

## **The Greenpeace's Efforts for Forest Destruction Management in Riau Province to Achieve National Security**

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### **Abstract**

Forests in Indonesia have an essential role in the life of living things for humans, animals and plants. However, deforestation in the context of clearing land for oil palm plantations has threatened the existence of living things that depend on the forest for their lives. Luckily, some people are aware of the destructive impacts caused by deforestation. Some of these people joined non-governmental organizations affiliated with Greenpeace Indonesia. Therefore, the researchers made this study to find out how efforts have been made by Greenpeace, especially in dealing with forest destruction. This study uses qualitative research with data collection methods through interviews and literature studies. Meanwhile, in analyzing the case, they use theories and concepts: The theory of non-governmental organizations, the concept of non-violence, and the concept of national security researchers. The results of this research are the various efforts made by Greenpeace, Greenpeace's efforts in direct action without violence, and Greenpeace's efforts that have been carried out as a manifestation of national security.

**Keywords:** *Greenpeace Indonesia, Forest Management, National Security.*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Indonesia has a diverse forest and a wealth of biological diversity. For some living things, forests, particularly in Indonesia, are a place to live and work, providing for the daily needs of over 2,000 indigenous communities. The forest is a cultural identity that indigenous peoples have inherited. Unsurprisingly, indigenous communities play an essential role in natural resource management. However, only a few of them have their customary forest ownership recognized. Instead, deforestation into plantations threatens Indonesia's forests, causing environmental damage, threatening biodiversity heritage, and jeopardizing the survival of forest-dependent communities. (2019, Greenpeace Indonesia)

Environmental changes that have made it more complex have resulted in various threats, particularly environmental security. According to a 1994 UNDP report, environmental threats are one of the Dimensions of Human Security, regarded as the most critical to sustaining human life (UNDP, 1994). Threats to environmental security are critical to overcome because the impacts are caused by rising levels of carbon dioxide gas and other gases in the atmosphere, which cause the greenhouse gas effect. The most significant impact of climate change is the vulnerability of human activities to disruption due to limited natural resources. Because of the impact of human activities in exploiting natural resources, environmental conditions have deteriorated over time. Stakeholder mitigation is regarded as ineffective in dealing with environmental issues.

According to the Directorate of Higher Education (2017), deforestation in Indonesia has a significant impact, both at the national and international levels, with uncontrolled forest fires caused by destructive logging, clearing land for plantations, dredging fuel, and developing transmigration areas, affecting the socio-economic lives of people who rely heavily on nature or forest products and resulting in enormous losses for the entire community.

In Indonesia, deforestation data from forest areas totalled 66,955.7 ha in 2019-2022, while areas for other uses or not forest areas totalled 48,464.1 ha. As a result, Indonesia's total deforestation in that year was 115,459.8 ha spread across each region. Riau Province contributed 6,566.2 ha of deforestation to this prominent figure (KLHK, 2021).

Fortunately, some people are beginning to recognize the enormous impact of environmental threats on the future survival of living things. The community's environmental care movement is based on the hope that the planet inhabited by humans can provide a comfortable life while avoiding permanent damage to nature. Greenpeace is one of them, as a stakeholder in the form of a non-governmental organization that works to protect the environment.

According to the official website, Greenpeace is an international organization whose mission is to campaign for global environmental protection without using violence. Greenpeace has been reported to have branch offices in over 40 countries, with its headquarters in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Greenpeace had legal status as an association in Indonesia in 2005. Following up on the Greenpeace Center's mission, the Greenpeace Indonesia organization conducted activities centred on campaigning issues such as forestry, energy, water, and marine affairs. Based on this, this research aims to discover how Greenpeace Indonesia contributes to resolving environmental issues to achieve national security.

## RESEARCH METHODS

The research employed a qualitative descriptive method with data collection techniques conducted through library research. The data collection technique involved gathering various data sources from books, journal articles, and other relevant materials related to the topic under investigation. The researcher conducted an in-depth analysis of these sources to conclude.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Indonesia's geographical location is in the tropics and has various forest types. One of them is the Tropical Rain Forest, which is distinguished by the presence of tall trees that are always green and capable of absorbing water and becoming wet. Tropical Rain Forests are forests that grow in areas with high rainfall, specifically in the tropics (Mongabay: Situs Berita Lingkungan, 2014). As a result, the forest areas of Indonesia play an essential role for humans and other living things. In addition to being the world's lungs, forests help maintain biodiversity, support water needs, and prevent natural disasters such as landslides and floods. However, many companies have unfortunately converted forests into plantations for commodities such as palm oil and paper (Koalisi Anti Mafia Hutan, 2020).



Figure 1. Peta Hutan Provinsi Riau 1990, 2009, 2020 (KLHK, 2022)

Based on the differences in the three images above, the maps of forest distribution in 1990, 2009, and 2020 all have a loose bias. Land clearing for plantations is ongoing, and forest burning is becoming more common. The plantation sector is vital to Indonesia's economic

activities (BPS Riau, 2020). However, land clearing for plantations is the primary cause of deforestation in Indonesia (Kemen G. Austin, 2019). According to the Greenpeace report, the clearing of plantation land affects five major Indonesian islands, one of which is Sumatra. The province of Riau on the island of Sumatra has plantations, particularly oil palm commodities, located in forest areas totalling 817,693 ha. Oil palm plantations are gradually encroaching on the remaining habitat for forest-dwelling species. If this is not stopped, valuable forests and biodiversity will likely vanish (Greenpeace Indonesia, 2019), potentially causing permanent environmental damage.

In response to the threat of environmental damage, the Indonesian government stated that it would do real work to combat climate change. President Joko Widodo stated this directly at the COP26 meeting in Glasgow. Reduced deforestation, Social Forestry, TORA, rehabilitation of peat and mangrove forests, control of forest and land fires, and other efforts have been undertaken by the government to mitigate the effects of environmental change. President Joko Widodo emphasized this achievement at the World Leaders Summit. (2021, Anugerah)

As a social actor in environmental issues, Greenpeace condemns President Joko Widodo's speech on climate change in Glasgow. The speech's content, according to Greenpeace, was a figment of their imagination. The speech should have revealed a serious and ambitious commitment to address the climate crisis, the government's initiative (Greenpeace Indonesia, 2021). As a G20 member holding the G20 presidency in 2022, Indonesia should set a good example for many other countries by achieving zero deforestation, using clean energy, and not relying on international assistance. In this case, Greenpeace, as a non-governmental organization, recognizes environmental damage as a threat that must be addressed. As a result, one of the social actors, Greenpeace, will continue to make various efforts to create a green and peaceful future for all living things.

### **1. Monitoring the performance of the government**

Globally, the primary goal of Greenpeace was to ensure that this already fragile planet could continue to support the lives of all living things. Greenpeace is making various efforts to stop and oppose ongoing environmental destruction and offer solutions to the practice of environmental destruction. Greenpeace's efforts include monitoring and patrolling forest areas. Furthermore, Greenpeace monitors government policies, particularly those concerning the environment, as well as the activities of operating companies to ensure that they are by the goals, objectives, and frequency of protecting biodiversity and maintaining the earth's temperature to mitigate the impact of the climate crisis. (Beda, Peran Greenpeace Dalam Pelestarian Hutan Raya Gambut Di Semenanjung Kampar, Riau, 2016)

### **2. Campaign for Environmentally Friendly Renewable Energy Use**

The ban on coal imports stunned Indonesia. This is due to the depletion of coal supplies in Indonesia, which has compelled the government to impose an import ban. Greenpeace, an NGO dedicated to environmental peace, has repeatedly advocated using environmentally friendly renewable energy.

Greenpeace conducted a renewable energy campaign in Riau, which is unusual for a movement. The community was taken aback by this action, which took place in the middle of society, as is customary for Greenpeace activists. Then, in the middle of the community, Greenpeace performed a flash mob show with a banner that read "Jokowi, Listen to People, Stop Dirty Energy!" and "Japan, Stop Your Dirty Investment, Go Renewable!" The peaceful action aims to encourage the government to rise to the occasion and take action to address the global disaster by shifting focus to renewable energy development and strengthening the forest moratorium policy (Anggoro, 2015).

Greenpeace emphasizes the #CleanIndonesia hashtag in this campaign for environmentally friendly renewable energy. A non-partisan civil society movement supported by 35 organizations across Indonesia has joined this campaign. The movement, which began in September 2018, aims to channel the aspirations of Indonesia's young and millennial voters toward a clean and sustainable energy future in which renewable energy is the primary source of energy, replacing energy systems that are not environmentally friendly, particularly coal, which harms society and the environment and is riddled with corruption. 2018 (Greenpeace Indonesia).

### **3. Reports on environmental damage should be made public.**

Greenpeace also contributes to publishing research reports on environmental damage as part of its mission. One is a 2019 report titled "Illegal Palm Oil in Forest Areas: The Oligarchy Red Carpet" (Greenpeace Indonesia, 2019). The study discusses illegal plantations in conservation forest areas. The underlying issue is that converting forest functions to oil palm plantations is at least the second largest contributor to the threat of human-caused environmental damage. This research was conducted as part of Greenpeace's many efforts to encourage government stakeholders to uphold transparency and justice to protect the environment (Greenpeace Indonesia, 2021).

### **4. Forest Rehabilitation and Protection Advocacy**

As an environmental NGO, Greenpeace advocates for the rehabilitation and protection of Riau's swamp forests. Greenpeace continues to protect, improve, create, and change the Kamar Peninsula peat swamp forest at the local, regional, and national levels and in international forums. Greenpeace continues to engage in environmental advocacy to increase funding for the peat swamp forest conservation program.

Greenpeace's advocacy efforts include identifying local community problems, disseminating knowledge to local communities about peat swamp forest conservation education, and conducting advocacy at the regional and international levels (Beda, Peranan Greenpeace Dalam Pelestarian Hutan Rawa Gambut di Semenanjung Kampar - Riau, 2016).

### **5. Greenpeace Collaboration with Social Actors**

Greenpeace has no permanent enemies or friends. The point is that anyone willing to make positive changes can do so by forming a cooperative relationship. Unsurprisingly, Greenpeace is forming alliances with social actors in Riau Province to prevent individuals from harming the environment. Greenpeace's initial strategy involves forming alliances with stakeholders such as the government, local NGOs in Riau, and national media (Beda, Peran Greenpeace Dalam Pelestarian Hutan Raya Gambut Di Semenanjung Kampar, Riau, 2016). Greenpeace's collaborative relationship with these social actors aims to build momentum for Greenpeace to press the government to take decisive action against violations committed by individuals who deliberately destroy forests.

These collaborative activities are carried out with various activities. As Greenpeace has, in collaboration with FWI (Forest Watch Indonesia), HAKA (Aceh Forest, Nature and Environment Foundation), and ICCEL (Indonesian Center for Environmental Law), urged the government to open map data in shapefile format immediately and improve information systems and public information services in the field of natural resources (Greenpeace Indonesia, 2016).

Greenpeace has also worked with YLBHI, Eknas WALHI, FWI, KPA, Sawit Watch, HuMA, TuK Indonesia, Auriga, AMAN, ELSAM, JATAM, Victims' Representatives from Aceh, LBH Papua, and LBH Banda Aceh. The Civil Society Coalition has formed to petition the ATR/BPN Ministry for the release of data on Cultivation Rights (HGU) granted by the state to corporations that are the source of agrarian conflicts (Siringoringo, 2019).

Greenpeace is also involved in providing solutions to members of the DPR in cases of land and forest fires. Greenpeace and activists and representatives from other non-governmental

organizations recommended dealing with forest and land fires in front of members of the Indonesian Parliament's Commission IV. Increasing programs and budgets for prevention activities such as drilling wells, providing equipment, wetting peatlands, strengthening patrols and early detection systems, and other prevention programs at the site level are among them. (2021, Kemitraan)

#### **6. Produce environmental content.**

Greenpeace produces informative articles that educate people about the importance of protecting forests from all forms of violence, in addition to carrying out movements such as advocacy and monitoring government performance related to the environment. Article writing is one of Greenpeace's campaigns that significantly impacts society. Greenpeace's nonviolent resistance, popularized by Mahatma Gandhi, can also take the form of article-writing campaigns. One of Greenpeace's Riau-related articles is titled "Failure to Establish Palm Oil Settlement in Forest Areas Endangers Human and Planetary Safety." This article contains images of the facilities on PT's oil palm plantation concession. Greenpeace Indonesia 2021). Tunggal Perkasa Plantations (Astro Agro) in Indragiri Hulu, Riau.

#### **7. Campaign 'Forest Without Fire'**

Greenpeace is a well-known environmental organization. The Forest Without Fire Campaign is one of Greenpeace's campaigns. This action began in 2015 when Greenpeace attempted to act directly in response to the annual crisis of forest and land fires. A fire prevention team was formed a year later, with 25 volunteers from Kalimantan, Jakarta, and Riau (Greenpeace Indonesia, 2015).

This team was formed to maintain national security in mind. The strategy kicks off with fire prevention team training in West Kalimantan. The government then acted to regulate fire prevention teams' activities in six provinces, one of which is Riau Province, which has suffered the most environmental damage in Indonesia.

#### **8. The campaign 'Restore Forests: Restore Hope.'**

As one of the INGOs with partners in Indonesia, Greenpeace takes nonviolent approaches to deal with environmental conflicts in Riau Province. Greenpeace Forest Team member Rusmadya Maharuddin stated that this NGO is a campaign organization that policymakers, such as the government, can look up to (Maharuddin, 2022).

Hundreds of the world's largest consumer brands, including Nestle, Mondelez, and Unilever, pledged to end deforestation by 2020 ten years ago. However, these companies must still meet that target as of 2022. According to scientists, we only have ten years to avoid the worst effects of climate change. Protecting and restoring forests is one of our best defences against climate change. Greenpeace is determined to set boundaries with this campaign. Many companies claim to care about the environment while profiting from forest destruction. They must now protect the remaining forest (Greenpeace Indonesia, 2019). This is the motivation behind Greenpeace's Restore Forests: Restore Hope campaign.

Greenpeace is one of the crucial aspects of Indonesia's national stability framework, notably in terms of environmental protection. These groups actively seek to address environmental challenges and advocate for sustainable practices, which contribute to the country's overall stability.

Monitoring and raising awareness about environmental harm is essential to their effort. Greenpeace closely monitors deforestation, land removal, and other unsustainable actions. They pressure the government and businesses to act and adopt more sustainable practices by publicizing these issues and their environmental implications. This proactive strategy protects natural resources and biodiversity, critical for the nation's long-term stability and well-being.

Greenpeace also plays a vital role in monitoring government environmental policies and advocating for improvement. They monitor policy implementation and effectiveness, recommending improved regulations, transparency, and accountability in environmental governance. NGOs help shape policies that address environmental concerns and encourage sustainable behaviours through monitoring and advocacy efforts. This involvement promotes stability by ensuring policies are consistent with environmental objectives and contributes to long-term sustainability.

Collaboration is another crucial aspect of non-governmental organizations' contribution to national stability. They actively engage with various social actors, including the government, local communities, and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These collaborations boost collaborative efforts to address environmental concerns and promote environmentally sustainable activities. NGOs and other stakeholders form a single front to address environmental concerns, strengthening social cohesion and stability in the country.

Greenpeace is also important in creating public awareness and educating people about environmental issues. They help improve public understanding of the need for sustainable practices and environmental conservation through campaigns, educational articles, and community engagement. NGOs encourage citizens to make educated decisions and act by raising environmental awareness. This increased awareness leads to a more responsible and involved society, which improves national stability.

Finally, Greenpeace's commitment to peaceful advocacy and nonviolent resistance contributes significantly to the national stability framework. Greenpeace and other environmental organizations prioritize peaceful approaches to resolving environmental problems and advocating for change. They foster social harmony and contribute to peaceful resolutions of environmental problems by offering platforms for dialogue and constructive interaction among various parties. This method promotes stability by fostering an atmosphere of mutual understanding and cooperation.

## CONCLUSION

Monitoring government performance, advocating for the use of environmentally friendly renewable energy, publishing reports on deforestation, promoting forest rehabilitation and protection, Greenpeace's collaboration with social actors, writing environmental articles, the "forest without fire" campaign, and the "restore forests: restore hope" campaign are all examples of Greenpeace's efforts to combat deforestation in Riau Province.

Greenpeace is disappointed that President Joko Widodo's address on deforestation in Glasgow did not reflect an honest and ambitious commitment to overcoming the climate catastrophe. This commitment would have been the initiative of the government itself. Greenpeace laments this situation.

Direct action that does not include violence is the method that Greenpeace always uses when trying to bring attention to environmental issues. In addition, Greenpeace provides stakeholders with potential solutions for a sustainable and peaceful future. The actions taken by Greenpeace are not dissimilar to those taken by the government in its pursuit of national security. In this context, Greenpeace's numerous actions and programs aim to care for and repair the environment to be green and peaceful.

Greenpeace is crucial in Indonesia's national stability framework through its environmental preservation initiatives. They monitor environmental degradation, advocate for sustainable

practices, work with stakeholders, create public awareness, and encourage nonviolent advocacy. These groups contribute to preserving natural resources, social cohesion, and long-term stability in the country by tackling environmental concerns, formulating policies, fostering collaboration, increasing awareness, and supporting peaceful remedies. Their efforts are critical to ensuring Indonesia and its people's successful and sustainable future.

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