

Walhi Newsletter Fifth Edition  
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# WILL NATURAL RESOURCES CONTINUE TO BE A POLITICAL BARGAINING CHIP IN 2024 ELECTION?

## FOREWORD

**T**he year 2023 is critical momentum before the upcoming 2024 elections. Walhi begins 2023 by launching our environmental outlook “Climate Crises at Stake; Walhi Calls for Leadership with Environmental Care”.

Walhi believes that environmental destruction has always begun with the compromises among politicians. The extraction of natural resources, which began with logging concessions, monoculture plantations, mining, and now sea concessions, inexorably linked to political and government compromises. A number of government regulations that put aside environmental and social aspect has led to the crises that Indonesians face today. Since the passing of Job Creation Law in 2020, not only the government but also the state that has become the instrument of business.

It is critical for the public not to make the wrong choice and to ensure they elect candidates who care about the environment. Walhi invites environmental and social movements in Indonesia to formulate resolution that can become a joint agenda. First, improving the legislative system in favour of ecological restoration and upholding human rights and democracy. The Climate Change Bill must become a top priority for the government in order to protect people from climate catastrophes.

Second, law enforcement in the environmental and natural resources sector must be enforced. Environmental crimes and unlawful acts committed by corporations that have caused crises and conflicts in community are manifestations of the weakness of the law enforcement process.

Lastly, an alternative economy is required. Walhi has been promoting *Ekonomi Nusantara* a way to restore the environment, restore people's rights, and reduce inequality in access to natural resources. The current development model of Indonesia, which is still dependent on extractive industries, will not only exacerbate the existing crisis but will also provide all of the necessary means for natural resources exploitation. Walhi believes *Ekonomi Nusantara* is the way out that will fundamentally address the crises.

This edition of newsletter brings you the updates of the advocacy and campaign that Walhi does in the last three months. Enjoy the read.

**Zenzi Suhadi**

Executive Director of Walhi National Executive



Fig. 1: Hundreds of youth participated in Global Climate Strike in Jakarta. Photo: reuters

## **GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE 2023; YOUNG INDONESIANS CALL FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE**

Hundreds of young people who are members of the Global Climate Strike (GCS) in Indonesia are back in action and calling out for the increasingly critical issue of the climate crisis. In Jakarta, this global action was carried out by taking the long march from City Hall to the National Monument. Apart from Jakarta, the Global Climate Strike action was also carried out in 14 other cities, such as Pekanbaru, Bandung, Kupang, and Jayapura. This national action is supported by more than 69 organizations and communities from various cities in Indonesia who are demanding that the government prioritize the issue of the climate crisis in the political campaign for the 2024 general election.

There are three demands that are put forward to the government: 1) The Indonesian government declares a climate emergency, 2) Climate justice to become a priority agenda in the 2024 elections, and 3) The young generation rejects fake climate solutions.

First, climate crisis should be a common concern. The declaration of a climate emergency will be the basis for every step of Indonesia's development and save the right to life of the Indonesian people. The climate emergency declaration will emphasize adaptation and disaster mitigation measures for the impacts of climate change from the national level to cities and villages.

Second, before the 2024 elections, young people have been demanding that the issue of the climate crisis must be a priority agenda in all political campaigns. The climate crisis is not just a gimmick issue to please young people but an issue that must be present in every politician's talk. The issue of the climate crisis cannot be categorized because climate crisis touches all aspects of life. Young people will be witnesses and, at the same time, determine which politician will side with their future.

Third, young people emphasize the rejection on fake climate solution that the government is touting. Climate action, including the energy transition, should be carried out fairly and without deceptive answers. False solutions in climate action have taken many fair and clean renewable energy spaces. Starting from maladaptation to various technologies that only extend the life of coal on the energy transition agenda wrapped in green writing.

This year will be the future of Indonesia's young generation. The 2024 elections will determine who will lead Indonesia in the upcoming climate emergency. The younger generation will become witnesses and determine whether the climate crisis we are experiencing today will become the primary concern of politicians in the 2024 election.



Fig. 2: Labor unions, activist, staged nationwide protests to oppose the controversial government regulation in lieu of law on Job Creation in front of the House of Representatives in February 2022.

## **JOB CREATION IN LIEU OF LAW MUST BE DECLARED ILLEGAL**

The President Joko Widodo reasoned that there is a compelling crisis due to geopolitics and legal uncertainty for investors as a basis for ratifying Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 2 of 2022 concerning Job Creation in Lieu (Perppu Cipta Kerja), aimed at saving the Indonesian economy. Even at the same time, the President and several Ministers stated that economic growth had increased significantly after the Covid-19 pandemic.

The anomaly occurred in the reasons for ratifying the Job Creation in Lieu and the statement on post-pandemic economic conditions. Development in Indonesia must be rewarded with various evictions in the name of development and national strategic projects, threats to food sovereignty, labor flexibility, educational liberalization, and the legitimacy of environmental destruction as well as various forms of human rights violations against farmers, fishermen, laborers, indigenous peoples, women, communities urban and rural poor, as well as other vulnerable groups, are increasingly massive.

Responding to the practice of defiance of the constitution, violations of the principles of democracy and the rule of law by the President and the House of Representative regarding the issuance of the n Job Creation in Lieu, as well as the birth of various government policies that have harmed the people, is a form of the arbitrariness of the government of the Joko Widodo regime in facilitating the interests of investors and financiers. It should be noted that the Job Creation in Lieu has threatened various sectors of people's lives, from workers, students, and vulnerable people in urban areas to farmers, fishermen, indigenous peoples, and women in rural areas and remote parts of the country.

### **1. Agrarian and Food Sector**

Job Creation in Lieu facilitates the exploitation of agrarian resources, which is followed by environmental damage caused by the ease of corporate business permits, as well as a reduction in community involvement and oversight. The substance of the Job Creation in Lieu expands and strengthens the threat of land grabbing and increases the potential for the criminalization of farmers, indigenous peoples, and environmental defenders. In the context of protecting coastal areas, the Job Creation in Lieu also abolished the requirements for foreign investment to utilize small islands and waters. Another impact of the Job Creation in Lieu is the threat of food liberalization through food estates and the ease of importing food. In practice, food estates have failed to realize food sovereignty, evidenced by the millions of tons of food commodities imported from other countries, especially rice, sugar, salt, soybeans, etc. Food estate and food imports only enrich the political elite and food cartels in Indonesia.

### **2. Environmental Sector**

In the environmental sector, climate change is one of the points weighing the urgency of issuing a regulation in lieu, but this is contradictory to the substance of the Job Creation in Lieu, which is far from a commitment to protecting the environment. First, the Job Creation in Lieu has changed many provisions for environmental protection; for example, by reducing community involvement in the EIA document formulation process to reducing the participation of environmental organizations and experts, there are even provisions that remove citizens' rights to contest environmental permits. Second, the Job Creation in Lieu has also changed the Spatial Planning Law, which has been part of the environmental protection by providing opportunities to whitewash space violations or crimes. Third, the problem of environmental protection is completely ignored by selling natural resources by changing the provisions on the minimum forest area limit, which originally had to be kept at a minimum of

30% in order to maximize the local community's environmental, social, and economic benefits. This rule, however, will hasten the deforestation of the remaining forests.

### **3. Civil Liberties**

Agrarian issues, threats to food sovereignty, environmental damage, loss of job security, and educational liberalization as described in the previous sectoral problems, show that the Job Creation in Lieu is, in principle, contradictory to the Human Rights Law, which shows the lack of government in protecting, respecting, and fulfilling human rights amid a society that has just emerged from the pandemic. In addition, there is a government trend in dealing with protests and community actions in rejecting national strategic projects, opening up new land for business operations, and demonstrating methods and methods that are anti-civil liberties. Public dissatisfaction was met with indifference using various forms of violence, intimidation, and criminalization by law enforcers on charges of investment disturbance. Trends in SLAPP (Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation) cases, which impede the struggles of farmers, fishermen, laborers, indigenous peoples, women, urban and rural poor communities, and other vulnerable groups, also continue to increase.



Fig. 3: Farmer communities and civil society organizations after filing a lawsuit on land bank in front of Supreme Court in February 2022.

## **FARMERS AND PEOPLE SUE THE LAND BANK**

On February 13 2023, 11 civil society organizations filed a lawsuit against Government Regulation Number 64 of 2021 concerning Land Bank Bodies (PP 64/2021) to the Supreme Court. This lawsuit includes a request for a Formal Test and Material Review for PP 64/2021, which we consider to be contradictory to a number of laws: Law Number 5 of 1960 concerning Basic Agrarian Regulations (UUPA); Law Number 30 of 2014 concerning Government Administration; and Law 12 of 2011 concerning Formation of Legislation; and Constitutional Court Decision Number 91/PUU-XVIII/2020 (MK Decision 91), which states that Law No. 11 of 2020 Concerning Conditional Unconstitutional Job Creation (Job Creation Law).

Since the formulation of the article regarding the Land Bank failed to enter through the Government House of Representative version of the Land Bill in 2019, it was then re-entered through the Job Creation Bill until finally its formation was ratified through the Job Creation Law. The Agrarian Reform Movement consisting of



farmers' movements, indigenous peoples' movements, fishermen's movements, the labour movement, the women's movement, the environmental movement, the human rights movement, the youth-student movement together with experts/academicians have provided suggestions, input and substantive criticism to the point of rejecting the Government's plan to form a new body to manage and regulate land tenure and distribution called the Land Bank Agency.

Unfortunately, the aspirations for agrarian justice and the demand for the protection of people's constitutional rights to land as mandated by the 1945 Constitution and the 1960 BAL have been ignored by the Government and the DPR RI by continuing to pass the establishment of a Land Bank through the Job Creation Law. It did not stop there, the Government quickly issued implementing regulations for the Job Creation Law regarding the Land Bank. The neglect of people's aspirations was increasingly demonstrated after the birth of the Constitutional Court Decision Number 91/PUU-XVIII/2020.



Fig. 4: The four plaintiffs from Pari Island.

## **REFUSING TO SINK, FOUR PARI ISLANDERS SUE HOLCIM IN SWISS COURT**

After the climate lawsuit was officially launched on February 01, 2023 by the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR), Walhi and HEKS, calling for climate justice with the hashtag #SavePulauPari and has been roaring on various national and international media. This rumble invites people in northern countries (global north) to look again at the impact of the climate crisis in southern countries (global south) caused by accumulated emissions produced by large-scale industries, especially those based in Europe.

The people of Pari Island, a small island located in northern Jakarta, have experienced the devastating effects of the climate crisis. On this basis, four residents representing all residents of the island decided to file a climate lawsuit against Holcim, the largest cement company in the world based in Switzerland.

### **Why Holcim?**

Holcim is the world's largest cement manufacturer. In addition, the company is the largest industry for concrete base materials and one of the 50 largest CO<sub>2</sub> emitters of all companies worldwide. In producing cement, Holcim has released a massive amount of CO<sub>2</sub>. Based on a study, between 1950 and 2021, this company released more than 7 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. That amounts to 0.42% of all global industrial CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since 1750 – or more than twice as much as all that Switzerland has emitted over the same period. As such, Holcim bears significant responsibility for the climate crisis and the situation on Pari Island.

The climate lawsuit against Holcim continues the third global climate lawsuit, following the case against Shell in the Netherlands brought by Friend of The Earth (FoE) Netherlands and Peruvian Farmer's lawsuit against RWE, a German coal company. The climate lawsuit by the people of Pari Island against Holcim is the third in the world, the second in the global south, and the first in Indonesia.

The climate lawsuit carried out by the people of Pari Island is an essential breakthrough in Indonesia and the world to awaken global public awareness about the adverse effects of the climate crisis in the global south. This lawsuit represents the fate of tens of millions of people in Indonesia affected by the climate crisis and invites all people who live in coastal areas and small islands to support this lawsuit.

As many as six small islands measuring less than 3 hectares in the Thousand Islands Regency have been submerged due to the climate crisis. While currently, 23 islands are under threat of sinking, one of which is Pulau Tikus which is still in the Pari Island Group. If the climate crisis continues, more small islands will fall, including Pari Island, which around a thousand people inhabit.

## **JET-P IMPLEMENTATION IN INDONESIA, STILL MANY QUESTIONS**

At the G20 Summit in Bali last November 2022, Indonesia secured a funding commitment for energy transition worth US\$ 20 billion through the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) led by the United States and Japan. These developed countries are members of the International Partners Group (IPG). This fund is primarily intended for the Government of Indonesia to accelerate the development of renewable energy, early retirement of PLTU, and help workers and communities affected by the transition, especially in the PLTU and coal mining sectors.

However, JETP Indonesia's target of achieving zero emissions in all sectors in 2060 and zero emissions in the energy sector in 2050 with a renewable energy mix of 34 percent in 2030 is still not ambitious and in line with the global target of keeping the temperature at level 1, 5 °C according to the Paris Agreement. To achieve the 1.5 °C, the International Energy Agency (IEA), for example, has a scenario that renewable energy sources in the national energy mix should reach 60 percent by 2030, with a zero-emission target for all sectors by 2050 and the energy sector by 2030. 2040. The ideal emission peak in this scenario should already occur in 2030 and continue to decline.

Apart from not being ambitious enough to achieve the target of maintaining global temperature, JETP in Indonesia is also worried that it will be filled with false solutions and does not apply the principles of transparency, participation, and democracy. President Jokowi, for example, during a working visit to Japan in June 2022, apart from welcoming the initiation of JETP by Japan, also encouraged the acceleration of the use of hydrogen and ammonia in Indonesia; meanwhile, the coordinating minister for the Economy Airlangga Hartarto said that the Indonesian government would also allocate JETP funds, one of which was for nuclear energy development. The use of hydrogen and ammonia in the cofiring of steam power plants in Indonesia will prolong the use of coal, while the promotion of nuclear in power plants in Indonesia, apart from having to face catastrophic hazards and radioactive pollution, the delay in nuclear projects will not help much in terms of effectiveness and efficiency in decarbonization efforts that must be carried out immediately.



Fig. 5: Communities cleaning up their houses after floods struck several points in Java for days, including Kendeng, Central Java, in January 2023.

## **SPATIAL MISMANAGEMENT FUELS DISASTERS ON THE JAVA ISLAND**

Towards the end of 2022 to early 2023, several points on the island of Java experienced various disaster events, especially hydrometeorological disasters such as floods, landslides, and extreme weather. Starting from the western tip to the eastern end of Java Island, they felt the impact of the disaster, including the big cities in Java. Throughout 2022, Java Island was hit by 1839 incidents or 51.8 percent of the total 3545 national disaster incidents. The high number of disasters on Java Island is not only due to natural factors but also climate change impacts,

spatial planning chaos, large-scale infrastructure projects, and area conversions. Of all the factors causing the disaster, we define the catastrophe that hit Java as an ecological disaster.

Walhi Java region, recorded several incidents that illustrate the extent of the impact of ecological disasters on the island of Java, especially in big cities such as Jakarta, Bandung, Yogyakarta, Semarang, and Surabaya. Java's ecological disasters are dominated by floods, both due to high rain intensity and floods due to tidal surges in the coastal areas of Java. The impact of floods and other disasters is magnified by spatial planning chaos, which has implications for increasing the conversion of protected areas such as water catchment areas from upstream to downstream watersheds (DAS), which results in damage to the ecological cycle. The carrying capacity and environmental capacity of Java Island are experiencing ecological bankruptcy.

Spatial mismanagement became the main problem that prompted the disaster in the five regions. Walhi sees the problem of ecological disaster as a result of spatial planning chaos caused by government policies that support large-scale investments such as mega infrastructure projects, expansion of industrial areas, to large-scale extractive industry permit sales such as mining which have increased the vulnerability of Java Island. The government's spatial planning and development policies ignore the recommendations of various scientific studies regarding the potential for water crises, disaster vulnerability, and the threat of climate change impacts on land subsidence in Java.

Walhi encourages central and regional governments to take the issue of ecological disasters in Java seriously by evaluating spatial planning and planning environmental awareness by ensuring the guarantee of people's safety. Mega infrastructure developments such as National Strategic Project must be critically reviewed because of changes in the function of protected areas and disaster-prone areas to the social situation of the community. There needs to be more than disaster management approaches and disaster technical solutions to solve the problem. Protection of buffer zones, restoration of damaged environments, and termination of extractive activities are ways of safety from the threat of ecological disasters in the future.



## **CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECOSYSTEM BILL TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY ROLES AND PARTICIPATION IN CONSERVATION**

The ICCAs Indonesia Working Group (WGII) and Walhi held a press conference to convey the views of a coalition of civil society and indigenous peoples on the legislation on the KSDHAE (Conservation of Biodiversity Natural Resources and Ecosystem) Bill. The initiative for the bill's legislative process has been running since 2016 but was revoked from the National Legislation Program, and in 2022 it was put back into the national legislative process. Currently, this bill has entered the Level I Discussion stage. A Working Committee for the Bill has been formed, and the government has also submitted a Problem Inventory List (DIM), which in its essence, still insists on implementing the conservation version of Law No. 5 of 1992, which means that the conservation paradigm becomes more state-centered.

There have been positive changes in the substance of the bill proposed by the House of Representative, but in essence, it has not been able to fully illustrate meaningful participation, both in the process of drafting and implementing conservation, even though this bill is significant to shift the old conservation model and encourage conservation that is more inclusive and based on human rights.

Indigenous people and local communities (IPLC) are vital in managing conservation areas in Indonesia. Based on AMAN data, around 1.6 million ha of the customary regions overlap with conservation areas; the Participatory Mapping Network (JKPP) report shows an overlap of 4.5 million ha of participatory maps in conservation areas. Indigenous peoples have had a long history of conflict with conservation areas and are prone to criminalization in implementing conservation in Indonesia. The bill can be a solution to unravel disputes between indigenous peoples and conservation areas. Instead of simplifying, this bill could become a new obstacle in the struggle to recognize indigenous peoples' rights in conservation areas.

Indonesia's population has increased by nearly 100 million since 1990. Adopting a conservation paradigm that respects and recognizes human rights and responds to today's climate crisis challenges is crucial. Indigenous peoples and local communities cannot be separated from their sources of livelihood; consciously,

they have practiced their version of 'conservation.' It must be recognized that they are the main actors in this conservation. Documentation of customary community-style conservation practices has also been widely carried out.

The government has committed and agreed to be able to encourage and implement the targets at Kumning, Montreal CBD COP 15, which has been very good at accommodating the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in implementing conservation. It would be more valuable if the Indonesian government could translate this international commitment into commitments at the national level in the form of laws and regulations.



## **WALHI ECOLOGY ACADEMY**

Beginning in March 2023, three capacity-building activities were conducted for young people who care about and are committed to spreading information about the importance of environmental protection and caring for the impact of the climate crisis in Indonesia. The goal of this capacity building is to train young trainers who will later pass on the knowledge acquired during the training process.

### **1. Ecological Preachers to Restore Indonesia**

The Walhi Ecology Academy, together with the Coordination of Islamic Da'wah [KODI] Jakarta, has held a training of trainers for ecological justice preachers. This activity was carried out to strengthen ecological values and encourage religious leaders to be able to convey messages of ecological justice in a religious



Fig. 6: Training of trainers of Islamic preachers in Walhi Training Center.

Perspective and frame to the community within the scope of the region and/or the assembly they care for, especially in Jakarta. The involvement of young preachers to provide awareness of ecological values will be conveyed in future preaching activities about the damage to the earth that continues to occur, and it is hoped that in the future, it will continue to spread about the importance of protecting the planet. This training was attended by 34 preacher participants consisting of 19 men and 15 women.

## 2. Young People to Restore Indonesia

The Green Student Movement (GSM), whose participants are young people from 28 provinces of Walhi chapters gathered to strengthen their capacity to be able to become mentors in their areas of origin and spread messages about saving the environment, the dangers from the effects of the climate crisis, and of course, being able to influence other young generations. GSM training has been agreed to be an essential agenda to be held by all regional Walhi offices to garner more significant support and



Fig. 7: Training of trainers Green Student Movement in Walhi Training Center.

strengthen the capacity of young Indonesians to respond to future challenges. This training was attended by 26 participants consisting of 20 men and 6 women.

## 3. Nature-loving Students to Restore Indonesia

The Walhi Ecology Academy, together with Nature-loving Students throughout Jabodetabek (Jakarta, Bogor, Tangerang, Depok, Bekasi), held an Ecological School to strengthen the idealism of nature-loving students amid environmental conditions and natural resources that are continuously hit by

floods, landslides, forest fires, as well as excessive exploitation without considering the balance of nature and the needs of future



Fig. 8: Training of trainers Nature-loving students in Walhi Training Center.

generations. The impact of this training is that when participants return to their organizations, they are expected to be able to become reliable mentors and be able to explore environmental issues that occur in Indonesia. The role of nature-loving students will become more strategic in the future.



Fig. 9: Women for Pedal and Planet in Jakarta on March 13, 2023.

## DRIVING A GENDER-EQUITABLE ENERGY TRANSITION

In the momentum of International Women's Day, women in Asia initiated The Asian Women's Action "Women Pedal for People and Planet" as a form of resistance to the climate crisis, which has an effect on human life and ecology. This action took place at the same time in six countries including Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Vietnam, and the Philippines. This action aims to raise public awareness about climate change, including its impact on food and energy, by examining the role of women who have fought for climate justice. Many studies show that climate change is having an adverse effect on women's roles around the world. Climate crisis adds to the burden on women because of the domestic role that women play and their relation to nature and unique knowledge and experiences.

The energy transition requires system changes that go beyond simply converting coal to geothermal, water, and so on. It needs to transform energy development from previously market-oriented to community-oriented by ensuring access, control, participation, and benefits for women.

Walhi, Greenpeace, Women's Solidarity, Trend Asia, and the Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD) initiated the pedal action, as well as a symbol that women, especially grassroots women communities, have produced various initiatives to overcome the climate crisis and maintain the environmental sustainability. This action also aims to urge the government to make the best efforts to overcome the climate crisis not by turning the climate crisis into an investment area for energy projects, but by phasing out fossil fuels and developing local and community-based initiatives.



Fig. 10: Coastal village in Komodo Island, East Nusa Tenggara.

## **PROTECT 7280 ISLANDS FROM CLIMATE CRISIS AND ECOLOGICAL DISASTERS**

Indonesia is the largest archipelagic country in the world with a total of 17,504 islands, of which 7,280 are in the areas of Bali, West Nusa Tenggara, East Nusa Tenggara, North Maluku and Papua (BANUSRAMAPA). On these islands live a variety of maritime culture that is the hallmark of the archipelago. The BANUSRAMAPA region is the last bastion of the archipelago's biodiversity and local food diversification. The regions are vulnerable to natural disasters because it is surrounded by active volcanoes spread on land and sea, with 12 active faults with the potential to cause earthquakes and tsunamis.

Infrastructure development and area-based industrialization (mining industry, forestry industry, monoculture plantations, food estate industry, and tourism industry) have the potential to reduce the carrying capacity and capacity of the environment as well as get rid of community power and management rights in sea

and island coastal areas -small islands in the province of Bali, West Nusa Tenggara, East Nusa Tenggara, North Maluku, and Papua.

Walhi noted that the mining project affected as many as 35 thousand fishermen's families. In the long run, granting mining business licenses has led to a significant reduction in the number of fishermen. In addition to the impact of mining, the reclamation project in 2019 with an area of 79,348 hectares has resulted in 747,363 fishermen losing their boat mooring areas and fishing areas on the sea coast, while the total reclamation area planned for up to 2040, as stated in 22 RZWP3K (Zoning Plan for Coastal Zone and Small Islands) is 2,698,734.04 Ha.

The tourism sector and marine conservation areas, also part of a series of national strategic projects, contribute to the loss of fishermen's catchment areas. The government is targeting 32 million ha in 2030 marine protected areas. There will be 88 KSPNs until 2025, mostly in coastal areas and small islands. Hundreds of National Tourism Development Areas (KPPN) and Destination Areas (KDPN) exist.

From 2010–2019, there has been a decrease in the number of fishermen. In 2010 there were 2.16 million fishermen. But in 2019, there were only 1.83 million people. In the last decade, 330,000 fishermen in Indonesia have disappeared. The leading cause is extractive industries, such as sea sand mining, which damages fishermen's fishing grounds.

Indonesia's development policies have not yet shown the right direction to meet the Paris Agreement target of keeping the earth's temperature below the threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius, as stated by the Indonesian president in his speech at the COP 26 meeting place in Glasgow.

Communities in 3,658 coastal villages in BANUSRAMAPA will feel the impact of national strategic project policies, especially the use of fossil energy in the development of the mining industry, especially in eastern Indonesia, which has accelerated the pace of environmental degradation and climate crisis which has an impact on food vulnerability, uncertainty in fishermen's catches, loss of small islands and ecological disaster.



Fig. 11: Local communities in Kabuyu, Central Sulawesi, hold a banner demanding that their land be returned to them.

## **URGENTLY NEEDED: ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CONFLICT AND CRIMINALIZATION COMMITTED BY ASTRA AGRO LESTARI**

Two international companies decided to stop buying palm oil from Indonesian companies. PepsiCo and FrieslandCampina followed six other global companies, such as L'Oréal, Nestle, Hershey's, Procter & Gamble, Colgate-Palmolive, and Danone, in suspending Astra Agro Lestari (AAL) from their palm oil supply chains. Astra Agro Lestari has violated human rights by confiscating land, criminalizing farming communities in Central Sulawesi and West Sulawesi, and causing ecological damage. In Walhi Central Sulawesi's records, 10 people have been criminalized with the same motives: accusations of stealing palm fruit, occupying land without permission, and threats.

After being suspended by international companies, Astra Agro Lestari tightened the guard on the ground instead of showing corrective action. Dozens of fully armed Brimob personnel guard the area controlled by PT Agro Nusa Abadi (PT



ANA). Several farmers were visited by the fully armed Mobile Brigade, which prohibited the farmers from doing activities on the company's land.

Currently, the community needs firm action from the government to revoke the company's license, take over the land, and return it to the farmers. Walhi and the community will not stop with the suspension of the eight international companies until people's rights return, namely land and the right to a safe and sound life.

What Astra Agro Lestari is doing is a portrait of the palm oil industry in Indonesia, which is still filled with stories of conflict, human rights violations, and destruction of the environment and forests. Stopping international companies from buying palm oil from Indonesian companies should encourage the government to improve palm oil governance. It is time for the government to stop issuing new permits for large-scale oil palm plantations while improving management by evaluating permits, resolving conflicts, and enforcing laws against companies that commit violations and crimes against the people and the environment. A breakthrough is also needed by imposing a blocklisting scheme for companies or beneficiaries of companies committing violations and crimes.



Fig. 12: The trial of the Budi Pego case at the Banyuwangi District Court in October 2018.

## **CRIMINALIZATION OF BUDI PEGO, TUMPANG PITU ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER**

Heri Budiawan alias Budi Pego is an environmental defender from Banyuwangi Regency, East Java Province. In his efforts to save his village from the threat of gold mine expansion, he has been vocal against a mine owned by Merdeka Cooper Gold. Tbk. During the journey, Budi Pego and other community members experienced various intimidations, violence, and criminalization since 2017.

Budi Pego's detention was carried out in March 2023, while the reading of the decision at the Supreme Court was carried out in October 2018, almost 5 years ago. He was criminalized on the ground of communism. There area number of oddities, such as the lack of clarity on the evidence on his case. In addition, Budi Pego does not even understand what communism is. The accusations leveled at Budi Pego were full of engineering.

The judge who tried the Budi Pego case was very formalistic, unaware that it was an act of fighting for the environment. In this case, it was reckless that the decision against Budi Pego was full of engineering, apart from the question of the banner with the basic hammer and sickle logo used by the court judge to rule on the decision in the Budi Pego case, elements against the law were only actions that did not have a permit. Even though the instrument for action is notification, not permission.

Evidently, their independence was deprived through a sudden arrest under the pretext of a Supreme Court decision. Strangely, the execution was carried out after four years of the verdict that suspended Budi Pego's rights. Even today, the legal team has not received a copy of the decision. But arbitrarily, Budi Pego was detained again by the Indonesian Attorney General's Office; moreover, the detention coincided with the bustling rejection of the mining refusal protest. Of course, what happened to Budi Pego was part of an effort to silence public voices in voicing their rights, including protests against mining, because the SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) effect also silenced other voices.

Budi Pego is a portrait of many other "Budi Pego." The judiciary defeated him in the name of legal justice, not justice for humans. Even though he fought for his land, his living space was with his community. This case shows that the law favors those with power and large capital more than community members who seek justice.



Fig. 13: Spices from diverse set of landscape of nusantara.

## **GROWING THE ECONOMY WHILE RESTORING THE ENVIRONMENT AND RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE THROUGH *EKONOMI NUSANTARA***

As a tropical country, the world's largest archipelago and located in the ring of fire, Indonesia has a diverse set of characteristics and landscapes. Savanna fields, peatlands, wetlands, highlands, karts and small islands form the character of a social, economic and environmental order that complements the treasures of each region and gives Indonesia the emerald of the equator moniker.

Spices are one of the natural wealth produced from Indonesia's diverse landscapes. Since the 5th century AD, spices from the archipelago have been traded globally via the silk route to the incense route for hundreds of years. When the Ottoman Empire closed the land route for the spice trade to Europe in 1453 AD, overland trade via the silk route and the incense route switched to maritime routes. The demand for spices like pepper, cloves, nutmeg, cardamom, turmeric, ginger, and cinnamon prompted European exploration of the archipelago.

However, spice production in Indonesia has decreased significantly along with deforestation, environmental degradation and climate change caused by the shift in Indonesia's economic development towards extractive industries such as mining, monoculture and logging.

This is one of the reasons that underlies us to push for the birth of the idea of the Ekosistem Ekonomi Nusantara or Ecosystem of Archipelago Economy. An economic model that is designed to grow the economy while restoring the environment and people's rights.

Walhi is currently working with communities in their managed area of over 1.1 million hectares and will continue to expand. From this total area, we have identified 77 types of food sources and economic commodities from various landscapes, 33 of which are export commodities with the potential of providing social welfare, national economic development, and global food.



Fig. 14: Betel nut (areca nut). In Bengkulu, betel nut is intercropped with eight different plants such as nutmeg, durian among others.