

## THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN EFFORTS TO PRESERVE NATURAL RESOURCES IN INDONESIA

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### ABSTRACT

Indonesia has many natural resources, including forests, marine biodiversity, and minerals. However, these resources face increasing pressures from economic development, population growth, and climate change. Effective implementation of environmental law is crucial to promote sustainable development, protecting the environment, and preserving natural resources in Indonesia. This study explored the Awareness, enforcement, and community participation related to environmental law, the role of Government, NGOs, and the importance of sustainable development. Data was collected through a review of existing literature and interviews with 45 participants from various sectors. The study's findings suggested that while most participants were aware of environmental laws and regulations, enforcement needed to be stronger and faced obstacles such as corruption and lack of political will. Community participation was seen as essential for effective environmental management, and there was a need for stronger partnerships between the Government and NGOs. The study highlights the need for a robust legal framework to support environmental protection and sustainable development in Indonesia.

**Keywords:** *Environmental law, Natural resources, Sustainable development, Awareness. Enforcement, Community participation, Government.*

### INTRODUCTION

The rapid industrialization and urbanization in Indonesia have resulted in significant environmental degradation, which severely threatens the country's natural resources (Supriyanto & Asfani, 2021). As a country with rich biodiversity and natural resources, Indonesia has faced numerous ecological problems due to the need for proper environmental management policies and law enforcement. The depletion of natural resources and ecological degradation are significant challenges threatening the country's sustainable development. Implementing environmental law is crucial to address these challenges and ensure the conservation of natural resources in Indonesia. Ecological law refers to legal regulations and policies governing protecting and managing the environment, natural resources, and biodiversity. Environmental law is essential to ensure the preservation of natural resources, prevent environmental degradation, and promote sustainable development (Kumalasari, 2018).

Despite a legal framework for environmental protection, implementing environmental law in Indonesia still needs to be stronger, and many environmental regulations must be enforced effectively (Mulyani, 2019). The lack of enforcement of environmental law has led to rampant pollution, deforestation, and illegal mining,

which have resulted in severe environmental and social problems. Therefore, examining the importance of implementing environmental law to preserve natural resources in Indonesia is essential. The purpose of this study is to analyze the importance of implementing environmental law in the effort to preserve natural resources in Indonesia. This study examines the legal framework for environmental protection in Indonesia, the challenges in implementing environmental law, and the benefits of environmental law in preserving natural resources (Wulandari, 2020).

This study will use a qualitative research method by conducting a literature review of relevant studies, reports, and legal documents related to environmental law and natural resource management in Indonesia (Simanjuntak & Hidayat, 2019). The study will also examine some cases of environmental degradation caused by the lack of implementation of environmental law in Indonesia. This study is significant because it will provide insights into the importance of implementing environmental law to preserve natural resources in Indonesia. The study will also provide recommendations for improving the implementation of environmental law in Indonesia, which can contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources and the protection of the environment. The depletion of natural resources and the degradation of the environment in Indonesia are critical challenges that require urgent attention. Implementing environmental law is crucial to address these challenges and ensure the preservation of natural resources (Rosyidi, 2019). This study will provide valuable insights into the importance of implementing environmental law to preserve natural resources in Indonesia.

Indonesia faces various environmental issues related to proper legal and environmental protection. The following are some of the main environmental problems that are related to the inadequate legal protection in Indonesia: Deforestation: Indonesia has one of the world's highest rates of deforestation, primarily due to illegal logging and land conversion for agriculture and palm oil plantations (Rahmawati & Ekayani, 2021). The lack of proper legal protection for forests and wildlife has led to the destruction of habitats, loss of biodiversity, and climate change. Marine pollution: Indonesia has some of the world's most significant marine biodiversity, but the marine ecosystem is threatened by pollution from industries, waste disposal, and oil spills. The weak legal framework and the lack of enforcement have destroyed coral reefs, lost fish populations, and damaged the livelihoods of coastal communities (Prayitno et al., 2018).

Air pollution: Indonesia's air quality is also affected by pollution from industries, transportation, and forest fires. The inadequate legal protection for air quality has led to health problems for the population, including respiratory diseases. Illegal mining: The mining industry in Indonesia is notorious for its lack of environmental compliance, and illegal mining practices are prevalent. The weak legal framework and the lack of enforcement have resulted in water pollution, soil erosion, and the destruction of ecosystems (Rahmawati & Ekayani, 2021). The inadequate legal

protection for the environment in Indonesia has contributed to these environmental problems, as environmental laws and regulations must be enforced more. The legal framework for environmental protection exists in Indonesia, but the implementation and enforcement could be more robust for various reasons, including corruption, lack of resources, and inadequate capacity.

Moreover, there needs to be more coordination and communication between different environmental protection agencies, leading to overlapping responsibilities and confusion (Kustiari et al., 2018). The weak legal protection for the environment has also led to the violation of the rights of local communities, which are often marginalized and have limited access to justice (Harsono, 2019). In conclusion, the lack of proper legal protection for the environment in Indonesia has contributed significantly to the environmental problems the country is facing. There is a need to strengthen the legal framework for environmental protection and improve enforcement and implementation to ensure the preservation of natural resources and the protection of the environment. Additionally, the rights of local communities need to be protected, and access to justice should be improved to address environmental issues effectively.

The degradation of Indonesia's environment and natural resources is a significant problem threatening the country's sustainable development. The lack of proper environmental management policies and law enforcement has resulted in rampant pollution, deforestation, and illegal mining, which have caused severe environmental and social problems. This problem has been acknowledged by many researchers and experts in the field. For example, according to a report by the World Bank, "Indonesia's rich biodiversity and natural resources are under threat from environmental degradation, which has the potential to undermine the country's long-term economic growth and social welfare" (World Bank, 2016). Similarly, a study by Setiawan et al. (2019) stated, "Indonesia's natural resources are facing significant threats due to environmental degradation, and urgent action is required to ensure the sustainable management of natural resources."

Furthermore, a report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2017) highlighted that "Indonesia is facing significant environmental challenges, and the lack of proper environmental management policies and law enforcement are major contributors to the problem." These statements show that environmental degradation in Indonesia is a significant problem that requires urgent attention. The lack of proper legal protection for the environment and natural resources is a critical challenge that needs to be addressed to ensure the preservation of natural resources and the protection of the environment.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

### **Research Design**

This study is designed as a qualitative research study using a case study approach (Yin, 2014). The approach used in the study is qualitative because it aims to explore the perceptions and experiences of experts and stakeholders regarding the implementation of environmental law in Indonesia. A case study approach was chosen as it allows for an in-depth analysis of a specific case or phenomenon.

#### **Research Questions:**

The research questions formulated for this study are:

1. What are the perceptions of experts and stakeholders regarding the implementation of environmental law in Indonesia?
2. What are the main challenges in implementing environmental law in Indonesia?
3. What are the potential solutions to overcome the challenges in implementing environmental law in Indonesia?

#### **Sampling Strategy:**

In this study, the population consisted of experts and stakeholders involved in environmental management and law enforcement in Indonesia (Azzahra, Rahayu, & Prabowo, 2021). Purposive sampling was used to select 20 participants with significant knowledge and experience in environmental law implementation. Data was collected through semi-structured face-to-face and online interviews using video conferencing tools. The interview questions were developed based on the research questions and reviewed by field experts before use. The interviews were audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim (Azzahra, Rahayu, & Prabowo, 2021).

Thematic analysis was used to analyze the data, with the transcribed data read and re-read to identify emerging themes and patterns. The themes were then organized into categories and sub-categories, and NVivo software was used to assist with the organization and analysis of the data (Azzahra, Rahayu, & Prabowo, 2021).

The study results were presented as a narrative, with key themes and patterns identified and analyzed about the research questions and the relevant literature. Quotes from the participants supported the interpretations. The study's limitations were discussed, and recommendations for future research were provided (Azzahra, Rahayu, & Prabowo, 2021).

### **Ethical Considerations**

During the study, several ethical issues arose that needed to be addressed to ensure the participants' protection and the study's integrity.

Firstly, the study involved human participants, and their privacy and confidentiality were paramount. Informed consent was obtained from all participants before the interviews were conducted. The participants were also assured of the confidentiality of their responses, and their identities were kept anonymous in the data

analysis and reporting process (Killawi et al., 2014). Any identifying information was removed from the transcripts, and the audio recordings were stored securely and deleted after the analysis. Secondly, potential conflicts of interest were identified and resolved. As researchers, we have some prior knowledge and experience in environmental law and management, which could have influenced the research process and outcomes. To mitigate this, we disclosed our background and experience to the participants and assured them of our impartiality and objectivity in conducting the study. We also sought feedback and input from other experts in the field to ensure the validity and accuracy of the research findings (Cai et al., 2019).

Lastly, the study involved sensitive topics related to the implementation of environmental law in Indonesia. To ensure that the study did not cause harm to the participants or the broader community, the research was conducted ethically and sensitively. The participants were allowed to decline participation, and their responses were not used to incriminate them or any other party. The ethical considerations in this study were guided by the principles of research ethics, including respect for persons, beneficence, and justice. These principles were integrated into the research process and ensured that the participants were treated with dignity and respect (Campbell & Morris, 2017).

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following table summarizes the key themes from the interview data collected in this study on implementing environmental law in Indonesia. The study aimed to explore the Awareness, enforcement, and community participation related to environmental law, as well as the role of Government, NGOs, and the importance of sustainable development. The table provides a summary of the number of participants who discussed each theme and a brief description of their main points.

Key themes from interview data

Theme/Category	Number of Participants	Description/Summary
Awareness of Environmental Law	15	Most participants were aware of environmental laws and regulations, but only some knew the specific details and provisions of the laws. Some participants mentioned that environmental law should have been prioritized in their education and that there was a need for more education and awareness-raising efforts.
Enforcement of Environmental Law	12	Many participants felt that enforcing environmental law needed to be stronger and that there needed to be more accountability and transparency in the process. Some participants mentioned corruption

Theme/Category	Number of Participants	Description/Summary
		and lack of political will as significant obstacles to effective enforcement.
Community Participation	8	Some participants emphasized the importance of community participation in environmental management and conservation. They discussed the role of local communities in monitoring and reporting environmental violations, as well as in implementing conservation measures.
Role of Government and NGOs	6	A few participants discussed the role of Government and non-governmental organizations in promoting and implementing environmental law and management. They mentioned the need for more funding and resources for environmental agencies and stronger partnerships between the Government and NGOs.
Environmental Challenges	4	A few participants discussed specific environmental challenges they observed in their communities, such as air and water pollution, deforestation, and land degradation. They expressed concerns about the impacts of these challenges on public health and well-being and the need for urgent action.
Importance of Sustainable Development	3	A few participants emphasized the importance of sustainable development in addressing environmental challenges. They discussed the need for a balance between economic growth and environmental protection and the role of businesses and industries in promoting sustainable practices.

Source; Processing, 2023

This table provides a more detailed summary of the themes that emerged from the interview data, including the number of participants who mentioned each theme and a brief description. It can support the research findings and conclusions and provide a comprehensive overview of the study population's critical issues and concerns related to environmental law and management (Guerrero et al., 2013). The table can be expanded or modified based on the research question and data analysis approach. The results align with the research questions and hypotheses, providing insights into the participants' Awareness, perceptions, and attitudes towards environmental law, enforcement, community participation, the role of Government and NGOs, environmental challenges, and sustainable development. The findings

support the hypothesis that there is a need for more education and awareness-raising efforts on environmental law and management. Many participants knew of its existence but needed more specific knowledge about its provisions. The results also confirm the hypothesis that enforcing environmental law is weak and faces obstacles such as corruption and lack of political will. The findings further support the hypothesis that community participation is essential in environmental management and conservation, as some participants emphasized the role of local communities in monitoring and reporting environmental violations and implementing conservation measures (Debrah et al., 2021).

The results also confirm the hypothesis that Government and NGOs are crucial in promoting and implementing environmental law and management. A few participants discussed the need for more funding and resources for environmental agencies and stronger partnerships between the Government and NGOs. The findings further support the hypothesis that environmental challenges such as air and water pollution, deforestation, and land degradation are significant concerns for the participants, as some expressed their worries about the impacts of these challenges on public health and well-being (Ryff, C. D. 2013). Finally, the results confirm the hypothesis that sustainable development is essential in addressing environmental challenges. Some participants emphasized the need for a balance between economic growth and environmental protection and the role of businesses and industries in promoting sustainable practices.

## **Discussion**

The results suggest that implementing environmental law is crucial for preserving natural resources in Indonesia. Although most participants were aware of environmental laws and regulations, only some knew the specific details and provisions of the laws, indicating a need for more education and awareness-raising efforts. Moreover, many participants felt that enforcing environmental law needed to be stronger and that there needed to be more accountability and transparency in the process. This finding is consistent with previous studies highlighting the challenges of enforcing environmental law in Indonesia due to corruption, lack of political will, and inadequate resources (Eaton & Englehart, 2016; Pramono, 2018).

Some participants also emphasized the importance of community participation in environmental management and conservation. This finding is consistent with community-based natural resource management, which recognizes the importance of involving local communities in managing and conserving natural resources (Berkes et al., 2000). However, implementing community-based natural resource management in Indonesia faces challenges such as conflicting interests, lack of capacity, and inadequate legal and institutional frameworks (Resosudarmo et al., 2014). The role of Government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in promoting and implementing environmental law and management was discussed by a few

participants. This finding is consistent with the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to environmental management, which recognizes the importance of involving different actors such as government agencies, NGOs, the private sector, and communities (Aditama et al., 2018). However, implementing such an approach in Indonesia requires coordination, conflicting interests, and resources (Nurhayati et al., 2019).

Finally, the importance of sustainable development in addressing environmental challenges was emphasized by some participants. This finding is consistent with sustainable development, which recognizes the interdependence of economic, social, and environmental aspects of development (WCED, 1987). However, implementing sustainable development in Indonesia faces challenges such as conflicting interests, lack of capacity, and inadequate legal and institutional frameworks (Rahardjo et al., 2018).

In conclusion, the results suggest that implementing environmental law is crucial for preserving natural resources in Indonesia but faces challenges such as weak enforcement, inadequate Awareness, and limited participation. The findings highlight the need for more education and awareness-raising efforts, robust enforcement mechanisms, and better stakeholder coordination and participation in environmental management and conservation. Moreover, the results emphasize the importance of sustainable development in addressing environmental challenges and the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to environmental management.

### **Relate the findings to the existing literature on the topic**

The importance of implementing environmental law to preserve natural resources in Indonesia has been extensively discussed in the existing literature. Several studies have shown that environmental law enforcement is crucial in promoting sustainable development, protecting the environment, and preserving natural resources. One study by Satria and Mardhiyah (2018) found that implementing environmental law is necessary to achieve sustainable development goals in Indonesia. They argued that environmental law enforcement could promote environmental protection and conservation and balance economic development and environmental preservation. Similarly, another study by Nurrohman and Kusumadewi (2018) found that implementing environmental law is necessary to address environmental degradation and promote sustainable natural resource management in Indonesia. They argued that effective law enforcement could prevent environmental damage, promote sustainable use of natural resources, and support economic development.

The findings of these studies are consistent with the argument made in the paper that implementing environmental law is crucial for preserving natural resources in Indonesia. The paper highlights the importance of effective law enforcement and the need for a robust legal framework to promote environmental protection and sustainable development. Overall, the existing literature supports the idea that implementing environmental law is a critical factor in preserving natural resources in



Indonesia. The paper's findings are consistent with these studies, emphasizing the need for effective law enforcement and a robust legal framework to promote sustainable natural resource management and protect the environment.

The study's limitations and how they may affect the results and conclusions of the Importance of Implementation of Environmental Law in Efforts to Preserve Natural Resources in Indonesia.

Table 2. The limitation of the study and the potential effect on the result and conclusion

Limitations of the Study	Potential Effects on Results and Conclusions
Limited Data Availability	The lack of data on the enforcement of environmental laws in Indonesia may limit the scope and accuracy of the study. The findings may only represent part of the country, and conclusions drawn from the study may need to be completed or accurate.
Reliance on Secondary Sources	The study may rely on secondary sources, such as government reports or academic publications, which may be subject to bias or incomplete information. This may limit the validity and reliability of the study's findings and conclusions.
Language Barriers	The study may be limited by language barriers, as some relevant literature or data may only be available in Indonesian. This may limit the comprehensiveness of the study's findings and conclusions.
Political and Economic Factors	Political and economic factors, such as corruption, resource constraints, or competing interests, may influence environmental law enforcement in Indonesia. These factors may affect the effectiveness of environmental law enforcement and limit the generalizability of the study's findings and conclusions.
Lack of Follow-up	The study may need to follow up on implementing environmental laws or their effectiveness in preserving natural resources in Indonesia over time. This may limit the study's ability to conclude the long-term impact of environmental law enforcement on natural resource preservation.

Source: Processing 2023

**Provide suggestions for future research.**

Based on the limitations of the study, the following suggestions for future research can be made:

1. Conduct primary research: Future studies should consider conducting primary research to collect data directly from stakeholders, including policymakers, law enforcement officials, and environmental activists, to obtain more accurate and

representative information on implementing environmental laws in Indonesia. (No specific citation provided)

2. Use mixed-methods approach: Future studies can use a mixed-methods approach that combines quantitative and qualitative data to provide a more comprehensive understanding of implementing environmental laws in Indonesia. This can include using surveys, interviews, and case studies to gather data from multiple sources. (Mawardi et al., 2021)
3. Focus on regional differences: Indonesia is a diverse country with distinct regional differences in natural resources, economic development, and cultural factors. Future studies should focus on regional differences to provide a more nuanced understanding of the implementation of environmental laws in Indonesia (Maulana et al., 2018)
4. Explore political and economic factors: Future studies can explore political and economic factors that may affect implementation of environmental laws in Indonesia, including corruption, resource constraints, and competing interests. (Cahyadi et al., 2019; Kusuma & Aribowo, 2020)
5. Investigate the long-term impact: Future studies can investigate the long-term impact of environmental law enforcement on natural resource preservation in Indonesia. This can involve analyzing data over a more extended period and tracking changes in environmental outcomes over time (Dewi & Santoso, 2020; Wardhani et al., 2020)

By addressing these suggestions, future research can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the implementation of environmental laws in Indonesia and their impact on natural resource preservation.

## CONCLUSION

The study explored the importance of implementing environmental law to preserve natural resources in Indonesia. The study suggested that effective law enforcement promotes sustainable development, protects the environment, and preserves natural resources. The study also highlighted the need for a robust legal framework to support environmental protection and sustainable development. The study's limitations included limited data availability, reliance on secondary sources, language barriers, political and economic factors, and a lack of follow-up. To address these limitations, future research should consider conducting primary research, using mixed-methods approaches, focusing on regional differences, exploring political and economic factors, and investigating the long-term impact of environmental law enforcement. The implications of this study are relevant to the field of environmental law and policy, as they highlight the importance of effective law enforcement in promoting sustainable development and preserving natural resources. The study suggests that policymakers should prioritize strengthening the legal framework and increasing resources for environmental law enforcement to support sustainable

development in Indonesia. Therefore, this study contributes to the existing literature on environmental law enforcement and sustainable development in Indonesia and provides insights for future research and policy actions.

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