

## Repositioning Environmental NGOs as non-Governmental or Private Sector Organizations (WALHI and KRUHA Case Studies)

Annisa Qurrota A'yun<sup>1</sup>, Haryani Saptaningtyas<sup>2</sup>

### Abstrak

Lembaga Swadaya Masyarakat (LSM) adalah entitas sukarela, mandiri, dan nirlaba yang bertindak sebagai perantara antara pemerintah dan sektor swasta sekaligus mewakili kepentingan masyarakat. Kebijakan pemerintah yang tidak tepat telah menyebabkan perubahan dan kerusakan lingkungan, yang ingin diperbaiki oleh LSM lingkungan. Tulisan ini bertujuan menganalisis posisi dua organisasi lingkungan hidup Indonesia, WALHI dan KRUHA, dengan mengkaji informasi resmi yang dipublikasikan di situs web dan media sosial mereka, menggunakan analisis teks wacana untuk mendekonstruksi pesan komunikasi mereka. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa meskipun WALHI dan KRUHA adalah organisasi nirlaba, tidak semua organisasi nirlaba masuk dalam kategori LSM. Organisasi-organisasi ini beroperasi di luar sektor pemerintah dan swasta, bertindak sebagai "sektor ketiga" dan memainkan peran penting dalam mempromosikan hak atas air dan kelestarian lingkungan, meskipun melalui mekanisme yang berbeda.

**Kata kunci:** Lingkungan, LSM, Organisasi Nirlaba, Organisasi Non Pemerintah

### Abstract

*Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are voluntary, independent, and non-profit entities that act as intermediaries between the government and the private sector while representing the community's interests. Inappropriate government policies have led to environmental changes and damages, which environmental NGOs aim to rectify. This paper analyzes the position of two Indonesian environmental organizations, WALHI and KRUHA, by examining official information published on their websites and social media, using discourse text analysis to deconstruct their communication messages. The study reveals that although WALHI and KRUHA are non-profit organizations, not all organizations fall under the category of NGOs. These organizations operate outside the government and private sector, serving as the 'third sector' and playing a crucial role in promoting the right to water and environmental sustainability, albeit through different mechanisms.*

**Keywords:** Environmental, NGO, Non-Profit Organizations, Non-Government Organizations

### Introduction

Fahrudin's (2019) research explicates that the recurring environmental issues leading to natural disasters in Indonesia are a consequence of the government's inability to prioritize environmental interests in its policy agenda. Gana's (2021) study in Nigeria reveals that despite various policies and efforts, drought persists due to inadequate funding, bureaucratic red tape, and policymakers' capacity. Policy failures often stem from bureaucratic inefficiencies and governmental limitations. Indonesia, for instance, still lacks regulations that can effectively safeguard the environment. The Indonesian government's inability to execute policies stems from stakeholders' control over its capacity as policymakers..

Indonesia's forests are a pressing matter due to their significant damage. Greepeace.org

shows that 72% of Indonesia's intact forests have already been lost. In 2001, Indonesia boasted 93.8Mha of primary forest, covering over half of its land area. However, by 2020, it had lost 270kha of primary forest, resulting in 208Mt of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Over the period from 2002 to 2020, Indonesia lost 9.75Mha of humid primary forest, accounting for 36% of its total tree cover loss. As reported by Global Forest Watch in 2021, the country's total area of humid primary forest has decreased by 10% during this period. Forests play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance and storing water reserves. Deforestation can cause disasters and droughts, reducing forest land a matter of great concern.

Government efforts to protect the environment must be monitored because their decisions must be balanced with the voices of the environmental community. The agency that

<sup>1</sup>Postgraduate School, Sebelas Maret University ([annisa\\_23@student.uns.ac.id](mailto:annisa_23@student.uns.ac.id))

<sup>2</sup>Sebelas Maret University ([h.saptaningtyas@staff.uns.ac.id](mailto:h.saptaningtyas@staff.uns.ac.id))

oversees the government is an NGO. They are non-profit organizations outside the government and against the government. There are still many cases where the government prioritizes the private sector rather than the public, such as the flooding problem in Batu City. For instance, the tire disaster and other instances of government policy errors have resulted in catastrophic floods. As such, non-governmental organizations and communities must serve as checks and balances to government policies to ensure their effectiveness and prevent further ecological damage.

According to WALHI's analysis, flooding occurs because water from above runs off (flows following a pattern) to a flatter and lower elevation due to the river's inability to accommodate the volume of water. The logic is simple if the water rushes to the bottom quickly, then based on science, we understand that there is damage in the upper region. The water above should be controlled if a qualified water catchment and catchment area exists because it was damaged. Eventually, the catchment area and water catchment did not function. As a result, the water ran off to lower areas. In addition to the dangers of flooding, landslides, and rising temperatures, Batu City is also threatened with a water crisis. This is because only 50% of the springs in Batu City remain with several sources whose water discharge is critical. This threat is caused by spatial mismanagement. There are no protected areas of essential areas, especially forest areas, green fields, and spring areas. This is exacerbated by the Revision of the Regional Spatial Plan (RTRW) for Batu City, which needs to explain the protection of essential areas in the revised Regional Regulation. The revised regional regulation has the potential to cause rampant transfer of functions, and in environmental politics, it is mentioned as a policy error that leads to disaster.

The Indonesian constitution grants the fundamental right to a healthy environment, yet numerous cases of environmental abuse remain. Despite UU no. 32/2009, which includes criminal provisions, environmental law enforcement in Indonesia remains problematic. Although the new law is more comprehensive and detailed than its predecessor, numerous environmental regulations and practices violations still result in ecological destruction (Fahruddin, 2019). Therefore, the involvement of non-governmental

organizations in environmental conservation is essential to ensure that government policies are balanced with the necessary steps for environmental sustainability. In Indonesia, organizations such as the Indonesian Forum for the Environment (WALHI) and the People's Coalition for the Right to Water (KRuHA) are dedicated to environmental care. WALHI, the country's largest environmental protection organization, was established in 1980 and actively advocates for environmental conservation. Meanwhile, KRuHA, founded in 2002, strives to uphold the rights of communities to water resources and promote water sustainability.

The Indonesian constitution mandates the right to a good and healthy environment. But in practice, there are still many environmental cases that occur. UU No. 32/2009 (UU PPLH) has not been able to answer all the problems of enforcing environmental law in Indonesia. (UUPPLH) includes criminal provisions. This criminal provision is far more complete and detailed than the previous law. However, there are still many violations of environmental law and environmental destruction (Fahruddin, 2019). Therefore the existence of organizations outside the government engaged in environmental concern is essential to balance government policies with steps that must be taken for environmental sustainability. Environmentally concerned organizations in Indonesia include the Indonesian Forum for the Environment (WALHI) and the People's Coalition for the Right to Water (KRuHA). WALHI, Indonesia's most significant environmental organization, was established in 1980. KruHA was founded in 2002 as the first environmental organization to emerge in the post-reform era that prioritizes human rights, especially justice for water. WALHI actively encourages efforts to save and restore the environment in Indonesia. Kruha seeks to uphold justice for water resources for the community.

WALHI and KRuHa are assertive organizations deeply involved in addressing contemporary environmental issues. It is crucial that the messages they disseminate align with their core identity, without succumbing to compromise from any external parties. This is especially significant given their primary activities, which involve scrutinizing environmental practices by both the government and the corporate sectors (Gill, 2019).

Furthermore, they possess the potential to function as social movement organizations, advocating for balanced power relations. Their influence can alter policy, stimulate law enforcement, shape market behavior, and sway the private sector. Moreover, they actively promote community-based natural resource management at the local level, thereby fortifying natural resource governance within Indonesia (Ardhian, 2016). Their work in these areas serves as a testament to their commitment to uphold and protect environmental integrity.

Fahrudin's research (2019) explains that the emergence of various environmental problems that have caused natural disasters to occur one after another in Indonesia results from a lack of seriousness by public authorities in prioritizing environmental interests in the state policy agenda. It is widely acknowledged that the occurrence of disasters cannot be solely attributed to divine intervention but rather to human decisions that may prove detrimental. Gana's (2021) research in Nigeria highlights the shortcomings of various policies and efforts to mitigate drought. Factors such as inadequate funding, bureaucratic processes, and the capacity of policymakers have all contributed to the failure of government policies. Consequently, policy failures can be traced back to bureaucracy and government capacity limitations. As in Indonesia, regulations in Indonesia still fail to protect the environment. The capacity of the Indonesian government as a policymaker has been hindered by the influence of stakeholders, thereby impeding effective policy implementation.

Based on the existing problems, this article aims to explore the role of non-profit organizations, specifically those external to the government, in counterbalancing governmental policies. Specifically, it focuses on organizations within the environmental sector, given the close ties between environmental issues and government policies. Therefore, it is necessary to study the role of WALHI and KRuHA to determine their position as a third sector. Their existence amplifies voices from outside the government and corporate sphere, acting as equilibrators and overseers in the realm of nature conservation in Indonesia. Their roles as non-profit and non-governmental organizations are pivotal, as they vocalize environmental concerns. Do they remain consistent with their position in

carrying out their role in the environmental field while still prioritizing their identity without compromise from other parties? The content of the introduction should at least include the background of the study; research question; and the main arguments and/or research hypotheses.

### **Theoretical Framework**

Non-Governmental Organizations and Non-Profit Organizations are often called the 'third sector,' with government and business entities constituting the first and second sectors, respectively (Anheir, 2005). These organizations are expressive in nature, employing unique voices to disseminate their messages and elicit reactions from the public and other volunteer organizations. Consequently, no organization desires to be compelled to curtail their freedom of speech or restrict their identity as an expressive entity (Gill, 2019). Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) are out-of-government organizations powered by self-community. NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) appeared in the early 1970s. The definition of NGO should be considered narrower and overlap with other organizations, such as non-profit and community organizations. Richard Holloway argued that the term NGO could apply to other organizations outside the government but not to play as a third sector, so it's not specific (Tarigan, 2017).

Non-profit organizations are combinations of voluntary private organizations and associations. It describes a set of organizations and activities in addition to government institutions or the public sector on the one hand and the profit or business sector (Anheir, 2005). Non-profit organizations aim to serve the community (Sulaiha, 2014). Non-profit organizations have three characteristics: organizational resources from donors, producing goods and services without profit-oriented, and no ownership (Widodo, 2001). Non-profit organizations are divided into four categories, Religious Institutions, Social Welfare Organizations, Community Organizations, and Non-Governmental Organizations (Nainggolan, 2005).

In his 2019 work, Gill delves into the difficult position of non-governmental and non-profit organizations that do not receive direct public funding due to concerns of potential message compromise. Meanwhile, social service institutions that rely on public funding still have

the freedom to express their identity, as diversity must be fostered within voluntary organizations lacking public benefits. Gill argues that when public funds are involved, a careful equilibrium must be established between free expression and association principles.

Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) have a comparative superiority over other stakeholders (especially governments) in development assistance, which includes cost effectiveness, program innovation, and the ability to work with local communities. They are more generally involved in development assistance and policy processes through providing public goods and services, including direct service delivery, promotion and advocacy of democracy, rights-based programs, and oversight of the government and corporate sectors (Appel, 2020).

As part of the third sector, NGOs participate in the policy and oversight processes of both the government and corporate sectors. This necessitates discussions to distinguish between non-profit organizations and non-governmental organizations, as exemplified by those in Indonesia. In recent years, the Non-profit sector has become more prominent in contributions to providing welfare, education, community development, international relations, environment, and arts and culture (Anheir, 2005). Environmental organizations are becoming one of them to balance government policies regarding nature and supervision of policy implementation by governments and companies. Carmin's research (2008) showed that many NGOs' attentions are on society-related activities and the formation of civil society.

The sustainability of institutions' activities hinges on funding. In Gill's (2019) work, he highlights the precarious position of NGOs that do not receive public funding to avoid compromising their message. As entities prioritizing their independence in expressing their identity, NGOs must safeguard their freedom of speech. The environmental movement is politically motivated to shift the government's focus from solely economic development to also considering environmental aspects (Novianti, 2013). For this reason, NGOs should avoid seeking government funding to maintain their unique voices and expressions, as such funding could potentially clash with the objectives of their movements.

NGOs build community awareness, so they want to participate, but on the other hand, they

act as facilitators bridging the government and the community. He will not take a position in parliament, for example, but tries to influence policy formulation (Blowers and Glasbergen, 2003: 37) through lobbying, consultations, and suggestions or suggestions to the government. Heins (2008: 69) calls it a 'communicative' and 'regulatory' institution. NGOs can play an essential role in environmental diplomacy (Betsill & Corell 2001), develop transnational advocacy networks in response to environmental issues (Keck & Sikkink 1999), and influence private sector environmental sustainability standards (Pasqueira & Glasbergen 2013). In other words, NGOs are dominant actors in contemporary environmental politics (Carter 2007). One of the areas that have received significant attention from NGOs is environmental politics. In this case, the environmental, political arena refers to the opinions of Princen and Finger (1994) and Carter (2007), including policies, governance, and environmental management practices.

## Methods

This article uses a qualitative approach to discourse analysis. Discourse analysis is a qualitative technique developed recently that has been used to study public relations communications. Observed objects are selected based on a specific objective or purposive sampling based on an organization with a movement in the environmental sector. WALHI was chosen because it is the most significant environmental organization. KRuHA was selected because it is an organization after the reform era that upholds human rights, especially in the environmental and water sectors. Data was obtained from official social media analysis from the Indonesian Forum for the Environment (WALHI) and the People's Coalition for the Right to Water (KRuHA). Social media is a place for sharing. In addition, organizations can promote their campaigns so that the general public knows about them. This article analyzes the campaigns and movements of WALHI and KRuHA through their social media content. The social media used as a data source is the official website <https://www.walhi.or.id/>, <https://kruha.org/category/Fokus-isu/hak-atas-air/>, Instagram @walhi.nasional @kruhaIndonesia, and National Twitter @walhinasional @KRuHA Indonesia #AirRakyatUntukRakyat. Secondary data was taken in 2022, and observational



data were taken from the results published in 2021 by observing the publications from these organizations relating to their movement to criticize the government. The analysis uses discourse text analysis, deconstructing the meaning or message of communication on their official information. The meaning extracted from a text or communication message is not only seen from the written text but more than that (Pawito, 2007). Each action performed by an institution bears significant implications as it mirrors its core values and principles. By scrutinizing an organization's undertakings, one can glean an insightful understanding of its inherent identity. This examination necessitates juxtaposing empirical data with recognized theoretical frameworks concerning non-governmental and non-profit organizations to evaluate the degree of congruence between the organization and these established paradigms.

## **Result**

Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (WALHI), Indonesia's most prominent environmental care organization, was established in 1980. WALHI actively encourages environmental rescue and recovery efforts in Indonesia. WALHI fosters the recognition of the right to the environment and the protection and fulfillment of human rights as a form of State responsibility for protecting the people's sources of life. WALHI is spread over 28 provinces. Koalisi Rakyat untuk hak atas Air (KRuHA) established in 2002. As a response by civil society groups in Indonesia to a World Bank loan in the water resources sector called the Water Resources Sector Structural Adjustment Loan (WATSAL). Carry out advocacy activities, especially for the water resources sector in Indonesia. Over thirty NGOs have become affiliates of KRuHA. Table 1 contains the results derived from the observation of these organizations via their respective websites.

WALHI and KRuHA disseminate their organizational information through their official websites. Both provide an introduction, although KRuHA could have included additional elements, such as its vision and mission, on its site. The KRuHA coalition is dedicated to promoting and safeguarding the right to water in Indonesia, and is staunchly against water privatization. Their belief asserts that water is a public asset and should not be commodified. KRuHA advocates

for safe, clean, accessible, and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all.

Contrastingly, WALHI demonstrates a greater openness to donations, whereas KRuHA does not actively solicit donations through its website. Despite this divergence in fundraising strategies, both entities continue to operate effectively, as evidenced by their activities publicized on social media. The following encapsulates the actions and activities of WALHI and KRuHA, as published on their official social media accounts:

WALHI and KRuHA are predominantly involved in environmental stewardship, particularly in safeguarding the environment from detrimental political actions. They employ legal measures against those causing environmental harm and take decisive action to highlight environmental issues, rejecting solutions that fail to promote ecological balance. As environmentally-focused organizations, they advocate for the protection of the environment to communities, the government, and the private sector, emphasizing the importance of responsible practices.

## **Discussion**

### *Get to Know The WALHI and KRuHA Organization*

Exploiting natural resources has resulted in an environmental crisis, affecting the economic, social, and cultural life order and increasing all citizens' safety and life threat. Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (WALHI), Indonesia's largest environmental movement organization, is promoting environmental rescue and recovery in Indonesia to recognize the right to the environment. They voiced attention and the fulfillment of human rights as a form of State responsibility for fulfilling the people's sources of life. Thus, WALHI is a party that voices the will and views of marginalized communities or minorities outside the government. Their movement, which also highlighted government policies, became the character of a non-governmental organization (Novianti, 2013).

Koalisi Rakyat untuk Hak atas Air (KRuHA) emerged as a response by civil society groups in Indonesia to a World Bank loan in the water resources sector called the Water Resources Sector Structural Adjustment Loan (WATSAL). KRuHA opines that restructuring the water resources sector to treat water as an economic commodity will encourage water privatization,

**Table 1**  
**Pieces of Information from WALHI and KRuHA's Website**

Information	KRuHA	WALHI
Profile	KRuHA's opinion is that restructuring the water resources sector by placing water as an economic good will only make water a commodity and encourage the privatization of water, which will cause losses to the community, especially the poor and farmers. The state is responsible and obligated to meet people's basic needs, including water. Putting water as an economic item, which encourages water privatization, will shift the responsibility for supplying water from the country to the private sector.	Global capitalism places the people, the environment, and the sources of people's lives, even the earth, as the victim of capital accumulation. The endless exploitation and dredging of natural resources, which led to an environmental crisis, has affected the economic, social, and cultural life order and ultimately raised the threat of vulnerability to the safety and lives of all citizens, both in rural and urban areas.
Vision	Water is a human right that is the state's primary responsibility, so it should not be left to the market mechanism (you get what you pay).	Vision: Realization of a fair and democratic social, economic, and political order that can guarantee the rights of the people over healthy and sustainable sources of life and environment.
Mission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Actualization of the state's commitment to uphold the right to water.</li> <li>2. Protection, strengthening, and promotion of water management by the community (water commons).</li> </ol>	<p>Mission</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Developing the potential strength and resilience of the people.</li> <li>2. Restore the state's mandate to uphold and protect people's sovereignty.</li> <li>3. Deconstructing an oppressive and exploitative global capitalistic economic order toward a people's economy.</li> <li>4. Building alternative new world economic order.</li> <li>5. Urge policies for managing people's sources of life that are fair and sustainable.</li> </ol>
Focus campaign	<p><b>Focus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Right to water</li> <li>Water and Community</li> <li>Water and market</li> </ul>	<p><b>Campaign:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecocide</li> <li>The last jungle</li> <li>People's Management Area</li> <li>Archipelago economy</li> <li>Restore Indonesia</li> </ul>
Membership	KRuHA membership is open to a wide range of social movements, non-governmental organizations, and individuals with concerns for Human Rights to Water, rejecting the privatization and commercialization of air resources.	WALHI is open to interns to persons interested and concerned about the environment in a reasonable and sustainable environmental rescue effort.
Open donations	None (Unpublished)	WALHI opens donations through the website

Source: WALHI and KRuHA Official Website, 2022

potentially causing detrimental effects for the community, especially the poor and farmers. In response to this concern, KRuHA, along with more than 30 other NGOs, has engaged in advocacy activities primarily targeting the water resources sector in Indonesia. They act with their representative capabilities carrying out various tactics or strategies such as lobbying, litigation, protests, and negotiations to continue their constituent struggles in the formulated policy process (Carmin, 2010; Principles and Finger, 1994).

WALHI was established during the 1980s in response to the failures of the state-led development approach of the previous decades. At the time, non-governmental organizations played a critical role in development as the government struggled to implement good governance policies. By criticizing the regime of global capitalism, which prioritized capital accumulation over the well-being of the people, the environment, and living resources, WALHI sought to drive change. KRuHA, on the other hand, emerged in the early 2000s following the

**Table 2**  
**WALHI and KRuHA Activities Published on Their Social Media**

KRUHA	WALHI
<p>Providing information and knowledge through news and published articles on the Website <a href="https://kruha.org/category/fokus-isu/hak-atas-air/">https://kruha.org/category/fokus-isu/hak-atas-air/</a></p> <p>Filed lawsuits on disputes over natural and water issues (government and corporation issues)</p> <p>Take action to voice environmental issues (e.x. Climate Finance Now on Twitter @KRuHA Indonesia #AirRakyatUntukPeople)</p> <p>Public discussion on current environmental issues (e.x. Public Discussion about “Fossil gas as a fake solution for the energy transition in Indonesia” via youtube KRuHA Indonesia)</p> <p>(Not open public donation)</p> <p>Recent issues and activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. COP26 glass glow climate crisis</li> <li>2. The Right to Water for Workers</li> <li>3. Seizing the People's Living Space Based on Human Rights</li> </ol>	<p>Providing information and knowledge through news and published articles on the website <a href="https://www.walhi.or.id/">https://www.walhi.or.id/</a></p> <p>Filed lawsuits against those irresponsible for the environment (government and corporation issues)</p> <p>Take action to voice environmental issues. (e.x. Global Day Action “Reject Fake Solutions” on Instagram @walhi.nasional)</p> <p>Public discussion on current environmental issues (e.x. Judicial Review UU Minerba via youtube WALHI Nasional)</p> <p>Opening disaster donation (e.x. Open donations for flood disaster in Bengkulu on Instagram @walhi.nasional collaboration with kitabisa.com)</p> <p>Recent issues and activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. COP26 glass glow climate crisis</li> <li>2. Seizure of Marine Space in the Development of the National Capital</li> <li>3. Mining companies that destroy the environment</li> </ol>

Source: WALHI and KRuHA's Social Media Official Account, 2022

reformation period. This period was marked by widespread demands from the people for justice across various fields, including politics, law, and the economy. During the New Order era, KRuHA advocated for fairness in water rights for the Indonesian people and continued to do so through the economic crisis that ultimately led to a political, social, and security culture crisis (Aprilia, 2014).

KRuHA wrote that they are a combination of 30 non-governmental organizations, so their association is outside the government. Their activities are opposite the government because they oversee government sector policies and corporate sector performance. NGOs such as KRuHA are the party that voices the will and views of marginalized or minority communities (Carmin, 2010). KRuHA believes that the state is responsible and obligated to meet the people's basic needs, including water. Putting water as an economic item, which encourages water privatization, will shift the responsibility to provide water from the country to the private sector. Several activities of KruHA highlight government policies and conduct advocacy activities for water resources in Indonesia, such as conducting a lawsuit against the government as a resource manager and suing private parties who violate the rules on water rights. Therefore,

KRuHA is included in the category of NGOs on the opposite side of the government, meaning that their roles are more to criticize environmental policies. They do not collaborate or work with governments and private agencies.

WALHI has branches in 28 provinces that oversee the environment in Indonesia. As one of the elements in society, WALHI has an important role, such as providing education and building public awareness, being a community companion, and criticizing government performance (Ardhian, 2016). Therefore, WALHI carries out activities by providing knowledge about nature and sustainability with professional human resources. They monitor government performance in protecting natural and human resources. WALHI, as an NGO, has a role in balancing government policies on the environment with natural preservation, so they must criticize the government and private movements related to the exploitation of natural and human resources. WALHI is also a legal institution capable of committing lawsuits on private activities that cause natural damage.

#### *WALHI and KRuHA Movements*

WALHI and KRuHA, both non-profit organizations devoted to environmental protection, efficiently execute their NGO

responsibilities. They adeptly utilize official websites and social media platforms to communicate their mission and objectives. Specifically, WALHI consistently disseminates environmental news via social media and operates an organized management system that ensures their activities and messages are routinely broadcasted to the public.

KRuHA, conversely, primarily champions protecting and promoting water rights in Indonesia, maintaining a firm stance against water privatization. Although KRuHA may not be as active on social media as WALHI, they persistently propagate their messages, concentrating more on direct action in the field and limiting activities that could potentially jeopardize their stance. Both organizations aim to challenge the prevailing government paradigm that often favors economic advancement at the expense of environmental considerations. They do this through their politically engaged environmental activism (Novianti, 2013).

KRuHA is fighting for water justice by pursuing the realization of the right to water and the protection of the commons. KRuHA fights against water privatization which makes water become an economic good. In doing advocacy, KRuHA upholds the norm declared by the United Nations that water must be recognized as a human right. The norm on water rights created an obligation for the state to respect, protect, and fulfill. Through their official website, they participate in voicing justice using articles. One of the articles published was entitled "Hak Atas Air dan Kepentingan Politik Gerakan Buruh Atasnya". This article, published on March 21, 2021, discusses laborers' right to access water, a fundamental entitlement of all citizens. Workers, as citizens, are entitled not only to drinking water but also to water that meets health standards. Their labor rights as residents further include access to non-discriminatory water services. As water is a common resource (Res Commune) that cannot be privately owned, policies and regulations should not discriminate or limit its access.

WALHI, an organization concerned about sustainability and the restoration of the environment in Indonesia, is actively voicing its message through its official website. One of their articles on the current environmental issue was entitled "Banjir di Kota Batu, Petaka Bencana Iklim dan Tata Ruang". The article explained the incident that hit Batu Regency along with geographical information and processes that

triggered a disaster. In addition, it also explained the cause of the disaster from the field of spatial planning and government rules that didn't go well, so many violations adversely affected nature's sustainability.

Based on articles published by WALHI and KRuHA, these organizations have a position as community awareness builders to participate. Still, on the other hand, they play a role as a facilitator between the government and citizens. As an NGO, they will not take a position in the government parliament but try to influence the formulation of Blowers' (2003) policy through lobbying, consultation, dialogue, and advice to the government. Heins (2008) called it a "communicative" and "regulative" institution. KRuHA gave a social and legal discussion on water needs, especially to laborers. In providing article information, KRuHA requires professional members in journalism and law. It shows that the members inside are professional. Equally, with KRuHA, WALHI has many professional members, including Geographic science, Urban Space, Law, and Journalism, as well as relevant areas because their exposure is scientific and science-based.

#### *WALHI and KRuHA's Activities*

As a non-profit organization from which WALHI and KRuHA get funding for their activities. WALHI opened the donation posted on their website in the "Donasi Publik, Bersama WALHI Pulihkan Indonesia" section to fully support the community's struggle to gain recognition of the People's Management Area (WKR). Donations are used for WALHI activities such as education, capacity addition, community empowerment, capacity development of environmentally concerned communities, and other activities to ensure that environmental support for life can be sustainable for us and future generations. WALHI also collaborates with the Kitabisa.com platform to raise funds to help communities affected by natural disasters. Meanwhile, KRuHA still has not considered cooperation with Kitabisa.com or other platforms. Therefore, there is a difference in management between WALHI and KRuHA. WALHI is more open to donations, while KRuHA is less open than WALHI.

WALHI and KRuHA have played their role as volunteers. Although not all are actualized in the same way, this role has become real action as an institution that provides environmental education to the community (especially young people), raises



public awareness by collecting and disseminating information about environmental issues, and conducts campaigns. NGOs can play an important role in environmental diplomacy (Betsill, 2001), develop transnational advocacy networks in response to environmental issues (Keck, 1999), and influence private sector environmental sustainability standards (Pasqueira, 2013). In other words, NGOs represent one of the dominant actors in contemporary environmental politics (Carter, 2007). One arena of great concern to NGOs is the environmental and political arena. In this regard, the environmental and political arena refers to the opinions of Principles (1994) and Carter (2007), covering environmental management policies, governance, and practices. The movements demonstrate WALHI and KRuHA's ability as independent third-sector organizations. They act as the opposition, ready to criticize and act for environmental protection efforts for the government and the private sector, often violent against the law.

The role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is to assist communities in strengthening their bargaining positions in relation to the state or authorities. NGOs accomplish this through campaigns and consolidation efforts, bridging the gap between communities and the government. For instance, Bustam (2021) revealed the impactful role of the Tanah Merdeka Foundation, an NGO advocating for the interests of the Katu people. The foundation positioned itself as an intellectual catalyst, mobilizing the Katu people into activism through the formation of collective action. This action involved protesting and demanding recognition of community territory in the face of state authorities for the establishment of the Lore Lindu National Park (TNLL).

### **Conclusion**

WALHI and KruHA exhibit the hallmark traits of non-profit organizations, including resource contributions, a focus on producing goods and services without profit motives, and a lack of ownership. However, these organizations also serve a crucial role as advocates for marginalized and minority communities, utilizing tactics such as direct campaigns, education initiatives on social media, lobbying, litigation, protesting, and policy dialogue to represent their constituents. Indeed, their legal actions against environmental regulation

violators have demonstrated the power of NGOs as a third sector capable of reporting environmental crimes. Critically, WALHI and KRuHA have played a significant role in critiquing government policies, highlighting their position as non-governmental organizations. While not all non-profit organizations engage in this form of criticism, the role of NGOs is to fight for the interests of society and encourage community participation as intellectual leaders. By positioning themselves outside of the government, NGOs can work to influence policy formulation and support individuals in voicing their rights against government policies that are out of touch with reality.

WALHI and KRuHA are non-profit organizations that play a crucial role in environmental protection activities by meticulously scrutinizing existing policies. With an approach grounded in science and law, they effectively identify environmental violations and take legal action against both government and private sectors. As third-sector organizations, they serve as the voice of the community, advocating for environmental issues and highlighting the problems faced by the community due to environmental damage caused by the private sector and the government. By independently disclosing information on environmental conditions and the potential politicization of environmental issues, they become essential components in opposing the government. Despite being non-profit NGOs, their mechanisms for movement differ. WALHI operates openly with the media and engages with anyone through funds, human resources, and ideas. In contrast, KRuHA works with affiliated NGOs and the community without disclosing their entire movement to the media. In Indonesia, where environmental issues are inherently political, WALHI operates in 28 provinces to highlight the environmental problems, while KRuHA collaborates with 30 NGOs to fight for human rights-based water resource management, preventing it from being commoditized. The NGOs' independence from government funding ensures their objectivity and impact on society and the environment, making them invaluable champions of marginalized communities.

### **References**

- Anheir, H.K. (2005). *Nonprofit organization: Theory, management, policy*. New York: Routledge.
- Appel, S., & Telch, F. (2020). *Grassroots International NGOs: Using Comparative Interpretive Policy*

- Analysis to Understand Meanings in Private Development Aid. *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice*, 22(1), 30–46. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13876988.2019.1582885>
- Ardhian, D., Adiwiwobo, S., dan Wakyuni, E. S. (2016). Peran dan Strategi Organisasi Non Pemerintah dalam Arena Politik Lingkungan Hidup. *Sodality: Jurnal Sosiologi Pedesaan*, 4(3): 210-216. <https://doi.org/10.22500/sodality.v4i3.14429>
- Betsill, M. M., & Corell, E. (2001). NGO Influence in International Environmental Negotiations: A Framework for Analysis. *Global Environmental Politics*, 1(4), 65–85.
- Blowers, A. dan Pieter, G. (2003). *Environmental Policy in an International Context: Prospects for Environmental Change*. Oxford: Elsevier Ltd.
- Bustam, M. (2021). Peran Lembaga Swadaya Masyarakat dalam Penetapan Taman Nasional Lore Lindu: Studi Yayasan Tanah Merdeka dalam Memperjuangkan Hak Masyarakat Katu. *Journal of social development studies*, 2 (1): 52-66.
- Carmin, J. A. (2010). *NGO Capacity and Environmental Governance in Central and Eastern Europe*. *Acta Politica* (45): 183–202. Cambridge: Macmillan Publishers Ltd.
- Carter, N. (2007). *The Politics of Environment: Ideas, Activism, and Policies*. Cambridge (GB): Cambridge University Press.
- Fahrudin, M. (2019). Penegakan Hukum Lingkungan di Indonesia dalam Perspektif Undang-Undang Nomor 32 Tahun 2009 Tentang Perlindungan dan Pengelolaan Lingkungan Hidup. *Veritas*, 5 (2): 81-98. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.34005/veritas.v5i2.489>
- Gana, A. H., Fullen, M. A., & Oloke, D. (2021). Effects of drought and their mitigation strategies in Yobe State, Nigeria. *Sustinere: Journal of Environment and Sustainability*, 5(3), 184–200. <https://doi.org/10.22515/sustinere.jes.v5i3.189>.
- Gill, E. R. (2019). *Free Exercise of Religion in the Liberal Polity*. USA: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Heins, V. (2008). *Non-governmental Organizations in International Society: Struggles Over Recognition*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Ibrahim, R. (2004). *Governance dan akuntabilitas LSM Indonesia*. Jakarta: Pembentukan Kelompok Kerja Akuntabilitas Organisasi Masyarakat Sipil (OSM).
- Global Forest Watch. (2021). Indonesia Global Forest, website: <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/country/IDN/> accessed on April 19, 2022
- Keck M, Sikkink K. (1999). *Transnational Network in International and Regional Politics*. New York (US): UNESCO.
- Nainggolan, P. (2005). *Nainggolan, Akuntansi Keuangan Yayasan dan Lembaga Nirlaba Sejenis*. Jakarta: Raja grafindo Persada.
- Novianti K. (2013). Peran NGOs (*Non-Governmental Organizations*) Lingkungan dalam Mitigasi Banjir di Praha, Republik Ceko. *J. Kajian Wilayah*, 4 (2): 165-184.
- Paskual, M. F. dan Ansar, M. (2012). Akuntabilitas LSM, milik donor atau public? (Studi analisis wacana studi pada kantor eksekutif Daerah Walhi Sulawesi Tengah). *Makalah disajikan dalam Symposium Nasional Akuntansi XV*. Banjarmasin.
- Pawito. (2007). *Penelitian komunikasi kualitatif*. Yogyakarta: Lkis.
- Pesqueira, L. and Glasbergen, P. (2013). Playing the politics of scale: Oxfam's intervention in the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil. *Geoforum*, 45, 296–304.
- Princen T, Finger M. 1994. *Environmental NGOs in World Politics: Linking the Local and the Global*. New York (US): Routledge.
- Robinson, M. (1993). *Governance, democracy, and conditionality: NGOs and the new policy agenda, in Clayton, A., (ed.) Governance, democracy and conditionality: what role for NGOs?* Oxford: INTRAC.
- Sulaiha, Z. (2014). Management Accounting Practices in Non-Profit Religious Organization: A Case Study in Lembaga Zakat Selangor (LZS). *E-Proceedings of the Conference on Management and Muamalah (comm)*, (hal.311). Selangor.
- Tandon, R. (1995). *Board games: governance and accountability in NGOs, in Edwards, M. and Hulme, D. (eds) Beyond the magic bullet: NGO performance and accountability*. London: Earthscan
- Tarigan, I. J. (2017). *Peran Badan Narkotika Nasional dengan Organisasi Sosial Kemasyarakatan dalam Penanganan Pelaku Penyalahgunaan Narkotika*. Jakarta: Deepublish.
- Widodo, H. &. (2001). *Akuntansi & Manajemen Keuangan untuk Organisasi Pengelola Zakat*. Jakarta: IMZ.