to rebuild the population of the endangered species in the Raja Ampat region. The striking black-and-cream striped pair were transported as eggs from a breeding programme at the SEA LIFE Sydney Aquarium and conservationists hope they will eventually join four other shark pups that have so far been released into the wild by StAR, an international project to reintroduce zebra sharks. Research suggests just 20 zebra sharks remain in Raja Ampat. A project hopes to build a population of 500 zebra sharks in the region in a decade, the minimum size required for a healthy and genetically diverse population. Once big enough, the pups will be tagged and released into sea pens before eventually heading into the wild. The newly hatched pairs represent a small step towards recovery of the species but their successful release could offer hope for other similarly threatened creatures.

D. Climate Change, Energy and Mining

[Why is the right of mass organizations to manage mines receiving criticism?](#)

—Nina Susilo and Mawar Kusuma Wulan, *Kompas*, 11 June 2024

President Joko Widodo announced that only business entities within religious organizations can manage mining activities. This move has sparked mixed reactions, with some viewing it as political retribution for election support. Critics argue it may compromise the integrity of religious groups, while others, like Nahdlatul Ulama, have accepted the offer, citing readiness and availability of expertise and other resources. Many religious organizations, such as the Indonesian Bishop Conference and the Indonesian Sangha Supreme Conference, reject the offer, emphasizing their commitment to environmental stewardship. Concerns include potential environmental harm and loss of the organizations' critical and prophetic voices. The government defends the regulation, stating it includes strict requirements to prevent misuse.

[Bahlil: We Won't Force Religious Organizations into Accepting Mining Business Permits](#)

—Ririe Ranggasari and Laila Afifa, *Tempo*, 10 June 2024

Minister of Investment Bahlil Lahadalia stated that the government will not force social or religious organizations to accept mining permits, though dissemination of Government Regulation 25/2024, allowing these organizations to manage mines, will continue. Strict conditions apply, including the need for a business entity and non-transferability of permits. Despite the push, many religious organizations, such as the Bishops' Conference of Indonesia (KWI) and the Huria Kristen Batak Protestants (HKBP), have declined to participate, citing their commitment to environmental protection. The government has prepared six special coal mining concession areas (WIUPKs) for potential management by religious organizations' business entities, offering a five-year management period.

[Take a peek at the area of mining land prepared for religious organizations](#)

—Aditya Putra Perdana, *Kompas*, 10 June 2024

Government Regulation Number 25 of 2024 allows religious mass organizations in Indonesia to manage ex-coal mining areas through special mining business permits (WIUPK). Six former mining areas, previously held by large coal companies, will be offered to these organizations. The WIUPK is a conversion from the previous coal mining contracts (PPA2B), which had 30-year terms. Currently, only PT Berau Coal still holds a PKP2B contract, ending in 2025. The government will evaluate and reduce these contract areas before offering them. For example, areas managed by PT Tanito Harum and PT Arutmin Indonesia, among others, will be affected. The Executive Board of the Nahdlatul Ulama has applied for a mining extraction permit, while other religious organizations remain cautious. Experts stress that these organizations must partner with other entities to meet mining requirements. Concerns include environmental impacts and the potential for new problems due to privileged policies. Despite the mining sector's economic contributions, issues like land conflicts, human rights abuse and environmental degradation persist.

E. Pollution and Waste

[SE Asia tops global intake of microplastics, with Indonesians eating 15g a month: Study](#)

—Leow Wen Xuan, *AsiaNewsNetwork/TheStraitsTimes*, 10 June 2024

A study by Cornell University researchers found that Southeast Asian countries, especially Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, ingest the most microplastics globally. Indonesians consume about 15 grams of microplastics monthly, mostly from aquatic sources like fish and seafood. This is equivalent to ingesting three credit cards. From 1990 to 2018, Indonesians' daily microplastic consumption surged 59 times. Inadequate waste management in these countries leads to over 30,000 tonnes of mismanaged plastic waste annually, which ends up in water bodies and enters the food chain. Microplastics can be ingested or inhaled, with China and Mongolia residents inhaling the most, at over 2.8 million particles per month. These particles come from sources like tyre abrasion and synthetic textiles. The study highlights industrialization in East and South Asia as a key factor in increased plastic consumption and waste. Health concerns are rising, with studies indicating potential toxic effects of microplastics on intestines and reproductive health. Despite limited evidence on their impact on human health, reducing plastic exposure is widely recommended.

Zhao, Xiang and You, Fengqi. 2024. [Microplastic Human Dietary Uptake from 1990 to 2018 Grew across 109 Major Developing and Industrialized Countries but Can Be Halved by Plastic Debris Removal](#). *Environmental Science & Technology*.

[135 million early deaths since 1980 linked to air pollution, with spikes during climate events](#)

—Shabana Begum and Elise Wong, *TheStraitsTimes*, 10 June 2024

A study by Nanyang Technological University (NTU) revealed that from 1980 to 2020, air pollution led to 135 million premature deaths globally, exacerbated by climatic events like El Nino. PM2.5 pollutants from haze and wildfires were the primary culprits, causing heart and lung diseases. Asia, especially China and India, faced the highest death tolls. Climatic events increased premature deaths by 14%, or 7,000 annually. The study highlighted the severe impact of the Indian Ocean Dipole, North Atlantic Oscillation, and El Nino on air quality. Historical data from NASA and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation were used to track PM2.5 levels and related diseases. Southeast Asia, affected by all three climatic events, saw significant death spikes during coinciding events. NTU's Prof. Steve Yim and co-author Prof. Joseph Sung emphasized the need for targeted interventions and better healthcare resource allocation to combat pollution. They stressed the importance of urban planning and non-pollutive energy sources to mitigate long-term pollution effects.

S.H.L. Yim, et. al. 2024. [Global health impacts of ambient fine particulate pollution associated with climate variability](#), *Environment International*.

[Maja Fruit to Overcome Poultry Farming Waste](#)

10 June 2024

—Deonisia Arlinta, *Kompas*,

The global population, projected to reach 9.7 billion in 2024, drives the need to increase food production by 70% by 2050, including animal protein from livestock like chickens, cows, and goats. However, increased livestock production leads to significant waste issues, contributing to environmental pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Indonesia's livestock, particularly its 18.6 million beef cattle, generates substantial waste. Poorly managed, this waste harms air

and water quality and poses health risks. Innovations by Gadjah Mada University aim to mitigate these impacts. Techniques include composting solid waste, using black soldier fly larvae as feed, converting liquid waste into organic fertilizer, and producing biogas for electricity and fuel. Professor Nanung Agus Fitrianto highlights using bioactive compounds from maja fruit to reduce ammonia emissions from poultry waste, improving odor control. Effective waste management involves collaboration between communities, governments, and industries, ensuring sustainable practices and creating new business opportunities. The livestock sector is poised for growth, emphasizing improved production and environmental responsibility.

[Big brands disproportionately responsible for plastic pollution on small islands, finds study](#)

—Royal Holloway University of London, *PhysOrg*, 3 June 2024

A study by Royal Holloway and ZSL found that 72% of plastic waste on small, remote islands is from major brands Danone and Coca-Cola, contributing significantly to pollution. Published in the *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, the study revealed that 99.9% of the debris originated outside the region, with over 2,000 plastic bottles and lids washing up on the Chagos Archipelago, harming local wildlife. Most items were traced back to manufacturing in Indonesia, China, and the Maldives, with Danone and Coca-Cola accounting for a substantial share. The research emphasizes the need for international policies to hold manufacturers accountable for their plastic waste. The team calls for the Global Plastics Treaty, under negotiation by the UN, to include measures for improved traceability and Extended Producer Responsibility, ensuring manufacturers manage their product lifecycle. The study also highlights the impact of marine traffic and the necessity for stricter waste disposal enforcement. Jessica Savage, the study's lead author, hopes the findings will drive multinational companies to reduce plastic production and support global efforts to mitigate plastic pollution.

Savage, J. *et. al.* 2024. [Big brands impact small islands: Sources of plastic pollution in a remote and protected archipelago.](#) *Marine Pollution Bulletin*.

F. Technology, Investment and Finance

[World Bank Pulleys 2024 Economic Growth Projections](#)

—FX Laksana Agung Saputra, *Kompas*, 12 June 2024

The World Bank raised its 2024 global economic growth projection to 2.6%, up from January's 2.4%. The Global Economic Outlook report highlights that while growth is stabilizing post-pandemic, it remains weak compared to historical standards. Chief Economist Indermit Gill noted that growth is lower than pre-2020 levels, with significant concerns for the poorest nations due to heavy debt burdens. From 2025-2026, global growth is expected to average 2.7%, still below the pre-pandemic decade's 3.1%. Developing countries are projected to grow at 4% in 2024-2025, with low-income countries seeing a rise to 5% in 2024. Advanced economies' growth will stabilize at 1.5% in 2024, increasing to 1.7% in 2025. The report stresses the need for developing nations to boost private investment, reduce public debt, and improve education, health, and infrastructure. Income gaps between developing and developed countries are widening, with per capita income growth in developing nations expected to average 3.0% until 2026, down from 3.8% pre-pandemic. Global inflation is

projected to slow to 3.5% in 2024 and 2.9% in 2025, keeping central banks cautious about lowering interest rates.

[Indonesia-Japan Cooperation Helps Traceability of Maluku Fishery Products](#)

—Raynard Kristian Bonanio Pardede, *Kompas*, 12 June 2024

Fishery products from Maluku need technological support and training for better traceability to expand exports. Cooperation with Japan is essential, as they are ready to fund supporting infrastructure. Hide Sakeguchi, President of the Ocean Policy Research Institute, emphasized Maluku's export potential and the need for improved traceability, which is also a problem in Japan, where up to 32% of seafood may come from illegal sources. Japan is using technology like QR codes and AI for better traceability, and similar methods are suggested for Maluku. A Fisheries Excellence Center in Ambon and collaboration on technology can increase the value of fish products by up to 10%. Maluku utilizes only 16% of its 4 million tons per year fishery potential due to lack of technology and infrastructure. Japan, through JICA, supports the development of Integrated Marine and Fisheries Centers in Maluku to boost the sector. This includes fish landing facilities and fish markets in regions like Moa and Saumlaki to enhance fishery production and trade.

[Jokowi says Indonesia's new capital city is on track despite project leadership resignations](#)

—Hariz Baharudin and Linda Yulisman, *The Straits Times*, 4 June 2024

President Joko Widodo visited East Kalimantan to reassure the public that Indonesia's new capital, Nusantara, is progressing as planned, despite recent leadership resignations. Speaking in Balikpapan, he emphasized Nusantara's development as a "green" and "smart" city, highlighting extensive green spaces and modern urban planning. This visit followed the resignations of Bambang Susantono and his deputy, Dhony Rahajoe, from the Nusantara Capital Authority. Public Works Minister Basuki Hadimuljono and Agrarian Vice-Minister Raja Juli Antoni were appointed as acting leaders. Challenges facing the project include private investment shortfalls, land acquisition issues, and upcoming leadership changes with Widodo's term ending in October. Despite these hurdles, Widodo remains committed to the vision for Nusantara, ensuring the project continues smoothly.

G. Human Rights and Gender Equality

[#AllEyesonPapua goes viral to highlight threat to Indigenous forests from palm oil](#)

—[Hans Nicholas Jong](#), *Mongabay*, 7 June 2024

Indigenous Awyu and Moi tribes in Papua are seeking public support as the Supreme Court hears their lawsuits against palm oil companies, threatening to clear their ancestral forests. Large swaths of Awyu customary forest lie inside three oil palm concessions that are part of the Tanah Merah megaproject, in Boven Digoel, while part of the Moi forest falls within a concession in Sorong. Using the hashtag #AllEyesonPapua, the campaign has gone viral, gathering nearly 3 million shares on Instagram and over 225,000 petition signatures. The Awyu tribe opposes three companies within the Tanah Merah megaproject, spanning 280,000 hectares of primary forest. They challenge the revocation of permits that allow deforestation. The Moi tribe contests the reinstatement of permits for PT Sorong Agro Sawitindo (SAS),

fearing the destruction of 18,160 hectares of their forest. Both tribes rely on these forests for their livelihoods and cultural practices. Despite previous legal setbacks, they continue to appeal for the protection of their lands, emphasizing the environmental and human rights implications of unchecked palm oil expansion.

[Unrest and arrests in Sumatra as community fights to protect mangroves](#)

—Ayat S Karokaro, *Mongabay*, 5 June 2024

Police in Langkat, North Sumatra, arrested three people named Ilham, Safii and Taufik, in April and May over alleged damage linked to a conflict over a local mangrove forest. The forest, crucial for ecosystem services and carbon storage, is rapidly being destroyed. Ilham and his two friends had been vocal against the destruction, reporting illegal clearings by a man named BP, who sold the land for oil palm plantations. Despite complaints, authorities took no action against the deforestation but quickly arrested them for allegedly damaging a shelter used by BP's workers. Civil society organizations allege that local elites have established oil palm plantations on scores of hectares zoned as protected forest. They also allege that these individuals have hired thugs to intimidate local residents who oppose the clearing of mangrove forests to plantations. Activists argue that authorities are failing to protect these forests, instead criminalizing those who oppose deforestation. They urge the police to target the financiers of the environmental destruction, not the defenders of the mangroves.

[In Indonesia, Women Ranger Teams Go on Patrol to Slow Deforestation](#)

—AP News Desk, *USNews*, 3 June 2024

In Aceh, a women-led forest ranger group is making strides in protecting their village's forest from deforestation and poaching. The group, formed by villager Sumini, patrols the forest, engaging locals with gentle reminders to preserve trees. This initiative has notably decreased deforestation, prompting the group to share their methods with other women-led groups across Indonesia. Indonesia's rainforests, home to diverse wildlife, have suffered significant loss due to logging, plantations, and mining. Sumini's group, operating with a social forestry permit, conducts monthly patrols, mapping tree coverage, cataloguing plants, and encouraging replanting. Their non-confrontational approach includes educating locals and distributing seeds for planting. The success of these efforts is seen in improved forest conditions and increased wildlife presence. This model is now inspiring similar initiatives nationwide, supported by local and international organizations. Involving women in forest management has proven beneficial, enhancing household income and sustainable practices. Despite cultural challenges, the group's dedication underscores the crucial role of women in environmental conservation, aiming to ensure prosperity through forest preservation for future generations.

I. RI General Elections

[PDI-P, PKB in talks over possible Anies reelection bid in Jakarta](#)

—Yerica Lai, *TheJakartaPost*, 9 June 2024

The nationalist Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) is in talks with the Islam-based National Awakening Party (PKB) about the possibility of joining forces to support opposition figure Anies Baswedan for reelection as governor of Jakarta. But for such a pairing to work, the reality could be more challenging, given the ideological differences between the two parties and Anies' traditional supporter base, said Nicky Fahrizal of the Jakarta-based Centre for Strategic Studies . Both parties ostensibly support the Jokowi administration, but they were on opposing sides of the three-way February presidential race, which Anies ran in and lost to president-elect Prabowo Subianto. Anies, the United States-educated governor of Jakarta from 2017 to 2022, is not a member of any political party. Anies clinched the Jakarta governorship in a highly divisive 2017 election in which he was accused of riding a wave of Islamic conservatism to beat incumbent Basuki Tjahja Purnama, a Christian of Chinese descent who ran on the PDI-P's ticket. The PKB, which has close ties with the nation's largest, politically moderate Muslim group, the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), lent its support to Ahok in the runoff after its own candidate lost in the first round.

[2024 Indonesian General Elections | Beyond Power: Upholding the Rule of Law amid Democratic Adversities](#)

—Indonesia Mission Team, *ANFREL*, 7 June 2024

The Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) released a comprehensive report on the 2024 Indonesian General Elections, highlighting several key recommendations. Collaborating with local organizations, ANFREL emphasized the need to amend constitutional provisions to address electoral uncertainties and enhance transparency and inclusiveness in election management. They called for stronger monitoring and publicizing of state resource misuse and a multi-pronged approach to tackle misinformation and disinformation, including the regulation of generative AI. ANFREL also raised concerns over the independence of electoral bodies and the contentious ruling allowing President Joko Widodo's son to run for vice president despite not meeting age requirements. They urged Parliament to review candidate qualifications to ensure consistency. The report commended voters and civil society for their commitment to democracy despite challenges, stressing the importance of implementing these recommendations to ensure fair future elections, including the upcoming local elections in November 2024.

[2024 presidential election turnout high but stagnant: KPU](#)

—News Desk, *TheJakartaPost*, 5 June 2024

Indonesia's voter turnout for the 2024 presidential election saw no significant increase compared to 2019, maintaining over 80% participation. The General Elections Commission (KPU) reported that 81.78% of the 204.8 million registered voters participated in February, slightly down from 81.9% of the 192.8 million voters in 2019. KPU commissioner August Mellaz noted that the slight decrease is due to a different calculation method, including additional voters from the special voters list (DPK). Without the DPK, turnout would have been 82%. The DPK includes voters not on the permanent list (DPT) who voted in different districts. This year's legislative elections also saw over 81% turnout, though official figures are pending Constitutional Court rulings on election disputes. The top court will announce its rulings on the 2024 legislative election disputes on June 6, 7 and 10.

II. Indonesia in Geopolitics

[Foreigners unmoved, but call for clarity on Tapera](#)

—Deni Ghifari, *TheJakartaPost*, 10 June 2024

Indonesia is set to mandate foreigners working in the country to make deposits from their monthly income to support the public housing savings (Tapera) program, which the government has designed specifically to support future homeownership for Indonesians. Foreign workers being interviewed said they did not mind making contributions, but wanted clarity on how it would work. Every employee with an income exceeding the regional minimum wage must chip in. That includes foreigners working for at least six months, despite law barring them from owning a house in the country. Under a 2020 regulation, the government requires participants to deposit 3 percent of their monthly wages for the endowment fund with 2.5 percent borne by employees and 0.5 percent by employers. A different rate would apply for freelancers, which would be formulated separately. Presidential chief of staff Moeldoko assured that the government had yet to require employees to make deposits for Tapera, arguing that there is still time to implement the regulation until 2027. The government would use the remaining time to solicit inputs from the public.

[The World Looks at Indonesia in the "Data Streaming" Development Business](#)

—Siwi Yunita Cahyaningrum, *Kompas*, 10 June 2024

Indonesia is a key player in the global data streaming market due to its growing startups, online service shift, and large population. Data streaming transmits real-time data for immediate analysis, enhancing company performance and customer service. Confluent Inc., a major data streaming firm, is expanding in the Asia-Pacific region, with Indonesia as a priority market. Confluent recently held a summit in Bangalore, India, highlighting new technologies and engaging 3,800 IT professionals. They emphasized Indonesia's importance due to its thriving startups and corporate digital migration. Key collaborations include major Indonesian banks like BRI, utilizing Confluent's technology for real-time data to improve credit assessments and fraud detection. Data streaming benefits various sectors, including mining, manufacturing, and airlines, by providing real-time information for better decision-making and customer service. The company's efforts aim to replicate successes seen in India, where strong IT infrastructure supports both market growth and skilled labor development.

[Indonesia's leader says 1st phase of new capital is 80% complete and he'll have an office there soon](#)

—Edna Tarigan, *ABCNews*, 5 June 2024

President Joko Widodo announced that the first phase of the new capital, Nusantara, is 80% complete, with his office ready once clean water is available. Widodo plans to inaugurate the capital during the 79th Independence Day celebrations in August. The recent resignation of the Nusantara Capital Authority's head and deputy are deemed "personal" and not expected to impact the \$32 billion project. Construction of the new city began in mid-2022 after Jokowi informed the public that Jakarta would no longer have capital status. The metropolis suffers from pollution and congestion, is prone to earthquakes and is sinking. During his visit to Nusantara, he inaugurated several projects, including a water reservoir, schools and universities. Nusantara's airport is set for completion by early August. The new capital aims to be a sustainable, green city but faces criticism for environmental and Indigenous impacts.

The new capital shrinks the habitat of endangered animals such as orangutans and displaces Indigenous people who rely on the land for their livelihoods.