

GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL: AN EVALUATION STUDY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE IN COASTAL PROTECTION IN MAJENE

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Abstract: This study assesses the local government's performance in safeguarding the Majene coastline through the lens of the Good Environmental Governance (GEG) framework. Utilizing qualitative methods, including in-depth interviews, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and observations across four coastal sub-districts (Tubo Sendana, Sendana, Pamboang, and Malunda), the findings reveal that GEG principles are not being implemented to their fullest potential. Community participation is inconsistent, while transparency and accountability are insufficient. Additionally, the effectiveness of environmental programs is low, and law enforcement remains limited. The results underscore the necessity of integrating participatory approaches and strengthening regulations to improve environmental governance at the local level.

Keywords: Good Environmental Governance; Majene; Coastal Protection; Local Government Performance

INTRODUCTION

Coastal protection serves as a pivotal component in sustaining the integrity of coastal ecosystems in Indonesia. As an archipelagic nation possessing the second-longest coastline in the world, Indonesia grapples with significant challenges associated with safeguarding its coastal regions from the perils of abrasion and

ecological degradation. Abrasion, which stems from both natural processes and anthropogenic activities, poses substantial threats to coastal zones, notably within Majene Regency, West Sulawesi.^{1 2} The imperative to address abrasion is underscored by its potential to jeopardize the sustainability of vital natural resources³, such

¹ Putri, A., & Mataburu, I. B. (2023). Analisis Perubahan Garis Pantai Menggunakan Digital Shoreline Analysis System di Kabupaten Majene, Provinsi Sulawesi Barat. *Jurnal Sains Geografi*, 2(2), 123-135. <https://doi.org/10.2210/jsg.vx1ix.xxx>

² Hastuti, A. W., Nagai, M., Ismail, N. P., Priyono, B., & Suniada, K. I. (2024). Spatiotemporal Analysis of Shoreline

Change Trends and Adaptation in Bali Province, Indonesia. *Regional Studies in Marine Science*, 76, 103598. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rsma.2024.103598>

³ Hossain, M.S., Gain, A.K., Rogers, K.G. (2020). Sustainable coastal social-ecological systems: how do we define "coastal"? *International Journal of Sustainable Development and World Ecology*, 27(7): 577-582. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13504509.2020.1789775>

as fisheries and renewable energy prospects, thereby impacting the livelihoods of local communities.⁴ Additionally, shoreline alterations induced by abrasion can further compromise the health of mangrove ecosystems, essential for erosion mitigation and the preservation of biodiversity.⁵

The coastal regions of Majene Regency are increasingly subjected to damage resulting from dynamic shoreline changes, attributed to both natural phenomena—such as wave action and tidal fluctuations—and human influences, including infrastructure development and land-use conversion.⁶ This scenario poses significant risks not only to ecological health but also to the socio-economic well-being of coastal communities, the majority of whom rely on marine resources for their subsistence.

In light of the challenges facing the coastline of Majene Regency, the establishment of a preventive framework is imperative. One of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Biodiversity Framework advocates for an integrated approach to coastal and marine

management that reconciles environmental, social, and economic priorities⁷ (Carroll et al., 2022). Hence, the formulation of robust and effective coastal protection policies has become an urgent necessity. In this context, conducting an evaluative study of local governmental performance concerning coastal protection is essential for assessing the efficacy of existing policies. Furthermore, a commitment to integrating biodiversity and ecosystem health into the decision-making processes is critically needed.⁸

Good Environmental Governance (GEG) represents an evolution of the principles of good governance, specifically addressing the management and protection of the environment.⁹ Environmental Governance serves as a framework for the state's interactions with its constituents concerning ecological stewardship.¹⁰ GEG encapsulates governmental efforts to enhance, sustain, and protect environmental sustainability through active community engagement in the implementation process.¹¹ The concept of good environmental governance aims to foreground

⁴ Sampantamit, T., Ho, L., Echelpoel, W. Van, Lachat, C., Goethals, P. (2020). Links and trade-offs between fisheries and environmental protection in relation to the sustainable development goals in Thailand. *Water*, 12(2): 399. <https://doi.org/10.3390/w12020399>

⁵ Ramadhani, N. S., Wijayanti, M., Simanjuntak, M. P. D., Fathoni, M. F. M., Sulton, M. N., Lillo, E. P., Kusumaningrum, L., Indrawan, M., & Setyawan, A. D. (2024). Analysis of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem Sustainable Management by Coastal Communities in Sampang District, Madura Island, Indonesia. *Indo Pacific Journal of Ocean Life*, 8(1), 33-42. <https://doi.org/10.13057/oceanlife/o080104>

⁶ Putri, A., & Mataburu, I. B. (2023). Analisis Perubahan Garis Pantai Menggunakan Digital Shoreline Analysis System di Kabupaten Majene, Provinsi Sulawesi Barat. *Jurnal Sains Geografi*, 2(2), 123-135. <https://doi.org/10.2210/jsg.vx1ix.xxx>

⁷ Carroll C, Rohlf D, Epstein Y (2022) Mainstreaming the Ambition, Coherence, and Comprehensiveness of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework Into Conservation Policy. *Frontiers in Conservation Science* 3 <https://doi.org/10.3389/fcosc.2022.906699>

⁸ Gunawan TS, Hamidah M, Rahayu AK, Septiani NN, Pingkan J, Hermansyah A, Farhan M, Sholihah R, Arundina

AB, Minarni DR, Susanti R, Gustiar GG, Kusumastuti DN, Maharani GR, Nurhakim MD, Khalishah PV, Rahman IF, Nugianto N, Hakim A, Agung F, Rosdiana A, Retnoningtyas H, Hartati ID, Muttaqin E, German S, Gacutan J, Yulianto I (2025) National-scale mapping of ecosystems to improve ocean accounting for marine and coastal management in Indonesia. *One Ecosystem* 10: e155166. <https://doi.org/10.3897/oneeco.10.e155166>

⁹ Purniawati, P., Kasana, N., & Rodiyah, R. (2020). Good environmental governance in Indonesia (perspective of environmental protection and management). *The Indonesian Journal of International Clinical Legal Education*, 2(1), 43–56. <https://doi.org/10.15294/ijicle.v2i1.37328>

¹⁰ Budiati, L. (2020). Building the Integrity of Urban Development Planner Through Corruption Risk Management and Assessment: Literature Review. *The Journal of Indonesia Sustainable Development Planning*, 1(1), 83-104.

¹¹ Velia Yolanda, M. Ferdi Septiand. Penerapan Prinsip Good Environmental Governance dalam Pengelolaan Sampah Pesisir di Pelantar II Kota Tanjungpinang Tahun 2023. *Jurnal Pemerintahan dan Kebijakan (JPK)* E-ISSN: 2720-9393 Vol 5, No 1 (2023): Desember Hal. 17-29 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18196/jpk.v5i1.19026>

environmental considerations within Indonesia's developmental paradigm while concurrently accommodating economic and social dimensions¹² (Purniawati et al., 2020).

In the context of Majene Regency, the application of GEG principles to address coastal challenges is of paramount importance. By incorporating GEG tenets, coastal management strategies can achieve greater sustainability, thereby facilitating optimal outcomes for both the environment and local communities. This study seeks to evaluate the performance of the Majene regional government in its coastal protection initiatives and to identify existing weaknesses and opportunities for enhancing environmental governance. The overarching objective is to analyze how the adherence to GEG principles can foster effective management of coastal issues in Majene Regency, with the expectation that this evaluation will offer valuable insights for the formulation of more effective coastal management policies in the future.

METHOD

This study employs a descriptive qualitative approach, focusing on four coastal districts in Majene: Tubo Sendana, Sendana, Pamboang, and Malunda. Data collection was achieved through in-depth interviews with community members, including fishermen, housewives, and traders residing along the coast of Majene. Furthermore, data gathering involved Focus Group Discussions with various stakeholders, including the Women and Children Empowerment Agency, the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Agency, the Indonesian Forum for the Environment

(WALHI) of West Sulawesi, civil society organizations, and youth representatives. Field observations were carried out to assess coastal conditions, embankments, and waste management systems. The data analysis for this study is framed within the Good Environmental Governance principles of participation, transparency, accountability, effectiveness, efficiency, and law enforcement.

Pada sub-metode penelitian ini sedapat mungkin memberi gambaran pada pembaca mengenai metode penelitian yang digunakan. Sub-anak judul pada metode penelitian ini sekurang-kurangnya terdiri atas Tipe Penelitian; Lokasi Penelitian; Sumber Bahan Hukum; Teknik Pengumpulan Data; dan Analisis Data.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

To assess the effectiveness of environmental governance in coastal protection within Majene Regency, several key indicators have been identified: community participation, transparency and accountability, effectiveness and efficiency, enforcement of environmental laws, and the principle of environmental justice. This study synthesizes findings from interviews and focus group discussions conducted with pertinent stakeholders.

Community Participation

Community participation constitutes a fundamental element of effective environmental governance. The notion of participation is increasingly recognized as integral to contemporary models of participatory governance within the public

¹² Purniawati, P., Kasana, N., & Rodiyah, R. (2020b). Good Environmental Governance in Indonesia (Perspective of Environmental Protection and Management). The

Indonesian Journal of International Clinical Legal Education, 2(1), 43-56.

sector.¹³ Research indicates active involvement of the Majene community in local service initiatives, particularly in coastal areas. A notable example is observed in the Malunda District, where community members collaboratively engaged in the construction of an independent embankment following the collapse of a government-built structure after a tidal flood in 2021. Faced with limited governmental support for repairs, including a scarcity of construction materials, the community took proactive measures, utilizing stones and timber to fortify the embankment and create a protective barrier against wave actions, thereby safeguarding residential zones from the nearby shoreline. Moreover, the community also contributes to coastal protection through mangrove planting, which is known to effectively mitigate storm surges.¹⁴ The residents acknowledge the role of mangrove forests in providing natural defenses against flooding;¹⁵ however, the implementation of these initiatives has been hindered by a lack of available seedlings.

While community engagement in coastal management is evident through activities such as embankment reconstruction and mangrove reforestation, the nature of this involvement remains largely episodic and spatially confined. Coastal residents frequently find themselves excluded from formal decision-making processes, such as the Musrenbang (Regional Development Planning Forum), where collaborative efforts with government entities are essential for the formulation of comprehensive coastal protection strategies. Consequently, community participation tends to be

restricted to the execution phases of projects rather than the planning stages. Substantive participation is imperative for the development of policies that authentically reflect the community's needs and priorities.

In summary, although there is a degree of community participation in coastal management initiatives within Majene, such engagement is characterized by fragmentation and a lack of institutional integration within formal decision-making frameworks. To actualize the principles of Good Environmental Governance, it is necessary to enhance community capacity building through sustained outreach efforts that emphasize the importance of active participation in the Musrenbang. Additionally, the establishment of adequate environmental management infrastructures, alongside the creation of inclusive and responsive platforms for public engagement, is critical. Such measures would not only position coastal communities as beneficiaries of policy interventions but also empower them as active agents in the stewardship of their environmental sustainability.

Transparency and Accountability

Transparency and accountability are both essential principles underpinning Good Environmental Governance. They serve as foundational prerequisites for the effective implementation of environmental protection policies and programs, which in turn are vital for securing public legitimacy. Transparency is recognized as a crucial element of successful governance,¹⁶ while accountability involves oversight of

¹³ Osborne, S.P. and Strokosch, K. (2022), "Participation: add-on or core component of public service delivery", *Australian Journal of Public Administration*, Vol. 81 No. 1, pp. 181-200, doi: 10.1111/1467-8500.12536

¹⁴ Menendez, P., Losada, I.J., Torres-Ortega, S., Narayan, S., Beck, M.W., 2020. The global flood protection benefits of mangroves. *Sci. Rep.* 10, 4404. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-61136-6>.

¹⁵ Rosanna van Hespren, Zhan Hu, Bas Borsje, Michela De

Dominicis, Daniel A. Friess, Svetlana Jevrejeva, Maarten G. Kleinhans, Maria Maza, Celine E.J. van Bijsterveldt, Tom Van der Stocken, Bregje van Wesenbeeck, Danghan Xie, Tjeerd J. Bouma. Mangrove forests as a nature-based solution for coastal flood protection: Biophysical and ecological considerations. *Water Science and Engineering*, 16(1): 1–13, 2023. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wse.2022.10.004>

¹⁶ Desmalita, W., & Setyadi, B. (2025). The Effect of

governmental actions by public officials.¹⁷

Findings from the research indicate a significant gap in awareness among respondents regarding the mechanisms for reporting environmental issues such as coastal abrasion and pollution within their communities. This lack of understanding highlights deficiencies in the transparency of policy processes and the accountability frameworks governing environmental protection efforts. Given the prevalence of environmental degradation issues, including frequent occurrences of abrasion and pollution, the establishment of clear and accessible reporting procedures is imperative to enhance community engagement and foster a culture of accountability in environmental governance.

In terms of accountability, the community perceives that the Majene district government is only engaged during disasters, subsequently neglecting follow-up actions that could prevent similar events from recurring. For instance, the embankment has remained unrepaired for four years. While the government responds to flooding, it does not undertake timely repairs to mitigate potential damage to homes, which can be threatened at any moment.

Overall, these findings suggest that the local government's transparency and accountability regarding coastal protection in Majene are significantly lacking. The lack of transparency stems from insufficient

information disclosure, limited outreach efforts, and discriminatory practices in licensing. Accountability is compromised as the government fails to exhibit ongoing responsibility, reacting only after disasters occur, rather than implementing preventative measures. This has led to a decline in public legitimacy for environmental protection policies and eroded the trust of coastal communities.

Effectiveness and Efficiency

Effectiveness and efficiency represent critical benchmarks for evaluating local government performance within the context of Good Environmental Governance (GEG). These two dimensions considerably impact local government performance; an increase in effectiveness and efficiency correlates with enhanced outcomes in public administration.¹⁸ Effectiveness pertains to the extent to which policy objectives are realized, while efficiency concerns the optimal utilization of available resources in the implementation of these policies.

Empirical research on the effectiveness and efficiency of GEG in addressing coastal challenges in Majene reveals the implementation of various initiatives, including mangrove planting, beach cleanups, and the construction of emergency embankments. Nevertheless, these initiatives demonstrate notably low effectiveness; many mangrove plantations have failed,

Transparency and Accountability on Local Government Performance With Government Agency Performance Accountability Evaluation as an Intervening Variable. *Journal of Accounting and Finance Management*, 6(1), 187–200. <https://doi.org/10.38035/jafm.v6i1.1646>

¹⁷ Sahala Purrba, Rintan Saragih, & Tika Merisiska Br Sermbirng. (2022). The Influence of Competence and Internal Control System on Village Government Accountability in Managing Village Fund Allocation. *AKUrA: Journal of Accounting and Deficiency*, 1(1), 122–

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¹⁸ Sitepu, L. E., Keulana Erwin, & Idhar Yahyah. (2025). The Effect of Accountability, Transparency, Rule of Law, Effectiveness and Efficiency on Local Government Performance with Supervision as A Moderating Variable in Local Government of Langkat District. *International Journal of Economics, Management and Accounting*, 2(2), 387–398. <https://doi.org/10.61132/ijema.v2i2.658>

embankments have suffered recurrent damage, and collaboration within coastal communities regarding waste management remains inadequate, resulting in persistent waste accumulation. A significant underlying issue contributing to these challenges is the absence of a landfill (Tempat Pembuangan Akhir; TPA) and a coherent waste collection system for local residents. Consequently, individuals resort to indiscriminate waste disposal into the sea or incineration. Although educational programs on waste sorting and management are available, they are not complemented by the necessary infrastructure, such as final disposal sites at the sub-district level. This inadequacy perpetuates the residents' reliance on dumping waste into marine environments, thereby failing to achieve the policy objective of maintaining a clean coastal ecosystem.

From an effectiveness standpoint, existing government policies and programs do not adequately address the core issues confronting coastal communities. Notably, environmental law enforcement emerges as a crucial challenge. Despite legal prohibitions against destructive practices such as fish bombing and the use of tranquilizers, these activities remain prevalent. The perceived inconsistency in the prosecution of violations by law enforcement officials undermines the efficacy of current regulations, resulting in ongoing detriment to marine ecosystems. Furthermore, an additional challenge to efficiency arises from the overlapping jurisdictional authority between various levels of government. For instance, the Majene Regency Marine and Fisheries Office's mandate is limited to a range of 0–15 nautical miles; beyond this scope lies the purview of provincial and central government authorities. This jurisdictional fragmentation often leads to ineffective coordination, with coastal management policies becoming disjointed and less comprehensive.

In conclusion, the findings indicate that

both the effectiveness and efficiency of coastal protection efforts in Majene are considerably deficient. Current programs fail to address critical issues within coastal communities, chiefly due to inadequate planning, oversight deficiencies, and insufficient infrastructure support. The ineffectiveness of environmental programs and inconsistent law enforcement highlight weaknesses in effectiveness, while poor resource management and overlapping governmental coordination point to inefficiencies. Consequently, the local government's performance in safeguarding coastal environments has not yielded the anticipated results, despite the formal implementation of programs. Enhancing local governance in this realm necessitates strengthened inter-sectoral and intergovernmental coordination, as well as the establishment of adequate supporting infrastructure. Such measures would serve to bolster the effectiveness and efficiency of coastal management efforts, aligning them with the principles of good environmental governance.

Environmental Law Enforcement

One of the fundamental tenets of Good Environmental Governance is the effective enforcement of environmental laws. Within this framework, environmental law enforcement serves as a critical mechanism for ensuring the sustainability of coastal resource management. However, empirical research indicates that the enforcement of environmental laws in Majene Regency grapples with significant challenges. According to WALHI West Sulawesi, the prevailing law enforcement efforts in Majene can be characterized as largely ineffective, as evidenced by the lack of follow-up actions on numerous reports submitted by the public and civil society organizations regarding illegal practices such as fish bombing, stun fishing, and land reclamation.

Additionally, the fragmentation of

authority concerning marine resource management exacerbates the challenges faced by local law enforcement. Legislative frameworks delineate the jurisdiction of maritime areas up to 15 miles as falling under the provincial government, while areas beyond this threshold are assigned to the central government. Consequently, the local government, particularly through the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Agency (DKP), is often relegated to educational initiatives without the full authority to enact enforcement measures. This limitation significantly hampers the local administration's ability to effectively combat illegal fishing practices prevalent in the coastal regions of Majene.

Moreover, investigative findings reveal a troubling acquiescence on the part of private sector entities, including prominent hotels and restaurants, towards activities associated with reclamation and pollution. WALHI has identified a pattern of selective enforcement, whereby minor infractions related to coastal communities are rigorously scrutinized, while more significant violations committed by corporate actors are frequently overlooked. This discrepancy undermines the legitimacy of local governance in its efforts to protect coastal environments.

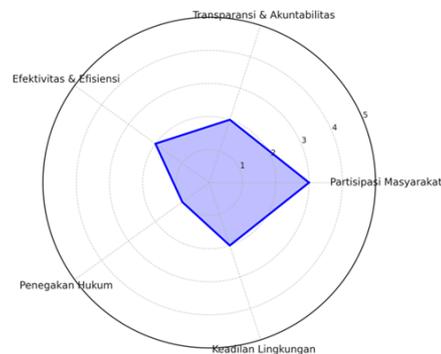
From the vantage point of Good Environmental Governance principles, the law enforcement landscape in Majene illustrates a pronounced disconnect between existing regulations and their implementation. Although formal legal frameworks are established at both national and provincial levels, their efficacy at the local level is hampered by a confluence of weak authority, insufficient political will, and the absence of specific derivative regulations aimed at safeguarding Majene's coastal zones. This situation engenders a climate of low legal

certainty, leaving coastal communities particularly susceptible to ecological degradation.

In conclusion, the current state of law enforcement—an essential pillar of Good Environmental Governance—remains markedly deficient in Majene Regency. Despite the presence of formal regulations, their application is impeded by various factors, including constrained local governmental authority, weak political resolve, and a lack of targeted regulatory measures for coastal protection. The failure to adequately respond to public grievances regarding illegal activities further compounds these challenges. Additionally, the observed selective enforcement, where minor infractions are disproportionately scrutinized while corporate violations receive less attention, further erodes the legitimacy of local governance, diminishes legal certainty, and perpetuates the vulnerability of coastal communities to ecological harm.

For further clarification, the following is a radar chart to illustrate the level of fulfillment of the Good Environmental Governance (GEG) principles in Majene.

Implementation of Good Environmental Governance in Majene Regency



Based on the radar chart of research

results on the implementation of Good Environmental Governance in Majene Regency, it is clear that community participation is quite present, although limited (score 3), but other indicators such as transparency & accountability (2), effectiveness & efficiency (2), law enforcement (1), and environmental justice (2) are still low. Community Participation (Score 3) The community has been involved in community service, mangrove planting, and emergency embankment construction. However, participation is still limited to the implementation level, not planning. They are often not involved in musrenbang or formal decision-making. Transparency & Accountability (Score 2) Weak information disclosure, minimal socialization, and discriminatory practices in licensing indicate low transparency. In terms of accountability, the government is only reactive when disasters occur, without any ongoing follow-up. Effectiveness & Efficiency (Score 2) Existing programs, such as mangrove planting and embankment construction, are not running effectively due to weak planning, supervision, and the lack of supporting facilities (e.g., landfills). Efficiency is also low due to overlapping authority between levels of government. Law Enforcement (Score 1) This is the weakest aspect. Public reports regarding illegal fishing, reclamation, and pollution are not followed up on. Furthermore, there are indications of selective action: minor community cases are brought to the fore, while corporate violations are ignored. Environmental Justice (Score 2)

Coastal communities' access to environmental protection is still unequal. They often bear the brunt of ecosystem damage, while major actors go unpunished. The radar chart shows a significant imbalance between the GEG indicators. Only public participation is relatively strong, while law enforcement is the weakest point. This misalignment indicates that despite active

community participation, the government's weak transparency, effectiveness, and law enforcement have prevented the protection of Majene's coastline from being optimally implemented.

CONCLUSION

The evaluation indicates that the Majene regional government has yet to successfully implement the principles of good environmental governance in coastal protection. The execution of Good Environmental Governance in Majene Regency remains far from ideal. While community participation has been established, other crucial indicators—specifically transparency, accountability, effectiveness, efficiency, and law enforcement—remain markedly weak. This disparity between regulation and implementation undermines legal certainty and leaves coastal communities vulnerable to issues such as abrasion, pollution, and damage to ecosystems. To enhance the implementation of Good Environmental Governance in Majene Regency, the regional government must promote greater community involvement not only during the technical implementation stage but also throughout the planning and evaluation of coastal policies. Strengthening transparency and accountability could involve providing public access to information related to permits, reclamation, and complaint mechanisms, as well as ensuring that public reports are followed up on. From an effectiveness standpoint, it is vital to adopt scientifically-based planning and foster cross-sectoral coordination to create a more sustainable and efficient coastal protection program. Law enforcement needs to be improved through consistent oversight, the enforcement of regulations at the regional level, and a commitment to taking decisive action without discrimination against either small communities or large corporations. Ultimately, the principle of environmental

justice should be realized by protecting vulnerable coastal groups and holding those responsible for damage accountable. Achieving these goals will require strong political will, a clear division of authority among different levels of government, and collaboration among multiple stakeholders to sustain Majene's coastal ecosystem.

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