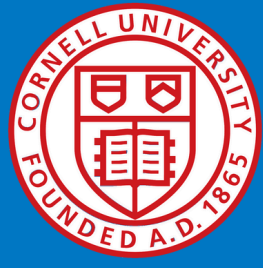


Amid Construction and Concessions: Social-Ecological Impacts of Indonesia's Capital Relocation



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Overview

In 2019, the Indonesian government, led by President Joko Widodo, made the executive decision to relocate the country's capital from Jakarta, located on the island of Java, to East Kalimantan, on the island of Borneo, due to economic and environmental challenges. Figure 1 below shows a map of the current area designated for the new capital, Nusantara (also referred to as the IKN), including the full extent of the capital region area development and the city limits (IKN Area Regency Administrative Borders).¹ In response to this change, indigenous communities in East Kalimantan, academics, and civil society organizations have expressed concerns about the impacts of the IKN on land rights, political representation and participation, environmental degradation, and economic issues.

Children's Book

Indigenous community partners from Pemaluan and Mentawir have identified a children's book as a priority educational output for them. The goal is to preserve ecological, cultural, and local knowledge of species, especially those whose sounds are threatened to be lost, in a way where this knowledge can be passed down to younger generations.

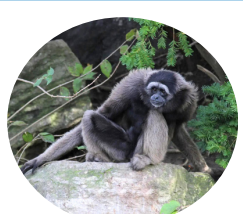
As a result, I am organizing and writing a children's book about community-identified species that bring value to local soundscapes, both acoustically and culturally, and how they might change due to Nusantara's construction. The book will also have an interactive audio component that includes acoustic samples of the species' calls. It is expected to be in-print by the summer of 2025.

Biocultural Species

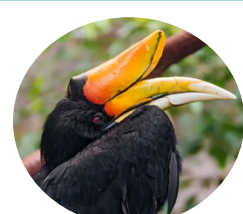
Endangered



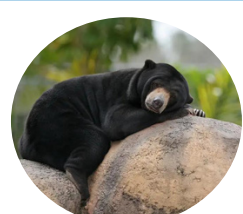
Southern Pig-Tailed Macaque



Bornean Gibbon



Rhinoceros Hornbill



Sun Bear

Proboscis Monkey



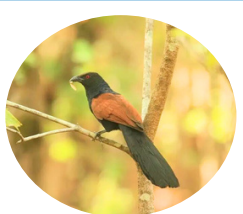
Asian Small-Clawed Otter



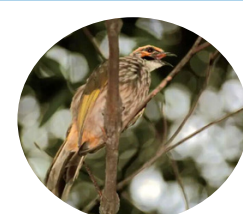
Vulnerable



Bornean Yellow Muntjac



Greater Coucal



Straw-headed Bulbul

Near Threatened

Least Concern

Sources

Pictures from IUCN Red List, Animalia (Online Animals Encyclopedia), and WorldDeer.org

1. Joko Widodo, & The House of Representatives. (2022). *Law of the Republic of Indonesia number 3 of 2022*. <https://ikn.go.id/storage/regulasi/law-number-3-2022-english.pdf>
2. Nurjaman, R., Rusata, T. (2023). Exclusion and Resistance: *The Potential of Agrarian Conflicts Overshadowing the New Capital City*. In: Warsilah, H., Mulyani, L., Nasution, I.K. (eds) *Assembling Nusantara. Advances in 21st Century Human Settlements*. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-3533-8_10
3. Susmiyati, H.R., Harjanti, W., Al Hidayah, R. (2023). *Development of the Nusantara Capital, Sustainable Extraction for East Kalimantan*. In: Warsilah, H., Mulyani, L., Nasution, I.K. (eds) *Assembling Nusantara. Advances in 21st Century Human Settlements*. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-3533-8_11

Methods

- Literature review and archival research, using search terms relevant to indigenous communities in Nusantara region and key locations or organizations
- Qualitative analysis of four focus group discussions conducted by Drs. Walker DePuy and Dr. Wendy Erb (July 2023) in the villages of Pemaluan and Mentawir

Major Concerns

- Many local indigenous communities use customary law, *adat*, for land ownership, so there is a lack of official documentation for their land. Industrial plantation forests and mining company concessions located within or near IKN territory coincide with the customary land these communities, including the Paser and Balik peoples.²
- Law 3 was created through fast-tracked legislation, with minimal public participation or input, which especially impacts rural communities in the IKN.³
- Due to the IKN, residents of Pemaluan and Mentawir have expressed worries about being evicted from their ancestral lands and becoming unable to retain their agricultural practices and livelihoods. To avoid eviction, there has even been discussion of transforming their villages into tourist destinations.

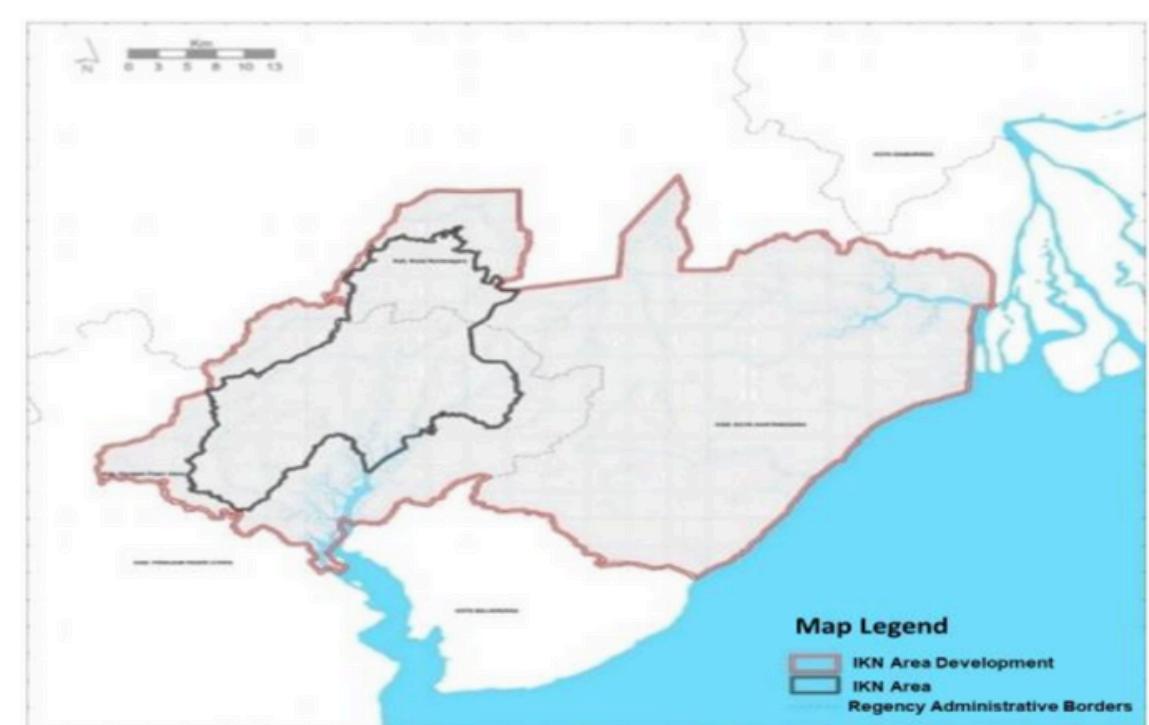


Figure 1. Map of IKN boundaries from the Ministry of National Development Planning