

KNOWLEDGE FOR CLIMATE ACTION

STORIES FROM VCA'S KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS

In East Nusa Tenggara, local communities' climate resilience practices have been overlooked—until now. Through advocacy and media engagement, C4Ledger amplifies its voices to ensure Indigenous knowledge shapes Indonesia's climate policies.

FROM FARM TO POLICY

BRIDGING LOCAL RESILIENCE AND NATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION
IN INDONESIA

VCA VOICES
FOR JUST
CLIMATE ACTION



In Indonesia, climate change is accelerating at an alarming rate, with the impacts particularly pronounced in vulnerable coastal and rural areas. East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), one of the country's poorest provinces, is on the frontline of these changes. The region is predominantly dependent on agriculture, fisheries, and livestock farming. Increasing temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, and rising sea levels have made traditional livelihoods precarious. Severe droughts have become more frequent, leading to crop failures and water shortages, while flash floods during the rainy season cause widespread destruction of homes, infrastructure, and farmlands.

Local communities in NTT have developed Indigenous climate-resilient practices that have been passed down through generations. These methods, such as traditional water management systems, crop rotation, and coastal protection techniques, have allowed them to adapt to environmental variability.

However, these solutions are at risk of being forgotten or dismissed, overshadowed by modern technology-driven responses to climate change. Despite their effectiveness, Indigenous practices receive little attention from policymakers and are rarely integrated into formal climate adaptation and mitigation plans.

Communities in NTT face high levels of poverty, limited access to education, and weak governance structures, which make it difficult for them to advocate for their needs or participate in decision-making processes. The disconnect between local realities and national climate policies leaves these communities vulnerable to ongoing environmental crises.

WHY LOCAL KNOWLEDGE ISN'T BEING SHARED

The Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) program aims to address these critical gaps by promoting inclusive climate action that incorporates local voices and knowledge systems.

In Indonesia, the VCA initiative, led by C4Ledge through its Inclusiveness Climate Knowledge Management Network (InClick-Mnet), focuses on bridging the gap between grassroots communities and policymakers.

This project emphasises the importance of ensuring that climate action strategies are not only environmentally effective but also socially just.

Indonesia is particularly vulnerable to climate change due to its extensive coastline and dependence on natural resources. National climate policies, while well-meaning, often fail to consider the localised impacts of climate change on communities like those in NTT. As a result, national climate strategies risk being ineffective or, worse, harmful to these communities if they do not consider local knowledge and capacities.

C4Ledger focuses on knowledge management and advocacy, working to elevate the voices of marginalised communities and ensure their knowledge contributes to the national and international climate discourse. The project also seeks to challenge the misconception that local knowledge is outdated or inferior to modern technological solutions, instead highlighting its value in building resilience and sustainability.

UNITING COMMUNITIES AND POLICYMAKERS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

C4Ledger's VCA program fosters collaboration between local communities, media, policymakers, and civil society. A key initiative, the "October Declaration," brought together farmers, fishermen, officials, and experts to create a strategy addressing NTT's climate challenges and formalise local knowledge of Indonesia's climate policies.

Another key intervention is its media engagement strategy. Recognising the power of the media to shape public discourse, C4Ledger has prioritised training young journalists in NTT and other parts of Indonesia to report on climate change from a local perspective. These training sessions equip journalists with the skills to investigate and communicate the impacts of climate change on rural communities and to highlight the importance of local adaptation strategies.

By enhancing the capacity of the media, C4Ledger aims to raise awareness of the challenges facing NTT and advocate for more inclusive and just climate solutions.

Ahead of COP28, C4Ledger hosted a media briefing to highlight the VCA's work and advocate for inclusive climate action, giving local leaders a global platform to share insights on the need for climate policies that reflect on-the-ground realities. They also collaborate with local governments to integrate Indigenous knowledge into climate plans, organising workshops to scale climate-resilient practices and ensure local knowledge informs broader policies.

C4LEDGER BRINGING LOCAL KNOWLEDGE TO THE CLIMATE TABLE

C4Ledger's interventions have made significant strides, with the October Declaration serving as a pivotal moment in formalising the role of local knowledge in climate policy. By bringing together local communities, farmers, and decision-makers, it has paved the way for more inclusive climate action that prioritises local resilience. Their media efforts have raised awareness in major Indonesian outlets such as Republika and Katong NTT, highlighting the importance of integrating traditional practices with modern climate solutions.

These stories have garnered wider attention, shifting public perceptions and putting pressure on policymakers for more inclusive climate governance. C4Ledger's training programs have empowered a new generation of young journalists to report on climate change from a local perspective, equipping them to amplify the voices of rural and marginalised communities. Additionally, their advocacy with local governments is successfully integrating Indigenous knowledge into climate adaptation and resilience plans, ensuring that policies are both scientifically sound and culturally appropriate.

SHAPING INDONESIA'S CLIMATE FUTURE

C4Ledger plans to expand its impact across Indonesia, building on the success of the October Declaration and media initiatives to integrate Indigenous knowledge into national climate policies. By strengthening partnerships with local communities, governments, and international donors, C4Ledger aims to scale up climate resilience efforts and secure funding for capacity-building, monitoring systems, and climate-smart practices. Ultimately, C4Ledger envisions empowering local communities to lead climate action and creating a more inclusive, just climate governance framework for Indonesia's most vulnerable regions.