

FROM THE GROUND, WE RELAY STORIES OF IMPACT

Climate Action Insights 2021-2025 in Flobamoratas
(Flores, Sumba, Timor, Alor, Rote, Lembata, Sabu)





Illustration by **Meilany Wungubelen**

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Published by

VCA Indonesia

April 2025

“From the *Ground*, we relay stories of *impact*”

An Introduction

“Every effort will surely yield benefits.” Is what the wise man said. But this is not easy, especially when addressing the hugely complex and urgent climate crisis. However, there are also many stories of good climate action efforts. One of the prominent aspects of these actions is consistency in attempts for lasting impact.

In this booklet, we show our various efforts and impacts in responding to the climate crisis from 2022 till 2024 in East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), Indonesia. We approach the climate crisis with a justice lens, to ensure that those who have contributed least do not bear the brunt of the impact. This book summarizes a small part of our journey, from stories about individual climate action to collective efforts, from small campaigns carried out to larger national movements.

We also believe in the importance of art in climate campaigns, showing how creativity and imagination can be a powerful tool to inspire, drive change, and connect all levels of society. In addition, we also highlight the importance of safe civil-and collective spaces and for the climate change movement.





Finally, we would like to thank the entire Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) network, which has been tirelessly pushing the movement forward. We also want to extend our gratitude to all those who have supported us along the way, no matter how big or small their contribution.

Arti Indallah Tjakranegara

Focal Point VCA Indonesia

Yayasan Humanis dan Inovasi

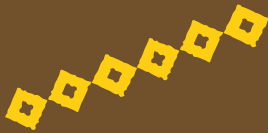
Sosial



Our mission is not over yet, and Our Climate Actions Will Never Be Over

BY ARTI INDALLAH TJAKRANEgara

Focal Point of VCA Indonesia/
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The effects of the climate crisis are not just something that will happen later; they are happening now in Indonesia. Rising sea levels, more frequent floods and cyclones, and extreme droughts pose significant risks in island areas such as East Nusa Tenggara (NTT).

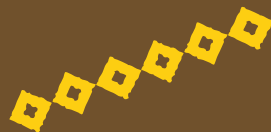
Farmers, fisherfolks and local communities in this region are facing the combined impacts of the climate crisis. Undermining food security, eroding livelihoods and contributing to asset loss.

Indigenous communities live in and around forests also face major challenges, such as deforestation, land conversion, land grabbing, the loss of traditional livelihoods, food sources and their customary territories. These pressures make them highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Being on the front lines of climate impacts, these communities have valuable local knowledge and solutions that may help to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Unfortunately, their contributions are often overlooked and they face significant challenge to get supports.

The Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) plays its role in addressing the situation. Through this program, we engage these communities by facilitating peer learning, strengthening and nurturing networks, and building capacity to address climate challenges.

VCA's works also focus on mobilizing additional resources at the local level and advocating for community rights. We work together to ensure that the voices of communities most affected by the climate crisis are heard in climate-related dialogues and decision-making processes.



What Impacts Have We Created?

Our efforts have led to several positive impacts and results. We have strengthened the capacity of more than 1,073 Number of people within marginalized groups, which includes 396 women and gender minorities, 320 young people and 144 indigenous people.

Under VCA program, we provided capacity building in many forms, such as learning about the climate crisis, running campaigns, advocating for change, creating maps with community input, doing research, starting green entrepreneurship, production-based initiatives, citizen journalism, holistic security, and many more. This helps communities better express and spread awareness about the climate crisis in different ways, making it easier for them to influence decisions through lobbying, advocacy, and campaigns.

At the regional level, there are several examples where communities can express their hopes and work together to influence decisions. Novi Nggoen spoke up to the Legal Division of Kupang Regency to speed up the process of approving village rules about managing mangroves in Tanah Merah.



The KOPI Coalition created 12 production-based projects as a resource mobilization strategy to support their movements. These projects look at what's possible locally and align with efforts to fight climate change and help communities adapt.

For example, the East Manggarai Committee of KOPI Coalition works on making coffee farming more sustainable, and the East Flores Committee helps with growing local foods like sorghum and also supports activities that fight climate change through crafts.

At the national level, Umbu Tri from the Koppesda Foundation, which is part of the Adaptation Coalition, participated in the World Water Forum. He shared how indigenous communities view and take care of water and the environment.

“The Marapu community in East Sumba believes that all natural resources, like water, are the center of their community life and the source of all life on Earth.”

We have also created and kept up a sense of unity among groups that are often ignored.

Through 19 different forums that bring together many different groups, we aim to give these communities a chance to take part in decisions about climate change and make sure their voices are heard.

There are at least eight (8) multi-stakeholder forums that are used to amplify the voices of marginalized groups. For example, the Provincial Climate Change Task Force of East Nusa Tenggara, the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Forum of East Nusa Tenggara, the Working Group on climate change in East Sumba and Rote Regencies, the Joint Secretariat of Lembata Regency and the Joint Secretariat for low-carbon development covering three regencies (Manggarai, East Manggarai, and West Manggarai Regencies)

The multi-stakeholder forum can be used as a vehicle for advocacy to the decision makers to prioritize climate justice issues in policy and budget allocation. There are also several local groups that help people share ideas, learn from each other, and work together on food-related climate actions. Examples include the Momang Lino group, Gelekat Lamaholot Forum, Gerak Tedeng Farmer Group, Gejur Cama, and many others.

The policy and funding aspects are also no less important for system change. We have mobilized almost 6.6 billion Rupiah in resources through joint advocacy efforts to support locally led climate solutions

One example is how the Tal Village Government in Manggarai set aside about 26 million Rupiah for training on sorghum processing, along with support for grinding machines, equipment, and other materials needed for micro-enterprises started by the Local Champion of the Good Food Coalition.





We have also supported changemakers and community leaders who are making positive changes in their areas, helping them shape policies that better reflect local climate solutions and the needs of groups most affected by the climate crisis.

This collective effort has successfully influenced 20 policies at various levels. For example, the Adaptation Coalition and Barakat Foundation advocated the creation of village regulations to strengthen and to protect Muro practices in Lamatokan, Tapobaran, and Lamawolo villages. At the district level, Koppesda and communities in East Sumba worked on a Regional Long-Term Development Plan guide-book document that includes indigenous peoples.

However, our mission is not finished yet. There are still many provinces in Indonesia that need support to create fairer climate policies, and there's a lot more to do.



Aryani Newa teaches Climate Action on Beaches, Social Media and in Villages.

BY ALFA GUMILANG

Aryani Newa Humba – meaning a girl born in Sumba who is simple and tough— a name given to her by her grandmother. Aryani was born and raised in Mondu Village, East Sumba, East Nusa Tenggara in Eastern Indonesia. Simplicity and toughness are evident in her Instagram posts, which are concise without long captions. The variety of photos on her account, @aryannhumba, is striking. “I don’t know how to use fancy words, but the photos speak for themselves,” she said.

Many of her photos include children between the ages of 5 to 10 years, in classrooms and on beaches. Aryani mentioned that these children are part of a Sunday School group at her church. She teaches them about climate change and ways to address it.

Her lessons extend beyond theory, involving practical activities that children can easily participate in. She has taken children to Puru Kambara Beach, not far from her village, a few times a month during three months. There, they learn, play, and participate in cleaning up plastic waste scattered along the shore. An initiative that fosters a sense of environmental responsibility from a young age. “Every month, we regularly clean up plastic waste on the beach with our young friends from the village,” Aryani explains.

During one beach clean-up, they collected five bags of plastic waste. Aryani and her friends have been doing this for a long time, and she is starting to see her impact. The amount of plastic waste on the beach is not as overwhelming as it once was. She believes that their actions may gradually encourage visitors to become more mindful about littering. “Hopefully, people will start to feel embarrassed to litter because we are consistently cleaning up after them,” she confidently states.

The distance from the beach to the village is less than a kilometer. In her village, Aryani’s resilience takes different forms but remains rooted in simple actions that can be implemented by the people of her village.



Aryani was also appointed Chairperson of the Luri Panamu Farmers Group, the name translates to; caring each other. The group members consist of 15 women and 10 men, all of whom are married. Remarkably, the group is led by Aryani, a 23-year-old woman which consider young compared to other members.

A year ago, the farmer group was established, cultivating crops such as water spinach, mustard greens, pak choi, and shallots across 1.5 hectares of agricultural land. Some work is done collectively, while other tasks are completed individually, depending on the type of crop and the workload. The results have been promising, increasing household incomes and providing additional funds for their children's education.

The traditional crop planted in Sumba is corn. However, due to increasingly unpredictable weather, corn cultivation has become unreliable. To adapt to these changing conditions, the Luri Panamu Farmers Group started to plant alternative food crops. This shift has helped residents reduce their dependency on a single crop.



"With uncertain weather conditions and irregular rainfall, we seek alternative food sources. We can finally produce a variety of foods instead of relying solely on corn," Aryani states.

The farmer group employs traditional farming methods, avoiding the use of chemical fertilizers. "We use dead leaves mixed with ordinary soil or animal manure. This approach comes from the teachings of our ancestors," she adds. Indigenous peoples are known for their resilience, their close connection to nature has provided them with extensive knowledge for managing land. This knowledge has been passed down through generations and remains relevant despite modernization. It is particularly valuable in responding to the changes induced by the climate crisis, allowing Indigenous communities to adapt effectively to natural conditions.

However, younger generations believe that respectable jobs are only found in offices, reducing their interest in farming. This mindset presents a challenge for Aryani, who is determined to inspire young people to pursue farming. She believes that they need motivation and tangible examples to view farming as a viable profession and to take care of the earth.

"I want to invite young people to farm by showing them that it can be a respectable job," she said.

Her Instagram account features various activities, showcasing real examples of her efforts.



The knowledge and actions of Aryani are deeply connected to the role of the Coordinating Foundation for the Study and Management of Natural Resources (Koppesda), which is part of the Adaptation Coalition (a VCA partner). Within this organization Aryani has gained various insights into climate change and worked tirelessly to explore climate solutions, exploring the wealth of local knowledge, particularly wisdom passed down from Indigenous Peoples.

Despite Aryani's remarkable resilience, raising awareness and promoting climate action within the community is not easy. This work is in need of expansion and will have a greater impact if done collectively. As one of the local champions supported by Koppesda and the Adaptation Coalition, Aryani continues her efforts to inspire more people.





Climate Solutions Derived from Local Wisdom

By Ulyya Farah

Adaptation Coalition/Penabulu Foundation

Amid the intensive real threats of climate change, Indigenous communities in Lembata Regency, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) have proven that local based solutions can be key to environmental and climate resilience. Relying on inherited knowledge, they have developed natural resource management practices that work in harmony with the ecosystem, creating a balance between humans and nature.

The Muro tradition serves as a means to protect marine ecosystems. Muro is a customary system that regulates fishing activities, setting rules for when and where communities may fish, ensuring sustainability in marine resources.

As part of VCA Indonesia, the Adaptation Coalition brings together several organizations including Yayasan Penabulu, Barakat, Koppesda, Yapeka, Perkumpulan Desa Lestari, Koalisi Perempuan Indonesia untuk Keadilan dan Demokrasi, Konsil LSM, Sinergantara, and Pusat Kajian Sains Keberlanjutan dan Transdisiplin - Institut Pertanian Bogor, aiming to amplify voices of local communities, and women, to deal with climate change through local solutions.

Muro is a local climate solution praised by local authorities for its potential to be replicated in other regions. To achieve this, advocacy efforts must be enhanced, with the Adaptation Coalition playing a crucial part. As of now, Muro has been officially acknowledged by the Provincial Government of East Nusa Tenggara via a Governor's Decree establishing designated areas for water conservation. Upscaling Muro benefits not only balance in the ecosystem but also improves the welfare of fisherfolks by creating a stable fish population. Fisherfolks can catch fish closer to the coast, reducing operational costs and improving food security.



“Practicing Muro also helps to maintain coastal ecosystems such as coral reefs, seagrass, and mangroves, which play an important role in mitigating climate change.” - Benediktus Bedil, Director of Barakat-

A similar practice exists in Lembata to Rote Ndao, where people rely on traditional and local wisdom in marine and land protection called Hoholok/Papadak. This system prohibits the use of destructive fishing gear and regulates fishing seasons to maintain a balance in the ecosystem. The Adaptation Coalition has been advocating for the recognition of this customary practice to the Holulai Village Government, which resulted in the ratification of Holulai Village Regulation No. 4 of 2023, in which environmental protection is regulated. The regulation now also prohibits cutting down mangroves and commercial sand extraction and fosters better waste management. This development shows that customary systems can go hand in hand with modern policies in climate adaptation.

In East Sumba regency, the Adaptation Coalition program also raised community awareness on the impacts of climate change and the urgency of documenting local wisdom for future generations. The Wundut-Tangga Madiata Indigenous community practices traditional rituals such as Hamayang Kacua Utang to restore forest and Hamayang Kacua Matawai to protect springs. They believe environmental protection is an obligation inherited from their ancestors. However, climate change brings new challenges such as prolonged drought, less water from spring, and changes in seasonal patterns.



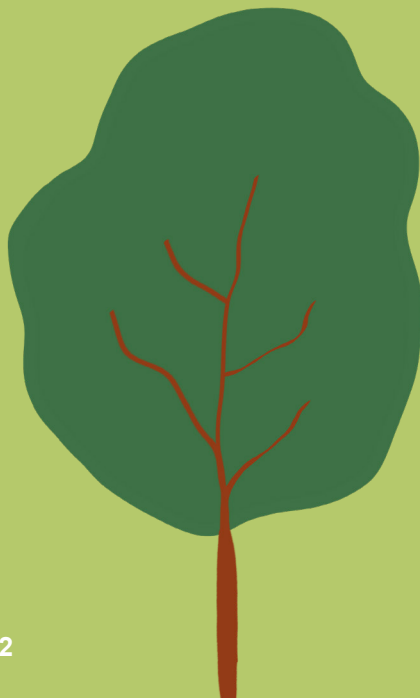


VCA Indonesia and *Local Wisdom*

In these three districts the Adaptation Coalition program has brought real changes in climate change response. Multi-stakeholder forums have been established at district and provincial levels to ensure the sustainability of local initiatives. In addition, local regulations adopting the principles of Indigenous wisdom have been implemented to support climate adaptation efforts.

Indigenous-based initiatives such as Muro, Hoholok/Papadak, and nature protection rituals in East Sumba prove that climate solutions don't have to come from modern technology or a big program. By supporting local wisdom that has been proven effective for centuries, we can also create a model for sustainable adaptation. An achievement that is expected to inspire more Indonesian regions and other countries. With supportive policies and commitment from various stakeholders, local wisdom can become an integral part of a just, inclusive, and sustainable climate adaptation strategy.

The program is creating a beneficial effect on the environment, along with the social and economic dimensions of the local community. Local fisherfolks and agricultural workers are now more equipped to address the difficulties posed by climate change, while Indigenous communities are increasingly aware of the critical need to preserve ecological balance.



ILLUSTRATIONS (CREATED BY MELAN, MOUNT LEWOTOBİ, AND CLIMATE CHANGE)

by Alfa Gumilang

Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki suddenly erupted multiple times on the 4th of November 2024, taking ten lives and leading to the evacuation of 10,777 residents. Meilany Wungubelen experienced exceptionally hectic days, rushing from one aid location to the next to help those affected. Together with her friends from Youth Coalition for Climate Change (KOPI), she was a narrative companion for both youngsters and elderly.

The eruption affected the physical, but also the psychological condition of victims. This made the role of narrative companion crucial in psychological recovery and mental resilience. The companions' primary role was to listen to victims' stories—not to provide solutions but to offer subtle guidance that could help survivors rediscover their paths.

In September 2024, Meilany participated in peer coaching training, representing the KOPI Coalition for the East Flores region. The knowledge gained during the training has significantly helped her to serve as a companion for the survivors of the Mount Lewotobi eruption.

With local treats such as cakes or sorghum porridge, she made her way from one shelter to the next. "Up to now, our mission has progressed quite well. The survivors have embraced our company, particularly the elderly, who had no engagements and appreciated the chance to share their stories with others," remarks Melan.

Affectionately known as Melan, Meilany has had a passion for drawing since childhood, which she has nurtured over the years. One of the artists' illustrations was featured on the cover of a children's storybook titled "A Journey of the Whales: Perjalanan Paus – Pana Lara Paus Nae."

Currently, she works on her illustration book developed in collaboration with the KOPI Coalition. This book will document the experiences of local champions who participated in various KOPI Coalition programs, such as the Flobamoratas Climate Camp (Jambore GRUF), the Flobamoratas Climate Leaders Camp, Pesta Raya Flobamoratas, and others. It will also include photo stories produced through the KOPI Coalition Learning Circle.





At KOPI Coalition, Melan has learned a lot, particularly about climate change. Previously reserved, Melan has evolved into a passionate advocate for climate initiatives in NTT. The networks built and knowledge gained during her time with the coalition have inspired fresh ideas for her artwork.

“My activities with the KOPI Coalition have provided me with valuable knowledge that inspires my creations,” she states. According to Melan, illustrations serve as an excellent medium to raise awareness about climate change, promote diverse climate actions and sustainable solutions that can be explored. She believes illustrations can effectively offer early education for children to protect the earth and its resources.



We can inform children by showing them visuals of whales consuming trash because of the overwhelming plastic pollution in the ocean. We can also depict stories using illustrations. By doing so, children will gain a clearer comprehension of the information," she elaborates.



Her drawing skills have attracted many opportunities for collaboration. Most recently, she was invited to work with an African organization to create a book for children about climate change. For Melan, illustrations are not just a means of educating the community; but also, for her personal life. During difficult times, drawing has become a healing session for her—a way to express her emotions. Perhaps her story aligns well with the words of the renowned American street artist Keith Haring: "Art should be something that frees your soul, provokes imagination, and encourages people to go further"



Youth Collaboration in Grassroots Initiatives

BY EULIS UTAMI & MUTIA AFIANTI

KOPI COALITION / HUTAN ITU INDONESIA & TERASMITRA

While youth is considered a vulnerable group who will experience the long-term impacts of climate crisis, they also play an important role in overcoming the climate crisis with creativity and high motivation for sustainable solutions. Since November 2021, the Youth Coalition for Climate Change (KOPI) of VCA Indonesia has gone through a long journey running the Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) program in collaboration with the Humanis Foundation (affiliated with Hivos) in East Nusa Tenggara Province (NTT). They carried out the spirit of "baku dukung" which means "joining forces", because young people wish to live longer.

Under the VCA program, youth movements were born to address climate justice and take real actions to combat climate change impacts on the island of East Nusa Tenggara.

Various initiatives engaged climate-concerned youth in this province. The climate justice camp for Flobamoratas (GRUF) for example, an annual capacity building forum that offers interactive learning and supports the creation of joint action plans initiated by young people.

The collective spirit reached its peak during the GRUF Jamboree in May 2024. A manifesto on climate action was created to maintain community-based climate resilience movements. In this occasion, KOPI Coalition successfully inaugurated the establishment of 12 Regional Executive Committees (KED) and a Flobamoratas Executive Committee (KEF) to continue youth-led actions. The KEDs are assigned to oversee the climate action movements at the district/city level while the KEF serves as a coordination forum for KED movements.

More than 100 young people from East Nusa Tenggara – who committed to lead the climate actions – joined the KED and KEF groups.





Through the **VCA** program, young leaders have emerged to run more solid and sustainable climate actions in East Nusa Tenggara

Eda Tukan was elected to lead the KEF, together with Nia Oy as the secretary and Cosmas Davitson as the treasurer, in the election held during the GRUF Jamboree. Equipped with strong determination and creativity, they managed to mobilize funding to support the 12 regional KEDs in utilizing local potential and developing production-based initiatives to ensure the sustainability of climate movements.

The KED group in Alor and Kupang regency is striving to protect marine ecosystem by planting coral reefs, helping to restore damaged ecosystem and maintain biodiversity. At the same time, the works of KED in other districts such as Ende, Ruteng, and East Flores, is focusing on local food security issue such as conservation of the Nuabosi sweet potatoe, promoting coastal food by creating unique dining places, and establishing communal gardens to enhance food security.

The initiatives do not stop there, small businesses utilizing local potential are also emerging in other areas. In Bajawa and Colol districts, businesses are managing coffee production. The KEDs in Maumere and Nagekeo started the VCO oil production venture, while KED Waingapu develops a production of Tenun, a customary technique of creating fabric by hand-weaving colorful thread. At the same time, Labuan Bajo and Lembata's KED team strengthen campaigns and educational activities with production of short videos and raise awareness by organizing dialogue sessions. Part of their actions also involved planting mangroves to counter the climate crisis.



Youth-led Climate Action for East Nusa Tenggara (NTT)

Youth movements in NTT have contributed greatly to building community awareness on climate justice and strengthening community-based climate resilience. By utilizing local potential, they have delivered solutions to maintain ecosystem balance, strengthen cultural identity and sustain the climate movement.

For example, the protection of marine ecosystems through coral reef plantation – initiated by KED groups in Alor and Kupang – is not only preserving marine biodiversity but also supporting community resilience through sustainable tourism managed by local KED.

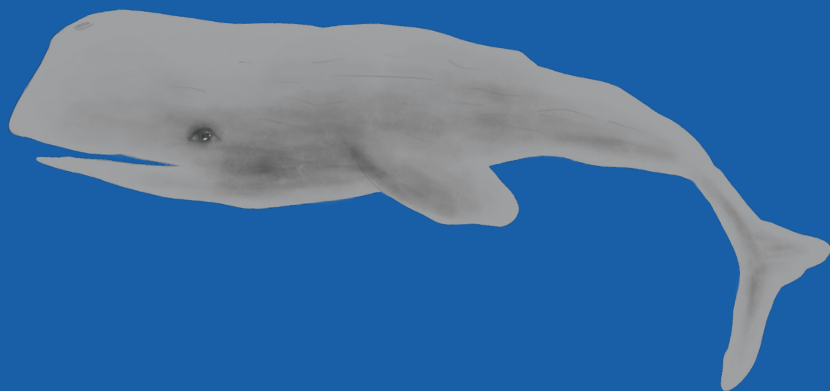
In Ende, Ruteng, and East Flores districts, initiatives to ensure local food security also help to maintain the sustainability of local food while reducing dependence on foreign products. At the same time, they are also raising awareness on the importance of local wisdom practices in dealing with climate change.

In addition, the emergence of businesses based on local potential in Bajawa, Colol, Maumere, Nagekeo, and Wain-gapu districts provide a real example of how a circular economy can be a sustainable solution. By producing locally, coffee, Virgin Coconut Oil, and woven fabrics, prove that the local economy can grow in harmony with environmental sustainability.

Next to this, activities with the activism approach (a blend of art and activism) or art-based campaign actions and education in Labuan Bajo and Lembata were conducted to raise the community's awareness on climate justice. Using a community-based approach, young people are raising community awareness on the individual responsibility protecting the environment and dealing with climate change impacts.

The above-mentioned climate movements did not emerge on their own. Achievements from the KOPI Coalition were supported by the VCA program. The Flobamoratas Climate Leaders Camp (FCLC) program is one of the achievements that contributed capacity building of young leaders in each KED/regional group to design local climate solutions. Another accomplishment is the completion of GRUF Jamboree which successfully gathered more than 100 young people from various regions in NTT and selected young leaders to act as driving force in this province.

Resource mobilisation for climate action also provides opportunities for accessible climate funding for youth groups to be able to voice and build local climate solutions.



This initiative goes beyond merely addressing the climate emergency; it is a mission to forge a just and sustainable future for people in East Nusa Tenggara. Infused with the spirit of “joining forces”, numerous initiatives emerged, demonstrating that solutions to climate challenges can originate from Indigenous knowledge.

By protecting the ocean, growing local food, developing a sustainable natural resource-based economy, and building awareness through engaging education such as activism, young people in this region have shown that real change starts from the grassroots.

This movement is a story of hope, courage, and real action by young people who not only dream of a better world but also want to create it with their own hands, because young people #WantToLiveLonger.

THE STORY OF ANDIKA: PLANTING SORGHUM IN THE LAND OF ROCKS

BY MUAMMAR FIKRIE

'Sorghum Farmer' is the biography line on all of Andika's social media accounts, proud to grow sorghum, a versatile food crop that experiences a setback in cultivation. "Sorghum was once here, according to stories of our elders. But when I was born, there was no sorghum anymore. Now we are introducing and replanting it," says Andika when talking about his hometown.

In Tapobali Village in the south coast of Lembata Island, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), there is an area surrounded by a natural fortress of rocks therefore the locals call it; the Land of Rocks.

In the past, people there mainly focused on planting corn and rice, but recent weather problems triggered by climate change have shifted the planting season. Rain season used to occur from October to March, but now it happens between November and April.

These seasonal changes made the village consider switching commodities, with sorghum becoming an important alternative. Sorghum is actually not a new food crop for the NTT people, in the past, before being forcibly "removed" by the New Order government, this plant grew abundantly and was a standard food crop together with rice.

Maybe the land of NTT longs to be planted with sorghum, maybe the land of NTT wants people to have choices and sources of other food crops, so that the unity of human life and nature can continue for a long time.



**

Andika is a well-known youth figure in Tapobali. In 2016, when he was in his early 20s, Andika went to Malaysia to become a migrant worker on a palm plantation, a choice often made by young Tapobali people. Economic limitations and a lack of decent jobs force many to leave their hometown to look for other ways of living. Andika found himself surprised when he faced the reality of being a plantation worker. He realized that his work in Malaysia was not different from work back home. Working overseas provides more money, but the difficulties and risks are significant.

“I removed grass in Malaysia. Then I realized the grass in Malaysia and Indonesia are the same, so I could better move back to my hometown. Currently there are many young people shifting to work in palm oil. They choose to work overseas rather than being independent farmers in their hometown,” he says. Not long after returning to Tapobali Village, Andika began to get acquainted with the Larantuka Socio-Economic Development Foundation (Yaspensel). This organization focuses on social, economic, and environmental issues in NTT. They often support people on the coast of NTT, including Tapobali people in the agricultural sector.

Mid-2018, Yaspensel supported the efforts to plant sorghum in Tapobali Village. Andika was one of the young people trying to plant sorghum. “We share the profit with Yaspensel, who provides capital,” said Andika.

After a successful trial of sorghum planting, the project was further scaled up. Yaspensel also joined with Pangan Baik Coalition and became part of the Voices for Just Climate Action Alliance, an alliance of non-governmental organizations focusing on campaigning for fair climate change action.

Andika was then inspired to form Gebetan, an acronym for “Gerep Blamu Tapobali Wolewutun” meaning the young people of Tapobali throughout the village. The group consists of dozens of Tapobali's young people and is actively reintroducing sorghum to the locals. Around 80 percent of the farmers in Tapobali Village are now starting to look at sorghum to cultivate. Gebetan also manages collective land for shared profit. One of the main commodities from this land is sorghum coffee, a combination of coffee and sorghum. Gebetan gets coffee from farmers in Botu Village, Lembata Island, which is combined with sorghum, which acts as a sweetener. Research has shown that sorghum is much healthier than sugar.



Gebetan group also collaborates with mothers in Tapobali Village. They introduce sorghum as a food source to anticipate stunting in children and teach them how to process sorghum as food.

“Because sorghum once disappeared from our village, Gebetan explores models of sorghum processing and reintroduces them to the locals,” says Andika. “We also try other disappearing crops such as adlay (jali-jali),” he continued.

Profits from planting and selling sorghum are also used to finance the activities of Gebetan and the locals. One of them is the revitalization of spring water in Tapobali Village.

The decision to revitalize spring water was formed upon discussions with Tapobali people, encouraged through the Pangan Baik Coalition Program. In 2022, people were distressed about the decrease in volume of spring water in the village.

In discussions, they found that a healthy bamboo grove produces a potential 5,000 liter water. Therefore, Gebetan now leads bamboo planting in Tapobali Village. By the end of 2023, more than 1,000 bamboo saplings have been planted, funded from sorghum planting by Gebetan, and with money from locals.

According to Andika, the scarcity of water sources, unpredictable weather and shift in planting seasons are real. The impact of the climate crisis is being experienced by small communities such as in Tapobali.

“What we are doing is only a small part of mitigating climate change. But if we in this small place can move and act, this should be an encouragement to young people in other places,” says Andika.





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BUILDING A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM FROM THE GROUND UP

BY IMROATUL MUKHLISHOH

Koalisi Pangan BAIK/Yayasan KEHATI

Good Food Coalition/KEHATI Foundation

For more than three years, the Good Food Coalition or Pangan BAIK (the word BAIK in Indonesian language is the acronym for Diverse, Adaptive, Inclusive, Co-creation) has been implementing the Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) program along with local champions consisting of youth and women's groups representatives in Manggarai, East Flores, and Lembata Regencies.

The VCA program aims to strengthen and encourage young people, women, farmers and rural communities to voice the impacts of climate change and to promote local solutions especially in strengthening ecological food and farming systems.

It also encourages their involvement in voicing and implementing locally-based climate solutions, especially in promoting local food diversification as a strategy to adapt to climate change.

Most of the local communities consist of farmers, fisherfolks and food producers whose lives depend on natural resources. Therefore, they experience more profound impacts of climate change. At the same time, various activities and practices have been carried out by young people and women's groups since joining the Good Food Coalition of VCA.



THE COMMUNITY-BASED
CLIMATE ACTION IS A
SURVIVAL STRATEGY TO
CREATE A SUSTAINABLE
WAY OF LIVING, FOR
TODAY AND FOR THE
NEXT GENERATIONS.



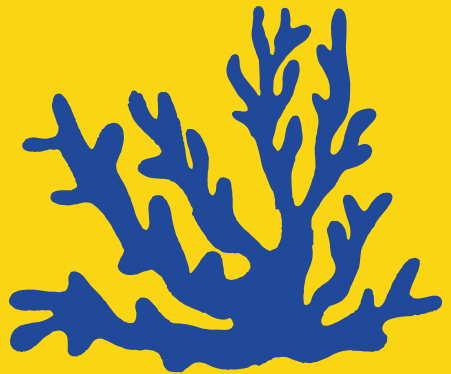
FROM UPSTREAM TO DOWNSTREAM,
GROWING HOPE IN A DRY LAND

Kawalelo Village of East Flores Regency has dry and barren land dominated by rocky topography. The local community has to buy clean water for their daily needs, especially during the dry season.

As a response the Bamboo Andaka Community took the initiative to conserve the Watonitung spring, the only water spring in Kawalelo Village that has dried up in the last years. The community has started planting bamboo around the Watonitung spring.

Since February 2022, Bamboo Andaka group, together with the community, has planted more than 2000 bamboo seedlings in the Watonitung water spring area and maintained the area regularly. The big dream behind this effort is making Kawalelo a self-sustaining village to meet the daily water needs of the local community.

Different initiatives have emerged in Tapobali Village and the Rumpu Rampe Community in Hoelea II Village. Young members of the GEBETAN Community and Rumpu Rampe Hoelea who live on rocky land have been striving to grow local food. Sorghum and adlay (Jali-Jali) are considered environmentally friendly plants since they don't need a lot of water and more resistant to drought.



GEBETAN and Rumpu Rampe Hoelea work in collaboration with local farmers to develop products from sorghum and adlay. Their initiatives have yielded positive outcomes as nowadays the community has alternative food sources to meet their daily needs. They believe food source diversity should be maintained to ensure the sustainability of lewotamah (hometown).

In the Tal and Rai Village of Manggarai Regency, rice fields are more susceptible to climate change.

This fact has urged a group of young people in the Momang Lino community to run organic farming. They applied knowledge gained from the training on organic farming provided by the Good Food Coalition under the VCA program. By turning agricultural and livestock waste into biochar and fertilizer, the local community can grow a wide variety of vegetables, fruits, and nuts, supporting local food security and promoting community nutrition and health. They also sell some crops for additional income.

THE TAL VILLAGE GOVERNMENT NOW ACKNOWLEDGES THEIR INITIATIVES AND ALLOCATES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMONSTRATION PLOTS FOR ORGANIC HORTICULTURE. THESE YOUNG FARMERS ARE BECOMING THE DRIVING FORCE OF THE GERAK TEDENG FARMERS GROUP, PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL METHODS WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY.



The Momang Lino community is also exploring traditional culinary recipes to foster local food-based entrepreneurship in collaboration with local women who take the lead as primary innovators. This initiative has led to the creation of a women's farming collective named Gejur Cama.

The climate actions conducted by Momang Lino were promoted by Yayasan AYO Indonesia under the VCA program in various festivals and forums attended by policy makers. After Yayasan AYO Indonesia held several hearings with the local government, the government of Manggarai Regency officially started the formation of the Joint Secretariat and Climate Resilient Development Working Group. This group is meant to serve as a coordination forum for civil society and the government to create a better climate policy

While in the Hewa Village of East Flores Regency, the Wetan Helero Community has documented and replanted native plants that have been forgotten because food policies tend to prioritize certain crops.

A total of 17 species of local rice, 6 types of local corn, sorghum, adlay, foxtail millet, and various nuts were successfully documented and replanted. In addition, they also initiated sustainable entrepreneurship bringing the economy and ecology together.

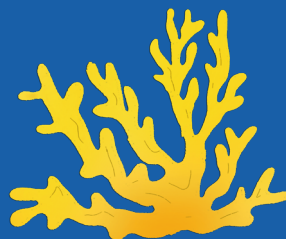
The Wetan Helero movement has now become a space for empowering youth and women groups in Hewa Village. Wetan Helero also serves as a knowledge sharing forum for those interested in local food, young to older generations, local, domestic and international communities. It encourages inter-generational dialogue and knowledge transfer.





Equipped with local knowledge and information, the local champions in Flores and Lembata regencies have initiated various efforts to combat climate crisis. In facing the challenges ahead, climate actions need to be done in collaboration with young people, women and other marginalized groups. The involvement of marginalized groups is important to strengthen food security amidst the threat of climate change. These groups are often not recognized. Their voices are rarely heard or even considered insignificant. Ensuring no one is left behind is fundamental in realizing a just food system.

The Good Food Coalition, comprises KEHATI Foundation (Indonesian Biodiversity), KRKP (People's Coalition for Food Sovereignty), Ayo Indonesia Foundation, Ayu Tani Mandiri Foundation and Yaspensel (Larantuka Socio-Economic Development Foundation), is working in the following four regencies in East Nusa Tenggara: East Flores, Lembata, Manggarai and East Manggarai.





Yasinta Adoe:

The Struggle of a Fisherwoman Facing the Climate Crisis

BY MUAMMAR FIKRIE

On the evening of April 21, 2021, most people in Kupang, the capital of East Nusa Tenggara, were all sound asleep. Kupang locals had just joyfully celebrated Easter and the Easter Eve or Holy Saturday the day before. It was evidently a happy moment until the midnight turned into torture by Seroja Cyclone hitting the province that consists of more than 500 islands.

It was a terrifying night with power outage, a pitch-black sky, a strong wind, heavy rain, flash floods and a raging sea.

The Seroja Cyclone took 181 lives, left 184 people injured and 26 people missing., 50.000 people lost their homes and in total 466.000 people were affected.

Kupang locals will never forget the third largest tropical cyclone in Eastern Indonesia and Australia. One of them is Yasinta Adoe, a 29-year-old fisherwoman.

“My boat and all the fishing gear were gone. As fisherfolk, we are victims and have to endure difficult situations such as losing our boats and equipment. We have to restart from zero,” said the woman who lives in the area of Pasir Panjang, a famous beach in the center of Kupang City.

THE MOTHER OF THREE IS CURRENTLY ACTIVE IN MAJELIS NELAYAN BERSATU (THE UNITED FISHERFOLK COUNCIL), AN ORGANIZATION THAT UNITES FISHERFOLKS IN SEVERAL COASTAL AREAS OF KUPANG CITY AND ACTIVELY ADVOCATES FOR THEIR RIGHTS. BUT, THEY ALSO SEE THAT THE PROBLEMS OF THE FISHERFOLK ARE TIGHTLY CONNECTED WITH THE CLIMATE CRISIS.





They see the Seroja Cyclone as a tangible impact of the climate crisis. This is in line with the statement of the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG), which declared the Seroja Cyclone a true example of the impact of climate change in Indonesia.

Seroja Cyclone is a hydrometeorological disaster, a type of disaster that dominates disasters in Indonesia by 90% in the last ten years. The term hydrometeorology refers to natural disasters that occur in the atmosphere (meteorology), water (hydrology) and ocean (oceanography). This hydrometeorological disaster is frequently triggered by extreme weather which, caused by the climate crisis.

“In the last few years, the weather here has been unpredictable. It becomes difficult to go fishing,” says Yasinta

FISHERWOMEN IN PASIR PANJANG RELY ON MARINE PRODUCTS FOR LIVING. IN THE PAST, THEY COULD FISH AT KEPA ISLAND AT ANY TIME. ON THE ISLAND, THE FISHERWOMEN USUALLY COLLECT ORGANIC SEAWEED AND LOOK FOR OTHER THINGS SUCH AS FISH AND OCTOPUS. THE PROBLEM IS, YASINTA AND HER FELLOW FISHERWOMEN NOW CAN ONLY GO TO KEPA ISLAND FOUR TIMES A MONTH OR LESS.





“The wind is unpredictable, the waves are huge and it's difficult to go fishing,” says Yasinta. The fisherwomen in Pasir Panjang can therefore only sell their catch four times a month.

Consequently, to make ends meet, these fisherwomen must look for alternative sources of income. Many of them choose to sell coffee and roasted corn to visitors at Pasir Panjang Beach, a renowned tourist spot in the middle of Kupang City.

Every time they go fishing, Yasinta and her fellow fisherwomen would rent a small motorboat. “My boat was damaged by Seroja, so I now have to rent one. If I want to build a boat, I need money in the form of a loan with low interest. If the boat is not protected with a wave breaker, it will be easily damaged by the waves. A breakwater can maintain the boat's parking area,” Yasinta explained the major demands of the united fisherfolk council.



The fisherfolk community also makes efforts to minimize the impact of the climate crisis on their livelihoods. For two decades, fisherfolk in Pasir Panjang has been planting trees such as sea hibiscus and mangroves around the shore. Yasinta clearly remembers how to grow these trees, because her father – who is also a fisherman – was one of the pioneers in tree planting.

“Those trees have been there since 2004. Sea hibiscus prevents the coastal area from looking dry as it gives shade on the beach, minimizes waves and can be used by fisherfolk as shelter or a place to wait for water to recede. Sea hibiscus area is also commonly used place to store or repair boats when broken,” she said.



For Yasinta, the struggle is not yet over. Until now, the united fisherfolk council in collaboration with local non-governmental organizations such as Pikul Foundation (part of the civil coalition with Koaksi Indonesia), continue to carry out campaign works and advocacies for fisherfolk rights in local governments.



The Power of Civil Society Responding to the Climate Crisis:

The United Fisherfolk Council of Kupang City

BY ETIES KURNIAWATI AND RIDWAN ARIF
KOALISI SIPIL/COACTION INDONESIA

Civil society is an important actor in the climate transition, acting as an agent of change and main supporter of inclusive solutions to the current climate crisis. Civil society can determine needs and rights-based climate priorities for the country.

Coaction Indonesia and the PIKUL Foundation are members of the Civil Coalition of Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) Indonesia, which support capacity development of civil society and public awareness raising in East Nusa Tenggara. The Civil Coalition works to raise community awareness of climate impacts and adaptation efforts to the climate crisis, especially among fisherfolks and coastal communities in Kupang, NTT. Their work is essential to put them in a strategic position in the decision-making process of climate-related policies to build climate resilience.

With this objective, the establishment of the United Fisherfolk's Council of Kupang City as an advocacy and capacity building forum was initiated.



“Empowering coastal communities and fisherfolks is essential for advocating for their rights so they can adjust to the challenges posed by climate change”

The fisherwoman used to have difficulties in accessing assistance, since their profession on their national identity card stated “housewife”, instead of fisherfolk. Meanwhile, assistance is only given to officially recognized fisherfolk—either based on their ID card or the Fisheries Business Actor Card (KUSUKA). This makes the Council an important forum for women to be officially recognized as fisherfolk.

The Kupang City Fisheries Service has a program for the Fisheries Business Actor Card (KUSUKA) holders to access fuel. This card also serves as proof of fisherfolks' membership that can be used to register their children to college.

Disaster Risk Management Forum

The United Fisherfolk Council of Kupang City also raised climate change adaptation issues in the Provincial Disaster Risk Management Forum (FPRB). These issues were rarely discussed in the FPRB's work program since their focus was mainly on disaster management, specifically on land disaster management, while disaster management, adaptation and mitigation in the marine sector received less attention.



The involvement of representatives from Civil Coalition within the FPRB NTT management team also ensures that climate change issues and maladaptation narratives can become a shared narrative. Furthermore, the agenda of the FPRB encompass coastal issues that now incorporate a wider range of components.



Protecting Mangroves through Village Regulations in Tanah Merah Village



At the village level, the Civil Coalition is also working on the management and protection of mangroves in Tanah Merah Village in Kupang Tengah District, Kupang Regency, East Nusa Tenggara. The average income of people in the village is IDR 1,500,922 per month, which is below the Kupang Regency Minimum Wage standard. Their income is uncertain as they rely heavily on the value of catch from the sea. Because the majority of source of income for the community is fishing and the damaged marine ecosystem has reduced their income due to local environmental impacts, such as the extraction of sand for construction materials and coral bleaching or climate change impacts.

In 2004, an initiative emerged from the Messakh family in Tanah Merah, who started planting mangroves to reduce the severity of coastal erosion. It started with planting mangrove seedlings in 5 hectares of land which now has grown to 107.5 hectares. Joni Messakh's persistence in caring for and maintaining the mangroves was key in the approach.

"Restoring the damaged ecosystem in Tanah Merah Village is not easy, it takes awareness to initiate this action. After 20 years, the increasing area of mangroves has faced new challenges," says Joni Messakh.

The lack of a sense of ownership among residents in the village requires Joni Messakh and his family to maintain the mangroves at their own expense. At the beginning of planting, many residents still cut down mangroves for personal needs, such as making fences and house beds. As a result, Joni had to patrol the mangrove area himself to see directly the condition of the mangroves.

By gradually approaching the local community accompanied by the PIKUL Foundation, the people of Tanah Merah Village agreed to form a mangrove monitoring group, namely the Dalek Esa Mangrove Lovers Group. This group aims to maintain and monitor the mangrove area in the village through mutual cooperation. This group is officially recognized through a Village Decree (SK) as a mangrove management group.





The Civil Coalition encourages the local community to be more aware of the importance of mangroves so that they can have a sense of shared ownership. Discussions on the sustainability of mangroves in the village were held to explore the great potential of mangroves forests.

One of the results of discussions with the community is to create village regulations for mangrove management. Since 2022, the village community assisted by the PIKUL Foundation, has drafted village regulations and is just waiting for ratification.

The process of drafting this village regulation involved various parties ranging from the community, the Tanah Merah Village Government, the Village Consultative Body (BPD), the Dalek Esa Mangrove Lovers Group, the NTT Provincial Environment and Forestry Service (DLHK), and the Natural Resources Conservation Center (BKSDA).

Through various initiatives such as the Kupang City United Fishermen's Council, the involvement in the Disaster Risk Management Forum, and mangrove management in Tanah Merah Village, the Civil Coalition - VCA Indonesia has shown that the strength and collaboration of civil society is a key in responding to the climate crisis.

These efforts are not only strengthening the capacity and participation of coastal and fishing communities, but also encourage the recognition of their rights in the policy-making process. With multi-stakeholder collaboration and a community-based approach, these real works have paved the way to increase climate resilience, ecosystem protection, and community welfare in Kupang of East Nusa Tenggara. This achievement has proven that solutions to the climate crisis can be achieved through active participation and sustainable local initiatives.

PESTA RAYA
FLOBAMORATAS
SOUND OF EARTH

2022

KUPANG
18-19
NOVEMBER



Events:

- Film Screening
- Dance and Theatre Performances
- Photo Exhibition
- Local Food Exhibition
- Weaving and Handicraft Exhibition
- Community Booths
- Music Concert

1.100 Visitors
77 Collaborators
42 Media

2023

Events:

- Film Screening
- Dance Performance
- Photo Exhibition
- Local Food Exhibition
- Coloring Competitor
- Mangrove Planting
- Expression Corner
- Stand Up Comedy
- Music Concert

3.423 Visitors
27 Collaborators
135 Media



KUPANG,
3-4
NOVEMBER

PESTA RAYA
FLOBA MORATAS
Semangat Tanpa Batas

MAUMERE,
24-28
SEPTEMBER

Events:

- Film Screening
- Theater Performance
- Photo Exhibition
- Local Food and Culinary Festival
- Coloring Competition
- Writing and Photo Story Workshop
- Live Mural
- Community Booth
- Music Concert

PESTA RAYA

FLOBAMORATAS

Suara Bae dari Timur

2024

2.310 Visitors
25 Collaborators
27 Media



VOICES OF THE YOUTH AND FLOBAMORATAS COMMUNITY

Injustice in Development & Economy in East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) Intensifies the Double Burden of Communities Facing the Climate Crisis

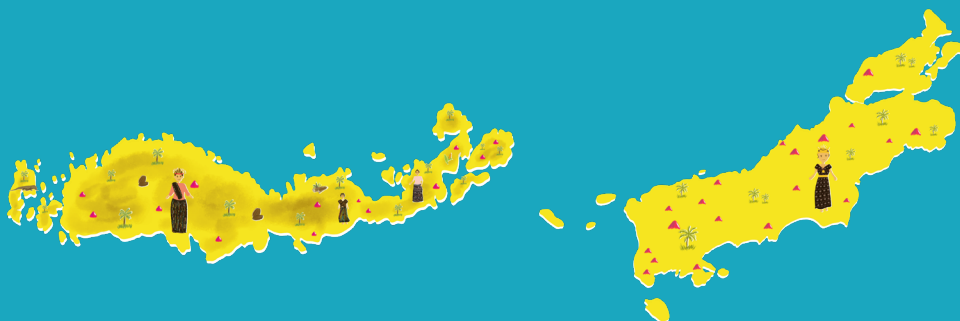


East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) is an archipelago highly vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis. This crisis leads to an increase in the intensity and frequency of natural disasters such as floods, droughts, and coastal erosion, significantly affecting the lives of the community, especially the farmers, fishermen, urban communities, and Indigenous communities that depend on natural resources.

The youths, farmers, fisherfolks, and the Flobamoratas Indigenous community came together to voice and formulate 15 recommendations as follows:

1. Promote sustainable and adaptive natural resource management in coastal areas, customary forests, and agricultural lands. The policy formulation process should involve farmers, fisherfolks, indigenous communities, the urban poor, and vulnerable groups affected by the climate crisis.

2. Demand regulations to recognize and protect Indigenous communities and their traditional rights, including their rights to manage land, sea, and forests, cultural/customary sites. Ensure the consentFree Prior Informed Consent of Indigenous communities before development in customary areas and ratify the Indigenous Peoples Bill.
3. Demand the government to accelerate infrastructure development that is inclusive and equitable. Clean water, electricity, education, and health are properly distributed in coastal, rural, and urban areas. The welfare of farmers, fisherfolks, Indigenous communities, the urban poor, and vulnerable groups affected by the climate crisis must be a top priority.
4. Encourage policies that increase access to energy with equitable, decentralized (not large-scale) renewable energy sources. Involve communities and prioritize respect for human rights, not marginalize the living space of Indigenous and local communities, and increased welfare and gender justice.
5. Demand equality for women in access, participation, control, and benefits in every planning and implementation of policies at the regional and national level related to the environment, energy, and natural resources.
6. Encourage the government to implement a waste management system that involves local communities in coastal, urban, and rural areas to create a clean and healthy environment. Ask for extended producer responsibility (EPR) in waste management and to create environmentally friendly products.
7. Transparency is the foundation of trust. We demand that local government budgets to be open and accessible to the public. Farmers, fisherfolks, and Indigenous Peoples must be actively involved in the regional development planning process so that the policies taken will reflect the needs and aspirations of citizens, not just numbers on paper.



8. Stop unsustainable large-scale monoculture farming programs, such as TJPS (Tanam Jagung Panen Sapi/plant corn harvest cows) and Food Estate, and switch to supporting the development of community-based local food systems and consider the local wisdom.
9. Enforce the Basic Agrarian Law that provides certainty and protection for farmers from land conversion, so that farmers can be sovereign over their food.
10. Protect small fisherfolks by ensuring the managed area is based on local wisdom, preventing coastal privatization, and simplifying bureaucracy for fisherfolks to apply some permits and administration at the nearest agency without burdening them with long bureaucratic paths.
11. Provide insurance and compensation for loss and damage to fishing gear for fisherfolks and coastal communities affected by climate change.
12. Reject future development projects such as mining, geothermal, and large-scale solar energy that are unjust, environmentally damaging, and marginalized vulnerable groups.
13. Restore ecosystems and the rights to living space for local communities and provide funds to restore the impacts of health, environmental degradation, and loss of livelihoods due to development projects that are unjust and marginalize the rights of vulnerable groups such as mining, geothermal, large-scale solar energy, etc. Encourage a just energy transition.
14. Improve trade and food price stability as a protection mechanism for farmers, fisherfolks, and consumers. Ensure data transparency and accountability for food policies managed in an inclusive, transparent, and accountable manner.
15. Encourage the formation of regulations at the level of laws that can address the climate crisis holistically by prioritizing the substance and dimensions of climate justice, including recognition justice, distributive justice, procedural justice, and restorative justice, as well as gender justice.

Maumere, 26 September 2024



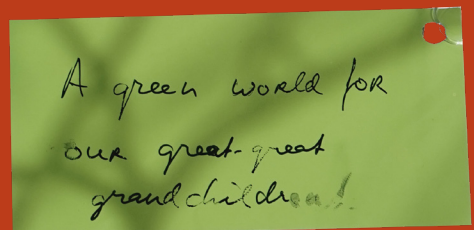
Indonesia Climate Week 2024: “Meaningful Community Engagement is Key in Responding to the Climate Crisis”

The Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) alliance in Indonesia organized the Indonesia Climate Week event between December 10 and 14 2024. The event voiced various climate actions and solutions that have been implemented by VCA Indonesia and communities at the grassroots level in adapting to the climate crisis and looked how these local actions could be useful globally.

During the Climate Summit, COP29, in Baku, Azerbaijan, the United Nations (UN) noted that 2024 would be the year with the highest global temperature, exceeding the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit. Febrilia Ekawati, chair of the Indonesian Climate Week committee, said that the impact of the climate crisis directly affects the people in Indonesia, especially the vulnerable groups who suffer disproportionate impact despite negligible emissions. Various affected community groups within the VCA Indonesia network carried out diverse locally led actions and solutions based on local wisdom as a climate crisis response.



“Community groups within the VCA Indonesia network, especially those located in Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Bandung, East Nusa Tenggara, and Papua, are developing various solutions to be able to adapt to the impacts of climate crisis.”



INDONESIA CLIMATE WEEK

BY VCA INDONESIA

During the Indonesia Climate Week, VCA showcased a range of climate actions through photo exhibitions, murals and installations, thematic discussions, workshops, talk shows, film screenings, and public dialogues with policy makers, communities, and other stakeholders. Indonesia Climate Week focusses on bringing together different parties, especially government and climate change affected communities for community support.

At the opening of the 'Empathy and Co-Creation Room' session, the representatives of the VCA alliance and CSOs and representatives of several ministries appreciated the various climate action initiatives that have been carried out by the community. This session was also attended by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Indonesia, Timor Leste and ASEAN Ambassador Marc Gerritsen.



"Community-based climate action and community participation are very important to overcome the climate crisis. We need to appreciate and support this together," he says.

Aditya Bayunanda, CEO of WWF Indonesia, mentioned that attention and support for a just climate is a shared responsibility of all parties, government and non-government. Parties need to provide support and protection to diverse climate action initiatives led by local communities that are in accordance with local problems and contexts.

"We are confident that through close collaboration and constant support, this program will provide significant benefits to the community, as well as make a real contribution to achieving sustainable development goals and fair climate action in Indonesia," he says.



Positive Impact of Climate Action

VCA Indonesia not only carried out various initiatives in responding to the climate crisis since 2021, it has also been able to support resilience and involvement of vulnerable communities in the decision-making process related to climate action in Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Bandung, NTT, and Tanah Papua.

The impact of VCA Indonesia program is supporting the establishment of 14 multi-stakeholder forums, influencing 11 policies at the village to provincial levels, and mobilizing funds from government and philanthropy to carry out climate action of approximately 6 billion rupiah.



Arti Indallah Tjakranegara from VCA Indonesia - Yayasan Humanis, mentions numerous local climate actions which may seem simple, but give a large and positive impact on the community, such as planting mangroves, conserving water springs, cleaning up trash on the beach, and planting local food. These actions can support local community resilience in responding to the impacts of the climate crisis. VCA Indonesia helps facilitate the community to explore ways of adaptation and to amplify the voices of marginalized groups that are rarely heard in climate crisis narratives.

"We believe that in the long term, these climate actions will also indirectly benefit the wider community, both in urban and rural areas," says Arti.



However, she also realized that this is certainly not enough concerning the major impact of the climate crisis. "There needs to be a systemic change, because all of our efforts are limited by time. Hence during the Indonesia Climate Week, VCA Indonesia called on policy makers to act immediately and to create sustainable and adaptive policy," says Arti.

She also reiterated that the development and formulation of policies requires full and meaningful involvement of the local community, especially vulnerable groups, and to keep respecting and honoring the rights of indigenous and local communities.

"We need a just climate policy. This can be realized by involving the community fully and meaningfully. Don't let the community become spectators and then victims of policy again," she concluded.



Compilation of Documentary Films on Climate Action in East Nusa Tenggara (NTT)

The Climate Witness film wants to invite the audience to get to know practices of local wisdom-based climate crisis solutions in NTT. The various climate solutions presented in this film aim to gain recognition and support from the government and are expected to inspire many people to duplicate and carry out similar practices. Because local wisdom-based climate solutions can increase resilience and create just conditions considering the needs of the most affected communities

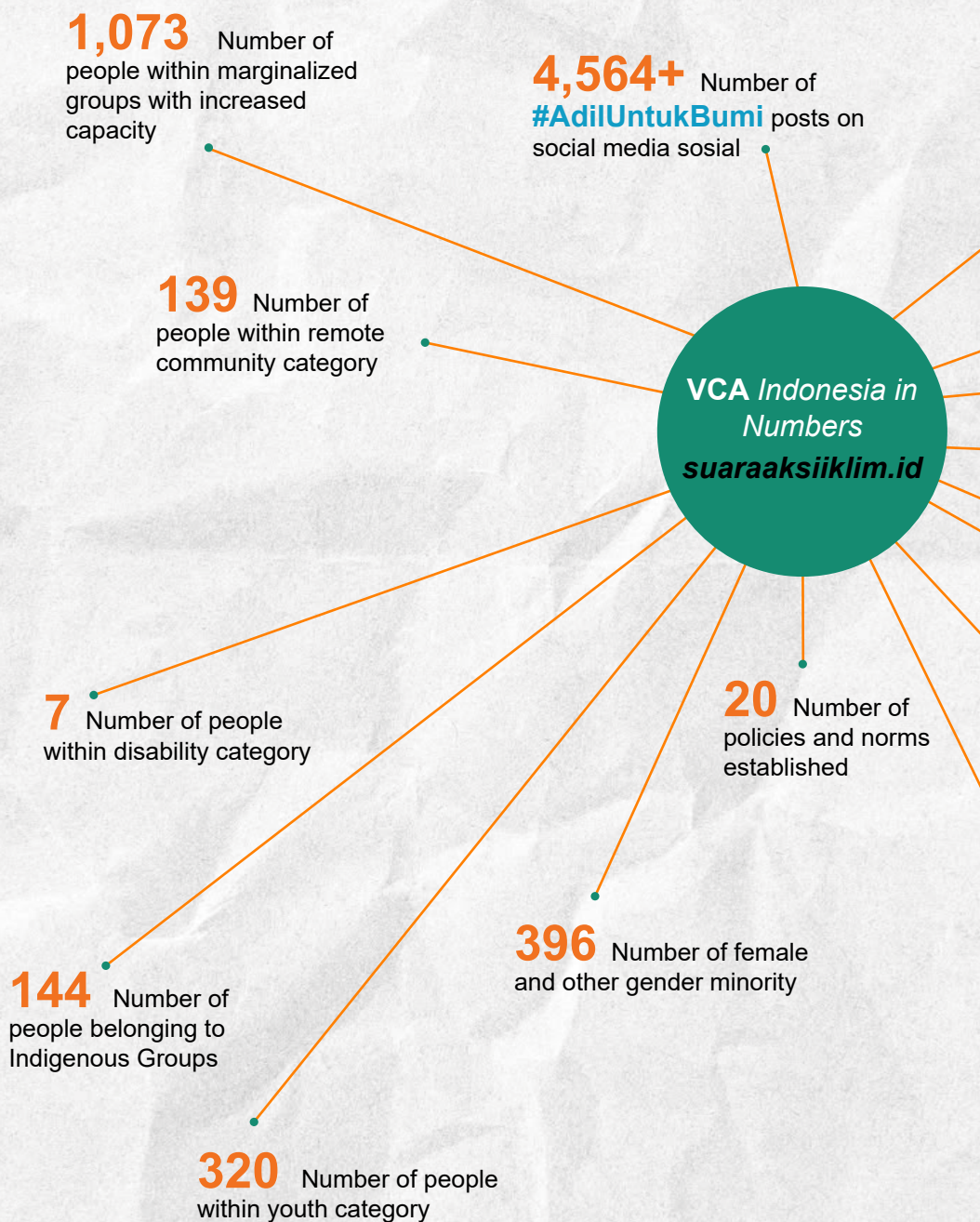


Watch the Climate Witness Documentary Film by Scanning the Barcode





Watch the Climate
Witness Document-
ary Film by Scan-
ning the Barcode



2,928,000+ Number of accounts reached
through the **#AdilUntukBumi**

53 Number of thematic discussions

83 Number of
issues/themes/topics

36 Number of parties using VCA
knowledge products as reference for
policy making

67 Number of CSOs whose
capacity has been strengthened

Rp6,608,034,800
Amount of funds for local climate action

44 Number of knowledge products
related to climate solutions

19 Number of multi-stake-
holder forums with enhanced
effectiveness

VCA Indonesia's Journey Around the Globe

Climate Justice and Decision-Making at Regional and Global Levels



Climate justice requires meaningful participation of marginalized and underrepresented groups in decision-making processes at all levels, regional or global.

The climate crisis has a disproportionate impact on people living in developing countries. However climate change discourses in various conferences and meetings including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Conference of Parties (COP) have long been dominated by actors from developed countries.

Referring to UNFCCC 2023 data, 73% of all observer organizations accepted to the UNFCCC come from developed countries

VCA aims to amplify the voices of marginalized groups by seeking a space to speak and facilitate the representation of various community groups to be able to participate and be involved in various conferences and activities at the regional and global levels.

This is not only about amplifying voices of various groups but also a form of capacity building and expanding networks to increase representation and to build a network with larger movements.

For example, youth representatives from VCA coalitions attended a climate justice camp in Lebanon. They joined 400 participants from other countries and attended more than 100 interactive workshops, shared experiences, and built joint strategies



Bringing the narratives on local-based adaptation, led by communities, women, youth, and indigenous peoples. Echoing the messages in other forums such as the Asia Pacific Climate Week in Malaysia, the World Water Forum in Bali, COP28 in Dubai, and other international forums.

“Listening alone is not enough,” said Eulis Utami from the KOPI Coalition while speaking at COP 28. There needs to be greater deliberation between state and non-state actors.



When young people are included in the conversation, it is often assumed that they only need a speaking slot, providing brilliant ideas on request. This does certainly not reflect the capacity and engagement needed to support meaningful youth participation.





Asia Pacific Climate Week
2021 (Online)

Asia Pacific Climate Week
2023 (Johor Bahru, Malaysia)

Climate Justice Camp
2023 (Lebanon)

COP 28
2023 (Dubai, UAE)

World Water Forum
2024 (Bali, Indonesia)

Community-based Adaptation (CBA) Conference
2023 (Bangkok, Thailand)

Global Landscape Forum and Landscape Leadership Workshop
2023 (Nairobi, Kenya)

VCA Indonesia Pictures



ASIA-PACIFIC CLIMATE WEEK
JOHOR BAHRU 2023



Map of East Nusa Tenggara Province

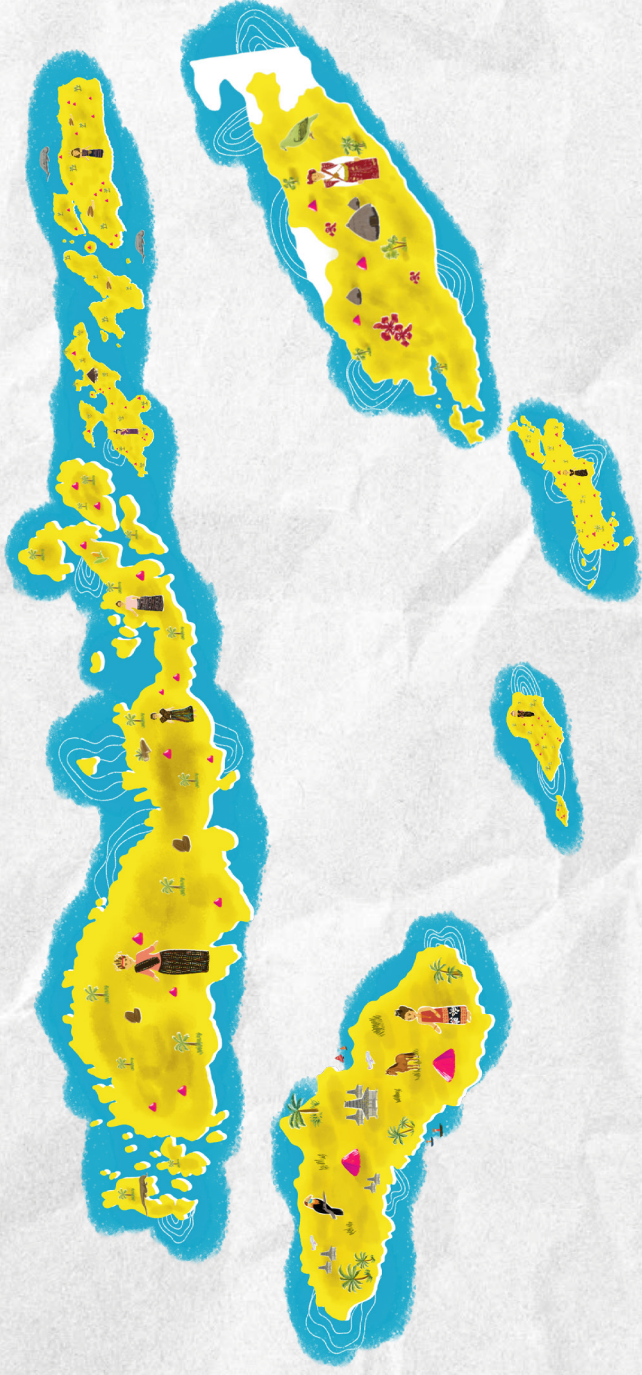


illustration by **Meilany Wungubelen**

We work on the ground and share stories of impact

VCA

VOICES FOR JUST CLIMATE ACTION

INDONESIA



Collaborate
Advocate
Breaking Barriers



