

The gap between ecological violence and social injustice from mining industries in post-conflict West Aceh

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<p>Keywords:</p> <p>conflict transformation</p> <p>post-conflict West Aceh</p> <p>mining industry</p> <p>environmental community</p>	<p>This study examines the role of the mining industry in promoting positive peace in post-conflict West Aceh, using qualitative content analysis of secondary data sources such as media and documentation. The findings reveal a significant gap between the current trajectory of the mining sector and aspirations for long-term peace. While the mining industry has transformative potential, its progress is marred by ecological damage and social injustices, particularly conflicts between local communities and mining companies over land tenure and environmental impacts. This study proposes a socially inclusive approach to mining development that balances economic benefits with sustainable peacebuilding. Key recommendations include stronger environmental regulations, increased community participation in all phases of mining projects, and robust conflict resolution mechanisms. This study is limited by its reliance on secondary data, which may not fully capture local nuances and may be biased by media sources. Further research with primary data collection is recommended to validate and extend these findings.</p>

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Introduction

The strategic use of natural resources for the betterment of post-conflict societies is an essential component of peace development strategies, with the overarching goal of preserving peace and preventing the re-emergence of conflicts (Conca, 2018; Krampe, Hegazi, & VanDeveer, 2021). This approach is particularly relevant in the context of Aceh, Indonesia, where the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU Helsinki) was signed on August 15th, 2005, marking a significant step toward peace between the Indonesian Government and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM). In the aftermath of the peace agreement, the Aceh Government, in collaboration with regional entities and businesses, has persistently worked towards the improvement of community welfare in West Aceh. The focus has been on two key sectors – agriculture and mining – both considered instrumental in fostering economic growth and stability. The agricultural sector, notably in oil palm plantations, has played a pivotal role in sustaining and revitalizing local enterprises. This not only aids in the restoration of existing businesses but also contributes to the overall economic resurgence of the region.

The mining sector, emerging in the post-tsunami and peace agreement era, has introduced a new dynamic to the economic landscape. With activities spanning exploration and exploitation, the sector involves local communities, national companies, and even international corporations. The development in both agricultural and mining sectors is closely tied to issues of control and land utilization, involving various stakeholders such as the state, private companies, and local communities. This intricate web of interests has resulted in contested claims over ownership and control, leading to conflicts, some of which have become contentious

legal battles, as exemplified by the PT. Prima Bara Mahadan (PT PBM) case in Kaway XVI, West Aceh (Antara, antaranews.com, 2021). The strategic development and utilization of natural resources become crucial not only for economic progress but also for the establishment of a lasting and sustainable peace. Balancing the interests of various stakeholders and ensuring equitable resource management are paramount in navigating the complexities of post-conflict recovery and development (Azis et al., 2023). The success of such initiatives lies in the ability to foster cooperation, address underlying grievances, and create a foundation for long-term stability in the region.

On the flip side, the emergence of the mining sector, occurring in the aftermath of the tsunami and peace agreements, introduces a fresh set of dynamics to the economic landscape. This sector engages in exploration and exploitation activities conducted by a spectrum of entities ranging from local communities to national and international corporations (Qodarsasi et al., 2021). The intricacies of both the agricultural and mining sectors are closely interwoven with issues of control and land utilization, involving multiple stakeholders such as the state, private companies, and local communities. This intricate interplay has given rise to conflicts, particularly regarding contested ownership and control claims. The competing interests of various stakeholders have led to disputes, some of which escalate into contentious legal battles. A notable instance is the conflict involving PT. Prima Bara Mahadan (PT PBM) in Kaway XVI, West Aceh, as reported by Antara (Antaranews.com, 2021). The dispute revolves around alleged land seizures, exemplifying the complexity of managing resources and the ensuing conflicts arising from such claims.

The conflicting narratives over land ownership and control underscore the challenges faced in balancing economic

development with the preservation of community welfare and environmental sustainability (Anugrah, 2021). These challenges are further exacerbated by the diverse range of actors involved, from local communities with traditional ties to the land to powerful corporate entities seeking to capitalize on the region's natural resources. This scenario highlights the need for an inclusive approach to resource management and development. Striking a balance between the economic interests of private companies, the regulatory role of the state, and the rights of local communities is imperative for fostering sustainable and peaceful development in the post-conflict setting of West Aceh. Addressing these complexities requires not only legal frameworks that safeguard the rights of all parties but also mechanisms for conflict resolution and community participation at every stage of the development process (Choir, 2022).

This study focuses on conflicts arising from mining activities, covering legal and illegal coal, gold, and iron ore mining in West Aceh. While these activities bring economic benefits like employment and increased income, they also lead to conflicts over land tenure and environmental damage. For instance, the environmental NGO Wahana Lingkungan Hidup (Walhi) Aceh reported around 5000 hectares of forest land in West Aceh damaged by gold mining. Conflicts show cycles of escalation and de-escalation, sometimes transforming into mutually beneficial relationships through employment opportunities, financial support for CSR, and community activities (Rindrasih, 2019). Despite positive aspects, conflicts persist due to competing claims and environmental concerns. This research aims to thoroughly explore mining conflicts, their causes, and efforts to transform them into positive relationships for sustainable peacebuilding in Aceh. The study intends to provide practical insights for policymakers

and contribute theoretically to conflict transformation concepts, especially in mining communities.

Method

A qualitative methodology is used to investigate post-conflict development dynamics in West Aceh's mining industry. This method was chosen to collect nuanced insights into multidimensional concerns, which aligns with the research's main goal of studying conflict transformation in the context of industrial development. This study focuses on post-conflict development in the mining industry in West Aceh. The primary focus is on understanding the transformation of conflicts during industrial development, specifically how these conflicts appear and might impede long-term peacebuilding (Yacoub et al., 2022).

A comprehensive review of online documents, including scholarly journals and institutional reports, forms the basis of data collection (Olaluwoye et al., 2022). This inclusive approach ensures diverse information sources, critical for capturing varied viewpoints on the historical trajectories, conflicts, and development initiatives in West Aceh's mining sector. Content Analysis is employed for systematic data analysis, unveiling recurring themes, patterns, and underlying dynamics within the literature. This method uncovers explicit conflicts and latent issues in development processes, contributing to a deeper understanding of challenges and opportunities in the region.

The journey begins by exploring the developmental process in West Aceh's mining industrial area, establishing a contextual backdrop for conflicts. Subsequent steps involve a purposeful approach to data collection and a structured analytical process. Data is initially described comprehensively, providing a foundational understanding of the content (Davey & Benjaminsen,

2021). This descriptive phase sets the stage for more in-depth analyses. The data then undergoes reduction, streamlining it to core components for focused exploration of key elements relevant to the research focus.

A more detailed description of the data follows, intricately aligned with the specific nuances of the research focus. This phase delves deeper into identified themes, elucidating their contextual relevance within the broader framework of the study. The final analytical step involves constructing themes into knowledge or hypotheses, inspired by Sugiyono's methodology (2014). This stage synthesizes identified themes into coherent insights, enhancing our understanding of the subject matter. As the methodological journey concludes, the transition to the results and discussion section becomes a natural progression. Insights derived from this methodology lay the foundation for a nuanced exploration of research findings and their broader implications for sustainable peacebuilding in West Aceh's mining industry.

Results and Discussion

The mining industry's dynamics in West Aceh

As of November 2017, data sourced from Walhi Aceh indicates the presence of 8 mining companies operating in the region. These companies include PT. Magellanic Garuda Kencana, Putra Putri Aceh Cooperative, PT. Agrabudi Jasa Bersama, PT. Mifa Bersaudara, PT. Prima Bara Mahadana, PT. Bara Adhipratama, PT. Indonesia Pacific Energy, and PT. Nirmala Coal Nusantara. Notably, the mining activities undertaken by these companies are diversified, encompassing both gold and coal commodities. While PT. Magellanic Garuda Kencana and the Koperasi Aceh Putra Putri are engaged in gold mining, the remaining 6 companies

focus on coal extraction. The distribution of mining areas among these companies results in a total mining area in West Aceh of 21,664 hectares (Sofia et al., 2017).

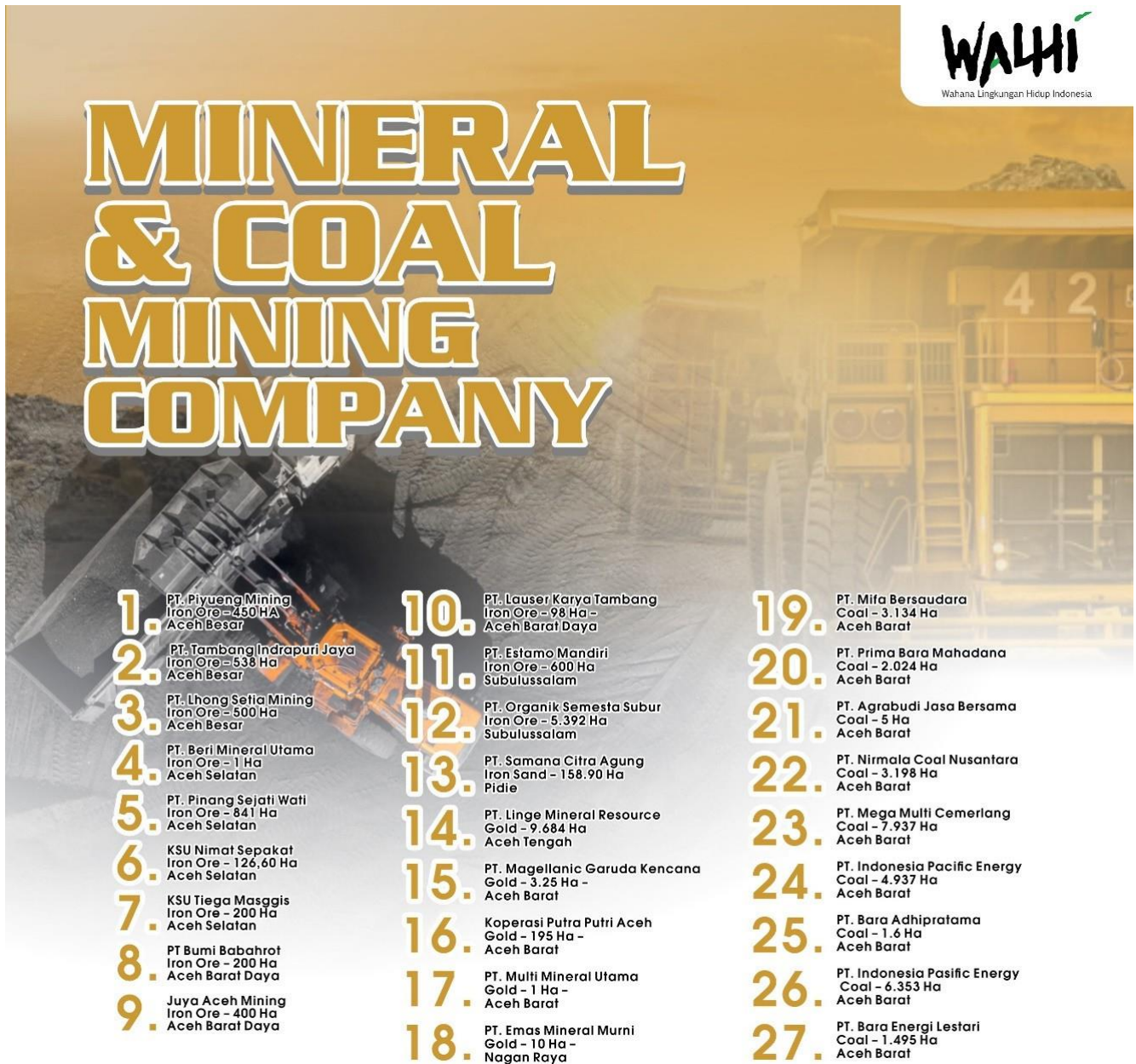
This information lays the groundwork for a detailed examination of the mining sector's impact on the region, providing a quantitative snapshot of the industry's scale and scope. The subsequent sections of the Results and Discussion will likely delve into the environmental, social, and economic implications of these mining activities, offering a nuanced understanding of their multifaceted consequences in the context of West Aceh. The critical analysis of these findings will be essential for drawing meaningful conclusions and contributing to the broader discourse on sustainable development and conflict transformation.

Based on the information provided by WALHI on September 13, 2022, the characterization of mineral and coal mining companies in Aceh, particularly West Aceh, can be referred to as below:

Based on the figure, it provides a comprehensive overview of mineral and coal mining companies operating in Aceh, particularly in West Aceh. This graphic serves as a valuable visual aid, offering a clear and organized representation of the industry's landscape. Each mining company, predominantly designated as "PT" (Perseroan Terbatas), indicating limited liability status under Indonesian law, is accompanied by a corresponding figure in hectares, reflecting the scale of their mining operations.

The image's layout facilitates a systematic comparison of mining companies, potentially indicating different areas within Aceh or categorizations based on the type of mining operation. This organizational structure enhances the viewer's ability to analyze the extensive reach of the mining sector in the region. The inclusion of an excavator and a smoky ambiance in the background, along with the bold font for the title, strategically

Figure 1: Coal mineral mining company



Source: (Walhi, 13 September 2022)

draws attention to the industry's physical and environmental impact.

Referring to the specific data points from Walhi's report, it is important to note that not all listed companies actively engage in mining activities. Two companies, PT. Mifa Bersaudara and PT. Prima Bara Mahadana (PT. PBM), are identified as actively operating in Meureubo and Gampong Batu Jaya, Kaway XVI, with estimated areas of

3,134 hectares and 600 hectares, respectively. Additionally, the report highlights the presence of illegal gold mining in West Aceh, specifically in Sungai Mas and Woyla Timur areas, employing heavy equipment (*beko*) for mining activities.

This comprehensive overview, coupled with specific data points, sets the stage for a critical analysis of the mining industry's dynamics in West Aceh. The identified

active mining companies and the mention of illegal gold mining provide a basis for further exploration into the environmental, social, and economic implications of these activities (Rahmatillah et al., 2021). The critical perspective indicated by the WALHI Aceh logo prompts considerations of environmental degradation, land use conflicts, and social repercussions, enriching the academic discourse on sustainable development and responsible resource management in Aceh.

Community resistance and land disputes in West Aceh

The incident was reported on January 19th, 2022, when members of the Kaway XVI community alliance blocked the access road to the coal mining company PT. Prima Bara Mahadana (PT. PBM) in Gampong Batu Jaya, West Aceh Regency, sheds light on a critical aspect of the mining industry in the region. The protest was triggered by the alleged seizure of a hundred hectares of Ulee Balang customary land by PT. PBM exemplifies the complex dynamics between indigenous communities and mining companies (Dorn & Gundermann, 2022). The claim of ownership over the Ulee Balang land, initially designated for transmigration settlements, exposes the tensions arising from competing interests in land use.

This specific incident provides a tangible example of the conflicts outlined in the earlier part of the method section. The active involvement of the community in blocking the mining company's access road reflects the tangible consequences of the mining activities on indigenous lands (Novoselov et al., 2020). The situation also aligns with the identified demands related to mining activities, particularly those associated with land disputes. The incident, when viewed in the context of the larger mining landscape detailed in the overview, contributes to

the narrative of environmental and social implications associated with mining in West Aceh.

Furthermore, the conflict surrounding the Ulee Balang land underscores the relevance of considering indigenous perspectives and rights in the discourse on sustainable development. The critical analysis initiated by the WALHI Aceh logo, as discussed in the previous section, gains further depth as real-world events like the protest against PT. PBM unfold. The clash over land rights becomes a focal point for exploring the broader themes of environmental degradation, land use conflicts, and social repercussions mentioned in the method section (Lorca et al., 2022). This incident, therefore, becomes a crucial piece of the puzzle in understanding the multifaceted challenges posed by mining activities in West Aceh and contributes substantially to the academic discourse on responsible resource management in the region.

The reported incident of road blockage by residents in Desa Peunaga Cut Ujong, Meureubo, West Aceh Regency, further underscores the complex and contentious issues surrounding mining activities in the region. The act of blocking the road to the coal mine site, driven by the residents' frustration over incomplete land compensation, adds another layer to the multifaceted challenges outlined in the previous section.

This event, occurring in a different location but echoing a similar theme of discontent with mining-related practices, amplifies the recurring pattern of conflicts between local communities and mining companies. The chief of Desa Peunaga Cut Ujong, Agus, explicitly links road blockage to the issue of unpaid land compensation, emphasizing the economic dimension of the conflict. The desperation expressed by the residents in resorting to road blockades highlights the severity of their grievances and

the perceived inadequacies in addressing their concerns (Lesnikov et al., 2023).

This incident not only aligns with the broader narrative established in the method section but also reinforces the argument for a critical analysis of the social repercussions of mining activities. Incomplete land compensation becomes a tangible example of the economic challenges faced by local communities, contributing to the overarching theme of sustainable development and responsible resource management (Chan et al., 2021). The implications extend beyond the immediate protest, inviting deeper consideration of the long-term impact on community well-being, local economies, and social cohesion.

In the context of the comprehensive overview provided in the method section, this incident becomes another data point illustrating the complexities and tensions inherent in the mining industry in West Aceh. The connection between economic grievances, road blockades, and the broader demands outlined in the study sets the stage for a nuanced examination of the social and economic implications of mining activities. It reinforces the critical perspective introduced by the WALHI Aceh logo, emphasizing the need for sustainable and equitable practices in resource management to address the concerns of local communities in West Aceh.

Economic grievances emerge: Roadblock action in West Aceh

The act of the West Aceh community blocking the road in protest of the coal transport by PT. Prima Bara Mahadana (PBM) underscores the multifaceted nature of grievances associated with mining activities in the region. This incident, occurring in Desa Ujong Kalak, Johan Pahlawan, West Aceh, serves as a manifestation of the community's discontent with the environmental impact of coal transportation (Munawer, 2018). The

irritation caused by coal dust from hauling trucks reflects the tangible consequences experienced by residents due to mining operations.

This protest is closely linked to the preceding roadblock actions discussed earlier, forming a pattern of collective resistance against the mining industry's operations in West Aceh. The earlier roadblock due to land seizure and incomplete land compensation highlights the persistent challenges faced by communities, leading them to take direct action to voice their economic and environmental concerns (Krishtal & Shchekoturov, 2020). The cumulative effect of these protests not only sheds light on the localized issues of land use conflicts and incomplete compensation but also points to broader environmental repercussions, such as air pollution from coal dust. The roadblock action serves as a poignant example of grassroots activism in response to the adverse effects of mining, contributing to the ongoing discourse on responsible resource management and sustainable development in Aceh (Bednarek-Szczepańska, 2022). This community-led resistance prompts a critical examination of the balance between economic interests, environmental protection, and community well-being, fostering a comprehensive understanding of the complexities surrounding the mining industry in West Aceh.

The sustained roadblocks in the Meulaboh-Geumpang area, particularly in Desa Meunasah Rambot, introduce another layer to the community's resistance against the mining industry in West Aceh. By strategically planting trees on the sidewalk, the protestors express their discontent and frustration, emphasizing the economic and infrastructural repercussions of mining activities in the region (Bisht & Martinez-Alier, 2023). This protest underscores a persistent and collective effort by the

community to voice their grievances. The disappointment expressed in breaking a road built in 2007, which incurred substantial financial investment, highlights the economic concerns of residents (Zachrisson & Beland Lindahl, 2019). The act of disrupting an established road infrastructure draws attention to the broader impact of mining on the region's development and infrastructure projects.

The continuity in the roadblock actions, moving from land-related issues to infrastructural concerns, portrays a community that is deeply affected by the mining industry across various dimensions (Szabo et al., 2022). It contributes to the narrative of a community grappling with the multifaceted consequences of mining, going beyond immediate environmental and land use issues to encompass broader socio-economic aspects. This ongoing resistance through roadblocks serves as a sustained critique of the mining industry's practices, calling for a reevaluation of policies and practices that affect the livelihoods and well-being of the West Aceh community. The collective nature of these actions reinforces the need for a comprehensive and sustainable approach to resource management that prioritizes the interests and welfare of the local population.

Health protests and environmental concerns

This issue highlights the concerns of citizens in West Aceh, particularly in Desa Peunaga Cut Ujong, regarding the adverse health effects of coal mining activities. The demonstration was held at the stockpile of PT. Mifa Bersaudara indicates a community protest of the dust pollution resulting from the coal build-up in the region (Hales & Larkin, 2018). The fact that residents are mobilizing to express their grievances reflects the tangible impact of mining

activities on the local population. The health-related protest underscores the broader consequences of the industry, extending beyond land disputes and roadblocks. It contributes to the narrative of community resistance against the environmental and health hazards associated with mining (Igbayiloye & Bradlow, 2021).

The continuity lies in the sequence of events where community actions evolve from roadblocks due to land compensation issues to protests against specific environmental concerns. This progression adds layers to the discussion, deepening the understanding of the complex dynamics between mining companies and the affected communities in West Aceh (Haslam, 2021). The critical analysis should encompass the cumulative impact of these actions on the overall discourse surrounding sustainable development, environmental responsibility, and the well-being of the local populace.

On the other hand, the community's resistance emerged in response to the exploitation of mines, specifically those intended for natural gold pure minerals (EMM). The reference to the student alliance for Beutong Ateuh generation (AM-GBAB) underlines the active involvement of various segments of the society, including students, in expressing discontent against the unused mining company in Bundaran Simpang Pelor, Meulaboh, West Aceh. This demonstration suggests a collective concern for environmental preservation and economic stability in the region.

Continuing the narrative from previous statements on roadblocks, mine reject actions, and community protests, this statement adds a new dimension by addressing the specific type of mineral, natural gold pure minerals (EMM) (Kiedmann, 2021). The mention of the Aceh Government and the parliament's decision on the liquidity of the mineral gold (PT EMM) in Nagan Raya Regency and Aceh

Tengah introduces a broader political and economic perspective to the discourse.

The continuity lies in the escalating nature of community actions against mining activities, with each statement building upon the other. From roadblocks to health-related protests and now to resistance against the exploitation of specific minerals, the cumulative effect emphasizes the intricate relationship between mining practices, environmental concerns, and the socio-economic well-being of the local populace. This critical analysis should encompass the evolving nature of community responses and the implications for sustainable development in West Aceh.

Environmental management activism: Combating the proliferation of illegal gold mines in West Aceh

The pervasive issue of illegal gold mining in Aceh, specifically in West Aceh, underscores the dire environmental consequences that have unfolded since 2015 (Salvatore & Wolbring, 2022). The critical aspect of this situation lies in the government's apparent inability to curb these illicit mining activities, leading to severe environmental degradation. The reference to locations such as Pantai Cermin, Sungai Mas, and Aceh Selatan in Sawang and Manggamat adds specificity to the regions affected.

The persistence of illegal gold mines has resulted in significant harm to the environment, manifested through landslides, floods, and threats to forests and biodiversity (Ross, 2022). This portrayal aligns with the broader narrative of environmental activism and the challenges faced in managing and mitigating the impacts of unauthorized mining operations. The mention of landslides and floods emphasizes the immediate and tangible consequences of these activities on the landscape, potentially affecting local communities as well.

This issue contributes to the narrative of environmental management activism in West Aceh. It reinforces the urgency of addressing illegal mining practices, linking back to the previous discussions on active coal mining companies and roadblocks, thereby illustrating the multifaceted challenges faced by the region. The interconnectedness of these issues paints a comprehensive picture of the complex dynamics surrounding resource extraction, environmental sustainability, and community well-being in West Aceh.

Concerns about the environmental impact of coal transportation, notably dust pollution and road degradation, have also sparked public protests. The expression of people in the research emphasizes the palpable and disruptive effects of coal transport activities done by corporations such as PT Mifa. ACEHKINI (2022), emphasizes the issue's persistence over time. The mention of dust pollution, particularly during the dry season, is consistent with previous talks on the negative effects of coal mining activities, forming a unified narrative. The statement expands on the issue of environmental consequences, presenting a comprehensive understanding of the numerous challenges linked with West Aceh's coal sector.

The term "bullying" adds a layer of emotional resonance to the description of coal-carrying activities (Vlakh et al., 2022). This choice of language suggests a sense of aggression or intrusion felt by the local community due to the environmental disruptions caused by coal transportation. This emotional aspect is crucial for understanding the social implications of resource extraction activities and their effects on the daily lives of residents.

Environmental and social consequences of resource extraction

The environmental repercussions of mining in West Aceh in 2013, estimated

at Rp. 1,972,833,514, manifested in significant economic losses, particularly affecting rubber plantation productivity. This financial setback was accompanied by tangible human consequences such as health issues and loss of income due to the inability to work. In 2016, mining-induced uncontrolled population movements highlighted a demographic shift caused by the allure of mining job opportunities, resulting in inefficiencies in agricultural practices. The chronological pattern linking financial setbacks in 2013 to sociopolitical upheavals in 2016 offers a consistent narrative, emphasizing the enduring impacts of mining (Syahnur & Diantimala, 2021). Understanding the interconnectedness of economic, environmental, and social issues, the study underscores the need for a comprehensive approach to address mining challenges. Wandu's scenario in Jambi, under the Forest Management Policy (HPH), illustrates economic pressures shifting forest resource use from livelihood to a commercialized space.

Moreover, the mastery of HPH becomes a focal point of contention between companies and indigenous communities in Jambi, highlighting the clash of interests between profit-driven industrial activities and the sustainable livelihoods of indigenous communities. This conflict underscores the challenge of balancing economic development with environmental conservation and indigenous rights. The statement introduces an international perspective through CNN Indonesia, emphasizing Indonesia's role in extensive tropical forest clearing. Indonesia's inclusion in the list of countries accountable for significant deforestation between 2000 and 2019 underscores the global impact of industrial activities on the country's biodiversity and ecosystems. Acknowledging Indonesia's position as both a forest destroyer and renewed, the analysis calls for comprehensive environmental

policies that balance economic development with ecological preservation. This interrelation between the international perspective and preceding discussions on forest management policies provides an understanding of Indonesia's environmental challenges.

Navigating conflict transformation for sustainable environmental practices in West Aceh

Lederach (2015) stresses that achieving positive peace goes beyond just ending violence; it involves promoting justice and addressing the root causes of conflicts. The integration of environmental factors into conflict transformation is highlighted by Schmid (2012) and Le Billon (2018). Schmid emphasizes the need to prevent human-induced violence against the environment, advocating for a balance between resource use and ecological preservation. Le Billon adds that positive peace necessitates a harmonious relationship between human activities and the environment for sustainability. In the context of West Aceh, the prevailing industrial practices seem to lack an effective conflict transformation model that considers ecological aspects. The ongoing environmental degradation and its impact on communities indicate a gap in aligning practices with the principles of positive peace as outlined by Lederach and others.

Sauret (2020) observes the absence of ecological peace in West Aceh, raising concerns about the region's development path. While economic progress is often linked to peace development, overlooking environmental well-being may jeopardize the sustainability of such advancement. Mentioning Aceh's REDD+ initiative and the Aceh Hijau vision introduces a localized effort to balance economic growth with conservation. However, the effectiveness

of these initiatives in promoting positive peace relies on addressing interconnected issues of social justice and environmental sustainability. This evaluation emphasizes the need for a more holistic approach to conflict transformation in West Aceh. To attain positive peace, efforts must go beyond resolving interpersonal conflicts to include justice and environmental stewardship, ensuring a harmonious and sustainable future for the region. This analysis focuses on West Aceh's industrial landscape, particularly environmental and natural resources management.

The recognition of this ecological violence brings into question the effectiveness of prevailing approaches to industrial development in West Aceh. While economic progress is often viewed as synonymous with peace development, Sauret's observation challenges this narrative. It suggests that, in the absence of a harmonious coexistence with the environment, the touted benefits of peace development may be compromised. King (2005) further deepens the analysis, framing the discussion within the broader context of positive peace. The assertion that the current state of affairs in West Aceh falls short of fostering long-term stability and functionality aligns with the notion that positive peace involves not only the absence of violence but also the presence of justice and social stability. In this context, the environmental dimension becomes a critical component of the broader peace equation.

The analysis has profound implications for policy and decision-making in West Aceh, necessitating a reevaluation of development priorities. Stakeholders are urged to integrate environmental stewardship into peace-building efforts, recognizing the interconnectedness of ecological health, social justice, and long-term stability. Examining industrial activities in West Aceh uncovers a vital intersection between environmental management and the pursuit

of positive peace. Building on Miller's (2005) perspective and insights from Sutoro and Tjoetra (2012), the conceptualization of peace as a political state takes center stage. It extends beyond the absence of violence, emphasizing the roles of justice and social stability in achieving positive peace. Criteria for positive peace involves the balance of political power, legitimacy, interdependence, conflict resolution mechanisms, equality, mutual respect, and understanding differing perspectives.

Central to positive peace is power balance, stressing the importance of fair distribution and responsible exercise across organizations, societies, regions, or globally. Legitimacy is pivotal, demanding that decision-makers secure it through transparency and accountability. Recognizing interdependence is essential for navigating agreements, disagreements, and crises. Reliable conflict resolution mechanisms are key in establishing positive peace and fostering an environment for amicable dispute resolution. Social dimensions highlight equality and mutual respect, requiring a commitment to human rights and inclusivity. The interconnected nature of these criteria stresses the importance of a holistic and inclusive peace-building approach. In the context of West Aceh, this underscore addressing overt conflicts and systemic factors impeding positive peace realization.

Conclusion

West Aceh's transformative efforts, primarily driven by industrial expansion, fall short of desirable outcomes, as seen by continuing ecological violence and socioeconomic inequity. This raises questions regarding the efficacy of conflict transformation in the context of industrial development. The rise of confrontations, notably between communities and mining

companies, highlights the need for a more nuanced approach to mining region development. An important issue is ensuring that the process minimizes environmental dangers not only during the mining phase but also afterward. This demonstrates a larger commitment to environmental sustainability, as well as recognition of the potential long-term effects of mining activities on the local ecology.

Furthermore, the conclusion emphasizes the critical need to increase the active participation of the local population at all stages of peacebuilding. This goes beyond simple consultation and necessitates real participation, establishing society as an important and informed participant in Aceh's development trajectory, particularly in the West Aceh Regency. Such participation is not merely a matter of procedural fairness, but also of acknowledging the significant insights and contributions that local communities may make to the development process. The call for greater social involvement is consistent with participatory governance concepts, which recognize the agency of individuals and communities in defining their futures.

The conclusion calls for a collaborative and inclusive strategy that resonates with the broader goals of sustainable development and good peace by presenting society as a critical stakeholder. This shift in viewpoint represents a departure from top-down decision-making processes and emphasizes democratic values of shared responsibility and collective well-being. It is a rallying cry for a rethinking of the mining industry's expansion in Aceh Regency. It advocates for a more conscientious and environmentally conscious approach, as well as an uncompromising commitment to the active participation of local communities. This reframe is more than just a prescription for more successful conflict resolution; it is also

a roadmap towards a more sustainable and socially just future for Aceh, exemplifying the interdependence of environmental, social, and economic factors in the region.

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Declaration of Ownership

This article is our original work.

Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest to declare in this article.

Ethical Clearance

This study was approved by the institution.

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