

# CSERM-UNAS STRATEGIC VISION 2030

Resource-first Conservation for  
Indonesia's Sustainable Transformation



CENTRE FOR  
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY &  
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



## **Centre for Sustainable Energy & Resources Management**

**@ Universitas Nasional, Indonesia** (CSERM-UNAS) is a research and development institution implementing a resource-first approach to the conservation and management of critical habitats across Indonesia.

We specialise in implementing transformative economic and social systems designed to empower local communities with the skills and knowledge to enhance their overall wellbeing and become more effective custodians of nature, natural resources, and vital ecosystem services.



### **CONTACT**

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# Who we are

**Founded in 2014, CSERM-UNAS** has established itself as an internationally recognised centre for the assessment, development and promotion of sustainable resource management, including habitat conservation and restoration, sustainable livelihoods, and renewable energy solutions. Our approach focuses on capacity building for local communities, as well as state and non-governmental partners, to deliver sustainable solutions for Indonesia which are both ecologically and environmentally robust.

We specialise in working closely with local communities to develop innovative systems which can then be scaled up in collaboration with state agencies, promoting new frameworks for economic empowerment, codified land-use systems, policy briefs for relevant stakeholders and governance structures with which to address future issues.

Our work is supported by a range of international partners, including some of the world's leading universities and largest funding agencies, through which we hope Indonesia can become an example of innovative, community-focused resource and habitat conservation.



# Resource-first Conservation

As the world's fourth most populous country, with more than 1,300 ethnic groups spread across 17,000 islands, people are at the heart of conservation efforts for Indonesia's plants, animals, and natural resources. Significant economic inequality across different regions, and challenges associated with enforcing environmental regulations, mean that engaging local communities as partners in conservation is absolutely critical to embedding truly sustainable change for the long-term.

CSERM-UNAS' 'resource-first' conservation approach acknowledges that, for communities living in some of the country's most disadvantaged areas, economic development is a key priority. We therefore work to harness this energy, coordinating closely with our community partners to co-develop transformative approaches for the management and utilisation of their natural resources. The vision is to provide sustainable livelihoods for community empowerment through the effective management of key habitats and conservation of important ecosystems.

Our approach goes beyond research training programs or the promotion of ecotourism in specific areas, developing resilient systems which strengthen communities' connection to the ecosystems on which they depend.

Our programs also provide a platform through which local communities can engage with external stakeholders with the institutional support of our program coalitions, and CSERM-UNAS works closely with a range of government partners to ensure that support is provided to transform successful programs at the local level into lasting, systematic change.

CSERM-UNAS programs specialise in these multidisciplinary approaches, which are driven by communities at the local level and supported by state policy and infrastructure.



# Indonesia's Challenges for Sustainable Transformation

## Infrastructure & Connectivity

Indonesia's complex geography and vast scale present numerous logistical challenges for economic development, access to state support and other external resources, particularly for remote communities. In addition, limited access to remote areas impedes monitoring and enforcement of environmental regulations and delivery of key services. Locally autonomous solutions are necessary to provide long-term sustainability for communities in high conservation value (HCV) areas.

## Governance

The Indonesian state is continually evolving to meet the complex needs of contemporary governance, particularly at the local level. Innovative, data-driven and context-specific policies are a critical foundation for embedding transformative sustainable change.

## Inclusivity & Women's Empowerment

Historical inequality remains a persistent issue despite Indonesia's robust economic growth, existing both between and within different regions of the country. In particular, female participation in both economic and conservation-focused activities must presents significant opportunities, as well as potential challenges. ial mechanisms for sustainable management of resources and conservation of critical habitats.ement of resources and conservation of critical habitats.

## Knowledge & Technical Skills

Many of Indonesia's most important habitats are changing faster than ever before, and there is a critical need to collect rigorous and up-to-date data as a basis for developing responses in planning and policymaking. Local communities also require improved technical capacities in habitat management and value-chain enhancement to deliver integrated solutions to the twin issues of poverty and habitat conservation.





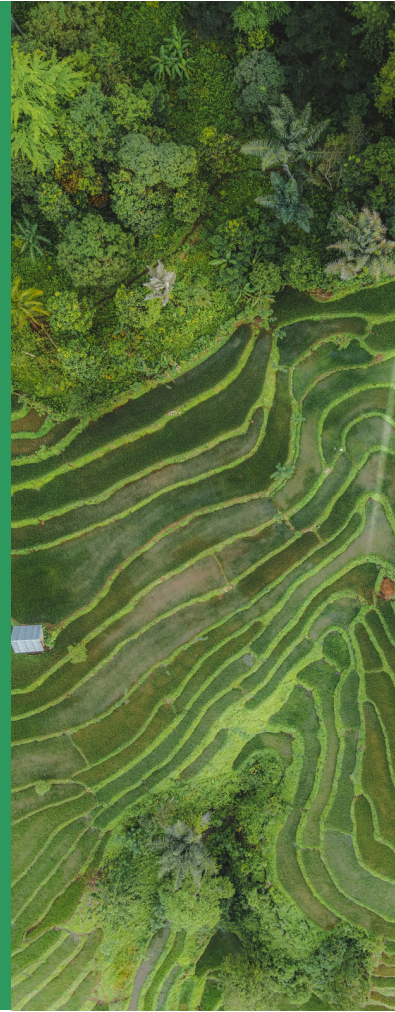
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## Strategic Priorities

### Indonesia - A Megadiverse Climate Superpower

Indonesia has been referred to by COP26 president Alok Sharma as a 'climate superpower,' due to the critical role of the nation's tropical forests, mangrove forests, peatlands and blue carbon stores in the fight against climate change. Indonesia remains the third most forested of all tropical countries, as well as the global epicentre of blue carbon habitats including mangrove forests, coral reefs, and seagrass beds.

Indonesia's critical carbon stores are intimately tied to the fate of its unique ecosystems and incredible biodiversity. Safeguarding habitats like mangrove forests, seagrass beds, peatlands and tropical jungles depends on supporting local communities across the archipelago in developing new ways of interacting deal with their surrounding environment, which incentivise sustainable utilisation of resources and long-term stewardship of plant and animal species.



### Coordinated Ecological Landscapes

Many of Indonesia's most important natural habitats are today fragmented among agricultural, urban and industrial landscapes. There is therefore an urgent need to develop land-use planning strategies and administrative tools to coordinate multiple typologies across complex landscapes in a way which supports long-term ecological integrity and sustainable economic growth.

Small-scale sustainability solutions developed at the local level can be scaled up into networks of secondary habitat for plants and animals, integrated within broader frameworks to manage water, soil quality, habitat corridors and infrastructure development.



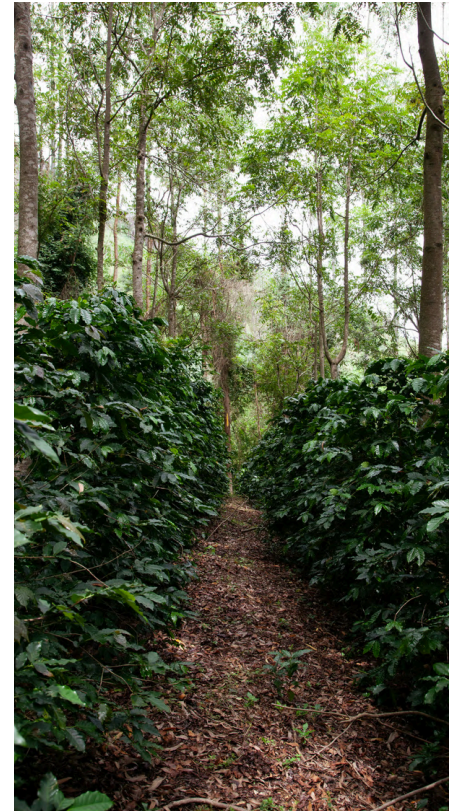
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## Strategic Priorities

### Regenerative Agroforestry & Community Stewardship

With around 1 in 3 Indonesians working in the agricultural sector, managing the relationship between plantations and adjacent natural habitat is a critical priority for conservation and sustainable development across the country.

Particularly in remote or rural areas, expanding cultivation threatens key ecosystems and endemic species, and providing sustainable livelihoods for local communities is essential to engage them in conservation efforts. Additionally, restoring the carbon capture capacity and ecological function of cultivated areas through regenerative agriculture and forestry innovations can provide additional value and mitigate negative impacts of land clearance.



### Blue Carbon Coastlines & Sustainable Fisheries

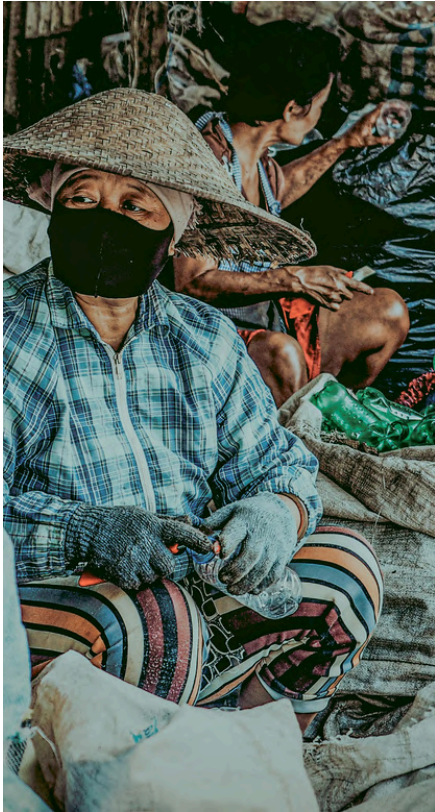
Indonesia is home to around 20% of the world's mangrove forests and unmatched mangrove biodiversity. These unique ecosystems play a critical role in regulating the marine-terrestrial interface, enhance water quality, and provide habitat for a wide diversity of terrestrial, marine, and specialist species. Adjacent seagrass meadows perform a similar function, with both habitats superlative carbon sinks with capacity beyond that of even terrestrial forests.

Conservation and sustainable utilisation of Indonesia's blue carbon coastlines is an urgent priority for the nation's sustainable development, with impacts on conservation, fisheries management, and the fight against climate change.



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## Strategic Priorities



### Renewable Energy & Waste Management

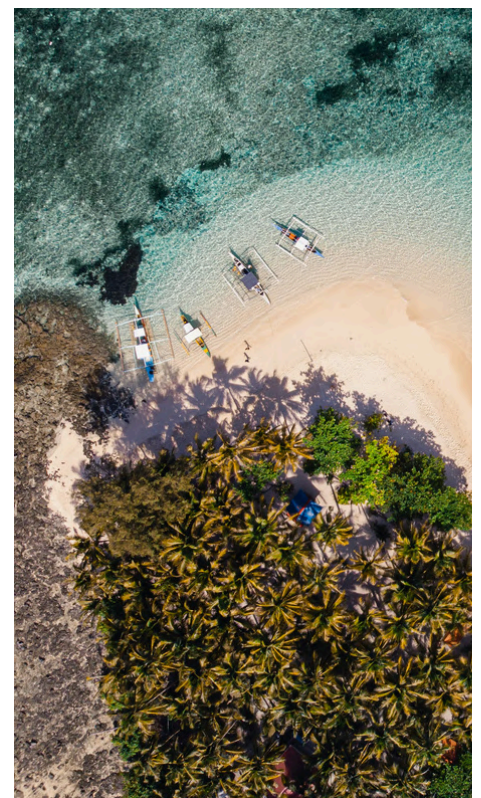
As a rapidly developing country, Indonesia's energy demands continue to increase. With most of the country's energy currently generated by fossil fuels, community-level renewable solutions in wind, solar and tidal energy, in addition to large-scale renewable energy projects, can empower communities towards more sustainable resource use and economic development.

Indonesia's waste management crisis presents an unprecedented challenge. The country contributes a disproportionately large share of oceanic plastic waste, and solutions to deal effectively with ubiquitous single-use plastics and other waste products are urgently needed at a range of scales.

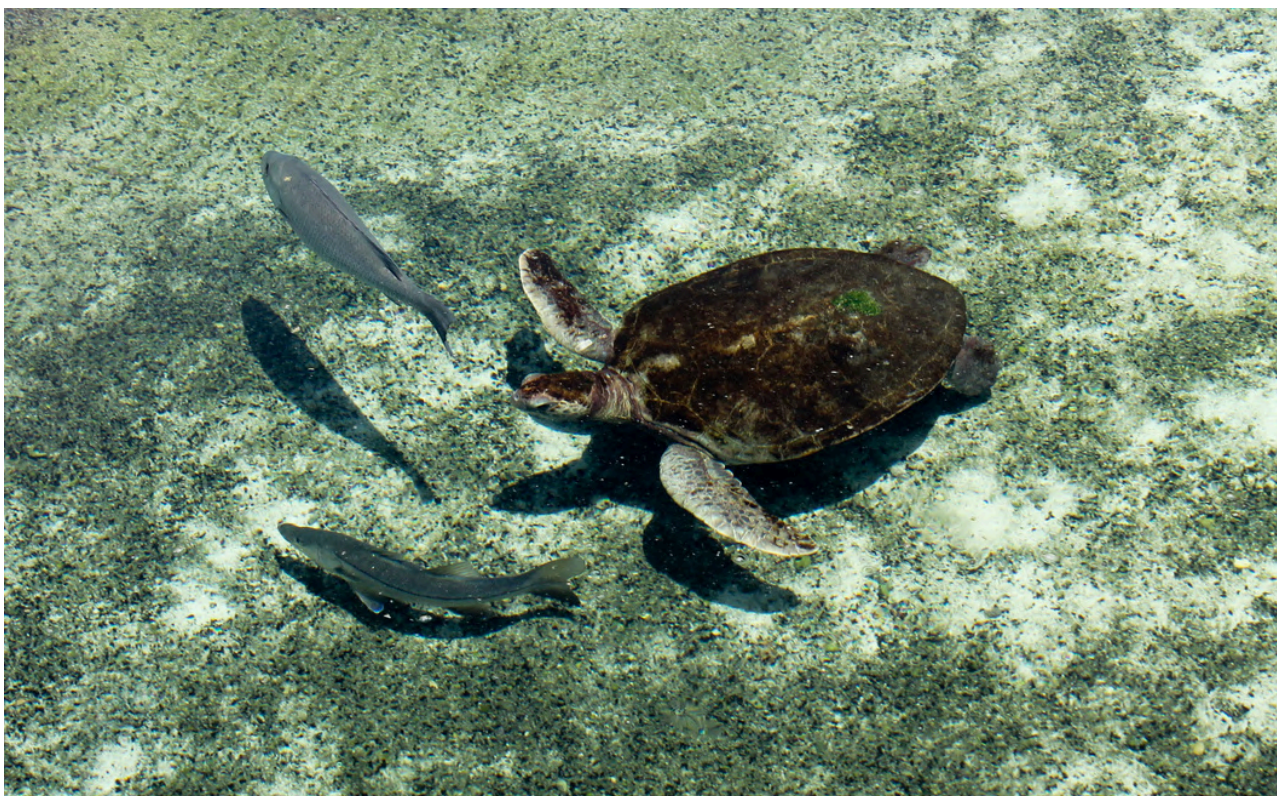
### Small Island Systems for Equitable Development

The world's largest archipelago, more than 10,000 of Indonesia's islands are inhabited, many of which are scattered across the country's most isolated regions. These islands are also home to many endemic and critically endangered species.

Systematic and innovative solutions are needed to address the particular challenges of small-island communities, from access to state services and economic development to resource management and the demands of expanding populations. Many of these island communities depend on local fisheries and subsistence agriculture, yet lack the political power to implement coordinated management of their local environment.





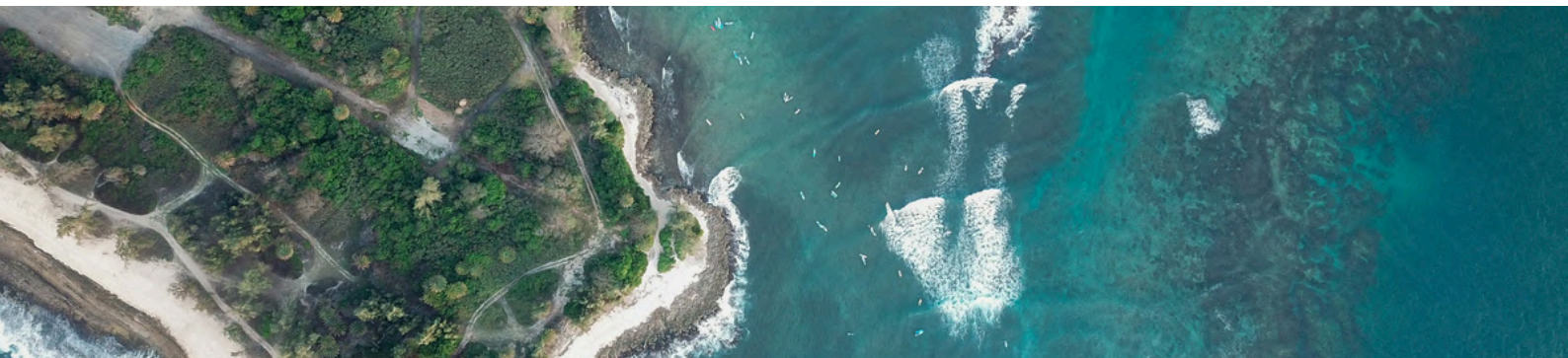


# Community Empowered Conservation in Action

In a nation like Indonesia, community partnerships are essential to secure long-term conservation and climate mitigation outcomes.

Resource-first conservation positions local communities at the centre of sustainability, aligning their interests with broader frameworks of sustainable resource utilisation, habitat management, and the conservation of Indonesia's extraordinary plants and animals.

CSERM-UNAS' commitment to the welfare and economic empowerment of our community partners is the cornerstone of our approach to conservation, establishing transformative economic models and regulatory systems which fundamentally integrate development and conservation outcomes.



# Local Action Global Impact

Universitas Nasional is committed to the socially-conscious implementation of key sustainability initiatives across Indonesia; conserving critical endemic and globally significant biodiversity; developing integrated livelihood and resource management frameworks; and expanding local capacity as a model for developing countries and archipelagic states around the world.



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