# [***Indonesia : New Project will Support Large-Scale Mangrove Conservation and Restoration in Indonesia***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:65N2-VBV1-JDJN-64S7-00000-00&context=1516831)

Mena Report

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**Body**

The World Banks Board of Executive Directors approved a project to support the Government of Indonesia in enhancing the management of ***mangroves*** and livelihoods of local communities on May 20, 2022.

The ***Mangroves*** for Coastal Resilience Project will focus on strengthening the policy and institutions for ***mangrove*** management and rehabilitation, promoting sustainable ***mangrove*** management, as well as improving the livelihood opportunities for Indonesian coastal communities living around ***mangrove*** forests in selected areas.

The success of this project will contribute significantly to achieving Indonesias emissions reduction target under the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), as well as our target to turn forests and land use sector into a Net Sink by 2030. ***Mangroves*** restoration and conservation are critical to realize those targets and are testament to Indonesias strong global commitment to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change, conveyed Siti Nurbaya Bakar, Minister of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia.

Spanning about 3.4 million hectares, Indonesias ***mangroves*** account for over 20 percent of the global ***mangrove*** area and cover 40 of the 54 species of true ***mangroves*** currently recorded as the richest diversity in the world. Indonesias ***mangroves*** store 3.14 billion tons of CO2 (commonly referred to as ***blue carbon***) or equivalent to GHG emissions from approximately 2.5 billion passenger vehicles driven for one year. ***Mangroves*** are a key component of livelihoods in coastal communities, providing important sources of food and income. About fifty-five percent of the total fish catch biomass in Indonesia consists of ***mangrove***-dependent species, the total annual production of which is valued at US$825 million. ***Mangroves*** also have tourism value of almost US$30 million a year. Recent World Bank research suggests that ***mangroves*** have annual values from US$15,000 to almost US$50,000 per hectare in Indonesia.

Given their significant value, Indonesian ***mangroves*** need to be rehabilitated. In the last 20 years, Indonesia lost approximately 13,000 hectares of ***mangroves*** every year (larger than the size of Paris), driven by indirect factors including global demand for products such as shrimp (which is often cultivated in areas which were ***mangrove*** before) as well as overall lack of perceived ***mangroves*** economic value.

Coastal communities that depend on ***mangroves*** for their resilience and livelihoods are among the most vulnerable in Indonesia. They have limited access to services such as secondary schools, safe water, electricity, and transportation, and experience 1.27 percent higher poverty rate compared to communities living in non-coastal villages. Now with an extended COVID-19 imposed crisis, poverty rates are likely to increase emphasizing the need for targeted policies and investments to reach these coastal communities.

We commend the bold steps taken by the Government of Indonesia to reverse ***mangrove*** losses and rehabilitate both degraded and deforested ***mangrove*** areas, and therefore stand to support those efforts. Conservation of Indonesias healthy ***mangroves*** ecosystems and targeted rehabilitation using global best practices brings significant economic returns to the country in the forms of coastal resilience, fisheries productivity, tourism potential and climate mitigation. Through the project, the World Bank supports the country in promoting green, resilient, and inclusive development among coastal communities, including by strengthening national and sub-national institutions and policies managing ***mangroves*** and adding value to ***mangroves*** by enabling future payments for ***blue carbon*** contained in ***mangroves***., stated Satu Kahkonen, World Bank Country Director for Indonesia and Timor-Leste. By integrating sustainable resource management into village-level planning and increasing the role of women in ***mangrove*** management and village leadership, we expect to witness increased ***mangrove*** cover and reduce ***mangrove*** loss.

The project is designed to support the Governments National ***Mangrove*** Rehabilitation program that aims to rehabilitate 600,000 hectares of ***mangroves*** by 2024. Initially focused on four provinces that contain a significant portion of existing and degraded ***mangroves*** areas, namely East Kalimantan, North Kalimantan, North Sumatra and Riau, the integrated conservation, rehabilitation and livelihood improvement model can be replicated throughout the country. The project is also supportive of the World Bank Groups Climate Action Plan (FY 2021-25) and Gender Strategy (FY 2016-23), particularly the strategic objectives related to economic opportunities and enhancing womens voice and agency.

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