

RESTORASI:

Using Restorative Justice Techniques
to Build Resilience and Address
Climate Change Harms in Indonesia





Background

Climate change, including carbon emissions and deforestation, causes temperature and weather changes, extreme weather events, species extinction, and ecosystem degradation, posing significant risks to human health and well-being. Indonesia, one of the most biodiverse countries, is a major producer of palm oil, rubber, and timber. On April 19, 2023, the EU adopted legislation against deforestation, affecting countries exporting these commodities to Europe. Suppliers must certify that their products are not from deforested land and respect indigenous rights. Indonesia acknowledges climate change impacts but seeks to maintain sustainable commodity production.

This collaborative research contemplates a shared and inclusive vision of justice in society, where marginalised voices are valued, collective responses are formulated, and harm is repaired. This research leverages a multidisciplinary team's expertise in biodiversity, restorative justice, social and disability inclusion, and law to develop tools and knowledge to mitigate climate harms. The project aims to equip Indonesian academics, policymakers, and vulnerable group leaders to address climate impacts within local, legal, and policy contexts, enhancing participation in environmental decision-making. The project is conducted in South Sulawesi, East Java, and East Nusa Tenggara.

This project will produce a new network of knowledge, specialist researchers, policy makers, and local champions.



Methods

The project team consists of experienced and newly engaged researchers and researchers with disability.

Research activities include desktop research, involving a review of literature including scholarly works, books, journal articles, reports, and news from various media, both online and print. The findings from this desktop research are regularly discussed among the researchers to build a shared understanding of climate change issues, GEDSI, and Indonesia's socio-political and cultural contexts.

We conducted a research methodology workshop to provide a platform for researchers to share their experience in conducting research on environment, and GEDSI related topics, law, as well as to revisit our research plan, and see if there is a need to re-align our research pathways, and research outputs.

Data gathering is conducted through preliminary research visit and main research fieldwork. GEDSI approach and intersectionality are the primary research approach that is utilised throughout the research phase.

Preliminary research visit is aimed to introduce the project to local authorities and research stakeholders based on research team's existing partners in each research site.

During main fieldwork data collection methods include field observations, interviews, and group discussions. Inform consent is established between researchers and research participants.

GEDSI emphasises the inclusion of experiences from marginalised groups, such as women, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations like indigenous peoples, children, and the elderly. The aim is to ensure these voices are integral to decision-making in various development sectors in Indonesia. The intersectional approach highlights the importance of recognising diverse identity backgrounds, including gender, age, socioeconomic status, education, religion, and geographical location.

The research also stresses the importance of building networks in various research areas, leveraging existing networks of the research team. It aims to establish connections with women's groups, Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs), and Environmental Organizations.

Evaluation and dissemination of the research activities will include assessing the project's impact, publishing findings in high-quality outlets, organizing international conferences and workshops, and developing and maintaining the project's website and social media presence.

Research Highlights

South Sulawesi

This research highlights the impact of climate change on people with disabilities, women, and other vulnerable populations. In June, fieldwork was conducted in three locations, including South Sulawesi. In South Sulawesi, the researchers conducted studies in Tana Toa Village, Kajang District, Bontomangiring Village, Bulukumpa District, Bulukumba Regency, and Makassar City.

In South Sulawesi, the researchers conducted interviews with various parties, including indigenous groups, traditional leaders, and local communities. They also conducted workshops in two locations (Bulukumba Regency and Makassar City). The workshops, themed "Ensuring the Participation and Representation of Women, People with Disabilities, and Indigenous Communities in Formulating Climate Change Responses," involved government officials (Bapperida, Social Service, Environmental Service), local NGOs, researchers, women, people with disabilities, and women activists. These workshops were part of the research to elaborate on the informants' experiences related to climate change, their participation in mobilizing responses to climate change, and inclusive policies to address climate change.

Findings from the fieldwork indicate that the community in Makassar City faces difficulties due to power outages, causing women and people with disabilities in Makassar City to experience challenges in working and studying. In Kajang, a deaf individual experiences income instability due to unpredictable harvests. They are also underrepresented in policy-making related to climate change. Law Number 8/2016 guarantees the rights of people with disabilities during disasters, but discriminatory policies still marginalize them.

The research recommendations emphasize the need for active involvement of people with disabilities, women, and vulnerable groups in climate change planning and raising awareness of their special needs to address inequality and discrimination.



Documentation



Prior to fieldwork a targeted stakeholder dialogue was conducted to gain insights from national government and non-government institutions on policies around climate change, its impacts on marginalised groups, how GEDSI (Gender, Disability, and Social Inclusion) and Intersectionality approach can help formulate inclusive policies in response to climate change.

This event featured **Hari Kurniawan, S.H.**, Commissioner of the National Commission on Human Rights; **Marsya Mutmainah**, from the Indonesian Center for Environmental Law; and **Dr. Vivi Yulaswati** from the Ministry of National Planning, Indonesia.



Fieldwork Workshop 1, entitled "Ensuring the Participation and Representation of Women, People with Disabilities, and Indigenous Communities in Formulating Climate Change Responses" was held at Universitas Muhammadiyah Bulukumba (5 June, 2024).

The workshop is designed as a forum for different stakeholders share and discuss how climate change affecting their livelihood.



Meeting with the Head of Bontomangiring Village at the Inclusion Garden.

Bontomangiring Village is a pilot project for the Leprosy and Disability Awareness Village (Desaku) program. This program aims to build collective community work to eliminate stigma and discrimination against people with disabilities. (6 June 2024)



Staying with Kajang community, meeting Community leaders, and Ammatoa (Kajang Traditional Leader). Researchers were not allowed to wear footwear in the inner Kajang area, and cameras could only take pictures up to a certain point within the inner Kajang area. Ammatoa could not be photographed. An indigenous Kajang woman is weaving Kajang cloth dyed using the "Tarung" plant (Top Left). Meeting with Kajang female activists who are also Ammatoa's children with Ammatoa's wife (Top Right). Interviewing the Head of Tana Toa Village (Bottom Right)



Fieldwork Workshop 2 themed "Ensuring the Participation and Representation of Women, People with Disabilities, and Indigenous Communities in Formulating Climate Change Responses" was held at Universitas Muhammadiyah Bulukumba (June 10th, 2024).



Name & Institution

Dr. Dina Afrianty, PhD.

Thomas More Law School, Australian Catholic University

Dr. Mark Hamilton, PhD.

Thomas More Law School, Australian Catholic University

Professor Patrick Keyzer, PhD.

Thomas More Law School, Australian Catholic University

Dr Aan Eko Widiarto, SH., M.Hum

Law Faculty, Brawijaya University

Prischa Listiningrum, SH., L.LM

Law Faculty, Brawijaya University

Daru Adiarto, SH., L.LM

Law Faculty, Brawijaya University

Mahalli, S.Sos., M.Sos.

AIDRAN (Australia-Indonesia Disability Research And Advocacy Network)

Rahmatul Furqan, S.I.Kom., MGMC.

AIDRAN (Australia-Indonesia Disability Research And Advocacy Network)

Janisa Pascawati, S.Sos., M.I.Kom.

AIDRAN (Australia-Indonesia Disability Research And Advocacy Network)

Elo Kusuma Alfred Mandeville

AIDRAN (Australia-Indonesia Disability Research And Advocacy Network)



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