



Amid an Ecological Crisis and Authoritarianism in Natural Resource Management, the People Continue to Resist.



This edition not only documents events but also outlines the direction of the struggle. That ecological justice will not come from above, but from the people's courage to defend their living spaces. And that amidst recurring crises, hope remains alive—as long as the people keep moving.



CONTENTS

1 Introduction

3 The Small Victories
We Achieve Together

7 Follow-up Advocacy on
the **Sumatra Ecological
Disaster**

9 Sumatera's Ecological
Disaster: **People Helping
People**

12 **Natural Resource
Authoritarianism**
and a Major Threat to
Environmental Activists
and Human Rights
Defenders

16 Real Solution:
Return to the People

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Introduction

This seventh edition of the WALHI newsletter arrives amidst a situation full of contradictions: on one hand, we witness the emergence of hope and small victories in the struggle for ecological justice; on the other, the pressure on people's living spaces and environmental defenders is only intensifying. From Pari Island to Sumatra, from international courtrooms to disaster-affected villages, all the stories in this issue highlight the long struggle to sustain life amidst an increasingly complex ecological and political crisis.

The Zug Cantonal Court's ruling upholding the climate lawsuit against Holcim marks a significant milestone, signaling that climate justice is no longer merely a concept but has entered the realm of concrete legal action. This initial victory offers hope that the voices of affected communities, no matter how small, can transcend national borders and hold global corporations accountable.

However, domestically, the situation presents a different picture. The ecological disaster in Sumatra has exposed the fragility of natural resource management, which has long prioritized exploitation over protection. Although the government has responded by revoking permits and filing lawsuits, these measures have not addressed the root of the problem; in fact, they have left various irregularities and the potential for strengthening state control that tends toward centralization. In this context, WALHI's critique is crucial to ensure that recovery is not merely administrative, but truly just for the people and the ecosystem.

Amid the government's slow response, solidarity has emerged from the grassroots. The **"people helping people"** initiative through the Sumatra National Disaster Response Center demonstrates that the strength of civil society remains at the forefront of crisis response. From food distribution to the provision of clean water and psychosocial support, these practices underscore that true recovery is rooted in mutual aid and a commitment to the real needs of affected communities.

Unfortunately, the democratic space that underpins this struggle is actually shrinking. The growing trend toward authoritarianism in the management of natural resources—marked by the dominance of security forces and the weakening of oversight mechanisms—has had a direct impact on the rise in criminalization and violence against environmental and human rights defenders. The attack on Andrie Yunus serves as a reminder that the struggle against militarization and ecological injustice is not without risk; rather, it faces a real and increasingly systematic threat.

Nevertheless, hope has never truly faded. Across various regions, we witness how communities continue to take action—restoring ecosystems, building economic self-reliance, and strengthening social solidarity. The practices of community-managed areas, which have emerged from local initiatives, demonstrate that alternatives exist and are already taking shape.

This edition not only documents events but also outlines the direction of the struggle. That ecological justice will not come from above, but from the people's courage to defend their living spaces. And that amidst recurring crises, hope remains alive—as long as the people keep moving.



31 Mar 2026 at 12.58.57

333599°, E 98.861247° ±8.62m

43° NE

Jalan Sibolga–Tarutung

Kabupaten Tapanuli Utara

Sumatera Utara

Indonesia

448.7 m a.s.l.

Speed:0.0km/h

The Small Victories We Achieve Together

From Pari Island to the Swiss Courts: The Victory of the Dismissal Ruling

On December 22, 2025, the Zug Cantonal Court ruled for the first time that a climate lawsuit against a major corporation is legally admissible. This ruling granted all initial motions in the case filed against Holcim by four residents of Pari Island—Asmania, Arif, Edi, and Bobby—who had previously filed the lawsuit in January 2023 and began trial proceedings in September 2024. By rejecting all procedural objections raised by the company, the court paved the way for a substantive review of the case, marking an initial victory for efforts to enforce climate justice.

The plaintiffs are seeking compensation for the impacts of climate change they have experienced, including financial



support for flood protection and a demand that Holcim immediately and significantly reduce its CO₂ emissions. The court affirmed that the fishermen have a right to legal protection because climate change directly impacts their lives and livelihoods. Additionally, the panel of judges rejected Holcim's argument that climate issues should be resolved through political channels, emphasizing that the court's role is to complement government policy, not replace it.

The court also rejected various other justifications advanced by the company, including the claim that Pari Island would still sink regardless of mitigation efforts, and the argument

that emissions reductions by a single company are meaningless if not followed by others. The judges affirmed that every effort to reduce emissions remains important and that harmful actions cannot be justified simply because they are widely practiced by many parties.

This ruling brings the plaintiffs closer to their goal of protecting the future of their home region, while reinforcing the principle of climate justice that those who contribute significantly to the crisis must bear their responsibility. WALHI views this decision as an important precedent, not only for victims of the climate crisis but also for the global climate movement, as it affirms that individuals have the legal right to sue over the impacts of climate change they experience.

Although it is not yet final and may still be appealed, this ruling aligns with an international trend that increasingly recognizes climate change as a legal issue. Furthermore, this decision narrows the space for large corporations to evade responsibility through procedural loopholes and strengthens the global push to hold emitting corporations accountable for the impacts they cause.

Revocation of 28 Company Permits

On January 20, 2026, the President, through the Minister of Forestry, officially announced the revocation of 28 business permits in the Sumatra

region, covering the provinces of Aceh, North Sumatra, and West Sumatra, spanning an area of 1.2 million hectares. The 28 revoked business permits consist of 22 Forest Utilization Business Permits (PBPH) and 6 mining and oil palm plantation permits. The government claims that revoking these permits is a form of law enforcement against companies responsible for the Sumatra floods.

The government acted quite swiftly in revoking these permits, doing so just about 23 days after the floods occurred. Of course, this was not entirely due to the government's initiative or good intentions, but rather the result of the success of civil society groups—particularly WALHI—in building a case and shaping public opinion that the ecological disaster of the floods in Aceh, North Sumatra, and West Sumatra was a direct consequence of companies' exploitative activities within critical forest ecosystems and river basins (DAS).

WALHI North Sumatra, for example, released the names of six companies operating in the Batang Toru ecosystem, which were identified as the cause of the floods in Tapanuli, within 24 hours of the disaster. This release became a reference for all media outlets, ranging from local to national and international. Following the North Sumatra case, WALHI National subsequently released a list of hundreds of companies operating in Aceh, North Sumatra, and West Sumatra, along with data on deforested forest areas. This data and



narrative were further supported by field documentation showing logs being swept away by the floodwaters.

Not only that, WALHI also held direct meetings with the Minister of Forestry, Raja Juli, and the Director General (Dirjen) of Law Enforcement at the Ministry of Forestry regarding the law enforcement efforts they must undertake. Simultaneously, WALHI also submitted data and the names of 18 companies suspected of causing the Sumatra floods. Additionally, WALHI informally communicated with the Ministry of Environment to urge immediate enforcement of the law. The campaigns and policy advocacy carried out by WALHI significantly contributed to the revocation of 28 company permits.

Nevertheless, WALHI continues to criticize the revocation of these permits. First, there are irregularities in the revocation process, as some of the companies whose permits were revoked were not directly linked to the floods, while some companies that WALHI had proposed for revocation

have not yet had their permits revoked. Furthermore, following the permit revocations, the government reclaimed the land from the 28 companies and transferred it to Danantara (an Indonesian strategic investment management agency established by President Prabowo Subianto to consolidate and optimize state-owned enterprise assets) to be managed by state-owned enterprises (SOEs). In fact, there have been efforts to reinstate the permits for the original companies.

The Ministry of Environment is Suing 6 Companies Responsible for Flooding

In addition to revoking permits, the Ministry of Environment (KLH) has also filed a civil lawsuit seeking Rp4.8 trillion in damages against six companies in North Sumatra suspected of contributing to environmental damage and of being a factor in the Sumatra floods. The six corporations being sued are PT NSHE, PT AR, PT TPL, PT PN, PT MST, and PT TBS, which operate in the Garoga and Batang Toru River Basins in North Sumatra. The total claim against these six companies amounts to Rp4.8 trillion, with the breakdown as follows: Rp4.6 trillion for environmental damages and Rp178 million for environmental restoration.

Although significant and appearing to be a form of state accountability, WALHI views this lawsuit as a manifestation of the state's failure to fulfill its responsibilities. This is because the lawsuit reflects the state's failure to prevent environmental damage from the outset—a failure that should have prioritized the principles of precaution and public participation in natural resource management. In practice, government oversight is also very weak, leading to a failure to address the environmental damage caused by corporate activities.

The use of financial compensation, particularly fines already paid, remains unclear. To date, there has been no public reporting on how these funds are utilized or for what purposes. Indonesia also lacks a mechanism for managing fine revenues through a specialized body, such as the Environmental Damage Fund model in Canada. Such a specialized body is specifically designed to fund

restoration efforts. This contrasts with Indonesia, where fine revenues are categorized as non-tax government revenue. Consequently, this step by the Ministry of Environment risks repeating the failures of previous lawsuits—namely, the difficulty in enforcing court rulings and the lack of transparency regarding the use of corporate compensation funds.

Difficulties in law enforcement are indicative of bureaucratic problems, a lack of commitment among law enforcement officials, and structural issues. To date, the state has not taken environmental law enforcement seriously. This is reflected in the absence of a specialized environmental court, such as India's National Green Tribunal, leading many environmental cases to be reduced to mere compensation matters.



Follow-up Advocacy on the Sumatra Ecological Disaster

Nearly four months after the Sumatra ecological disaster occurred, there has been no meaningful recovery or law enforcement that serves as a deterrent against corporations contributing to the destruction of the region's ecological infrastructure. The disaster, which initially had an environmental nature, has now escalated into a humanitarian crisis, marked by the simultaneous loss of rights to housing, food, clean water, health, education, and livelihood. Economic activity has ground to a halt, crop failures are widespread, road access is cut off, power is out, and prices for basic necessities have skyrocketed. Even in Aceh, this disaster has eroded local wisdom such as the Meugang tradition, a system of community food solidarity whose loss signals the collapse of a social order that has long relied on ecological balance.

The revocation of 28 company permits has not been followed by ecosystem restoration or the restoration of people's rights through the recognition of community-managed areas and customary territories. Although a Task Force (Satgas) for the Acceleration of Post-Disaster Rehabilitation and Reconstruction was established under Presidential Decree No. 1 of 2026, no meaningful recovery actions have been seen to date. Restoring and rebuilding Aceh, North Sumatra, and West Sumatra can no longer be done in the same way as before. Therefore, WALHI National, WALHI Aceh, WALHI North Sumatra, and WALHI West Sumatra continue to carry out several recovery interventions through:



Advocacy for Spatial Planning Reform

WALHI Aceh is currently focused on developing village-based spatial planning, which will then be proposed as the primary basis for revising spatial planning in Aceh. Additionally, there is a push to incorporate traditional knowledge as a national reference for disaster mitigation and to include it in participatory disaster-prone area maps.

WALHI North Sumatra is undertaking similar efforts. In February 2026, the regent of Central Tapanuli (a flood-affected district) requested that WALHI North Sumatra and WALHI National assist in revising the spatial plan based on environmental carrying capacity and sustainability. The regent of South Tapanuli has also committed to halting further expansion of oil palm plantations and aims to prioritize ecosystem restoration as a follow-up measure following the revocation of permits.

Distribution of Rights to Community-Managed Areas

WALHI is working to ensure that the recognition of rights to community-managed areas becomes a step taken by the government following the revocation of 28 permits held by companies responsible for the flooding. In addition to campaigns, the identification of community-managed areas in disaster-affected locations is also being conducted so they can be proposed as subjects for the distribution of rights to managed areas following the revocation of permits.

Economic Recovery

Through the Nusantara Fund (direct funding for communities), WALHI North Sumatra, WALHI Aceh, and WALHI West Sumatra will carry out economic recovery for flood-affected communities. This support is provided by rebuilding or strengthening local economies as proposed by the communities.



Sumatera's Ecological Disaster: People Helping People

Establishing a National Command Center for the Sumatra Ecological Disaster

WALHI, together with 21 civil society organizations, has established the Sumatra National Disaster Response Center to address the widespread ecological disaster in the region. This command center urges the government to declare a national disaster, accelerate emergency response, restore vital infrastructure, and hold corporations accountable for ecological vulnerabilities. Although many parties have called for a national disaster declaration, President Prabowo has yet to do so. As a result, disaster response has been slow, and

political decisions have not favored accelerating the recovery of those affected by the Sumatra ecological disaster.

Mobilizing Public Support

Since early December 2025, WALHI North Sumatra has opened a public donation drive as a gesture of solidarity to address the widespread impact of disasters across several districts. As of January 7, 2026, the total funds raised amounted to Rp 506,281,755. This support serves as a collective effort to ensure that affected communities are not left to fend for themselves during the recovery process.



The aid distributed includes food packages, children's essentials and supplies, medicines, usable clothing, household necessities, and recovery support tools such as work equipment, water pumps, water tanks, and hygiene supplies to support initial post-disaster recovery. At least approximately 770 households (HH) received direct benefits from this distribution, with an estimated 4 people per household.

The distribution of donations took place in Langkat Regency, specifically in Tanjung Pura Subdistrict (Kwala Serapuh and Kwala Langkat villages), North Tapanuli Regency in Adiankoting Subdistrict (Pagaran Lumbang I, Dolok Nauli, Sibalanga, Naipospos, Pardomuan Nauli, Manalu Dolok, Huta Nabolon, Hutagurgur, and Durian), Central Tapanuli Regency in Pandan Subdistrict, and South Tapanuli Regency in Batang Toru Subdistrict (Batu Horing and Rambutuan villages).

Distribution of Basic Necessities

Public support obtained through public donations and other forms of solidarity was distributed by WALHI through rice logistics and the provision of access to clean water, tools to help clean homes of remaining mud and clear gardens, as well as construction materials to build temporary shelters independently.

Rice Logistics Distribution

Through the Agrarian Granary Solidarity Movement (GESLA), WALHI distributed 20 tons of rice produced by farmers as part of their self-reliance efforts. A total of 8 tons of rice were collected from farmers in West Java and South Sumatra. This rice, sourced directly from farmers, was distributed to 36 locations in Aceh Tamiang Regency, divided into three zones (central, upstream, and downstream) based on the severity of flood impacts. The aim was simply to meet food needs while demonstrating the spirit of mutual aid—"people helping people"—amid the government's slow response. Additionally, 8 tons were distributed by WALHI North Sumatra and 4 tons by WALHI West Sumatra.



Providing Access to Clean Water

To address difficulties in accessing clean water following the disaster, WALHI, together with the Indonesian Farmers Union (SPI), built water infrastructure for residents. Drilled wells were constructed at four locations: Pahlawan Village, Pantai Tinjau Village, Paya Sukajadi Payau Bujuk Village, and Teluk Kepayang Village. This clean water serves approximately 1,600 households (KK) that previously had to fetch water from rivers or mosques located quite far away. The operation of the boreholes is carried out independently by the community and has been agreed upon as a village asset to ensure sustainable use.

Psychosocial

WALHI provides psychosocial support as part of efforts to aid the physical and mental recovery of children, who are often overlooked during disasters. These psychosocial support activities are conducted in Sijudo Village, Alur Manis Village, Alur Cucur Village, Rantau Pauh Village, and State Islamic Junior High School (MTsN) 1 Aceh Tamiang, covering children from early childhood through high school students, with a total of 435 students participating at MTsN 1 Aceh Tamiang. The activities in the psychosocial support program included disaster education, fun games, and the distribution of stationery packages from donors to boost the students' enthusiasm for learning.



Natural Resource Authoritarianism and a Major Threat to Environmental Activists and Human Rights Defenders

Since Prabowo became president of the Republic of Indonesia, authoritarianism has grown stronger, particularly in the natural resources sector. This can be seen in several legal instruments and policies, such as Presidential Regulation No. 5 of 2025 on Forest Area Regulation, the revision of the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) law that removes the House of Representatives' (DPR) checks and balances regarding The TNI's involvement in Non-War Military Operations (OMSP)—a trend currently evident in the TNI's mobilization for national strategic projects like food and energy. There is even a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Forestry and the Ministry of

Environment and the TNI to protect forests and restore the environment.

Military dominance over natural resources is also clearly evident in the dominance of the Forest Area Enforcement (PKH) Task Force, established under Presidential Regulation No. 5 of 2025. Currently, the PKH Task Force serves as the government's primary law enforcement instrument. For instance, the revocation of 28 permits held by companies responsible for the Sumatra floods was carried out following an evaluation by the PKH Task Force. In addition to conducting evaluations, the PKH Task Force also oversees the state's land reclamation. To date, 5 million hectares of land previously controlled by private corporations have now been reclaimed by the state through the PKH Task Force. This action may sound heroic, but it is a manifestation of authoritarianism in the natural resources sector. This crackdown and reclamation are not driven by a desire to improve natural resource governance but rather represent the state's move to fully control natural resources.

After the PKH task force takes over, the area will be handed over to Danantara as the manager and controller of the state's strategic assets. Operationally, these assets will then be transferred to state-owned enterprises (SOEs). This is evident from the transfer of 1.5 million hectares of land taken over by the task force to Agrinas Duta Palma, as

well as the transfer of 1 million hectares of revoked permits from 28 companies responsible for flooding, which have been handed over to Danantara to be transferred to SOEs.

It is evident that task forces are being used as instruments of takeover, while state-owned enterprises serve as the state's business instruments operating under the control of policies and investment directions established by Danantara. In this pattern, there is absolutely no indication of a willingness to resolve agrarian conflicts, address the seizure of customary lands, or restore forest ecosystems and their biodiversity. In fact, the state has also issued Minister of Forestry Regulation No. 20 of 2025, which serves as the basis of legitimacy for changing the status of state forest areas to non-forest areas through re-appropriation by the state. This means that without the need for an in-depth assessment of whether these forest areas are suitable for release or should even be restored, SOEs can legally take control of these areas.

The Attempted Murder of Andrie Yunus

Andrie Yunus, Deputy Coordinator of KontraS, was attacked with acid while riding his motorcycle on Thursday, March 12, 2026. As a result of the incident, Andrie is currently being treated at a hospital for burns caused by the acid. Andrie is a lawyer and

human rights defender who has been actively advocating against issues of violence committed by the police and military, including criminalization and extrajudicial killings, as part of efforts toward Security Sector Reform and the resolution of serious human rights violations.

The acid attack on activist Andrie Yunus is not viewed as a routine criminal act, but is strongly suspected to be linked to his advocacy activities as a human rights defender critical of militarization. This incident occurred shortly after Andrie participated in a public discussion and produced content (a podcast) addressing the issues of remilitarization and security sector reform, particularly regarding the military's role in civilian spheres.



Several parties, including the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM), assess that the attack constitutes a form of intimidation against human rights defenders who vocally criticize security forces. Andrie's consistent advocacy at KontraS on human rights violations—including those involving the military—strengthens the suspicion that this attack aims to silence critical voices against militarization practices.

This attack is also understood as part of a broader pattern of terror against individuals or groups who oppose the expansion of the military's role in the civilian sphere. Thus, the violence against Andrie not only targets an individual but also poses a threat to freedom of expression and the civil society's struggle to hold power accountable and reject militarization in democratic life.

Attacks on Environmental Activists

It is not just the attack on Andrie Yunus; the criminalization and violence against environmental defenders and residents opposing extractive projects also underscore the autocratic nature of the legal system and the authoritarianism surrounding natural resources. Ambiguous legal provisions and criminal instruments are used to stifle freedom of expression and public participation, while perpetrators

of large-scale environmental crimes evade firm and proportionate law enforcement.

WALHI notes that during the 10 years of Joko Widodo's administration, criminalization of human rights and environmental defenders has affected at least 1,131 citizens, comprising 1,086 men, 35 women, and 11 children. Of this number, 544 individuals were prosecuted all the way to trial, reflecting the use of criminal law as a tool of repression rather than protection.

This pattern continues under the Prabowo-Gibran administration. During the August demonstrations, 959 people were designated as suspects. Criminalization also affected 11 residents of Maba Sangaji, North Maluku, as well as two residents of Torobulu Village, South Konawe, Southeast Sulawesi—Hasilin and Andi Firmansyah—who were criminalized for protesting nickel mining activities in their living spaces. Most recently in Sagea, North Maluku, approximately 14 residents were summoned by the police to provide clarification regarding their actions in opposing the mine; they were charged under Article 162 of the Mining Law.

All these cases stem from the community's struggle to defend their environment and the territories they manage. This situation confirms WALHI's warning since Prabowo's inauguration on October 20, 2024, that the criminalization of activists and civilians—especially those opposing government policies and projects—will

intensify and increasingly involve armed forces. Threats against environmental and human rights defenders come not only through criminal charges but also through civil lawsuits as a form of SLAPP. The lawsuits filed against Prof. Bambang Hero and Prof. Basuki Wasis by PT Kalimantan Lestari Mandiri, as well as the lawsuit filed by PT Bumisari Maju Sukses against Rukun Tani Pakel, demonstrate that criminalization and legal intimidation continue to loom over the environmental struggle.

These practices of criminalizing environmental and human rights defenders continue to this day, as



seen in cases occurring in Central Java, Central Sulawesi, West Kalimantan, Bengkulu, North Maluku, and East Nusa Tenggara. This includes the case of violence against environmental activists in Koto Rambah that occurred on April 4, 2026. Beginning on February 12, 2026, illegal gold mining activities using heavy machinery, specifically excavators, have been operating in the Koto Rambah area. These activities have damaged the environment and the river where the mining takes place. On March 30, 2026, the community took steps to stop these illegal mining activities. Seven community members went to the mining site on the Kunit River in Jorong Koto Rambah to demand the cessation of operations. However, the miners refused to stop their activities, leading to a physical altercation. During the incident, a resident identified by the initials (WN) sustained serious injuries after being slashed twice on the head.

Illegal gold mining in South Solok is among the most destructive activities; WALHI West Sumatra has documented forest and land destruction in the upper Batang Hari River Basin spanning 7,662 hectares. Illegal gold mining operations in South Solok are also an open secret, with these activities seemingly tolerated by law enforcement. Furthermore, cases such as police shooting police demonstrate that mining crimes in South Solok are backed by corrupt police officers. The incident that befell our brother (WN) shows that communities trying to defend their

living space are instead met with brutal violence. This is a clear violation of human rights and a failure of the state to provide protection for its citizens.



RESTORE INDONESIA

Real Solution: Return to The People

This story is compiled from advocacy journeys conducted by WALHI across various regions. From coastal landscapes to mountains, from customary forests to fishing villages, a common thread connects the struggles of many communities: the desire to exercise sovereignty over their own territories and determine their future independently.

In addition to policy advocacy and organizing, WALHI also supports communities directly through the Nusantara Fund. This support is aimed at indigenous peoples, farmers, fishermen, women, and the younger generation, so that they not only survive, but are also able to build a fair and sustainable natural resource management system.

All these stories begin with difficult circumstances. In many places, communities' living spaces are constantly being squeezed by industrial expansion and development projects imposed from outside without their involvement.

On Pari Island, in The Seribu Islands, the pressures of the tourism industry and land reclamation are slowly destroying the coral reefs—the primary source of livelihood for coastal communities. In Batu Beriga Village, Bangka Belitung, traditional fishermen face the threat of tin mining permits that not only disrupt their livelihoods but also endanger the Panteng-Lareng tradition and the Taber Laot ritual, which are integral to their identity. Meanwhile, in Tambakrejo, Semarang, the threat of eviction and canal normalization projects looms over the fishing village while damaging the mangrove ecosystem that has long served as the coast's natural protector.

However, the communities are not sitting idly by. Across various regions,

there is a growing awareness that defending their living spaces requires more than just resisting threats. They must also restore nature as the foundation for a stronger way of life.

In the Cikondang Forest, Garut, a transformative change is taking place. Former hunters have now become forest guardians. They protect the Javan gibbon and safeguard the village's vital water sources. In fact, they have drafted village regulations to ensure the forest remains sustainable beyond a single generation of leadership.

On Pari Island, the community is rehabilitating the coastline through mangrove planting and coral reef transplantation. These efforts are being carried out gradually but are



yielding tangible results for the recovery of marine life and the community's resilience to climate change. In Papua, the Yeno Meyu indigenous community built a Traditional Initiation House (Indjo Fihre Ssing). This place serves as a center for traditional education and a reaffirmation that their 2,790 hectares of customary forest must be protected from oil palm expansion.

Along with ecosystem restoration, communities are beginning to build economic self-reliance born from their own initiatives.

In Seloliman, Mojokerto, residents have revived the Kali Maron Micro-Hydro Power Plant (PLTMH). This plant provides 24-hour electricity to 71 families at a lower cost. At the same time, the community is rehabilitating 25 hectares of critical land upstream, as they recognize that energy sustainability depends on forest conservation.

In Tambakrejo, the community installed 2,500 bamboo poles in the sea to serve as green mussel rafts. This initiative not only boosts economic output but also improves the condition of the aquatic ecosystem. In Gorontalo, Ambuwa Market has become a space for women to drive the trade of healthy local food through the bu'awu (coconut shell) exchange system. This practice strengthens the economy while reviving local values.

Behind all these processes lies the vital role of women and the younger generation.

On Pari Island, Forum Peduli Pulau Pari (Pari Island Protection Forum) The FPPP Women's Group manages various businesses, ranging from salted fish and breadfruit chips to mangrove planting tours. These ventures serve as a source of income while strengthening their organization. In Bangka, the Coastal Women's





Network successfully advocated for rezoning an area from a mining zone to a fisheries zone. This success stemmed from consistent and sustained community advocacy.

Meanwhile, in Seloliman and Tambakrejo, the younger generation is beginning to get involved in the management of small hydroelectric power plants (PLTMH) and fishermen's cooperatives. This involvement is crucial to ensure that knowledge and best practices can be passed on to the next generation.

These efforts are now beginning to yield tangible results. In some areas, communities have gained recognition for their managed territories. Local governments are also beginning to demonstrate a commitment to rejecting destructive extractive activities.

Restored ecosystems are also showing signs of life, with fish returning in abundance, forests remaining intact, and endemic wildlife returning to their habitats. Additionally, social solidarity is growing stronger through cooperatives, community education centers, and various collective spaces that serve as venues for sharing knowledge and strengthening community resilience.

All of this underscores one thing: when communities are given the space and support to manage their own territories, they are not only able to protect nature but also build more equitable economic and social systems. Community-managed territories are not merely a slogan. They are a real, ongoing practice—and the key to achieving ecological justice.



Issue No. 7

NEWSLETTER

December 2025–March 2026

2 Apr 2026 at 10:40:56

N: 1.686013°, E: 98.882624° ±6.27m

64° NE

Kabupaten Tapanuli Tengah

Sumatera Utara

Indonesia

Hutanabolon

28.7 m a.s.l.

Speed: 8.2km/h