

Governing the boundary: between socio-environmental vulnerability and state capacity in Temajuk Village, Indonesia

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Abstract

This research explored the challenges and solutions to governing Indonesian border areas, with a particular focus on Temajuk Village in Sambas Regency, West Kalimantan Province. The research highlighted two critical issues: increased smuggling of illegal goods and socio-environmental vulnerabilities, particularly regarding the conservation of endangered sea turtles. The research identified systemic weaknesses, including inadequate state capacity, limited law enforcement and socio-economic disparity factors that exacerbate transnational challenges. The findings exposed potential national threats caused by geographic isolation, and porous borders that facilitate illicit activities, such as drug and alcoholic drinks smuggling, with serious social consequences, including youth delinquency, early marriage, declining education levels, and increased health risks, such as the spread of HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, unsustainable exploitation of sea turtles for cultural and economic purposes also threatens biodiversity. This article proposes a multifaceted strategy to address these interrelated issues, prioritizing effective border management, sustainable economic development, and strong community engagement. Strengthening institutional and individual capacities at the village level, improving law enforcement and encouraging cross-sectoral cooperation between village, district, provincial and national governments are essential. Highlighting the threats to Temajuk Village, this research promotes evidence-based local strategies that align national security with ecological and social well-being and offers insights into sustainable governance in border areas.

Keywords: national security, border area, turtle conservation, smuggling

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Introduction

Due to its extensive territory, Indonesia necessitates expertise and experience to enhance the seriousness of national border control. Moreover, village governments must enhance their competence to address global concerns at national borders. In this regard, regulating the movement of individuals and goods constitutes but one facet of safeguarding national boundaries. Simultaneously, we perceive it as an endeavor to protect state interests from numerous threats, including the trafficking and illegal commerce of turtle eggs in Temajuk Village. Border regions necessitate a sustainable and cohesive management structure. We should enhance coastal border regions through a development strategy that fosters economic growth and ecological sustainability. Society should be the central emphasis of development concurrently.

Contemporary border management strategies emphasize a multifaceted strategy that incorporates technical innovations, community-based development, and international collaboration. Nonetheless, these breakthroughs frequently do not convert into practical solutions for border regions like Temajuk, Indonesia. This study aims to fill this gap by concentrating on localized, sustainable border management solutions that prioritize community involvement and integrated security measures. The study seeks to identify risks and recommend evidence-based remedies to enhance national security at the village level.

In the global arena, efficient border management frequently necessitates transnational cooperation and collective accountability. Border regions in the Global South, confronting analogous socio-economic and security issues, provide significant insights. Countries in Southeast Asia and Africa encounter challenges related to illegal wildlife trafficking, human trafficking, and maritime offenses. These regions underscore the necessity of reconciling national security with socio-economic advancement while tackling transnational criminal networks. By incorporating these global perspectives, Indonesia may formulate more robust and flexible border policies. Whereas, in the national framework, the development of border regions is a fundamental component of the security policy. National borders function as a location of hybridization, affecting the significant interchange and mobilization across diverse regions within the nation. This scenario presents a considerable problem for the government in protecting state sovereignty and maintaining the rule of law due to the predominance of opportunistic measures (The White House, 2017). The problem of illegality has emerged as a significant border concern, necessitating a more stringent screening mechanism to maintain open and regulated borders.

Transnational crimes pose a significant threat to national sovereignty. North Sulawesi Province, adjacent to the Philippines, is significantly susceptible to transnational crimes, including marine piracy and crew abductions. In 2016, Indonesia documented the greatest incidence of crew member victims in pirate events (Rustam, 2017). Moreover, illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing is widespread in the waters along the Sulawesi-Philippines border. The worldwide demand for high-value fish such as tuna fuels illicit fishing, jeopardizing marine resource sustainability and disadvantaging local fishermen. Foreign vessels frequently sail under fraudulent Indonesian flags, undermining Indonesia's international standing (Uno, 2017). These activities lead to significant economic losses, with seafood theft alone incurring annual costs in the billions (Nasution, 2020). Moreover terrorism and wildlife trafficking intensify vulnerability in border areas (Suhirwan, 2020).

The illegal wildlife trade and organized crime are present in Sumatra. The substantial international demand, especially in Asia, propels Sumatra's abundant biodiversity and protected regions, including national parks into a nexus for illicit wildlife trafficking (Sianturi & Edison, 2018). Individuals often engage in the trading of species such as the Sumatran rhinoceros, Javan deer, and other endangered avian species (Nijman et al., 2022). Smuggling routes, such as the "rat trail" along Sumatra's eastern coastline, enable the trafficking of livestock and exotic animals to global markets (David et al., 2022; Nijman et al., 2022 Karokaro, 2021). Organized crime, encompassing drug, cigarette, human, and counterfeit product trafficking, frequently interacts with wildlife commerce. In the Riau Islands, human trafficking syndicates utilize fraudulent employment contracts to facilitate the transportation of victims to Hong Kong and Taiwan for coerced labor or exploitation (Pratama et al., 2023).

Narcotics smuggling similarly transpires along the Sumatra-Malaysia coastline, with fishermen serving as couriers, exploiting illicit ports, and circumventing patrols (Prayuda, 2020).

Borders embody political dynamics through the mechanisms, practices, discourses, symbols, institutions, and networks that facilitate the exercise of power. This reflection positions boundaries as a manifestation of national identity and a site for interstate contestation. Johnson et al., (2011) assert that borders are not merely physical demarcations but also locations of complex nation-building processes and nationalist activities that can be expressed in concrete forms. Consequently, performative border development initiatives must be dynamic, historical, and participatory, engaging several state agents. The notion of border performativity posits that the nature of boundaries should be perceived not as intrinsic but as the result of a series of activities (Weber, 1998). State scenarios frequently react to global pressures and the influence of migrants on border dynamics. Globalization is a challenge and hazard to nations worldwide, including Indonesia. We urge the government to adjust to diverse changes. Simultaneously, it must execute clever and competitive border transformation initiatives while preserving fundamental elements of state authority. The problem lies in addressing globalization while preserving essential elements of state authority and while extending influence into new international domains (Fabini, 2019).

Moreover, border performativity perceives state borders as not merely geographical demarcations but as constructs arising from the acts of state actors. The notion of border performativity involves diverse state actors enacting situations via state policy and legislation. Concurrently, society endeavors to discern each situation and pursue liberation. Global influences frequently impact state actors' situations, potentially endangering their physical entities. Temajuk Village, located in a border region of the country, is vulnerable to multiple national security challenges. Temajuk is a settlement located in the Paloh District of Sambas Regency, West Kalimantan Province. This tourist landmark, referred to as the tail of Borneo, is located at the furthest edge of Sambas Regency, adjacent to Melano Bay in Sarawak, Malaysia. The advancement of Temajuk tourism, which has surged significantly since 2014, has influenced heightened migration and trade dynamics. The lack of regulation in this domain renders Temajuk's natural resources vulnerable to many problems, including the illicit trade of turtle eggs and the proliferation of alcohol.



Figure 1. NKRI Monument and Temajuk Village Office
Source: Authors (2023)

The socio-economic activities in Temajuk Village have endangered the existence of sea turtles. The 63-kilometer expanse of beach in Paloh is a significant turtle breeding site in Indonesia. According to WWF research conducted in 2010, the loss rate of turtle egg nests reached 95.91% owing to hunting (Yusra et al., 2022). The commercial exploitation of turtles in various cities of West Kalimantan and Sarawak, Malaysia, is driven by economic factors and insufficient public awareness about turtle utilization and sustainable development, alongside inadequate oversight and enforcement of laws protecting these animals (Safitri et al., 2022). Additionally, Temajuk, as a border area, is susceptible to the smuggling of illicit commodities. The extensive smuggling of illicit alcohol via clandestine routes in Temajuk and several regions of West Kalimantan is one such enterprise. During 2022-2023, the Special Criminal Investigation Directorate of the West Kalimantan Regional Police effectively intercepted the smuggling of 22,386 bottles of alcohol from Malaysia (Ferryanto, 2023).

We must recognize the two crises as national security concerns that present existential and survival threats. In addition to the absence of oversight, the deficiency of infrastructure and information access heightens the risk of non-traditional security threats in border regions. The remote position of Temajuk Village, along with extensive travel distances and restricted access to adequate infrastructure, adversely affects the effective development of human resources, which is essential for facilitating numerous facets of national development. Politics, the economy, society, and culture impact national security, which includes human rights, public welfare, and environmental security (Alam et al., 2022).

Consequently, community engagement, the execution of sustainable economic development, and effective boundary management are crucial. Effective border management necessitates a long-term strategy encompassing readiness, prompt information dissemination, enhanced trust, and improved synergy (Bigo, 2014). The state, particularly the individual and institutional village administrations, begins border management, promoting cooperation among village, district, and national authorities. This study examines vulnerabilities associated with physical security, economic dependency, and social cohesiveness in Temajuk Village, highlighting the necessity for an evidence-based strategy to enhance national security at the village level. At this point, this research is designed to answer the following question: How can state capacity in border governance be enhanced to mitigate socioenvironmental vulnerabilities in Temajuk Village, Indonesia?

Research Methods

This study utilizes a case study of Temajuk Village, located in Sambas Regency, West Kalimantan Province, to examine socio-environmental challenges and governance issues. Temajuk, the outermost point of Kalimantan bordering Malaysia, boasts natural beauty and tourism potential. Despite its designation as a National Strategic Tourism Area (KSPN), the village continues to struggle with poor infrastructure, isolation, and cross-border resource misuse. Limited access and infrastructure impede further development, exacerbate vulnerabilities, and pose risks to national security. We employed a case study approach, defined as an intensive, systematic, and holistic investigation of individuals, groups, communities, or other units, where researchers analyze in-depth data on multiple variables (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011).

We have chosen an exploratory case study (Yin, 2018) to comprehensively understand the unique dynamics of the Pos Lintas Batas Negara (PLBN), particularly Type C. This approach facilitates an in-depth examination of the socio-environmental vulnerabilities and state's capacity in Temajuk. By exploring the interrelated factors shaping community practices and border governance, the study provides valuable insights into policy implementation and outcomes. Whereas, by focusing on Temajuk, we highlight opportunities for tourism and economic development, address threats such as smuggling and environmental exploitation, and provide lessons for similar border regions.

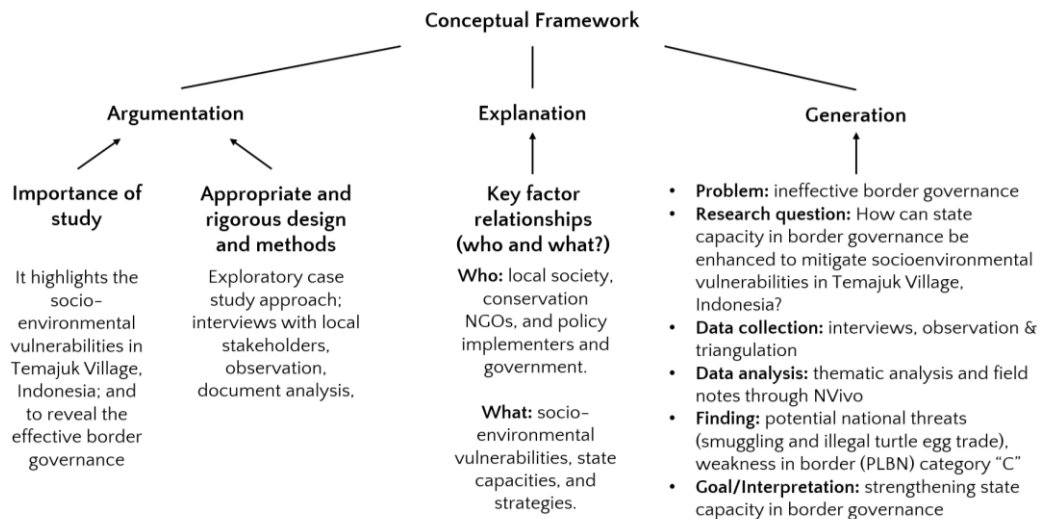


Figure 2. Conceptual Framework
 Source: processed by The Authors (2024)

Data collection combined field observations of community activities and governance practices with secondary data from policy documents and statistical reports. We categorized the data into themes like vulnerabilities, governance, and community dynamics and then triangulated them to ensure reliability. We analyzed qualitative data, which included interviews with stakeholders such as village authorities and community representatives, using NVivo. Integrating these insights ensures a comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand. This study transforms the challenges faced by Temajuk Village into actionable insights to improve border governance and mitigate socio-environmental risks. Whereas, by employing a systematic case study approach, the findings contribute to policy development and governance strategies, emphasizing the need to strengthen institutional capacity and infrastructure in border areas to unlock their potential.

Results and Discussion

Indonesia's Village in the border area

As the nation with the largest archipelago in the world, Indonesia possesses extensive land and maritime boundaries. Several regions share direct borders with neighboring countries, including Aceh, which borders Thailand; North Sulawesi, adjacent to the Philippines; Kalimantan Island, bordering Malaysia; and Papua, which shares a boundary with Papua New Guinea. One of the most pressing concerns in these border areas is security, particularly the prevalence of cross-border crimes.

Kalongan Village, located in the Talaud Islands Regency of North Sulawesi, directly borders the Philippines. This area is frequently affected by illegal activities such as unregulated fishing and smuggling. In addition to these issues, Kalongan Village faces significant infrastructural and socio-economic challenges, including the need for improved road networks, enhanced telecommunications, better economic opportunities, cultural development, transportation systems, and strengthened defense and security mechanisms. Such challenges highlight the central government's inadequate attention to the welfare of border communities, often failing to address the specific needs of local populations. Nonetheless, the Kalongan village government has actively attempted to mitigate these challenges within its jurisdiction (Sasauw et al., 2020). Compounding these difficulties, the Talaud Islands serve as a potential entry and exit point for terrorist activities. The immigration office plays a pivotal role in curbing such threats, yet the Taruna immigration office has demonstrated suboptimal coordination with other related agencies. To address these issues effectively, the central government must prioritize the immigration office's role, ensuring seamless coordination and operational efficiency (Damayanti et al., 2023). Furthermore, village governments should assume a more prominent role in addressing localized issues and promoting sustainable development.

Despite the prevalence of cross-border crimes, border villages in Indonesia also exhibit significant potential for resource-based development. Nanga Bayan Village, located in Sintang Regency, West Kalimantan Province, is one such example. Bordering Sarawak, Malaysia, this village boasts considerable natural wealth, particularly in the plantation sector. Additionally, the village has untapped potential for alternative economic activities, including forest resource management, woven crafts, and access to abundant clean water supplies. However, due to its proximity to Malaysia, many residents opt to export plantation products unofficially, highlighting the need for better mechanisms to formalize and optimize cross-border trade. The community's existing export activities underscore the potential for regional economic development, yet the Nanga Bayan village government has not sufficiently capitalized on this potential to drive local economic growth (Antonius et al., 2024).

Similarly, Mosso Village, situated in Papua Province near the border with Papua New Guinea, also possesses significant development opportunities. Currently, most residents engage in subsistence farming, focusing primarily on meeting daily needs rather than engaging in sustainable economic ventures. This lack of long-term economic activity is primarily due to limited public awareness of available resources, despite the presence of promising assets such as hot spring pools, vanilla cultivation, and livestock farming (Apriani, 2023). By addressing this knowledge gap and promoting resource-based economic initiatives, Mosso Village has the potential to achieve greater economic stability and improve the livelihoods of its residents. At this point, while border areas in Indonesia face considerable challenges, including security risks and infrastructural deficiencies, they also possess immense untapped potential for socio-economic development. With greater governmental intervention and the empowerment of local leadership, these villages can evolve into thriving border communities that contribute to both national security and regional prosperity.

Potential National Threats

Border areas have strategic significance from three main perspectives: defense and security, economy-trade, and socio-culture (Koespramoedyo et al., 2003). In the field of defense and security, borders function as the front line in protecting state sovereignty. From an economic and trade perspective, borders play a crucial role in the movement of goods and services, as well as in export-import activities. Meanwhile, from a socio-cultural perspective, borders are areas of interaction and cultural exchange that enrich diversity and strengthen national identity. Furthermore, border areas can serve as entry points for national security threats, making them susceptible to infiltration by transnational organized crime (TOC) networks (Prasetio & Suhito, 2022).

These threats include various forms of serious crimes such as terrorism, human trafficking, drug trafficking/narcotics, illegal logging, illegal fishing, illegal logging, illegal arms trade, and illegal trade in protected animals. This vulnerability requires special attention and a comprehensive handling strategy to prevent and overcome various threats that can disrupt the stability and security of the country. Transnational crime began to receive attention in the international arena in the 1990s when meetings between countries began to discuss strategies for preventing and overcoming cross-border crime (Adi Satriyo et al., 2022). However, several problems are still found in the Indonesian border areas, including the lack of effectiveness and accountability, which has led to a rampant crime rate, including the smuggling of wood, fuel oil, illegal drugs, and human trafficking (Rizqi et al., 2020).

One of the challenges in Indonesia's land border areas is the blurring of the country's territorial boundaries. The country's territorial boundaries, which occasionally shift rapidly, lead to uncertainty within the country's territory, thereby increasing the likelihood of conflict with neighboring countries and creating opportunities for illegal activities that could potentially harm the country. One crucial factor in maintaining territorial integrity and preventing infiltration by unwanted parties is the presence of clear and well-maintained border markers. Therefore, it is crucial to implement a location concept that focuses on the geopolitical analysis of border markers, such as the Aruk PLBN, which Malaysia still views as a traditional trade route with low commodity value, limited infrastructure development, and minimal support (Sagita et al., 2024).

The second issue is the persistent threat of terrorism. The threat of terrorism in border areas is a crucial issue that requires serious attention from both the government and the community. Border areas are often vulnerable points due to suboptimal supervision and control, thus opening gaps for terrorist groups to infiltrate and carry out their actions (Damayanti et al., 2023). The Entikong PLBN area, a frequent destination for human smugglers due to its weak defense and security, has become a strategic location for criminals and fugitives smuggling drugs and illegal weapons (Maisonra & Astarina Cempaka Timur, 2023), with the smuggling of various consumer goods dominating illegal trade. The findings of three studies on cross-border trade indicate that illegal cross-border trade can result in countries losing potential income (Hendro, 2023). In addition, border areas often have high economic and social vulnerabilities. One such area is the Entikong PLBN area, where some individuals work as migrant farmers to meet their economic needs, relying heavily on the Malaysian market. This dependence was particularly evident during the COVID-19 period. People living on the border are beginning to struggle to meet their basic needs. According to

Etem and Niko, the orientation of people living on the border is vulnerable to food sources (Casiavera et al., 2023).

Fourth, Andreas asserts that visa policies, in addition to serving as a food source, contribute to economic dependence by creating opportunities for human trafficking (Avdan, 2014). Human trafficking in border areas poses a serious threat and requires serious attention, as it facilitates human exploitation (Almeida et al., 2024). In addition to drug smuggling across the border (Rumbiak et al., 2022), human trafficking syndicates also operate relatively easily. This occurs due to the weak regulations and supervision surrounding traditional crossing lines, which are often used as backdoors by human trafficking syndicates or as a place to transact explosives, among other activities (Edy Suprpto, 2021). Crossing conditions carried out by border communities often occur because of similarities in cultural values and family relationships, which trigger crossers to travel illegally without using complete documents (Saputra et al., 2023)

Fifth, illegal logging, a forestry activity without a permit, negatively impacts the condition of the forest (Affandi et al., 2017). The actors in this activity are very diverse; it can be carried out by parties who, according to the provisions, already have a permit but tend to damage the forest by logging outside their concessions, violating the provisions that have been set, colluding with officers and officials, and so on. Parties without a permit may engage in wood theft and tree felling, selling the trees to forest product collectors.

The Weakness of Border Performativity in Temajuk, Indonesia

Border performativity, as previously articulated, is a concept within border studies that emphasizes the creation and maintenance of borders through dynamic, recurring practices, rather than as static lines on a map. This perspective underscores the social construction of borders and their continuous reproduction through various performances. These performances include immigration control, border patrol activities, border policies, and the daily interactions of residents living within border zones. Johnson et al (2011: 66) talk about three "registers" of border performativity. These are all based on the idea that a sovereign state needs to keep reaffirming its main claim: the separation of power, both inside and outside the country, especially when global politics are at play.

The three registers are as follows: The first register is the formal border performance, which deals with the demarcation and defense of specific territorial boundaries. Legal documents, international agreements, and world maps formalize these. Second, the Practical Border Performance focuses on the actual politics of enforcing processes such as admission, expulsion, and screening at the border. This involves the daily operational practices of state agents on the ground, including immigration offices, border patrols, detention, and deportation efforts. Thirdly, the Popular Border Performance encompasses public and political debates about the definition of borders. Public discourse, including social media debates, revolves around the significance of borders, the right to cross them, and their management. These discussions often manifest through protests, social media debates, and evolving public narratives. Interconnected, these three registers collectively contribute to the production and reproduction of borders, serving as both symbolic and physical demarcations between the "inside" and the "outside".

The State Border Post (PLBN) in Temajuk Village, Indonesia has largely resolved significant issues related to the formal performance of borders. The Indonesian and Malaysian governments have addressed past border disputes concerning demarcation lines in areas classified as Outstanding Border Problems (OBP), such as Tanjung Datu (Rachmawati & Dewi, 2019), through agreements (BNPP, 2024). Mutual respect for longstanding territorial claims formalized through legal frameworks facilitated this resolution.



Figure 3. Gabma Post and Military Border Inspection
Source: Authors (2023)

The primary challenges in Temajuk currently lie within the second and third registers. In terms of practical border performance, field observations and interviews reveal significant challenges in implementing policies on the ground. Limited resources, both in personnel and infrastructure, frequently hampered activities such as border patrols, immigration monitoring, and law enforcement. While Indonesian and Malaysian forces occasionally conduct joint patrols (SATGAS PAMTAS RI-MALAYSIA in Gabma Post), local security officials in Temajuk have not yet been able to effectively monitor the vast area, especially due to the proliferation of "rat routes" used for illicit activities like smuggling alcoholic beverages from Malaysia. This is made possible by the classification of State Border Crossing Post (PLBN) Temajuk as type C. This traditional crossing does not engage in any export or import activities. The PLBN type C meets the following criteria: 1) The monthly crossing count is less than 1,000 individuals, and 2) The area and number of building types in the Core Zone align with the Port Master Plan. The state's minimum monitoring allows people to use the designated routes.

Furthermore, the daily practices of enforcement officers often lack integration with community efforts to safeguard the region. This highlights the need for more participatory strategies where local communities actively participate as partners in border surveillance. Local residents, being more attuned to potential violations originating either within their own village or from external actors, possess invaluable knowledge that could strengthen border management. If left unaddressed, inadequacies in practical performance may weaken the state's claims to sovereignty in border regions like Temajuk while simultaneously creating opportunities for various forms of illegal activity that harm both the state and local communities.

Meanwhile, popular border performance is particularly evident in the public discourse surrounding border issues and the contestation of their meanings within the community. In Temajuk Village, this register manifests through the narratives emerging among local residents and on social media concerning border security and well-being. A significant portion of the community perceives current border management efforts as

inadequate, particularly in preventing illegal activities such as the smuggling of goods and wildlife trafficking, including the trade of sea turtle eggs. Media reports on smuggling incidents in the region and criticisms of the government's lack of oversight often fuel public discussions. Social media platforms, in particular, serve as arenas for contestation, where locals, environmental activists, and community leaders share perspectives on the need to protect national sovereignty while simultaneously conserving natural resources in border areas. These debates reflect the dynamics of popular border performance, where national identity and local interests intersect and, at times, conflict.

Existing Government Strategy

The National Border Management Agency (BNPP) has a border area development strategy through the National Strategic Activity Center (PKSN) policy. The National Border Management Agency (BNPP) has designated PKSN as an urban area to stimulate the development of border areas. In general, PKSN serves three functions: firstly, as an urban center that can serve as a cross-border checkpoint and international gateway connecting with neighboring countries; secondly, as the primary transportation node connecting the surrounding areas; and thirdly, as a center of economic growth that can stimulate the development of the surrounding areas.

The initiative known as Presidential Instruction Number 1 of 2021 aims to accelerate economic development in state border areas in Aruk, Motaain, and Skow, preparing for the implementation of the next PKSN. The government then emphasizes the importance of collaboration to address the challenges in PLBN throughout Indonesia, including non-official state borders that are difficult to reach. The government, through BNPP, collaborates with stakeholders, such as Customs and Excise, the Ministry of Home Affairs, TNI, POLRI, and local village governments, to build strategic communication and coordination in overcoming problems in the PLBN. Currently, BNPP provides education to the public directly or indirectly (via social media) to increase awareness, especially in areas that border neighboring countries. In handling PLBN, BNPP seeks strategies in several aspects of life (see Table 1).

Table 1. BNPP Strategy

No.	Aspects	Functions
1	Economy	Opening job opportunities to improve the economy of border communities
2	Infrastructure	Build or facilitate border areas with proper facilities
3	HR Development	Providing training and education to border communities
4	Social welfare	Organizing cooperation programs to provide social assistance to people in need
5	Diplomacy and Cooperation	Establishing relationships with people in neighboring countries to build communication patterns that make it easier for Indonesian people to carry out their activities
6	Community empowerment	Conduct visits to provide useful training for the community around PLBN
7	Social Security and Culture	Support the preservation of culture and traditions of local communities in the PLBN area
8	Law Enforcement and Security	Ensuring legal security in the PLBN area to reduce smuggling activities, illegal trade and other criminal activities that could disrupt security

Source: processed by author, 2024

With these strategies, BNPP seeks to improve the quality of life and security of communities in border areas. More specifically, the activities that have been and will be implemented in the PSKN (Paloh) Aruk area as a manifestation of the presence of the state in society can be seen as follows (see Table 2).

Table 2. Matrix of National Border Management Activities in West Kalimantan Province

No.	Activity	Amount	Target	Implementing Agency
1	Construction of Temajuk Terminal	1 unit	2024	Ministry of Transportation
2	Construction of the Temajuk-Aruk Road	22 km	2022	Minister For Public Works and Human Settlements
3	Improvement of the border road to Temajuk Village, Paloh District	2.16 km	2022	Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration
4	Construction of a road parallel to the border in West Kalimantan (Temajuk-Aruk-Nanga Badau)	98 km	2022	Minister For Public Works and Human Settlements
5	National Road Construction in Sambas Regency, West Kalimantan (Merbau-Temajuk Section)	1 package	2022	Minister For Public Works and Human Settlements
6	Improvement of the Teluk Atong road, Temajuk Village, Paloh District	4.8 km	2022	Minister For Public Works and Human Settlements
7	Development/Revitalization of People's Markets	1 unit	2022	Ministry of Trade

Source: Attachment to Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 118 of 2022 concerning Master Plan for Management of National Borders and Border Areas for 2020-2024

The government has implemented several measures detailed in the structure above, to monitor the border's growth, particularly in Temajuk Village. However, it is crucial to conduct an analysis to ascertain the extent to which this project has the potential to address the two primary difficulties that Temajuk Village faces. These challenges include the natural risks of turtle conservation, and the social challenges associated with smuggling.

Threats to Turtle Conservation: Turtle Eggs Being Traded

The green turtle is the predominant species in West Kalimantan, especially in Sebusus and Temanjuk Villages. Tanjung Api Beach, situated in Paloh District, Sambas Regency, with a shoreline exceeding 100 kilometers, rendering it an essential nesting habitat for green turtles (Darwati et al., 2022). Nonetheless, turtles in this area confront increasing exploitation for cultural, mythical, and commercial reasons. In reaction to escalating concerns, the Indonesian Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries classified this region as a Coastal and Small Islands Conservation Area (KKP3K) pursuant to Ministerial Decree KP 93/2020 (Kurniawan et al., 2020). Likewise, the pig-nosed turtle, a species legally protected by Indonesian legislation, continues to be at risk due to inadequate law enforcement. Of the 26 reported instances of unlawful commerce, just nine were processed, and none resulted in court proceedings. Traffickers have

smuggled more than 5,400 pig-nosed turtles, leading to confiscations at airports and ports, including Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, and destinations such as China, Malaysia, and Hong Kong. The breaches of Indonesia's fisheries and customs regulations illustrate a fundamental deficiency in enforcement, requiring more stringent actions to address exploitation (Shepherd et al., 2020).

Green turtles depend on the protected area of Tanjung Api for nesting, although hawksbill turtles commonly reside on the adjacent coral reefs and shallow waters. Notwithstanding governmental rules and international accords aimed at safeguarding these species, unlawful exploitation continues. Hawksbill turtle shells are coveted for the creation of accessories like necklaces and bracelets because of their elaborate designs, while immature turtles are maintained and marketed as beautiful objects. Olive ridley turtles, however infrequently seen, occasionally nest on sandy shores, underscoring the ecological significance of the area (Yusra et al., 2022). Prior to 2005, concession permits awarded to commercial enterprises in Sambas Regency formalized the collection of turtle eggs. Despite the requirement to conserve a portion of eggs, inadequate supervision led to extensive infractions, resulting in a markedly reduced number of eggs hatching as mandated. The local consumption and trafficking of turtle eggs exacerbate this issue, underscoring the socio-economic intricacies that hinder successful conservation (Aiba et al., 2020).

The illicit trade of turtles persists in Sambas, with around 100 turtles noted in local traditional markets. Traders in the border regions of West and South Kalimantan provide these turtles. This widespread exploitation exposes structural issues stemming from socio-economic reliance, inadequate law enforcement, and a lack of public awareness. Turtle eggs have historically provided a crucial source of revenue for local populations, fostering unsustainable behaviors, especially due to inadequate oversight of the region's vast coasts. Moreover, reduced participation from oversight organizations like the Kambau Borneo Monitoring Society has intensified the unauthorized collection of turtle eggs at Paloh Turtle Nesting Beach (Pahlevy, 2021). Furthermore, the lack of extensive environmental education and awareness initiatives sustains a cultural disconnection about the ecological importance of turtles. These interrelated difficulties necessitate a thorough and integrated strategy to address the root causes.

Long-term solutions necessitate a multifaceted approach that combines robust law enforcement with community-oriented conservation initiatives. Strengthening enforcement methods, such as augmented patrols, sophisticated surveillance technology, and more severe punishments for infractions, is essential to mitigate criminal activity. Concurrently, community engagement initiatives must tackle the socio-economic factors contributing to exploitation by offering alternative livelihoods, including ecotourism, sustainable fisheries, and eco-friendly crafts. Educational activities aimed at local populations should highlight the ecological and economic advantages of turtle protection, promoting a greater comprehension of environmental care. Existing promising models include Tanjungpura University's creation of a turtle breeding ecotourism site in Sebus Village, serving as a hub for education, training, and research, as well as the partnership between the Wahana Bahari Paloh Community Group and WWF Indonesia for hatchling releases and community engagement (Savitri et al., 2021). These initiatives illustrate that conservation projects, when enhanced by institutional backing and engaged local involvement, can attain an equilibrium between ecological preservation and sustainable development. Ultimately, tackling the

fundamental reasons of exploitation through a cohesive framework of conservation, enforcement, and education is the most effective strategy for protecting turtle populations and preserving marine ecosystem equilibrium in West Kalimantan.

Smuggling Case

Border areas are inherently dynamic and frequently arise from various social issues. Temajuk Village, a popular tourist destination at the tip of Kalimantan Island, is one such area rife with transnational social problems. Smuggling of commodities, drugs, illegal drugs, weapons, and other illegal goods occurs in many border areas (Maisondra & Timur, 2023). Smuggling goods and people are a major problem in Temajuk Village. Temajuk Village's border position and proximity to a strategic activity center contribute to its orientation toward neighboring countries (Muazir & Hsieh, 2016). The strategic economic center's orientation requires improvement in its supervision, particularly in its efforts to combat alcohol and drugs, a situation that highlights the village government's limited capacity. This implies that border villages lack the authority and support necessary to tackle transnational challenges, in addition to domestic ones.

Based on geographical location, the border area between Temajuk Village (Indonesia) and Telok Melano (Malaysia) borders forests, especially rubber forests. This relatively long borderline implies vulnerability as it allows individuals to engage in illicit activities such as the smuggling of liquor and drugs. The case of crystal methamphetamine smuggling in Sambas (Oxtora, 2023) provides evidence of this illegal transaction. The smuggling of five kilograms of crystal methamphetamine also occurred at Entikong PLBN (Elyta, 2020). The numerous violations at Entikong PLBN involve not only rogue traders passing through but also law enforcement officers involved in transactions in the border area (Fitrianto et al., 2024). Not only that, the rampant smuggling of alcoholic beverages and cigarettes in the Nanga Badung PLBN border area is also a major challenge.



Figure 5. Border of Temajuk Village, Indonesia and Telok Melano, Malaysia
Source: Authors (2023)

Observation notes reveal the presence of several kiosks or grocery stores selling liquor and drugs specifically targeted at young people. The impact is that many school-age children marry young due to promiscuity and alcohol and drug consumption, a phenomenon also attributed to the acculturation of Western culture prevalent in cross-border areas (Aslan et al., 2019). In addition, the consequences for some young people include a decrease in enthusiasm for learning and even dropping out of school. The

Central Statistics Agency (BPS, 2022) reported a decline in elementary education (SD) from 70,712 individuals in 2019 to approximately 4,505 thousand in 2023. Meanwhile, the high school (SMA) level only experienced a slight increase of approximately 863 individuals from 12,504 in 2023 to 2019-2023. This phenomenon also contributes to the decline in education levels. In 2017, there were 238 recorded criminal cases. In 2017, the prison population amounted to approximately 59 individuals. Things like this will not happen easily if the supervision of rural areas that pass-through forests, paths, rivers, and seas is vulnerable to becoming an area of illegal transactions. This weak defense makes it a strategic location for smugglers of illegal goods. Indonesia's vast territorial coverage makes it vulnerable to transnational crime. Drug smuggling cases in the Aruk Sambas area have the potential for social aspects, such as high crime rates, low education, and high unemployment rates. One of the impacts of drug use is on public health. The Central Statistics Agency (BPS) of Sambas Regency predicts that 70 people will have HIV/AIDS in 2023 (BPS, 2022).

Field observations and interviews revealed several root causes for the persistence of smuggling and drug-related crimes in border areas like Temajuk Village. First, geographical isolation and vast, porous borders provide an opportunity for illegal activities to flourish, particularly in areas with limited surveillance and weak infrastructure. Second, inadequate law enforcement undermines efforts to control transnational crime. Third, socio-economic disparities in border areas exacerbate the problem, as limited livelihood opportunities push locals to engage in or support illicit activities. Finally, cultural influences and the lack of robust educational programs allow risky behaviors such as drug use and underage marriage to persist unchecked.

Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive and multi-layered approach. Strengthening border security through advanced monitoring technologies, increased patrols, and better training for law enforcement officers is essential. Also, the urgency to build a border post aligns with efforts to increase tourism potential and revise the spatial planning (known as *Rencana Tata Ruang dan Wilayah/RTRW*) of West Kalimantan Province. Enforcing law enforcement through stricter oversight mechanisms and transparent accountability systems is equally critical. Socio-economic empowerment programs, such as developing sustainable livelihoods, creating cross-border trade regulations, and fostering ecotourism, offer viable alternatives to illegal activities. Additionally, education and community engagement initiatives should focus on raising awareness about the dangers of drug abuse, early marriage, and criminal involvement while emphasizing the value of education and skill development. Long-term solutions also necessitate bilateral cooperation with neighboring countries, such as Malaysia, to harmonize border policies and jointly combat transnational crimes. By addressing these systemic issues, it is possible to mitigate the challenges faced by Temajuk Village and other border areas, fostering a safer, more sustainable environment for their communities.

Conclusion

The role of the government is critical in developing an adaptive and responsive national strategy to address challenges in border areas such as Temajuk Village. Neglecting these areas or failing to develop an integrated border management system, such as a well-operated PLBN, will risk continued socio-economic vulnerability and security threats. The proximity of Temajuk Village to Melano Bay, where Malaysia has already established an advanced border post, underscores the urgency of upgrading Indonesia's infrastructure to maintain parity and enhance cross-border oversight.

Beyond physical infrastructure, the government must empower village administrations, positioning them as vital representatives of the Indonesian state in fostering stability and development in border regions. Strengthening local governments' institutional and individual capacities while integrating these efforts into West Kalimantan Province's broader spatial planning and tourism initiatives can transform Temajuk Village into a secure, economically viable, and strategically important area.

Addressing the dual challenges of environmental conservation and illicit smuggling requires a holistic, multipronged approach. Enhanced border administration, sustainable economic development, and active community participation are essential to overcoming these issues. Conservation programs to protect endangered turtles must be paired with law enforcement strategies that target smuggling networks and promote legal livelihoods. Moreover, fostering collaboration among village, district, and national authorities will ensure a unified approach to border governance. By implementing strategic programs to bolster local capacities and creating partnerships across stakeholders, Indonesia can achieve a balanced framework that safeguards national security, fosters economic growth, and protects its ecological and social assets in border regions.

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