



# THE URGENCY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION LEGISLATION IN CREATING PARTICIPATORY VILLAGES

(IAP2 INDONESIA'S NOTES  
FOR REFLECTING ON NEARLY 10 YEARS OF VILLAGE  
LAW IMPLEMENTATION

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# International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Indonesia's Notes for Reflecting on Nearly 10 Years of Village Law Implementation

For: World Bank

## The Urgency of Public Participation Legislation in Creating Participatory Villages

### Issues and Challenges

The Village Law has been in force in Indonesia for almost a century and has experienced various achievements—however, the dynamics of its implementation show that strengthening and improvement need to be carried out. One of the main challenges in implementing the Village Law is the lack of support for village economic development and centralized policy. In addition, another major issue is the primary health services and education. Environmental issues are also crucial since villages are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Since its implementation, the Village Law has also faced several governance issues. These challenges include village authority, financing, leadership, competence, and only formative community involvement. The lack of participation, including women's collective action, also impacts the village's decision-making process.

The Village Law has influenced Indonesia's rural development in various ways. However, there is still much work to ensure that the interests of rural communities are always a top priority.

## Reflection by IAP2

With the implementation of the Village Law so far, in parallel, the need for legislation for public participation in addressing problems in the village needs to be considered. Drafting legislation is the first step in the legislative process. It is essential to identify issues that must be solved so that the legislation prepared can be effective. Each proposed draft can be a checklist to increase the strength of each section of the Village Law and answer many questions that may arise. The Village Law shows that achieving specific goals still needs many policy options. Considering the nature of the Village Law framework, regulations governing the law's implementation are fundamental.

The rights of rural communities, including indigenous peoples, will be recognized and protected by the Public Participation Law, which is an essential step in addressing village problems. When a complaint or problem arises, local laws should be applied to resolve the issue. Such legislation shall conform to established deadlines and requires disclosure of the requested information as quickly and efficiently as possible.

### Improving the Quality of Stakeholder Engagement

Public participation in village and supra-village governance includes direct or indirect involvement of stakeholders in decision-making on policies, plans, or programs that affect them. By involving communities in environmental decision-making, it is possible to increase stakeholder engagement and ensure that their voices are heard.

### Local Knowledge and Wisdom

Community participation with relevant environmental knowledge can provide local knowledge and wisdom for governance and valuable references for environmental decision-making by village governments.

### Access to Information

Meaningful public participation in decision-making processes on sustainable development relies on laws and regulations that will ensure access to relevant information. By drafting the Public Participation Law, villagers can have easier access to the information they need to make decisions.

### Environmental Sustainability Rule of Law

The rule of law on environmental sustainability is essential for the right to a healthy environment, which is vital for the sustainable development agenda. Effective institutions that support public participation and access to information and justice, especially for vulnerable communities, are needed to ensure the rule of law on environmental sustainability in villages. Furthermore, discipline enforcement is necessary.



## IAP2 Good Practices

IAP2 takes a role in various public participation processes. IAP2 contributed to a joint framework for biodiversity management and preservation measures at the Graho Nyabu Geothermal Power Plant project in Jambi. IAP2 took part in the focus *group discussion* (FGD) agenda joined by several key stakeholders, including Flora Fauna International (FFI), Conservation Information Shop (WARSII), SILVER, LAHAR NGO, Tropical Forest NGO, Merangin and Kerinci Energy Forum (FORMERCI), academics from the Department of Biology, Andalas University, West Sumatra and the Faculty of Agriculture, Jambi University, indigenous peoples of Lekuk 50 Tumbi and Serampas, and the Regional Government of Kerinci and Merangin Regency, Jambi. The FGD was conducted to obtain perceptions, information, education, and communication from several stakeholders about the areas of interest, in this case, social and environmental impacts, and to guide future actions based on insights gained from the discussion.

IAP2 also partners with PT Hanjeli Abah Asep in the Hanjeli Tourism Village Collaboration & Acceleration initiative. IAP2 plays a role in increasing business capacity, activating system support for Hanjeli Tourism Village, building a collaboration ecosystem, and producing knowledge production related to Hanjeli and regional culture. This effort shows the role of IAP2 in advancing villages in Indonesia through its superior field, namely public participation.