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

Starling Resources is an Indonesia-based sustainability consulting and advisory practice designing solutions to demanding environmental, social and economic challenges at local, regional and global scales with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region.

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A. The Covid-19 Crisis in Indonesia

Indonesia posts record death toll as regional curbs are expanded

—Dio Suhenda, *The Jakarta Post*, 8 July 2021

Indonesia recorded 1,040 Covid-19 deaths on 7 July—nearly six times the average daily mortality rate just a month ago—and 34,379 new cases as the country’s coronavirus surge continued. The government had previously imposed tougher emergency restrictions (*PPKM Darurat*) in Java and Bali on 2 July, under the leadership of Coordinating Minister of Maritime Affairs and Investment Luhut Panjaitan. Coordinating Economic Affairs Minister Airlangga Hartoto has called for 43 regencies in 20 provinces outside Java and Bali classified as “level 4” risk areas to impose tighter micro-scale restrictions (*PPKM Mikro*), effecting splitting handling of the pandemic response into two teams. The “level 4” risk classification applies to regencies or cities with more than 50 confirmed Covid-19 cases per 100,000 per week or a mortality rate of more than five deaths per 100,000 people per week. The National Economic Recovery and COVID-19 Response Committee (KPCPEN) will continue to monitor “level 4” areas, implying that more regions could be included in the *PPKM Darurat* scheme in effect in Java and Bali.

[Government advances an expanded vaccine plan ...](#)

—Rifki Nurfaajiri, Nina A. Loasana, *The Jakarta Post*, 7 July 2021

The Ministry of Health announced it will seek to administer a first Covid-19 vaccine dose to 181.5 million Indonesians by the end of the year, three months earlier than the original plan, even though the current drive has covered 23% of the elderly population. With a record 34,379 new cases and total case load of over 343,000 cases, the government hopes acceleration of the vaccination program can help overcome the coronavirus pandemic. The expanded plan includes children of age 12 and above and foreign nationals over the age of 60 who have certain types of stay permits. To realize the plan, the government is scaling up foreign procurement deals with other countries. Griffith University epidemiologist Dicky Budiman said that expanding the vaccination program makes sense, but warned that this would not be sufficient to counter the current surge of Covid-19 cases because it takes time for the vaccine to be effective. To properly vaccinate the country would require at least another 360 million doses. So far, China's Sinovac has been the only manufacturer to provide such large quantities of vaccine.

[...and expands the scale of Covid-19 restrictions nationwide](#)

—Agencies, *The Jakarta Post*, 7 July 2021

Indonesia announced expansion of Covid-19 curbs nationwide as the skyrocketing death toll warns the worst may be yet to come. On 7 July, the country reported a record 31,189 new cases and 728 deaths, seven times the daily mortality toll less than a month ago. New coronavirus curbs had already been put in place on 2 July in the hard-hit capital city, Jakarta, across Java and on Bali. "Cases are also rising in other regions, [and healthcare] facilities in those other regions are limited and overwhelmed," Coordinating Economic Minister Airlangga Hartoto said. The country's hospitals are buckling as new waves of patients flood the healthcare system. The new wave of infections has been exacerbated by the highly infectious Delta variant. So far, only 1.6% of Indonesia's 270 million population have been fully vaccinated.

['Like a war zone' — Doctors, hospitals plead for help amid Covid-19 surge](#)

—Nur Janti, *The Jakarta Post*, 6 July 2021

Health workers and hospitals likening their daily struggle against Covid-19 in Indonesia as a "war zone" are asking the government to step and provide financial support to front-line medical staff who must face the alarming surge of infections across Java. But hospitals have yet to receive payments for Covid-19 treatment from the government, according to the Indonesian Medical Association (IDI). People are dying from untreated Covid-19 emergencies because hospitals lack funds, IDI chairman Slamet Budiarto told a House of Representatives Commission IX meeting. At least 1,031 medical workers have died from Corona-19 since the pandemic began, including 405 doctors, 328 nurses and 160 midwives. Coordinating Maritime Affairs and Investment Minister Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, who leads the COVID-19 emergency mobility restrictions (*PPKM Darurat*) on Java and Bali, warned that nationwide new daily cases could soon jump to 40,000, 50,000, or even 70,000 in the worst-case scenario.

[Indonesia's doctors got vaccinated with Sinovac and got sick](#)

—Hannah Beech and Muktita Suhartono, *The New York Times*, 25 June 2021

Facing increased cases and a deadly variant, the Indonesian health system is under strain as doctors become patients. More than 400 doctors in Indonesia have died from Covid-19, and at least 20 of them were fully vaccinated with the Sinovac vaccine, according to the risk mitigation team from the Indonesian Medical Association said. The IDI team also reported that 358 medical workers in Kudus, Java who had been fully vaccinated with Sinovac tested positive during a two week span. An early study in Indonesia indicated that the Chinese vaccine was largely successful in preventing hospitalization or death from infection, but its effectiveness against the Delta variant of the virus has not been studied as much. Two nurses and a nutritionist in Kudus, all of whom were fully vaccinated, also died this month of Covid-19, said Dr. Adib Khumaidi, the chief of the IMA risk mitigation team. Dr. Adib said the association is now considering administering a third jab of a different vaccine to medical workers.

[Delta coronavirus variant: scientists brace for impact](#)

—Ewen Callaway, *Nature*, 22 June 2021

Delta, also known as B.1.617.2, belongs to a viral lineage first identified in India during a ferocious wave of infections there in April and May. The lineage grew rapidly in some parts of the country, and showed signs of partial resistance to vaccines. Countries with ample access to vaccines, including in Europe and North America, are hopeful that the shots can dampen the rise of Delta, but in countries without large vaccine stocks, some scientists worry that the variant could be devastating. Delta seems to be around 60% more transmissible than the already highly infectious Alpha variant (B.1.1.7) that was identified in the UK in late 2020. Preliminary evidence from England and Scotland suggests people infected with Delta are about twice as likely to end up in hospital, compared with those infected with Alpha.

B. Marine & Fisheries

[IOTC adopts resolution to rebuild yellowfin tuna stock, but NGOs question its effectiveness](#)

—Bernadette Carreon, *SeafoodSource*, 14 June 2021

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) agreed to reduce the total allowable catch (TAC) for yellowfin tuna, but the rebuilding effort has fallen short as five contracting parties to the commission, all coastal states—Indonesia, India, Iran, Madagascar and Oman— are expected to formally object to the plan. As a result, a new TAC has not been agreed. The Blue Marine Foundation (BLUE) and the International Pole and Line Foundation called out the EU for failing to take a leading role in building a consensus behind the rebuilding plan. “While we are encouraged by the adoption of a new plan for yellowfin tuna, ... we cannot ignore the shortcomings of this resolution, nor can we ignore the selfishness of distant-water fishing nations such as the EU who had the opportunity to take a leading role in solving this problem they helped to create, but [instead] chose instead to play hardball with coastal states who depend on Indian Ocean fish stocks for their survival,” BLUE Executive Director Charles Clover said.

[Indonesia rejects IOTC resolution to rebuild Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stocks](#)

—Matilde Mereghetti, *Undercurrents*, 6 July 2021

Unhappy with the cuts to its yellowfin tuna catch set by a recent interim plan to rebuild stocks in the Indian Ocean, Indonesia has formally objected in an official letter to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) from Muhammad Zaini, Director-General of Capture Fisheries at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Fisheries (DKP). In the letter, Zaini reiterated Indonesia’s commitment to fully comply with conservation and management measures, but argued that the interim plan adopted by the IOTC in June (Resolution 21/01) based on recalculated data would reduce Indonesia’s catch by more than 40% compared to the previous Resolution (Resolution 19/01) and “threaten the livelihood of our small-scale and artisanal fisheries.” According to the IOTC’s rules, a member of the Commission that objects to a measure within a fixed period is not bound by it.

Circular: [Objection from Indonesia to IOTC Resolution 21/01](#), 30 June 2021

[Yellowfin tuna rebuilding plan runs aground, and yellowfin tuna is not the only species in peril](#)

—*News at WWF International*, 14 June 2021

Yellowfin tuna is not the only species in peril. Skipjack is still fished to above the thresholds agreed for 2018-2020. The IOTC is also responsible for managing associated species, so the tabling of an inclusive conservation and management measure on cetaceans in the Indian Ocean was a surprise, though it was ultimately withdrawn due to time constraints. “By-catch of cetaceans is estimated to be very high, around 60,000 individuals killed every year in the Indian Ocean, said Umair Shahid, Indian Ocean Tuna Manager for WWF. Yet although there was no agreement, several improvements and additions were agreed, laying the groundwork for significant measures in 2022 alongside improved reporting and mitigation of bycatch of cetaceans. WWF joined the Blue Marine Foundation and the International Pole and Line Foundation in calling for a special meeting in 2022 to update the rebuilding plan as a matter of urgency.

[Ocean noise and marine debris are the main threats to marine mammals in Indonesia](#)

—Ade Irma Junida, Katriana, [Antaraneews.com](#), 30 June 2021

Ocean noise and marine debris are the two main threats to marine mammals in Indonesia, according to Pamuji Lestari, who is an expert staff for ecology and marine resources at the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP). At least 35 different species of marine mammals are known to be located in or pass through Indonesian waters, Lestari said, making the country an important habitat hotspot. The Indonesian government has designated marine mammals as a protected species category since 1999, Lestari said, including a ministerial decree concerning the National Action Plan for Marine Mammal Conservation over 2018-2022. Acting Director General of Marine Spatial Management agreed that ocean noise and marine debris are the main factors behind marine mammal strandings. Since 2015, there have been about 100 cases of stranded marine mammals. In order to reduce strandings, the KKP has a working group for coordination and implementation of marine mammal conservation plans, including the handling of stranded marine mammals.

[Indonesia to become global player in shrimp market](#)

—M Razi Rahman, Sri Haryati, [Antaraneews.com](#), 14 June 2021

Indonesia can emerge as the key player in the global shrimp market with the government's support to boost exports and production, Marine Affairs and Fisheries Minister Sakti Wahyu Trenggono said. The ministry has developed programs to boost shrimp production and exports through revitalizing ponds, developing new infrastructure, and simplifying the process of licensing. The government has also developed the “shrimp estate” model to make it possible to cultivate shrimp cultivation in an integrated area with technology-based production processes and environment-friendly approaches to sustainable shrimp cultivation. In 2019, Indonesia accounted for 7.1% of the global market and was the fifth-largest shrimp exporter after India, Ecuador, Vietnam and China.

C. Forests & Land Use

[UK cancels ‘highly effective’ program to prevent deforestation in Papua and West Papua](#)

—William Worley, [Devex.com](#), 15 June 2021

The UK has cancelled a Green Economic Growth (GEG) program to prevent deforestation in Indonesia’s Papua provinces just weeks after Alok Sharma, the COP26 President and UK Minister charged with leading climate negotiations called for Indonesia to “move forward” with plans to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The UK Climate Change Unit (UKCCU) project had been expected to run for two more years. Abdul Halim Iskandar, Indonesia’s Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration, said the program had attracted IDR 22.8 billion (US\$1.6 million) in investments from the private sector and local governments. Patrick Abbot, director of NIRAS-LTS International Ltd., the company implementing the project, wrote in a letter to staff that the decision came as a complete surprise. “In my 35 year career, this is one of the best programmes I have ever worked on,” Abbot wrote. “The decision .. and the manner of the closing means that no sensible exit process can be managed to ensure sustainability of the project results going forward.”

[Climate, biodiversity, and farmers benefit from rubber agroforestry](#)

—Erik Hoffner, [Mongabay](#), 29 June 2021

Historically, rubber plantations have been a leading cause of tropical deforestation and are responsible for a range of environmental and social ills, but rubber grown in agroforestry systems—combining rubber trees with fruit and timber trees, useful shrubs, medicinal plants and herbs—can increase ecosystem services and biodiversity while sequestering carbon and diversifying farmer incomes, according to a new report. Systems with more complexity such as ‘jungle rubber’ in Indonesia with *Hevea* rubber trees planted under natural forest canopy support the most biodiversity. The area planted to ‘jungle rubber’ in Indonesia is not even known. Grassroots networks, farmer co-ops and well-thought-out policies to support smallholder farmers can accelerate the transmission and adoption of

agroforestry practices. Clearing natural forest for cultivation systems of any kind will result in carbon emissions from vegetation and soil and a biodiversity loss, but where land has already been cleared, agroforestry rubber can offer greater carbon drawdown and storage than annual crops, and there are additional carbon benefits compared to monoculture agriculture.

Report: Maria Wang Mei Hua, "[Rubber Agroforestry: Feasibility at Scale](#)", Mighty Earth, May 2021.

[Unilever's Dove and Conservation International to protect and restore 20,000 ha of forest](#)

—Jack Pearce, *ClimateAction*, 10 June 2021

Unilever's Dove brand, in partnership with Conservation International (CI) and in support of their collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK), will protect and restore 20,000 ha of forest in South Tapanuli and Mandailing Natal districts in North Sumatra over the next five years. The initiative is projected to capture over 300,000 tons of CO₂ from the air and avoid the release of over 200,000 tons of CO₂ emissions. Collectively, Unilever brands will invest Euro 1 billion in a new dedicated Climate and Nature Fund to be used over the next 10 years. The Dove Forest Restoration Project is the first major initiative from this fund, which is designed to reinforce existing plans to impose a deforestation-free supply chain by 2023 and net zero emissions from all products by 2039, and aligns with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

[Drying of peatlands worldwide threatens to release 860 million tons of CO₂ every year](#)

—Yuanyuan Huang, Yingping Wang, *The Conversation*, 22 June 2021

Peatlands—fens, bogs, marshes and swamps—cover just 3% of the earth's land surface, but store over a third of the planet's soil carbon, more than is stored in all other vegetation combined, including forests. Our study shows that if peatlands are allowed to dry out, they could release an additional 860 million tons of CO₂ every year. Peatlands are also home to many native and endangered species of plants and animals that occur nowhere else, act as migration corridors for birds and other wildlife and can purify water and regulate floods. When peat is allowed to dry out, however, aerobic microbes grow quickly, enjoying the carbon-rich food and releasing CO₂ into the atmosphere. The Central Kalimantan Peatlands Project in Indonesia aims to rehabilitate peat ecosystems by damming drainage canals, revegetating with native trees, improving socio-economic conditions, and introducing more sustainable agricultural techniques. But protecting peatlands is a global issue requiring that we all work together efficiently to protect peatlands all over the world.

Report: Yuanyuan Huang et al, "[Tradeoff of CO₂ and CH₄ emissions from global peatlands under water-table drawdown](#)" in *Nature Climate Change*, 7 June 2021

Report: *Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)*, [Indonesia: Central Kalimantan Peatlands Restoration Project](#) (CKPP), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (DGIS), 2021

[Wildfires turn up the heat on farmers growing Indonesia's 'hottest' chili peppers](#)

—M Afrin Arza, *Mongabay*, 6 July 2021

Hiyung village in South Kalimantan is the home of the "Hiyung" bird's eye chili, considered to be the hottest chili grown in Indonesia. But draining of peatlands for agriculture has intensified wildfire risks in the acidic local peat soils. Hiyung farmers share the same landscape with several oil palm plantation companies. "The fires can devour huge swaths of land here," said Junaidi, the head of the Hiyung Cayenne Pepper Association, a farmers' group in the village that endeavors—not always successfully—to protect the crop from incineration. "They are our greatest threat." Peat fires ripped through the village in 2015 and 2019, scorching dozens of hectares of pepper crops. Community firefighting brigades in Hiyung are working with government agencies to prevent disaster from striking again. Farmers' groups have erected banners around the village warning against the use of fire to clear land for planting. "When the harvest season comes, we're always afraid of burning," Junaidi said. "We must guard every plot of agricultural land."

D. Energy, Mining and Climate Change

[Proposed carbon tax poses risks to Indonesia's GDP growth](#)

—Claire Jiao and Grace Sihombing, *Bloomberg Green*, 1 July 2012

A proposed tax on carbon output could slow Indonesia's economic growth and faces resistance. The law would tax carbon dioxide (CO₂) output at a rate of IDR 75 (US\$0.0052) per kilogram of carbon dioxide equivalent (kgCO₂e), generating IDR 32 trillion (US\$2.2 billion) in additional state revenue and cutting carbon emissions 16.6% by the end of the decade, but it would also weaken demand, output and employment, posing a dilemma for a country that relies on coal for more than half of its energy generation. "As an archipelago, climate change is a threat for us," Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati told a parliamentary committee. "Indonesia has a huge interest in tackling drastic impacts of climate change, so we need to continue to improve our ability to finance climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts." The tax already faces resistance from the industrial sector. "Implementation of the tax should not burden the mining industry or other carbon producing sectors, Hendra Sinadia, Executive Director of the Indonesia Coal Mining Association said.

[Opinion: Time for Indonesia to chart a path to carbon neutrality](#)

—Vishal Agarwal, Herman Strauss, Khoon tee Tan, *The Jakarta Post*, 7 July 2021

More than half of global gross domestic product (GDP) is now generated in countries that have net-zero mandates to reduce, absorb or abate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions so that their economies become carbon neutral, including China, the EU, Japan, and South Korea, and investors are turning away from carbon-related assets. Indonesia has not. It has committed to reducing its emissions 29% compared to business-as-usual scenario by 2030. While per capita emissions are relatively low, just over 2 tons per person, compared to 16.8 in Australia or 9.3 in Japan. But it is the 8th largest emitter, and deforestation currently accounts for more than a fifth of Indonesia's GHG emissions. From a global perspective, the momentum to transition to a net-zero economy has passed an inflection point. Indonesia's business leaders need to improve their understanding of climate science; identify strategies to reduce and ultimately eliminate emissions across value chains; and find adjacent portfolio moves to capture value from green innovations.

Vishal Agarwal, Herman Strauss, and Khoon Tee Tan are partners and consultants based in McKinsey & Company's Singapore and Jakarta offices.

[Pertamina plans to invest US\\$12 billion in new renewable energy by 2026](#)

—*The Jakarta Post*, 5 July 2021

State-owned oil and gas company Pertamina says it needs to invest US\$12 billion to meet its target of developing 10 gigawatts (GW) of generating capacity from new and renewable energy source by 2026. "Pertamina supports the government's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve net-zero by 2060," Dannif Danusaputro, the CEO of Pertamina's new and renewable energy sub-holding company reportedly said. The sub-holding Pertamina uses to conduct its renewable energy business comprised of three entities: PT Pertamina Geothermal Energy (PGE), PT Jawa Satu Power (JSP) and PT Jawa Satu Regas (JSR). Indonesia accounts for around 40% of the total energy used in ASEAN and is one of the countries with the fastest growth in energy consumption, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Pertamina's 10 GW target is comprised of gas-to-power, renewable energy—including geothermal—and other new initiatives, such as an electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem and hydrogen pilot projects. The gas-to-power business segment is projected to contribute 6 GW to the 10 GW target, renewable energy 3 GW, while solar power, biogas-fuelled power plants, smart grids and other new and renewable energy power plants are projected to contribute 1.9 GW.

[Coal industry expects further market improvement in Q3](#)

—Divya Karyza, *The Jakarta Post*, 8 July 2021

Coal mining companies expect their financial performance to improve on the basis of a projected continuation of the upward trend in global coal prices. Demand for coal is expected to increase both from export markets and domestic industries, according to Hendra Sinadia, Executive Director of the Indonesian Coal Mining Association (APBI), noting that the increase in the purchasing managers' index (PMI) from coal-importing countries China and Japan pointed to a surge in demand for rising manufacturing activity. Government plans to develop downstream coal mining initiatives to shield producers from the long-term global shift ore demand away from coal and towards metals may also weigh on coal prices in the future. Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources data show eleven downstream coal projects in the pipeline, of which seven are coal gasification projects which convert coal to methanol which can then be processed into fuel, fertilizer, plastic, or cooking gas.

Indonesia needs to seek out alternative sources of biofuel

—Haryanto and Filda Citra Yusgiantoro, *The Diplomat*, 23 June 2021

Indonesia is the world's third largest producer of biofuel, generating 77 Terawatt-hours (TWh) in 2019, behind the US (433 TWh) and Brazil (276 TWh). To accomplish this, Indonesia focused on developing biofuel, especially biodiesel, relying mainly on first-generation feedstocks, normally food crops. Palm oil produces the largest share of Indonesia's bioenergy, 38.8% of the total, ahead of rice husk (30.8%), rubber (8.5%), waste (6.3%) and wood (4.1%). Second-generation feedstocks like urban and food waste and alternative feedstocks such as microorganisms have yet to be fully explored and exploited. As a result, Indonesia is only utilizing about 5% of its full bioenergy potential. In 2019, Indonesia only managed to collect 30% of the 9.72 million kilolitres of the used cooking oil (UCO) generated that year, most of which was exported. Converting more used cooking oil (UCO) into biodiesel is a large opportunity, as is developing algae and other microorganisms, which could reduce Indonesia's reliance on palm oil, which is linked to deforestation and indirect land use change.

Activists take Indonesia's mining law to court, but the plaintiffs doubt they will win

—Hans Nicholas Jong, *Mongabay*, 7 July 2021

Activists including the Indonesian Forum for the Environment (Walhi) and the East Kalimantan chapter of the Mining Advocacy Network have filed for judicial review of a controversial mining law enacted in 2020 by the Constitutional Court, charging that the Law panders to mining companies at the expense of the environment and local communities. The filing came after the legislature, widely criticized over the law, said anyone who is not happy with it should challenge it in court. The law grants bigger concessions and longer contracts for miners, bars the public's right to oppose mining activity, and threatens prosecution of individuals who defend their land rights against mining companies, the plaintiffs said. "The law is clearly made to meet mining interests and sideline people's rights under the Constitution, said Muhammad Isnur of the Indonesia Legal Aid Institute. But the plaintiffs said they were not optimistic, noting that the government has recently granted longer terms and extended retirement age to the justices who will hear the case.

Citi: Global decolonisation may weaken Indonesia's coal exports but boost base metals

—Janice Heng, *Asean Business*, 7 July 2021

Global decarbonisation is likely to weaken Indonesia's coal exports in the medium to long term, but this could be mitigated increased exports of base metals, Citi economists. Decarbonisation involves a shift away from fossil fuels toward renewables to lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Metals like nickel and copper are needed for renewable power generation, battery storage, electric vehicles, charging stations, and related grid infrastructure. Indonesia is estimated to have the world's largest nickel reserves and it has the world's second largest copper mine. Meanwhile, although Indonesia's coal export destinations have announced plans to shift away from coal, many have ongoing projects that could support demand for coal in the short term, including India (which has coal capacity slated to come on-line through 2025) and Vietnam. Another major commodity export, palm oil, is likely to see slower growth. In 2019, the EU restricted the use of palm oil for biofuel, but Indonesian palm oil is exported to over 100 jurisdictions.

E. Pollution and Waste Management

[Green packaging industry gains momentum amid plastic ban, e-commerce shift](#)

—*The Jakarta Post*, 5 July 2021

Environmentally friendly packaging is expected to continue gaining popularity in urban areas after enjoying a surge in demand last year, stimulated by Jakarta's ban on single-use plastics in 2020, similar bans in major cities like Denpasar in Bali and Bogor in West Java, and a general shift to online shopping among consumers. Suppliers and buyers of eco-friendly packaging said demand for the products is growing as Jakarta enforces full compliance and demand for food delivery services continues to rise. In Jakarta, the new trends have slowed the accumulation of waste at the Bantar Gebang landfill in Bekasi, West Java. The Asia-Pacific region is forecast to remain the world's largest market for green packaging until 2028, reaching US\$99.5 billion last year, 38.5% of the US\$258.35 billion global green packaging market, according to a report. Oxo-biodegradable plastics break down when exposed to sunlight and soil, a fraction of the 100-500 years needed for regular low-density polyethylene (LDPE) plastic bags to degrade, according to Kevin Susanto, the founder of packaging supplier EnviGo.

[IVL set to build PET-recycling plant in West Java](#)

—*Waste Management World*, 6 July 2021

The Thailand-based chemical company Indorama Ventures (IVL) plans to build a PET-recycling plant in Karawang Regency, West Java Province which is set to open in 2023. Washed and shredded PET bottles would be converted into flake feedstock, which can be used to manufacture resins suitable for food production use. IVL plans to recycle at least 750, 000 tonnes of PET globally by 2025. The Karawang recycling facility would have the capacity to process 1.92 billion PET bottles [annually]. The recycling plant and other recycling facilities in Southeast Asia would operate in tandem with other PET flake production facilities in Indonesia. "Giving waste an economic value as feedstock for new bottles can drive improvements in waste collection systems," IVL CEO D. K. Agarwal said.

[Ruling in Jakarta air pollution case postponed — again](#)

—Aisyah Llewellyn, *Aljazeera*, 11 June 2021

Issuance of a verdict in the 2019 citizen lawsuit holding Indonesian government responsible for air pollution in the capital city has been postponed again. Chief Justice Saifuddin Zuhri blamed the large number of documents filed in the case for the delay. Ayu Eza Tiara, legal counsel for the 32 plaintiffs in the case and their advocacy team, expressed disappointment. "A reading of a verdict that takes up to eight weeks cannot be considered reasonable," she said. Defendants in the case include Indonesia's president, the Minister of the Environment and Forestry, the governor of Jakarta and the governors of Banten and West Java provinces. "The length of the verdict and the repeated delays make us suspect that there is a tough debate among the panel of judges about whether to side with a healthy environment or continue to let Jakartans breathe polluted air," Dwi Sawung, Energy and Urban Campaign Manager of the Indonesian Forum for the Environment (WALHI) said .

F. Conservation and Protected Areas

[Development of third Sumatran rhino sanctuary in Leuser Ecosystem advances to save species](#)

—Junaidi Hanafiah, *Mongabay*, 25 June 2021

The development of a highly anticipated captive-breeding facility for Sumatran rhinos geared toward the sub-population surviving in the Leuser Ecosystem in northern Sumatra is advancing as part of conservation efforts to save the nearly extinct species. The planned facility will be the third in the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS) network, an important strategy to help prevent the global population of the Sumatran rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) from going extinct in the wild. The first SRS is inside Way Kambas National Park in southern Sumatra, and the second in East Kalimantan.

The consortium for developing the SRS is working on getting the permits, according to Agus Irianto, who heads the Aceh Province Conservation Agency (BKSDA). The proposed sanctuary will cover 100 hectares of an ecosystem that's also the only place on Earth that's home to rhinos, tigers, orangutans and elephants. A mosaic of logging forest, oil palm concession, and non-forest land, the Leuser Ecosystem may hold the largest surviving population of the species on the planet, about 12 individuals.

[New frog species discovered in an area of the Freeport Indonesia mine in Papua Province](#)

— Muhsidin, Katriana, [Antaranews.com](#), 12 June 2021

Researchers from the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) and the South Australian Museum, supported by PT Freeport Indonesia (PTFI), have confirmed that a frog discovered in 2006 by Burhan Tjaturadi, an independent scholar who has worked in Papua since 1999, and Stephen Richards from the South Australia Museum in a sago forest in Mimika Regency is a new and previously undescribed species. A description of the new species, *Litoria lubisi*, has been published in the journal *Zootaxa*. The large, green tree frog was named after Dr. Rusdian Lubis, who was previously a senior executive at PTFI. Research on the frog over the past 15 years was carried out by Tjaturadi, Richards, and members of the LIPI research team with the support of PTFI. "One of our main challenges in conducting this research was that the terrain was quite difficult," Tjaturadi said. "In future, we hope to continue our collaboration with PT Freeport Indonesia to continue exploring natural resources in Papua and advancing science in Indonesia."

[Study warns of impacts of unregulated trade in Indonesian porcupines](#)

—Basten Gokkon, [Mongabay](#), 30 June 2021

Indonesia is home to five porcupine species, three of which are island endemics. The unmonitored illegal trade in porcupines, their parts and derivatives across Indonesia has prompted calls from conservationists for stricter protection for the species' population in the wild. A new study examining seizure data of porcupines, their parts and derivatives in Indonesia has found more than 450 of the animals in nearly 40 incidents between January 2013 and June 2020. Porcupines are targeted both for domestic and international markets for their meat. They're also coveted for their bezoars, the masses found in the digestive tracts of some porcupines, which is consumed as medicine in some cultures; and for their quills, used as talismans and for decorative purposes.

"Porcupines are also persecuted as agricultural pests, leaving them further exposed to wildlife traffickers," said Lalita Gomez, author and program officer of the wildlife protection NGO Monitor Conservation Research Society. The study calls for including porcupines under Indonesian wildlife laws and listing them in Appendix II of CITES.

Study: "[The illegal hunting and exploitation of porcupines for meat and medicine in Indonesia](#)" in *Nature Conservation* 43: 109-122, 9 April 2021

[Man trampled to death by wild elephant in Aceh](#)

—M Haris SA, Fardah, [Antaranews.com](#), 4 July 2021

A man was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Karang Ampar, Central Aceh District in Aceh Province. The victim, Abdurrahman, was a member of the Karang Ampar-Bergang Masmiko Flora Fauna Security Team. The incident took place after villages had successfully herded away dozens of wild elephants that had been in the village for two nights. However, one elephant had been left behind in the village, and Abdurrahman was trying to escort that elephant away from the village to rejoin the rest of its group. The wild Sumatran elephant (*Elephas maximus sumatranus*) has been designated by the Indonesian government as endangered species, and is considered critically endangered by the IUCN. An estimated 70% of potential Sumatran Elephant habitat has been lost within just one generation (the last 25 years) and the driving forces causing the habitat loss still continues essentially unchecked. Human-wildlife conflicts have become a major conservation concern in Aceh and other elephant range provinces on Sumatra.

G. Other

[Indonesian government initiates welfare development programs in Papua and West Papua](#)

—Wahyu Dwi Anggoro, *medcom.id*3, 28 June 2021

Vice President Ma'ruf Amin announced the issuance of two new regulations to accelerate welfare development in the Papuan provinces. "The Government is committed to treating those provinces equally as other regions, as well as giving priority for the regions to speed up the welfare development," said Vice President Ma'ruf Amin, referring to what he described as a "quick win" program covering the fields of poverty alleviation, education, health, micro-and small businesses, employment, infrastructure, and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For the education sector, the programs will support construction of boarding schools in seven customary [tribal] areas, scholarship programs, education fees for poor students, policies for teachers, as well as a Center for International Studies at Cenderawasih University in Jayapura and preparation of human resources at the University of Papua (UNIPA) in Manokwari, and construction of new state universities in Biak Numfor and Jayawijaya regencies.

[Indigenous Papuan graduates praise Aotearoa and the governors of their home provinces](#)

—Laurens Akinia, *Asia Pacific Report*, 16 June 2021

Four indigenous Papuan students graduated with degrees from Aotearoa New Zealand universities, fulfilling the dreams of Lukas Enembe and Dominggus Mandacan, the governors of Papua Province and West Papua Province in Indonesia. Gebriella Thenau, who received a scholarship from the West Papua government and graduated with a Bachelor of Environmental Management from Lincoln University, said her parents always told her to study seriously and reminded her that she was using the Papuan people's money, which they called 'Blood Money', to support her studies. Nathan Sonyap, the first student to attend university from his tribe and church, and who received a scholarship from the government of Papua Province, received a master's degree in International Tourism Management from Waikato University. Nathan said he was extremely grateful to Governor Enembe and the late Vice-Governor Klemen Tinal for the opportunity to study in New Zealand. Yan Piterson Wenda, who is the president of the Papuan Student Association of Oceania, received a Bachelor of Commerce in Management degree from Otago University, plans to continue his studies at Otago in pursuit of a Master's degree in International Business. "I pay tribute firstly to my mom because I was raised by a single mother. She is a great person in my life." Yuliktus Korain, from West Papua, and his younger brother were orphaned at a very young age after the deaths of his parents. An uncle supported him while he completed elementary school, and he continued through middle school and high school while staying in a seminary. Yuliktus received a Bachelor of Commerce in Marketing at Lincoln University.

The author, Laurens Ikinia is a Papuan studying for a Master's degree in Communications Studies at Auckland University of Technology.

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