



Institute of
International
Studies

DEPT. OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
UNIVERSITAS GADJAH MADA



IIS BRIEF

■ Issue 1 / 2024

Fostering Indonesia's Global Leadership:

Triangular Climate Cooperation in the Caribbean

Sayyid Al Murtadho

Fostering Indonesia's Global Leadership: Triangular Climate

This article expands on the research conducted by the Institute of International Studies (IIS) UGM in collaboration with the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs titled “Regional Partnership Strategy: Indonesian Diplomacy in the Caribbean”.

As an emerging economy, Indonesia envisions playing a more active role in international affairs through development cooperation. This diplomatic effort serves two main objectives: achieving national interests and enhancing Indonesia's leadership in the global arena. In doing so, Indonesia aims to expand collaboration with non-traditional partners, including the Caribbean. This article delves into the potential opportunities and challenges in partnerships between Indonesia and the Caribbean, particularly concerning climate action. Given the similar threats both regions face from rising global temperatures, this topic holds significant importance. The article proposes that Indonesia and the Caribbean should engage in triangular cooperation to address climate-related challenges.

Strengthening cooperation with non-traditional partners such as the Caribbean will be beneficial in enhancing Indonesia's leadership in the international arena. As outlined in the collaborative research project between IIS UGM and the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia should pursue thematic cooperation in addition to the economic-sectoral approach. The thematic approach holds significance as it establishes the groundwork for Indonesia's long-term efforts to build soft power in the Caribbean. Moreover, the material economic interests of Indonesia-Caribbean relations are currently limited, making thematic cooperation all the more necessary. One recommended theme is climate

action, given Indonesia's relatively better progress in this area than the Caribbean countries. The following paragraphs will explore climate cooperation between Indonesia and the Caribbean through triangular cooperation.

According to the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), triangular cooperation can be defined as “collaboration in which traditional donor countries and multilateral organisations facilitate South-South initiatives through the provision of funding, training, management, technological systems, and other forms of support” (UNFCCC, n.d.). The primary aim of triangular cooperation is to address the resource limitations faced by Global South providers when undertaking projects in other Global South countries. Traditional donors are often developed countries with greater resources to foster cooperation. Meanwhile, a middle-income nation in the Global South typically serves as a new provider to the beneficiary country (Lengfelder, 2019).

The potential of supply-side technology transfer (SSTC) to support technology development and transfer for climate action in developing nations is becoming more recognised, according to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and UNOSSC (2018). Case studies reveal how various SSTC models can be carried out, from building large-scale low-emission infrastructure projects and setting up institutions and policies to exchanging best practices through field trips and workshops. For example, China, Ghana, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) executed a triangular initiative on transferring technology for renewable energy. China and Ghana managed most of the substantive work on this project, while Denmark supplied all project funds, and UNDP supported donor relations, project administration, and facilitation through its country offices (UNFCCC and UNOSSC, 2018). This project created a favourable environment for renewable energy technology transfer in Ghana.

Indonesia has actively participated in SSTC for a significant period. In 2010, the government established the National Coordination Team of SSC, comprising four ministries: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of National Development Planning, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of State Secretariat. Between 2000 and 2015, Indonesia implemented 783 SSTC programs (NCT, 2016). In 2016 alone, Indonesia carried out 51 programs with a total budget of USD 15.08 million (NCT, 2016). In 2019, Indonesia formed the

Lembaga Dana Kerja Sama Pembangunan Internasional (LDKPI) or Indonesian Aid, which is dedicated to coordinating development cooperation, including triangular cooperation.

As a specific modality of SSC, triangular cooperation has been operational in Indonesia, notably supported by UNDP, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA). It has evolved from ad hoc one-off activities to longer-term cooperation, particularly with Myanmar and several African countries (UNDP, 2015). Recent programs include triangular cooperation in renewable energy involving Afghanistan, Madagascar, Nepal, and Germany (GIZ) (Kementerian ESDM, 2021) and triangular cooperation in TVET on Leather Processing under the Indonesia-Tanzania-Germany partnership (Kemlu, 2022). Thus, Indonesia is well-prepared to engage in triangular climate cooperation with the Caribbean.

Climate cooperation between Indonesia and the Caribbean holds potential due to several opportunities that can be capitalised upon. First, there is compatibility between the needs of the Caribbean and Indonesia's experiences. Among the sixteen Caribbean countries, their similar geographical features lead to comparable climate threats across these nations. They are prone to extreme weather events that can be exacerbated by climate change, including floods, storms, droughts, landslides, and hurricanes (World Bank n.d.) Moreover, they are subject to coastal erosion and rising sea levels, which lead to saline intrusion of the countries' groundwater and threaten coastal settlements (World Bank, n.d.). Warmer temperatures may also cause health issues among citizens. Thus, climate change will affect the vital economic sectors of Caribbean countries, including agriculture and tourism. These climate impacts underline the urgent need to accelerate climate adaptation and build resilience in these countries.

In the meantime, Indonesia is among the nations most vulnerable to extreme heat and flooding, placing it in the top third of the list (World Bank, 2021). Indonesia is especially susceptible to sea-level rise, ranking fifth in the world for the number of people living in lower-elevation coastal zones (World Bank, 2021). The government and other stakeholders have implemented various adaptation measures across the nation to address these challenges. These adaptation measures present an opportunity to share best practices and challenges with Caribbean

countries to support them in strengthening climate resilience.

For instance, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry has executed a pilot project titled “Water Control for Preventing Sea Water Intrusion in Irrigation Canals” in Karawang, supported by the Asian Development Bank (Kementerian LHK, n.d.). This pilot project aligns with the needs of Caribbean countries to prevent saline intrusion, and Indonesia can share lessons learned from the project. Another example is the cooperation between the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, collaborating with the Wetlands International and Ecoshape consortium to tackle coastal erosion issues in Demak through the “Building with Nature” program (Wetlands International Indonesia, 2020). Utilising an integrated and participatory approach, the program aims to improve the mangrove ecosystem while enhancing the coastal community’s economy. This program is also closely related to the concerns of Caribbean countries to protect their coastal areas. Additionally, the government has implemented “ProKlim” (Community Program for Climate), encouraging climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts at the local level. The program was conducted in 2,490 locations nationwide in 2023 (PPID, 2023).

Considering the supply and demand factors, Indonesia could leverage its climate adaptation experience and expertise to support fulfilling the demand from Caribbean countries to enhance climate resilience. This is aligned with SDG Number 13 on Climate Action, with one of the targets being to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries. By doing so, Indonesia can enhance its reputation while increasing its SDGs footprint worldwide.

Moreover, there is also an opportunity to support Caribbean countries’ adaptation through the triangular scheme. As outlined in the collaborative research project between IIS UGM and the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, many international development actors work in the Caribbean to support the region in various sectors, including climate change. Indonesia can collaborate with these development actors to pool resources, especially funding and expertise, in addressing problems in the Caribbean. Historically, development actors with a track record of donor giving in the Caribbean include international institutions such as the USAID, the European Union, and the World Bank. Additionally, there

are development institutions from Latin American countries, such as the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), the Colombian Presidential Agency of International Cooperation (APC-Colombia), the Peruvian Agency of International Cooperation (APCI), and the El Salvador Agency for International Cooperation (ESCO). These four institutions often engage in STTC in the Caribbean.

Almost all of these development institutions have implemented projects closely related to SDG 13 Climate Action. For example, USAID has partnered with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre with up to US\$25.6 million in investments over four years (Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, n.d.). The activity aims to strengthen an integrated system for implementing and financing sustainable adaptation approaches in the Eastern and Southern Caribbean region. Other examples include the Caribbean Regional Resilience Building Facility, a partnership between the European Union, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), and the World Bank. The objective of the facility is to bolster long-term resilience to disasters and enhance adaptive capacity by offering a range of advisory and financial services, along with analytics. Additionally, it aims to co-finance investments in resilience (GFDRR, n.d.). These track records present an opportunity for Indonesia to implement triangular cooperation with these development actors.

Furthermore, triangular cooperation is crucial for achieving climate justice, mainly because the Global North contributes the most to global emissions, while the Global South, especially the Caribbean, faces the most significant climate impacts. According to Hickel (2020), the Global North—comprising the United States, the G8 nations, and other industrialised nations—controls 92% of the world’s excess carbon dioxide emissions. Hickel’s (2020) analysis examined whether the national fair portions of the carbon budget were consistent with the planetary boundaries of 350 ppm, using cumulative carbon dioxide emissions data from 1850 to 2015. This method revealed the greater responsibility of the Global North for the climate crisis. It underscored the need for them to assist the Global South in dealing with climate catastrophes in their countries. Thus, Indonesia and the Caribbean can leverage the climate justice narrative while pursuing triangular climate cooperation.

Despite these opportunities, Indonesia also needs to address several challenges that may arise from triangular cooperation. As Langfelder (2019) explained, some factors may hinder the effectiveness and efficiency of triangular cooperation. *First*, Indonesia must demonstrate that it is more legitimate than traditional donors. As aid recipients, Caribbean countries may view Global North countries as more experienced than Indonesia due to their advanced economies and knowledge. Hence, Indonesia must ensure that it can bring added value to triangular cooperation through its best practices that might be more aligned and suitable to the Caribbean context. *Second*, Indonesia should also consider the costs associated with projects. Given the considerable distance between Indonesia and the Caribbean, implementation may incur high costs. Therefore, the government needs to seek triangular cooperation with traditional donors to access additional resources.

Another challenge is the coordination of triangular cooperation among different stakeholders. Various ministries or agencies, civil society organisations, and private sectors have conducted many climate adaptation initiatives. As the main actors for international development cooperation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and/or the Indonesian Aid must lead in pooling resources and expertise for triangular cooperation. Without coordinated efforts, ensuring the effectiveness of regional partnerships with the Caribbean becomes difficult.

In summary, increasing collaboration with non-traditional partners—especially in the Caribbean—will help Indonesia improve its standing abroad. By focusing on climate action, Indonesia can develop its long-term soft power in the Caribbean by using its experience to address issues related to climate change. Indonesia might also seek triangular cooperation with already-existing international organisations in the Caribbean to gain access to more resources and expertise. Indonesia can effectively enhance its global leadership position by anticipating potential obstacles.

References

- Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre. (n.d.). *USAID Climate Change Adaptation Program (CCAP) – 2016 – 2020 – Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)*. Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre. Retrieved February 18, 2024, from <https://www.caribbeanclimate.bz/blog/2017/07/27/climate-change-adaptation-program-ccap-2016-2020/>.
- GFDRR. (n.d.). *Caribbean Regional Resilience Building Facility*. GFDRR. Retrieved February 18, 2024, from <https://www.gfdr.org/en/caribbean-rrb>.
- Hickel, J. (2020). Quantifying national responsibility for climate breakdown: An equality-based attribution approach for carbon dioxide emissions in excess of the planetary boundary. *The Lancet Planetary Health*, 4(9), E399-E404. doi:10.1016/s2542-5196(20)30196-0.
- Kementerian ESDM. (2021). *Indonesia Prakarsai SSTC Energi Terbarukan*. ESDM. Retrieved February 18, 2024, from <https://www.esdm.go.id/en/media-center/news-archives/indonesia-prakarsai-sstc-energi-terbarukan>.
- Kementerian LHK. (n.d.). *Institutional Strengthening for Integrated Water Resources Management in the 6 Cis River Basin Territory (Package E)*. Adaptasi LHK. Retrieved February 18, 2024, from <https://adaptasiklhk.id/cms/storage/files/publikasi/6078f691466e9.pdf>.
- Kemlu. (2022). *KBRI Dar es Salaam memfasilitasi program SSTC TVET on Leather Processing*. Kemlu. Retrieved February 18, 2024, from <https://kemlu.go.id/daressalaam/id/news/21593/kbri-dar-es-salaam-memfasilitasi-program-sstc-tvet-on-leather-processing>.
- Lengfelder, C. S. (2019). Triangular Cooperation: Another Option for South-South Cooperation? In *Innovating South-South Cooperation: Policies, Challenges and Prospects*. University of Ottawa Press.
- NCT. (2016). *Annual Report of Indonesia's South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) 2016*. <https://openjicareport.jica.go.jp/pdf/12315719.pdf>.

- PPID. (2023, October 24). *PROKLIM, Program Komunitas Untuk Iklim, Kolaborasi Dalam Rumah Iklim dan Karbon*. Retrieved February 18, 2024, from <https://ppid.menlhk.go.id/berita/siaran-pers/7468/proklam-program-komunitas-untuk-iklim-kolaborasi-dalam-rumah-iklim-dan-karbon>.
- Roy, D. (2023, August 16). *How the Caribbean Is Building Climate Resilience*. Council on Foreign Relations. Retrieved January 25, 2024, from <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/how-caribbean-building-climate-resilience#chapter-title-0-2>.
- UN. (2022, July 3). *The Caribbean is 'ground zero' for the global climate emergency: Guterres*. UN News. Retrieved January 25, 2024, from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/07/1121902>.
- UNDP. (2015). *South-south and triangular cooperation in Indonesia*. United Nations Development Programme. Retrieved February 19, 2024, from <https://www.undp.org/indonesia/publications/south-south-and-triangular-cooperation-indonesia>.
- UNFCCC. (n.d.). *POTENTIAL OF South-South and triangular cooperation*. UNFCCC. Retrieved January 25, 2024, from <https://unfccc.int/ttclear/misc /StaticFiles/gnwoerk static/brief9/7a74a2f17f204b6ba17f1ec965da70d7/f4e361cd56d4463a8daa4ab29a1254db.pdf>.
- UNFCCC & UNOSC. (2018). *POTENTIAL OF South-South and triangular cooperation on climate technologies for advancing implementation of nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans*. <https://unfccc.int/ttclear/misc /StaticFiles/gnwoerk static/brief9/7a74a2f17f204b6ba17f1ec965da70d7/f4e361cd56d4463a8daa4ab29a1254db.pdf>.
- Wetlands International Indonesia. (2020, November 20). *PRESS RELEASE : "Building with Nature" Perhatikan Keberhasilan Adaptasi Perubahan Iklim di Wilayah Pesisir Indonesia*. Wetlands International Indonesia. Retrieved February 18, 2024, from <https://indonesia.wetlands.org/id/berita/press-release-building-with-nature-perhatikan-keberhasilan-adaptasi-perubahan-iklim-di-wilayah-pesisir-indonesia/>.

- World Bank. (n.d.). *Barbados - Summary* | *Climate Change Knowledge Portal*. Climate Change Knowledge Portal. Retrieved February 19, 2024, from <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/barbados>.
- World Bank. (n.d.). *Cuba - Summary* | *Climate Change Knowledge Portal*. Climate Change Knowledge Portal. Retrieved February 19, 2024, from <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/cuba>.
- World Bank. (2021). *INDONESIA*. Climate Change Knowledge Portal. Retrieved January 25, 2024, from https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/15504-Indonesia%20Country%20Profile-WEB_0.pdf.

Sayyid Al Murtadho
Universitas Gadjah Mada
sayyidam12@gmail.com

Setiap tulisan yang dimuat dalam IIS Brief merupakan pendapat personal penulis dan tidak merepresentasikan posisi Institute of International Studies.

Tentang IIS



Institute of International Studies (IIS) didirikan sebagai badan riset, advokasi, dan publikasi Departemen Ilmu Hubungan Internasional, Universitas Gadjah Mada (DIHI UGM). Didirikannya IIS adalah manifestasi dari visi DIHI UGM untuk mengembangkan pengetahuan tentang isu-isu internasional di level teoritis dan menerjemahkannya di level praktis demi terwujudnya masyarakat yang lebih adil dan damai. Melalui IIS, para dosen, peneliti, staf akademik, dan mahasiswa DIHI UGM memperdalam dan menggunakan kepakarannya dalam aktivitas-aktivitas penelitian, advokasi kebijakan, penulisan dan publikasi akademik, serta pemberdayaan masyarakat.

iis.fisipol.ugm.ac.id



facebook.com/IISUGM



[@kop9057g](https://line.me/@kop9057g)



[iis_ugm](https://www.instagram.com/iis_ugm)



[iis_ugm](https://twitter.com/iis_ugm)



**Institute of
International
Studies**
DEPT. OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
UNIVERSITAS GADJAH MADA