



Indonesia Sustainable Development News Digest

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*The **Indonesia Sustainable Development News Digest** is a biweekly collection of summaries of articles related to conservation, the environment, and sustainability in Indonesia 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.*

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A. Marine and Fisheries

[Indonesia's marine conservation needs community well-being: SMERU](#)

—Prisca Kenzu and Anton Santoso, *Antara*, 22 June 2024

Marine conservation in Indonesia must integrate efforts to improve the well-being of coastal communities, as highlighted by a SMERU Research Institute study. Researcher Annabel

Noor Asyah stated that the study examined the management of marine protected areas (MPAs) and the challenges faced by coastal communities, revealing greater income disparity in villages near MPAs. This disparity is attributed to the lack of community development expertise among MPA managers, who typically have a background only in marine management. Imam Fauzi, head of the Kupang National Marine Conservation Area, emphasized the need to consider local cultural factors to effectively improve community well-being. Andi Russandi from the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries pointed out several key challenges in MPA management, including the increasing demand for protein due to population growth, balancing export demands with domestic needs, and addressing marine pollution. The government has responded with various policies, programs, and initiatives to combat marine pollution. Overall, the study suggests that successful marine conservation requires a dual focus on ecosystem protection and community development.

[Indonesia to cut tuna harvest in bid for more sustainable fishery](#)

—Basten Gokkon, *Mongabay*, 21 June 2024

Indonesia will reduce its annual tuna catch by 10% over three years to sustain fisheries. The reduction responds to declining skipjack and yellowfin tuna populations. This strategy, aiming to start by 2026, aligns with Indonesia's quota-based fisheries policy and will require a ministerial decree for legal enforcement. Indonesia, the world's largest tuna producer, accounts for 16% of global tuna supply, producing 791,000 metric tons in 2021 valued at \$1.47 billion. Overfishing has rendered many fishing grounds unsustainable. The harvest strategy builds on measures since 2018, including harvest control rules and monitoring. The government has also limited fish-aggregating devices and temporarily closed fishing areas. Indonesia's waters are rich with various tuna species, vital for local livelihoods and global food supply. Tuna exports, valued at \$710 million, primarily go to the US, Japan, and the EU. The government seeks sustainable certification for its fisheries, demonstrating its management capabilities to regional organizations. Experts stress the importance of regional cooperation, as tuna are highly migratory. Effective management requires coordinated efforts from neighboring countries like the Philippines and Vietnam.

[Seafaring Nomads Settle Down Without Quite Embracing Life on Land](#)

—Muktita Suhartono and Ulet Ifansasti, *TheNewYorkTimes*, 20 June 2024

The Bajo people of Indonesia, traditionally seafaring nomads, are increasingly adopting more sedentary lifestyles while maintaining their deep connection to the sea. Historically, the Bajo lived in boats or offshore huts, coming ashore only for supplies or to escape storms. However, since the late 1980s, government efforts to provide land-based settlements have led many to split their time between land and sea, with some abandoning their seaborne ways entirely. Zausiyah, a Bajo woman, continues to fish daily to support her family, despite the hardships. Her children, living in a village on Peleng Island, assist by bringing supplies. The village, though connected to land, retains strong maritime traditions, with houses built over water and a lifestyle centered around fishing. The younger generation is increasingly turning away from fishing, risking the loss of traditional customs and taboos. Despite modernization, many older Bajo, like Zausiyah and her husband Mawardi, uphold their spiritual connection to the ocean and fear that neglecting these traditions will lead to cultural erosion and environmental warnings.

[Indonesia's Avatar sea nomads enact Indigenous rules to protect octopus](#)

—Sarjan Lahay, *Mongabay*, 20 June 2024

The Bajo, traditional seafarers from Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, have a long history of marine hunting. For generations and up to modern times, the sea nomads have relied on catching octopus to meet their economic and nutritional needs. However, in recent years catch volumes in Sulawesi waters have declined and locals worry that overfishing and increasingly extreme weather threaten livelihoods providing for hundreds of families. To address declining octopus populations, with the help of local NGO Japesda (or the Natural Resources Management Advocacy Network) in drafting sustainability policy, the Bajo community implemented a six-month fishery closure from November 2023 to May 2024. The policy regulates octopus size and bans non-environmentally friendly fishing gear. This follows a successful three-month trial in late 2022, which saw significant octopus recovery. The policy has positively impacted the community, with reported catches increasing and incomes rising to 3-4 million rupiah (\$182-\$243) per month, above the provincial minimum wage. The sustainable fishing practices have alleviated economic and environmental concerns, allowing the Bajo to continue their ancestral livelihood while ensuring the sustainability of octopus populations.

Kobi, W., & Hendra, H. (2020). [Economic geography study: Case study of the socio-economic conditions of the Bajo Tribe community in Popayato, Gorontalo](#). *Jambura Geo Education Journal*, 1(1), 16-25.

[Indonesia Seizes 80 Illegal Fishing Vessels in First Half of 2024, KKP Reports](#)

—Vinnilya, *JakartaGlobe*, 15 June 2024

The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) has reported a significant crackdown on illegal fishing in 2024, seizing a total of 80 vessels, comprising 69 local and 11 foreign ships. Pung Nugroho Saksono, Director General of Marine and Fisheries Resources Surveillance (PSDKP), highlighted the capture of Vietnamese ships on Indonesia's western side and Filipino vessels on the eastern side. Notably, the Russian vessel Run Zheng 03 is currently under investigation, while another, Run Zheng 05, fled to Papua New Guinea (PNG), prompting international action via Interpol for its return. Pung emphasized that domestic vessels also contribute to illegal fishing, often due to expired permits or banned fishing gear. Key hotspots for these activities include Natuna, North Sulawesi, Maluku, and the Arafura Sea. To combat this, KKP has enhanced surveillance using technological tools and a dedicated control center to monitor vessel activities and enforce compliance with fishing regulations. They collaborate closely with Indonesian authorities like the Navy, Police, National Coast Guard/Bakamla, and international partners such as Malaysia and Australia to bolster monitoring and enforcement efforts in high-risk zones.

B. Forests and Land Use

[Borneo's Dayak adapt Indigenous forestry to modern peat management](#)

—Titik Kartitiani, *Mongabay*, 25 June 2024

In the 1990s, a project to convert peatland into rice fields in Kalimantan led to extensive deforestation and environmental disaster. The landscape was prone to floods and fires, worsened by climate change. Severe wildfires happened in 2015, which caused widespread haze and health issues, motivated President Joko Widodo to implement reforms to ban

peatland development and promote community-based land management. Indigenous Dayak communities, like those in Pulang Pisau, have traditionally managed land using a system called *handil*, which involves cutting canals for irrigation and firebreaks. This system must be integrated with government regulations, creating potential conflicts but also opportunities for sustainable land management. Local CSOs have stepped in to close this gap by supporting the community to blend state laws with traditional norms and other longstanding cultural practices. The community group now received a lease from the central government to manage a peatland under the Social Forestry program. Efforts include building canal blocks to rehydrate peatlands and using traditional agroforestry practices, like the *kaleka* system, to maintain soil fertility and biodiversity.

[Explainer: How Indonesia's deforestation persists despite moratorium](#)

—Bernadette Christina Naveen Thukral and Miral Fahmy, *Reuters*, 20 June 2024

The Awyu tribe in Indonesia's Papua region has filed a Supreme Court case to cancel palm oil concessions on ancestral rainforest lands. As the top producer and exporter of palm oil, Indonesia has faced criticism for deforestation linked to this industry. In efforts to curb environmental damage, Indonesia halted new permits for forest and peatland clearing in 2011, made permanent in 2019, and imposed a moratorium on new palm oil plantations in 2018. Although this moratorium expired in 2021, President Joko Widodo pledged no new permits would be issued. The Awyu tribe's case revolves around the "Tanah Merah Project" permits, issued before conservation efforts but revoked in 2022 following a 2021 evaluation. Several companies have challenged this revocation in court, with the Supreme Court expected to decide this month. Despite efforts, deforestation continues, with 52,000 hectares converted to plantations from 2022 to 2023. Indonesia's palm oil plantation area has grown to 17.3 million hectares in 2023, driven by biofuel targets and slow replanting progress. Green groups worry future administrations might not uphold conservation measures.

[Sugarcane megaproject poses latest threat to Papua's forests, communities](#)

—Hans Nicholas Jong, *Mongabay*, 19 June 2024

The Indonesian government plans to establish 2 million hectares of sugarcane plantations in Papua, aiming to eliminate sugar imports by 2027 and develop cane-derived bioethanol. Investment Minister Bahlil Lahadalia announced that the land in Merauke district, covering an area 30 times the size of Jakarta, will be cleared for this purpose, claiming it isn't "natural forest." The project, involving five consortiums of Indonesian and foreign companies, will cost 130 trillion rupiah (\$7.9 billion). The plan includes rezoning 419,000 hectares of forested land, leading to significant deforestation and impacting biodiversity. Papua's rainforests are home to many species, and deforestation threatens their habitats. Critics highlight the adverse effects on Indigenous communities who rely on forests for their livelihoods and are often excluded from consultations. Activists are skeptical about the promised benefits, such as profit-sharing schemes, citing past failures. The involvement of companies with poor environmental records raises further concerns. Despite these issues, the government insists the project is crucial for national development and energy transition.

[Kayan hydropower project forges ahead despite setbacks, director says](#)

—Dandy Koswaraputra, Norjannah and Pizaro Gozali Idrus, *BenarNews/TheJakartaPost*, 16 June 2024

The \$17.8 billion Kayan Cascade hydropower project in North Kalimantan, led by PT Kayan Hydro Energy (KHE), is proceeding despite setbacks, including the withdrawal of key partners PowerChina and Sumitomo. Aiming to generate up to 9,000 megawatts of electricity, this venture is crucial for Indonesia's energy strategy and the development of its new capital on Borneo island. KHE remains committed and is seeking new partners to overcome challenges, including environmental concerns, local opposition, and land acquisition issues. Recent setbacks included a fatal explosion in December and ongoing safety concerns at the nickel smelter, raising questions about the company's commitment to worker safety. The project's completion target is 2029, but experts, such as energy economist Yayan Satyakti, express skepticism due to unresolved land acquisition. Local communities, affected by dust and water contamination from construction, have yet to see promised relocations and compensations. Despite these issues, KHE emphasizes the project's strategic importance for providing green energy to national projects.

[Better accounting of peat and mangrove carbon to help Indonesia's climate policies](#)

—Hans Nicholas Jong, *Mongabay*, 12 June 2024

Researchers have identified gaps in the country's current greenhouse gas accounting system that, if closed, could yield more accurate and transparent data to inform climate policies and emissions reduction goals. Indonesia aims to reduce emissions by 31.89% by 2030, or 43.2% with international support, in line with the Paris Agreement. A substantial portion of emissions comes from agriculture, forest and land-use changes, so accurate measurement of carbon emissions and sequestration, particularly from wetlands, is crucial. Indonesia holds 14% of the world's tropical peatlands and 22% of its mangroves, the key ecosystems for carbon storage. However, researchers from CIFOR-ICRAF found gaps in Indonesia's GHG accounting system, particularly in measuring emissions from drained peatlands and discrepancies in mangrove data. Their study suggests improvements, including following IPCC guidelines for peatlands and differentiating mangrove types based on soil composition. Enhanced accuracy and transparency in emissions accounting will support Indonesia's goal of achieving a net carbon sink by 2030 and bolster confidence in climate-related investments, positioning the country as a leader in emission reductions in the FOLU sector.

Murdiyarto, D., Swails, E., Hergoualc'h, K., Bhomia, R., & Sasmito, S. D. (2024). [Refining greenhouse gas emission factors for Indonesian peatlands and mangroves to meet ambitious climate targets](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences/PNAS*, 121(17).

C. Biodiversity, Conservation, and Protected Area

[4 Orangutans Released into East Kalimantan Protected Forest](#)

—Petir Garda Bhwana, *Tempo*, 23 June 2024

Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry released four rehabilitated orangutans into the Gunung Batu Mesangat Protected Forest in East Kalimantan on June 13. The East Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Center (BKSDA), Kelinjau Forest Management Unit (KPH), and the Center for Orangutan Protection (COP) facilitated the release of Annie, Berani, Talian, and Lanang. Annie, estimated to be 9-11 years old, and Berani, around 14-17

years old, were rescued from illegal ownership in 2018 and rehabilitated by the COP Orangutan Rehabilitation Center. Lanang and Talian, wild orangutans rescued in late 2023 and early 2024 after negative human interactions, received intensive treatment for serious health issues. The rehabilitation program aimed to help these orangutans relearn survival skills. A 2016 habitat study deemed the Gunung Batu Mesangat Protected Forest suitable for such releases. The same year's population and habitat viability analysis (PHVA) by the Indonesia Orangutan Forum (FORINA) estimated the wild orangutan population in Kalimantan at around 57,350. Orangutans are critically endangered, according to the IUCN Red List.

[Support increasing Gen Z involvement in social forestry: ministry](#)

—Prisca Triferia Violleta, Cindy Frishanti Octavia, *Antara*, 21 June 2024

The Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) is advocating for increased youth involvement, especially from Generation Z, in social forestry initiatives. Mahfudz, the director general of social forestry and environmental partnership (PSKL), emphasized the need for young people to engage in community, village, plantation, customary forests, and forestry partnerships. He highlighted the importance of regenerating forest management groups, noting that social forestry approvals last up to 35 years and can extend to 70 years. Youth participation is crucial for developing local institutions, creating jobs, and expanding businesses. Young people can assist in marketing and developing forest products from social forestry business groups (KUPS), designing products that appeal to their peers. Mahfudz encouraged Generation Z to innovate and educate about social forestry products. As of May 2024, the Social Forestry program has utilized 7.08 million hectares of land, with 10,232 approval units involving 1.3 million families. Additionally, 13,460 KUPS are actively managing and utilizing forest resources based on their potential. This initiative aims to ensure sustainable forest use and economic development through active youth participation.

[Conservationists upbeat as zebra shark reintroduction in Raja Ampat gathers pace](#)

—Hans Nicholas Jong, *Mongabay*, 18 June 2024

StAR, a breed-and-release program in Raja Ampat, has successfully hatched 24 zebra shark pups this year. The latest pup, named Lingka through a public poll, symbolizes the hope for zebra sharks to thrive in the wild. Part of the ReShark initiative, the StAR project aims to restore endangered zebra sharks, with eggs bred in facilities like SEA LIFE Sydney Aquarium and shipped to Raja Ampat for hatching and reintroduction. This project is essential as Raja Ampat's zebra shark population was decimated by overfishing in the 1990s and 2000s. The project, which began in 2022, aims to release 500 zebra sharks into the waters around the archipelago by 2032, the minimum number expected to host a viable population, to ensure genetic diversity and prevent inbreeding. Currently, five pups have been released, with more to follow once they are healthy enough. Raja Ampat was chosen for its rich biodiversity and strong marine protection policies, providing an ideal environment for the sharks. The initiative involves multiple global conservation organizations and aims to set a precedent for similar conservation efforts for other declining marine species.

[Five Javan gibbons released in West Java after rehabilitation](#)

—Theresia Sufa, *TheJakartaPost*, 13 June 2024

Two owa jawa (Javan gibbon) families were relocated on June 10 to the Malabar Mountain Protected Forest area in Bandung, following rehabilitation at the Java Gibbon Center (JGC) in

Bogor – both in West Java. Sapto Aji Prabowo, head of the Mount Gede Pangrango National Park, said the two families consisted of five individuals, a male and female couple and their female cub, and another male-female couple. The endangered animals will undergo a habituation period in the Puntang Mount area of the protected forest. “Hopefully they can do well in the process before we are able to release them to their natural habitat in August,” Sapto said. The Javan gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*), is classified as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species and is at high risk of extinction due to the illegal pet trade, hunting, habitat loss and forest fragmentation. It is estimated that less than 2,500 silvery gibbons remain in the wild.

Death of Umi sparks concern over electric threat to Sumatran elephants

—Teguh Suprayitno, *Mongabay*, 12 June 2024

A civil society organization has linked the death of a Sumatran elephant in Indonesia's Jambi province to an electric fence near a plantation. This is part of a troubling trend, with at least three elephant deaths since 2022 attributed to electric fences, posing a significant threat to the critically endangered species. Conservationists, like Wishnu Sukmantoro from the Indonesian Elephant Conservation Forum, emphasize the deadly risks of such fences, especially as they become more common in Sumatra to protect farmlands. In May, a female elephant named Umi, fitted with a GPS collar, was found dead near an oil palm farm. Authorities seized inverters and batteries from the scene, and the farm owner cut off Umi's GPS collar. This incident is part of a broader issue in Jambi and Aceh, where habitat loss has led to increased human-elephant conflicts. Despite laws and conservation efforts, the installation of electric fences continues, highlighting the urgent need for stricter enforcement and alternative conflict mitigation strategies to protect the dwindling Sumatran elephant population.

Mutinda, M., Chenge, G., Gakuya, F., Otiende, M., Omondi, P., Kasiki, S., ... Alasaad, S. (2014). [Detusking Fence-Breaker Elephants as an Approach in Human-Elephant Conflict Mitigation](#). *PLOS ONE*, 9(3), e91749.

D. Climate Change, Energy, and Mining

Harita Nickel to strengthen ESG pledge amid growing EU pressure

—Divya Karyza, *TheJakartaPost*, 24 June 2024

Harita Nickel, officially Trimegah Bangun Persada, is enhancing its environmental, social, and governance (ESG) commitments to expand into the European Union market. President Director Roy Arman Arfandy emphasized the importance of ESG certifications, such as the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA), which the company aims to obtain by early next year. This move is crucial as the EU will require a "battery passport" for all electric vehicle (EV) and industrial batteries by 2027, ensuring traceability and compliance with environmental standards. Despite most Indonesian mining products being exported to Asia, industry experts suggest that stricter EU regulations will drive demand for ESG compliance. Harita Nickel, in partnership with China's Lygend Resources & Technology, has been a pioneer in Indonesia, using high-pressure acid leach (HPAL) technology to produce mixed hydroxide precipitate (MHP) for EV batteries. The company plans to increase its MHP

production significantly with new facilities. Harita Nickel exports 100% of its output, mainly to China, with some products reaching Europe. The company also exports ferronickel, crucial for stainless steel production, to global markets, including China and Europe.

[Unraveling challenges from research-based alternative energy](#)

—Rahmad Nasution, *Antara*, 20 June 2024

The global energy crisis, fueled by the overuse of fossil fuels, is threatening economic and geopolitical stability. This situation necessitates a shift to renewable energy sources. Laksana Tri Handoko, head of Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), emphasized the need for innovative efforts in developing green energy. Data from Indonesia's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources indicates a significant shift over the past decade: the share of fossil fuels in the national primary energy mix has decreased, while renewable energy has grown from 6.69% in 2013 to 13.29% in 2023. Indonesia has abundant renewable resources, but solar and wind power face challenges due to the country's climate and geography. Therefore, biofuels and nuclear energy are seen as more viable alternatives. Biofuels, derived from crude palm oil, sorghum, and corn, have shown growth and potential, backed by advancements in biomass conversion technology. Meanwhile, nuclear power, despite public skepticism, is highlighted as a sustainable and low-emission energy source. The government's New Energy and Renewable Energy Bill (RUU EBET) aims to solidify nuclear power's role in Indonesia's future energy landscape.

[Energy ministry to investigate latest accident in Morowali nickel plant](#)

—Alifia Sekar, *TheJakartaPost*, 17 June 2024

The Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry will investigate a recent work accident at PT Indonesia Tsingshan Stainless Steel (ITSS) in Morowali, Central Sulawesi. Two workers were injured while cleaning hardened steel slags using a thermal lance. This is the second incident in six months at ITSS, following a deadly explosion in December that killed 18 workers. Energy Minister Arifin Tasrif stated the Industry Ministry would be responsible for any sanctions. The latest accident, caused by steam burns during cleaning, underscores inadequate safety improvements by ITSS, according to the Morowali Industrial, Mining and Energy Workers Union. Environmental group Trend Asia criticized the company's failure to enhance occupational health and safety standards, noting a history of 93 work accidents at nickel smelters nationwide since 2015, resulting in 91 deaths. Industry Minister Agus Gumiwang Kartasmita highlighted previous recommendations for risk mapping and regular inspections at the smelter, and urged prioritizing worker safety to reduce future incidents. The government is committed to ensuring ITSS provides adequate compensation and fulfills workers' rights.

[Jokowi calls for water pumps to protect crops against heatwave](#)

—*Bloomberg News Team*, *TheStraitsTimes*, 17 June 2024

Indonesia plans to speed up the installation of water pumps across the country to protect food crops from the impact of extreme weather. President Joko Widodo is accelerating the installation of 20,000 water pumps nationwide. Emphasizing the importance of efficient water use, he warned that heatwaves could lead to inflation by reducing food production and raising market prices. The water pumps will prioritize rice-producing regions to ensure food security for Indonesia's 270 million people. Additionally, Widodo aims to complete the construction of 61 reservoirs and dams during his term, with 43 already inaugurated. This initiative responds

to recent severe heat waves in Southeast Asia, including record temperatures of 53°C in the Philippines and heat warnings across cities like Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur. The governments issued heat warnings in 2024. The rest of the region, including India and Vietnam, has experienced soaring heat and drought, affecting everything from elections to coffee plantations.

[In one inch, will PBNU fall into the coal oligarchy trap?](#)

June 2024

—Firdaus Cahyadi, *ForestDigest*, 15

Recent global environmental awareness has intensified public pressure on banks to cease funding projects that harm nature, notably coal, a major contributor to the climate crisis. Despite this global trend, Indonesia's government under Joko Widodo's regime has granted coal mining concessions to the Nahdlatul Ulama Executive Board (PBNU), the country's largest Islamic organization. Critics argue this move contradicts environmental imperatives and reflects hegemonic control by oligarchs, who benefit from fossil fuel dependence. The government's revisions to mining regulations further underscore its alignment with coal interests over environmental concerns. Coal's environmental impact spans from GHG emissions to devastating climate-related disasters across Asia. The mining process itself degrades landscapes, pollutes water and air, and endangers biodiversity. Despite viable alternatives like community-based renewable energy, political narratives favoring coal persist, positioning PBNU in a contentious role within Indonesia's environmental movement. Ultimately, the clash between coal interests and environmental advocates highlights broader socio-political tensions and the challenges of sustainable development in Indonesia.

E. Pollution, Waste and Disaster

[Saudi Arabia says 1,301 deaths during Hajj were mostly unregistered pilgrims](#)

—Newswire Team, *TheJapanTimes*, 24 June 2024

Nearly two million Muslims, with 1.6 million from abroad, concluded the haj pilgrimage this year, but extreme heat proved fatal. Over 1,300 pilgrims died amid extreme heat, in which temperatures in Mecca reached up to 51.8°C. The Saudi Press Agency reported that 83% of the deceased lacked official permits. Those unauthorized participants walked long distances without adequate shelter. The AFP tally previously recorded over 1,100 deaths from more than ten countries. Egyptian pilgrims accounted for 658 deaths, mostly unregistered. Other countries stretch from the United States to Indonesia.. Saudi officials had not publicly commented on the death toll until recently. The Saudi health minister described the Hajj management as "successful," providing over 465,000 treatment services. The Hajj, one of the five pillars of Islam, saw 1.8 million participants this year, Despite efforts to regulate attendance, around 400,000 unregistered pilgrims participated. The Egyptian Prime Minister responded by penalizing tourism companies for organizing illegal pilgrimages.

[Bali's rapid coastal erosion threatens island's ecosystems & communities: Study](#)

—Basten Gokkon, *Mongabay*, 22 June 2024

Bali's coastline is shrinking faster than most global coastal areas due to human activities and wave circulation, according to a study by researchers from Indonesia, Japan, and Turkey. Between 2016 and 2021, Bali's shoreline reduced from 668.64 km to 662.59 km, eroding at

an average rate of 1.21 meters annually. The erosion is exacerbated by rising sea levels, potentially leading to increased coastal flooding and threatening ecosystems, infrastructure, and communities. Bali's coastal zone is crucial for its economy, particularly tourism, and holds significant cultural importance. The study, using advanced geospatial methods and high-resolution imagery, identified severe erosion primarily on Bali's southern coast. Rapid tourism-related development has intensified environmental challenges, including pollution and land use changes. Although some coastal growth was noted due to land reclamation, artificial structures like seawalls have mixed effectiveness and can cause additional issues such as sedimentation. The researchers emphasize the need for comprehensive coastal management, incorporating environmental protection and sustainable development to safeguard Bali's coastline.

Hastuti, A. W., Nagai, M., Ismail, N. P., Priyono, B., Suniada, K. I., & Wijaya, A. (2024). Spatiotemporal analysis of shoreline change trends and adaptation in Bali Province, Indonesia. *Regional Studies in Marine Sciences*, 76. doi:[10.1016/j.rsma.2024.103598](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rsma.2024.103598)

Luijendijk, A., Hagenaars, G., Ranasinghe, R., Baart, F., Donchyts, G., & Aarninkhof, S. (2018). [The State of the World's Beaches](#). *Scientific Reports*, 8(1).

Hastuti, A. W., Nagai, M., & Suniada, K. I. (2022). [Coastal Vulnerability Assessment of Bali Province, Indonesia Using Remote Sensing and GIS Approaches](#). *Remote Sensing*, 14(17), 4409.

[Citarum's river of trash points to waste management fail](#)

—Nur Janti, *TheJakartaPost*, 21 June 2024

A viral video posted by the environmental group Pandawara on June 11 has highlighted severe waste management issues in Indonesia, particularly in the Citarum River. The video, showing a 3-kilometer stretch of floating trash, prompted the West Java administration to deploy a cleanup team. Despite the efforts, including expanding the cleanup area and extending the campaign duration, the river quickly became polluted again. The Citarum, one of the most polluted rivers in Indonesia, suffers from high toxicity levels due to unchecked industrial and household waste dumping. Efforts to manage the waste problem are hindered by a lack of governmental commitment, unsustainable packaging by companies, and low public awareness. Current waste management practices mainly involve collecting, transporting, and piling waste in landfills. Experts suggest that stricter enforcement of existing regulations, encouraging environmentally friendly packaging, and promoting waste sorting at the source are crucial steps toward resolving the issue. Additionally, strategic programs like communal composting could significantly reduce waste accumulation. Comprehensive collaboration among policymakers, law enforcers, companies, and the community is essential for effective waste management.

[Air Pollution Linked to Nearly 2,000 Child Deaths Each Day](#)

—Ahmad Arif, *Kompas*, 20 June 2024

Air pollution is the second leading cause of premature death globally, following high blood pressure. According to the "State of Global Air" report by the Health Effects Institute and UNICEF, air pollution caused 8.1 million deaths in 2021, accounting for 12% of global deaths.

This surpasses the death toll from tobacco use and poor diet. The report highlights the vulnerability of young children, with over 700,000 children under five dying due to air pollution annually. Indoor pollution from dirty cooking fuels contributes significantly to these deaths, particularly in Africa and Asia. In Indonesia, air quality is deteriorating, with nearly 2,000 children dying daily from pollution-related health issues. The country ranked 26th worst for PM2.5 pollution globally in 2022. Vehicle emissions are a major contributor to Jakarta's poor air quality, making it the 20th worst city worldwide. The report underscores the urgent need for addressing air pollution, linking it to numerous health problems including lung cancer, heart disease, and stunting. Solutions proposed include reducing the use of fossil fuels and promoting cleaner cooking methods to protect future generations from the severe impacts of air pollution.

[Indonesia Asks for China's Help to Have Cleaner Air](#)

—Jayanty Nada Shofa, *JakartaGlobe*, 14 June 2024

Indonesia is seeking technical assistance and investment from China to improve air quality and boost its solar power industry. Aiming for net zero emissions by 2060, Indonesia continues to rely heavily on coal, contributing to severe air pollution, particularly in Jakarta. During bilateral talks with Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister Wang Yi, Indonesia's Chief Investment Minister Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan discussed reducing pollution from coal power plants and enhancing solar power capabilities. Luhut highlighted Indonesia's potential for solar energy, noting its 3,000 gigawatt capacity and neighboring Singapore's interest in importing this energy. He encouraged Chinese solar power producers to establish manufacturing plants in Indonesia. Additionally, Luhut aims to attract Chinese battery-related firms to leverage Indonesia's nickel resources. Jakarta's air quality remains dire, with the city recently recording the world's second-worst air quality index. China is a major foreign investor in Indonesia, with \$1.87 billion in investments in early 2024. Luhut also mentioned a prospective \$4 billion investment by a Chinese firm in a photovoltaic glass project in North Kalimantan.

F. Technology, Investment and Finance

[Indonesia can keep budget deficit under 3pct ceiling, World Bank says](#)

—Reuters Team, *NST/BusinessTimes*, 21 June 2024

Indonesia's budget deficit is projected to rise to 2.5% of GDP in 2024, up from 1.7% in 2023, due to cost-of-living measures and falling commodity prices, according to the World Bank. The deficit is expected to remain at 2.5% in 2025 as President-elect Prabowo Subianto implements his policies, before slightly narrowing to 2.4% in 2026. Indonesia's laws cap the annual budget deficit at 3% of GDP and the debt-to-GDP ratio at 60%. Prabowo's proposed social programs, including a flagship initiative to provide free nutritious meals to students, are estimated to cost 450 trillion rupiah (\$27.35 billion), about 2% of GDP. The World Bank emphasizes the need for these programs to be implemented gradually and sustainably. Revenue-side reforms, such as improving tax audits and removing exemptions, could boost tax receipts by 1% to 1.5% of GDP annually. Global economic uncertainties pose risks to Indonesia's fiscal health. The World Bank forecasts economic growth at 5.0% in 2024, rising to 5.1% in 2025 and 2026, with the current account deficit widening to 1.6% by 2026.

[Encouraging Local Products to Be Widely Known, Business Actors in Maluku Must Implement Digitalization](#)

—Raynard Kristian Bonanio Pardede, *Kompas*, 21 June 2024

Business and tourism sectors are encouraged to embrace digitalization to enhance product visibility and boost tourist visits. At the campaign launch of "Maluku Goes Global," officials emphasized the need for digital adoption. Acting Governor Sadali Ie highlighted the potential of Maluku's plantation, fishery, and tourism to improve the local economy. Digitalization in fisheries, exemplified by the traceability of yellowfin tuna, has enabled access to international markets. The government also provides modern facilities to maintain spice quality, supporting local farmers. The Head of Maluku's Agriculture Department, Ilham Tauda, noted that spice tourism could attract visitors, benefiting community-owned plantations. The Head of Bank Indonesia's Maluku Representative Office, Rawindra Ardiansah, stated that digital technology is crucial for tourism actors. Initiatives like digital payment systems for marine tourism communities aim to enhance service quality and tourism appeal. The Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy reported a significant increase in domestic tourist visits to Maluku in 2023, underscoring the potential of strategic policies and digitalization to drive economic growth.

[Indonesia Looks to New Markets to Counter US Anti-Dumping Duties on Shrimp](#)

—Tri Listiyarini, *JakartaGlobe*, 18 June 2024

The Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) is addressing the anti-dumping case impacting frozen shrimp exports to the US by diversifying markets to China, Japan, Australia, and South Korea, whose export potential ranges from China (\$544 million), Japan (\$214 million), South Korea (\$26 million), to Australia (\$30 million) by 2028. This has positioned Indonesian shrimp competitively against suppliers like Ecuador, Vietnam, and Thailand. These countries collectively represent a market potential of \$800 million for 121,000 tons of frozen shrimp, according to Export Potential data. Budi Sulistiyo, Director General of Competitiveness of Marine and Fisheries Products, noted that anti-dumping tariffs and countervailing duties have reduced the competitiveness of Indonesian shrimp in the US. Therefore, optimizing alternative markets, where Indonesian shrimp currently have a smaller share, is crucial. He emphasized enhancing cultivation, processing, and logistics efficiency to ensure competitive pricing. Coordinating with various ministries and the shrimp industry, MMAF tries to maintain US exports and seeks support from the Indonesian Embassy in Washington DC to defend against the dumping allegations.

[In Indonesia's Aceh, a once-isolated forest hosts local travelers on bamboo rafts](#)

—Junaidi Hanafiah, *Mongabay*, 17 June 2024

The village of Samar Kilang in Bener Meriah, Sumatra's northern tip of Aceh, was once isolated, with residents relying on bamboo rafts to transport goods to nearby districts. In 2020, a new road improved accessibility, transforming the village into a local tourist destination. This development inspired young villagers, like Alif Mudin, to repurpose traditional bamboo rafts for ecotourism. Rafting Bamboo offers guided raft tours on weekends and holidays, attracting visitors seeking nature experiences. Each raft accommodates two to three guests, with guides steering around obstacles. Visitors can also enjoy local delicacies prepared by local cooks. However, road construction has sparked environmental concerns, as road building often leads to deforestation by granting loggers access to remote areas. From 2002-2023, Bener Meriah lost 7,310 hectares of old-growth forest. The challenge lies in balancing economic development with environmental protection. Nonprofits like the Katahati Institute support Samar Kilang's efforts in marketing forest products and developing ecotourism,

aiming to sustain the local economy and protect the forest. Ecotourism, dependent on intact natural landscapes, promotes forest conservation through community involvement.

[RI, China agree on making Indonesia an export production hub](#)

—Ahmad Muzdaffar Fauzan and Cindy Frishanti Octavia, *Antara*, 14 June 2024

Industry Minister Agus Gumiwang Kartasasmita announced an agreement with four Chinese electric vehicle (EV) companies—Neta, Wuling, Chery, and Sokon—to establish Indonesia as a production hub for eco-friendly vehicles aimed at export markets. These companies plan to produce right-hand drive EVs in Indonesia for export to 54 countries, with a national production target of 600,000 units by 2030. During a visit to Beijing, Kartasasmita highlighted Neta's plan to increase local content to 60% by 2025 and achieve annual sales of 10,000 units. SAIC GM Wuling aims to boost exports from Indonesia, positioning the country as an EV production base in ASEAN and globally. Chery Automobile intends to research plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) for the Indonesian market, with a production goal of 100,000 units by 2030. Sokon, through SOKONINDO, plans to expand the EV ecosystem by introducing new models and leveraging Indonesia's production capacity of up to 50,000 units. The Indonesian government is encouraging these investments with various incentives, aiming to solidify Indonesia's role as a key player in the global EV market.

G. Human Rights and Gender Equality

[Saudi Arabia unshackled: rapid societal change draws Malaysia, Indonesia parallels](#)

—Tom Hussain, *SouthChinaMorningPost*, 22 June 2024

Saudi Arabia is undergoing transformative changes after decades of self-imposed isolation and religious constraints. Under the Vision 2030, the kingdom is diversifying its economy away from oil and expanding social freedoms. Young Saudis now enjoy new career opportunities and entertainment options that were previously taboo, with men and women mingling more freely. Saudi women have seen significant advancements, including the lifting of the driving ban and relaxed guardianship laws, allowing for greater independence in education, work, and travel. Women's workforce participation has nearly doubled since 2016, reaching 36% last year, and unemployment has dropped significantly. The reforms have driven economic growth, with the GDP increasing by 54% and private investment rising by 57% in the last two years. While older Saudis show mixed reactions, youngsters support these changes. Saudi's moderate Islam, modernization, and economic diversification draw comparisons to Malaysia and Indonesia. Indonesia's vibrant society and cultural diversity offers points of comparison especially in terms of balancing tradition with modernity, yet Saudi maintains a unique identity due to its religious significance and strategic goals.

[Revote ruling offers hope for women's representation](#)

—Nur Janti, *TheJakartaPost*, 18 June 2024

A recent Constitutional Court ruling has mandated a revote for the Gorontalo Regional Legislative Council (DPRD) elections due to four major parties failing to meet the 30% minimum quota for female candidates. The Prosperous Justice Party (PKS) petitioned for the re-vote after the Gerindra Party, the National Awakening Party (PKB), the NasDem Party, and the Democratic Party only had 27% female candidates. The Gorontalo General Elections Commission (KPUD) must conduct the revote by mid-July and ensure the quota is met, or the

parties will be disqualified. The ruling emphasizes the need for adherence to the 30% quota for future elections, urging the poll body to enforce this strictly. Despite existing laws requiring this quota, many parties missed it in the 2024 elections. Observers praised the ruling, highlighting it as a call for serious commitment to women's representation. However, the number of women elected remains below 30%, and female lawmakers face replacement threats more often than their male counterparts. Parties are urged to commit to protecting women's seats and replacing female lawmakers only with other women.

Police most reported to Komnas HAM over human rights violations

—Alifia Sekar, *TheJakartaPost*, 12 June 2024

The National Police received the most human rights complaints to the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) in Indonesia last year, with 771 cases, down from 861 in 2022. This institution has topped the list for five consecutive years, often linked to strategic national projects and businesses. High-profile cases include the Rempang Eco City and a petrochemical factory in Air Bangis, where excessive use of power was noted. In Air Bangis, 17 individuals were arrested amid community resistance. Komnas HAM urged authorities to avoid violence and protect vulnerable groups, advocating for restorative justice. Comr. Gen. Ahmad Dofiri acknowledged the high number of complaints, attributing it to the police's role in responding to public reports, and expressed a commitment to service improvement. Benny Jozua Mamoto from the National Police Commission noted that abuses often occurred during protests related to national projects. The Indonesian Employer Association (Apindo) highlighted the need for clearer definitions of human rights for businesses. Komnas HAM's chair, Atnike Nova Sigiro, called for more specific regulations to enforce business responsibilities towards human rights, beyond the existing general Presidential Regulation.

I. RI General Elections

Jokowi Effect, Asset for Intervene in the 2024 Regional Election?

—Nina Susilo, *Kompas*, 23 June 2024

The issues from the 2024 Presidential Election are expected to recur in the upcoming Regional Head Elections, with Joko Widodo's influence still prevalent. A Kompas survey in June 2024 indicated that 54.3% of respondents aligned politically with Jokowi, reflecting his continued influence. Analysts suggest that Jokowi's popularity, bolstered by his decade-long leadership, will be a significant asset as he potentially supports candidates in key regions like North Sumatra, Jakarta, and Central Java. Post-presidency, Jokowi is expected to leverage his popularity, provide social assistance, and mobilize bureaucracy to influence the elections. Specific examples include his son-in-law Bobby Nasution's gubernatorial run in North Sumatra and his son Kaesang Pangarep potential in Jakarta. Observers predict that election irregularities will repeat, citing elite statements supporting certain candidates and legal manipulations that benefit Jokowi's family. The continuation of social aid programs and potential bias in the bureaucracy are also concerns. They also emphasize the need for public critical thinking to counteract nepotism and political dynasties.

Prabowo coalition meets without Jokowi allies

—Yerica Lai, *TheJakartaPost*, 22 June 2024

President-elect Prabowo Subianto recently met with leaders of major parties in his Onward Indonesia Coalition (KIM), sparking speculation about shifting allegiances due to the absence of key allies of President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo. Prabowo shared photos on Instagram showing the presence of Democratic Party’s Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono, Golkar Party’s Airlangga Hartarto, and PAN’s Zulkifli Hasan. Notably missing were representatives from parties like PSI, led by Jokowi’s son Kaesang Pangarep. The meeting, held at the Defense Ministry, included State-Owned Enterprises Minister Erick Thohir and Anis Matta of the Gelora Party. Despite Erick’s participation, other coalition members were absent, raising eyebrows. Political analyst Adi Prayitno noted this absence might indicate a shift in coalition dynamics towards Prabowo’s influence. Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono shared that the gathering was for Prabowo’s lecture at the Indonesian Defense University, focusing on leadership and management skills. Airlangga confirmed that cabinet formation was not discussed. Kaesang Pangarep later clarified he was present, arriving after the photo was taken.

Pro-Prabowo parties to reunite for regional elections

—Yerica Lai, *TheJakartaPost*, 19 June 2024

Political parties supporting president-elect Prabowo Subianto are preparing to collaborate for the upcoming regional elections in key Java regions, anticipating showdowns between candidates aligned with both the incoming and outgoing governments, as well as outsiders. The Onward Indonesia Coalition (KIM), which supported Prabowo’s presidential bid, is intensifying talks to establish joint tickets. Golkar Party, a major coalition member, has discussed continuing their partnership for local elections, aiming for widespread victories. Notable candidates include former East Java governor Khofifah Indar Parawansa, seeking reelection with her former deputy Emil Dardak, and potentially facing Muslim cleric Marzuki Mustamar. In Central Java, provincial police chief Insp. Gen. Ahmad Luthfi, supported by PAN, is a likely candidate, possibly competing against PDI-P’s Hendrar Prihadi and Bambang Wuryanto. Disputes have arisen over gubernatorial candidates in Jakarta and West Java, with Gerindra, PAN, and Democrats supporting former West Java governor Ridwan Kamil’s bid in Jakarta, contingent on Golkar’s final decision. Analyst Ujang Komarudin emphasizes the importance of securing victories in populous regions to support Prabowo’s policy implementation and political future.

Ex-presidential candidate Anies gets boost for Jakarta polls from Indonesia’s largest party

—Wahyudi Soeriaatmadja, *TheStraitsTimes*, 16 June 2024

Former presidential candidate Anies Baswedan has gained significant backing from leaders of Indonesia’s largest party in Parliament, the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P), for the Jakarta gubernatorial election in November. Although not officially announced, PDI-P’s Jakarta branch has proposed Anies as their candidate, with former armed forces general Andika Perkasa and MP Adisatrya Suryo Sulisto as potential running mates. Despite initial resistance, Anies’ high poll numbers and continued support have bolstered his candidacy. PDI-P, led by Megawati Soekarnoputri, may face off against Gerindra, supported by President-elect Prabowo Subianto and President Joko Widodo. Anies’ main rival is expected to be Ridwan Kamil, backed by Gerindra and Widodo, possibly with Kaesang Pangarep or Budisatrio Djiwandono as running mates. The Jakarta governor race is crucial, with significant national attention. Anies, who was governor from 2017 to 2022, has strong

support, especially among pious Muslim voters, while PDI-P draws nationalist voters. Polls from May show Anies leading with 30.3% support.

KPU gears up for revotes, vote recounts in legislative elections in over 20 regions

—News Desk, *TheJakartaPost*, 13 June 2024

The General Elections Commission (KPU) will conduct revotes or vote recounts in over 20 regions following Constitutional Court rulings that annulled results from the February legislative elections. The court reviewed nearly 300 disputes filed by unsuccessful candidates and parties and found election mishandling in these areas. Consequently, revotes will occur within 21 to 45 days, including areas in Gorontalo province and all of West Sumatra for the DPD race. KPU commissioner Idham Kholik stated that no campaigning would precede the revotes, and regional offices are tasked with informing voters to ensure high turnout. Vote recounts will also happen in specific areas, such as Jember, East Java. Notably, the West Sumatra DPD race involved a dispute over excluding former corruption convict Irman Gusman from the ballot, leading to a court-mandated revote. In Gorontalo, four parties failed to meet the 30% female candidate quota, prompting another revote. Electoral expert Feri Amsari criticized the KPU's handling, predicting lower voter turnout and urging measures to ensure fair revotes. Fadli Ramadhanil of CSO Perludem also highlighted the need for public vigilance to monitor the revote process.

II. Indonesia in Geopolitics

Luhut stresses Indonesia's consistent stance on One China policy

—Putu Indah and Resinta Sulistiyandari, *Antara*, 20 June 2024

Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Investment, Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, reaffirmed the country's commitment to the One China policy amid rising tensions between China and Taiwan. During the "Geopolitics of Critical Mineral Supply Chain Dynamics" seminar in Jakarta, Luhut stated that he communicated Indonesia's stance to Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, emphasizing Indonesia's consistent foreign policy. The One China policy recognizes China as the official government over mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan, thus denying Taiwan's independence. Luhut mentioned that while he does not foresee an open conflict between China and Taiwan, the escalating tensions will have significant repercussions. He also pointed to the potential geopolitical challenges posed by the upcoming US presidential election on November 5. Luhut stressed the necessity of monitoring geopolitical dynamics involving China and the United States, noting that these two nations, along with the European Union, are pivotal in shaping global trade. This vigilance is crucial due to their substantial influence on international economic dynamics.

Fate of Indonesia's Nusantara in doubt again as Prabowo skirts around Widodo legacy project

—Resty Woro Yuniar, *SouthChinaMorningPost*, 20 June 2024

The future of Indonesia's \$33 billion new capital city project, Nusantara, is uncertain following president-elect Prabowo Subianto's manifesto, which omits mention of the project. Prabowo, in a Newsweek op-ed, emphasized his own policies, including a significant free school lunch program, suggesting the new capital isn't a priority. Analysts believe fiscal constraints will force Prabowo to focus on his initiatives over Nusantara. The new capital project, initiated by outgoing President Joko Widodo, faces slow progress due to a lack of foreign investment.

Despite a 2022 law ensuring its continuation, analysts predict delays under Prabowo. The project's funding plan relies heavily on private investment, with minimal contributions so far. Meanwhile, Prabowo's free lunch program will require substantial funding, potentially conflicting with the capital's development budget. Prabowo's party insists the project will continue, attributing its omission in the op-ed to space constraints. However, investment uncertainty persists, with domestic investments falling short and foreign investors hesitant. Prabowo's economic plans face scrutiny as he balances public trust with maintaining relations with Widodo.

Indonesia surpasses Japan and UK, rises to 27th in competitiveness rankings

—Sheena Suparman, *TheJakartaPost*, 19 June 2024

Indonesia's global competitiveness ranking has risen by seven places to 27th out of 67 countries in 2024, its highest in six years, according to the Institute for Management Development (IMD) World Competitiveness Ranking. This improvement, which places Indonesia in the top three in Southeast Asia behind Singapore and Thailand, reflects significant government efforts to enhance the business climate and attract investment. The country saw notable gains in business efficiency, government efficiency, and economic performance. Key factors contributing to these improvements include labor competitiveness, corporate management, and societal behavior. Efforts in business legislation also played a role, as demonstrated by a rise in the related ranking from 49th to 42nd place. Indonesia's domestic economy and stable price levels further bolstered its economic performance. This rise in competitiveness boosts Indonesia's attractiveness to global investors, evidenced by a 22.1% year-on-year increase in investment realization by Q1-2024, with foreign direct investment growing by 15.5%. The government continues to enhance the business environment through regulatory reform and Online Single Submission system, to be fully completed before the term ends.

Gaza peace force to deploy only on UN mandate: Foreign Ministry

—Alifia Sekar, *TheJakartaPost*, 18 June 2024

Indonesia's plan to send a peacekeeping force to Gaza, proposed by Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto, hinges on a mandate from the United Nations. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Rolliansyah Soemirat clarified that the UN has not yet discussed deploying peacekeepers in Gaza, as current efforts focus on a three-phase ceasefire resolution. This resolution, adopted by the UN Security Council last week, aims to end Israel's prolonged military operations in Gaza, with the US supporting the ceasefire despite its historical stance against recognizing a Palestinian state. Rolliansyah emphasized that the specifics of a potential UN mission, including the number and expertise of personnel, would depend on field needs when the time is appropriate. Prabowo first suggested sending peacekeepers at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, expressing Indonesia's readiness to contribute significantly to maintaining and monitoring the ceasefire, as well as ensuring security for all parties involved. Indonesian Military commander Gen. Agus Subiyanto supported the initiative and welcomed civil society organizations to join the peacekeeping mission, particularly for health and education purposes.