

PROJECT TITLE

Alternative Legal Standing for Strengthening and Recognizing Indigenous Peoples in Lebak Regency

BACKGROUND

Since July 2022, Estungkara, in collaboration with RMI, has been implementing the project by conducting baseline data collection as the foundation for program intervention. This data collection process was carried out participatorily, involving local youth and women as enumerators in five assisted locations: the Baduy Indigenous Peoples, Kasepuhan Cibarani, Kasepuhan Pasir Eurih, Kasepuhan Cirompang, and Kasepuhan Cibedug. The results include social data related to basic services, participation, and economic conditions of Indigenous Peoples in Lebak, as well as disability identification. This process also served as a momentum for community organizing, engaging both young men and women, and providing them with important learning experiences related to survey techniques and field dynamics.

In 2023, RMI, through the Estungkara project, began interventions based on the baseline data. One key finding was the low participation of youth and women in decision-making processes at the village level, where approximately 70% of women were not involved in decision-making, especially at the community and village levels. This became a focus for Estungkara in promoting women's participation through economic approaches by forming business groups in three kasepuhan: Pasir Eurih, Cirompang, and Cibarani, involving a total of 23 members.

Additionally, in 2023, Estungkara strengthened the capacity of youth from the Kasepuhan and Baduy communities through the formation of the **Lebak Indigenous Territory Consolidation Forum (KAWAL)**, projected to be a hub for Indigenous Peoples' advocacy in Lebak Regency. That year, KAWAL Forum engaged 50 young people from nine kasepuhan and the Baduy community.

With continued support from Estungkara, RMI will focus its 2024 program on EOPO 2 and EOPO 3 through a project titled:

"Establishing resilient local cadres actively engaged in advocacy and development processes at the community and village levels, toward inclusive sovereignty over territory and natural wealth."

The main focus of this program includes:

- Increasing women's participation through the Women's Deliberation Forum to ensure their involvement in village development decision-making,
- Strengthening the youth advocacy movement (KAWAL Forum), and
- Empowering economic groups.

OBJECTIVE

To realize independence and social inclusion of Indigenous communities toward fair and sustainable development, through:

- **Sustainable and Participatory Management of Indigenous Territories**
Encouraging Indigenous Peoples to manage their territories in environmentally friendly ways, involving youth and women in the decision-making process from the beginning.
- **Strengthening Inclusive Indigenous Community Institutions**
Reinforcing customary institutions to operate effectively and openly, and encouraging the active involvement of women and youth in voicing their rights.
- **Promoting Sustainable Social Inclusion at Village and District Levels**
Ensuring all community groups are involved in development planning and decision-making to achieve fairer outcomes that meet Indigenous Peoples' needs.
- **Developing Community-Based Economic Enterprises Rooted in Local Knowledge**
Supporting the development of economic enterprises based on culture and local wisdom, alongside mentoring efforts to help promote and market products more broadly.
- **Fostering the Regeneration of Independent and Empowered Local Leaders**
Encouraging active youth participation in social, cultural, and economic activities through training and learning spaces, enabling them to grow into future community leaders.

WORKING AREAS

- Kasepuhan Pasir Eurih, Sindanglaya Village, Sobang Sub-district, Lebak Regency
- Kasepuhan Cirompang, Cirompang Village, Sobang Sub-district, Lebak Regency
- Kasepuhan Cibarani, Cibarani Village, Cirinten Sub-district, Lebak Regency
- Kasepuhan Jamrut, Sindanglaya Village, Cigemblong Sub-district, Lebak Regency
- Baduy, Kanekes Village, Leuwidamar Sub-district, Lebak Regency

OUR FOCUS

FORUM KAWAL

- Serves as the GEDSI (Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion) hub in four villages.
- Participates in facilitating basic services with RMI, starting with cadre training on basic services and village development planning.
- Actively involved in RMI's advocacy to the Lebak District Government on issues of basic services, development, and customary forests (especially in Kasepuhan Jamrut).
- Receives training on gender-based violence and its mitigation, in response to emerging cases of sexual violence.

Women's Forum (Sindanglaya and Cirompang Villages)

- Functions as a platform for women's voices in village development.
- Initiated through leadership training and followed by monthly thematic meetings (topics include self-confidence, women and children's issues, etc.), guided by a theme calendar and syllabus scheduled until January 2025.
- Involved in submitting proposals and monitoring the outcomes of village deliberations.

Economic Groups (Pasir Eurih, Cirompang, and Cibarani)

- Participate in women's forums to raise economic issues specific to women.

- Engage in advocacy to the Office of Cooperatives and MSMEs regarding product legality and training opportunities.
- The economic group in Pasir Eurih is being prepared to become a pre-cooperative, with mentoring support based on RMI's experience in Jagaraksa Village, Muncang Sub-district.

WORKING PARTNER

- Lebak District Government

BUDGET

- Rp 475,000,000

PROGRAM DURATION

- January – December 2025 (12 months)