

## The Role of the Sasi Tradition in Supporting Environmental Conservation and Developing Character Love the Environment

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### Abstract

Received: 2 December 2024  
Revised: 13 December 2024  
Accepted: 24 December 2024

*Indonesia, as the owner of the largest biodiversity, also possesses various local wisdoms that contain profound meanings. The sasi tradition is a prohibition on the community from continuously harvesting natural resources at any time, but rather at specific intervals, to allow environmental recovery. Sasi, as practiced within communities, serves to maintain the quality and sustainability of biological resources, and this resource management is overseen by traditional institutions such as rajas, heads of soa, saniri, kewang, and marinyo. Sasi can also be understood as a tradition aimed primarily at ensuring the continuity and balance of natural resources. This tradition is a cultural value widely practiced among indigenous communities in Maluku, and is found across all Maluku islands, including Halmahera, Ternate, Buru, Seram, Ambon, the Lease Islands, Watubela, Banda, the Aru Islands, the Southwest Islands, and the western part of Southeast Maluku. Therefore, this scientific paper aims to examine the role of the sasi tradition in supporting environmental conservation and fostering a love for nature. The method used is a literature review, involving reading, studying, analyzing, and reviewing literature related to the role of sasi in supporting environmental conservation and fostering environmental awareness. The findings of this study indicate that the sasi tradition strongly supports environmental conservation and can also foster a love for nature.*

**Keywords:** *Sasi Tradition, Character Education, Conservation, Environmental Awareness*

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**How to Cite:** Bolan, N., & Juniartin, J. (2024). The Role of the Sasi Tradition in Supporting Environmental Conservation and Developing Character Love the Environment. *International Journal of Education, Information Technology, and Others*, 7(4), 205-212. Retrieved from <https://jurnal.peneliti.net/index.php/IJEIT/article/view/11140>

### INTRODUCTION

The environment is a comprehensive element of all the elements that exist on the surface of the earth in human life. Indonesia is a region famous for its rich natural resources and diverse culture, the existence and sustainability of which must be maintained. Environmental protection is the right step and must be pursued by all parties to harmonize people's lives and the environment. One of the environmental problems currently occurring is the use and use of natural resources to fulfill human life which cannot be controlled, resulting in the destruction of ecosystems and natural resources. This will have a negative impact on future generations. Therefore, a modern scientific approach is needed that includes previous knowledge from ancestors who really pay attention to the balance of nature in order to preserve natural resources.

Indonesia is a multicultural and multiethnic country whose traditional communities still exist to maintain the local wisdom inherited from their ancestors and there are more than 50 recorded ethnic groups. Indigenous communities have a wealth of knowledge in the form of local wisdom, which is a

very valuable heritage that must always be preserved and used as a way of life for the community in interacting with nature (Rohman, 2023). One of the local wisdoms that contributes to environmental protection is sasi.

Sasi is one of the cultural values of indigenous peoples that is generally accepted in Maluku, spread across all the islands in Maluku, including Halmahera, Ternate, Buru, Seram, Ambon, Lease Islands, Watubela, Banda, Aru Islands, the southwest and southeastern islands. my shame power (Yunus Rahawarin, 2019).

Sasi is local wisdom, in the form of traditions in carrying out environmental, natural resources and ecosystem conservation efforts traditional and continuous. Sasi can be interpreted as a customary regulation that prohibits people from taking the natural resources specified in a customary area within a certain period of time until the rite of opening the sasi is established. This prohibition aims to protect the environment, natural resources and ecosystems within it from extinction so that they can still be enjoyed by the next generation. Within this time period, it is hoped that living things will have sufficient time to reproduce well so as to produce more harvests (Benjamin Carel Picauly, 2022).

Apart from supporting environmental conservation, the sasi tradition also plays a role in building the character of love for the environment among the community. Through the sasi tradition, people are taught to have a sense of responsibility towards nature and protect the environment and preserve natural heritage for the survival of the next generation. Therefore, through this scientific paper, we will discuss further the role of the sasi tradition in supporting environmental conservation and cultivating the character of love for the environment. The aim of this scientific paper is to determine the role of the sasi tradition in supporting environmental conservation and fostering the character of loving the environment

Traditions are habits and practices implemented in a society. In the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), tradition is defined as a custom passed down from generation to generation (from ancestors) which is still carried out by the community (Baehaqi, 2019). In the anthropology dictionary, tradition is defined in the same way, namely customs, especially religious habits in the lives of indigenous peoples which include interrelated cultural values, norms, laws and rules, which then become a system or set of rules that have been determined and include the entire concept of a cultural system of a culture that will regulate human actions or behavior in social life (Ariyono and Siregar, 1985).

Sasi comes from the word "sanction" which means prohibition. The prohibitions contained in sasi are prohibitions on the use of natural resources on land and at sea within a certain time which aims to fulfill the economic interests of the community (Kusumadinata, 2015). Sasi is a prohibition on the use of natural resources, both land and sea, within a predetermined and mutually agreed period of time. Sasi is a form of prohibition on taking and destroying certain natural resources within a certain period of time to maintain the sustainability of natural resources. (Kormasela Dince Avla, 2023).

Sasi has rules and also procedures for implementation and utilization as well as maintenance and supervision in maintaining the balance of the

environment and natural resources so that both can be utilized continuously for the next generation. Sasi is a customary law that teaches humans to maintain survival and not use natural resources excessively to create natural balance. Sasi has norms and rules in ways, habits, behavior which contain elements of ethics and norms.

If we look at the place where sasi is carried out, sasi in Maluku society is divided into land sasi and sea sasi. Land sasi is carried out to maintain, protect and preserve plants such as plantation and agricultural products, for example coconuts, and various other garden products. Meanwhile, marine sasi is carried out to maintain, protect and preserve biota in the sea such as fish, bia, coral reefs and various other types of marine biota which are restricted from being taken and explored excessively (Uktolseja & Balik, 2022).

In implementing sasi, it is made based on community knowledge about a certain time or period to know when natural resources can be harvested so that the life cycle of an organism is not disturbed. In the implementation of sasi there are the terms opening sasi and closing sasi. Opening sasi is the time when people are allowed to harvest or take the resources that are being carried out sasi, and closing sasi is the time when people are not allowed to take existing resources. (Nurfani Indah Putri, 2021)

According to history, sasi in Maluku has existed since time immemorial and is a shared commitment by both the community and traditional leaders, community leaders and also religious leaders. This is based on the awareness that without the environment they will not be able to live properly, so sasi must be maintained from generation to generation.

In preserving the environment, currently there is a lot of environmental damage resulting from irresponsible human hands. The sasi tradition can play a role in preventing this. Sasi is a combination of custom and religion and sasi is also a sacred tradition. This can be seen during the implementation of sasi which always starts with prayers, and sanctions are also imposed for those who violate the prohibitions.

All maintenance of natural resources is supervised by traditional institutions such as the king, soa chief, saniri, kewang and marinyo. However, those who play a more important role in maintaining these natural resources are the kewang and the kewang's children, who function as forest rangers. Kewang plays a very important role, because it is an element of government whose job is to protect the environment from the hands of irresponsible people, both on land and at sea (Noya, 2023).

Sasi has a positive impact on maintaining the availability of natural resources so that they remain sustainable. If sasi law does not exist, it will result in massive exploitation which can disrupt the availability of natural resources. The struggle for natural resources between communities which sometimes causes conflicts between villages has become the basis for the emergence of regulations for utilizing and managing these natural resources in the form of sasi. Sasi was established with the aim of enabling the community to manage marine and plantation natural resources wisely and share the results fairly in accordance with the regulations that have been made. Apart from that, the aim is to maintain a balance between nature, humans and the spiritual world, because those who

violate the sasi regulations will receive spiritual sanctions and community sanctions.

## **METHOD**

The method used in researching this scientific paper is the literature study method. The literature study method is a series of activities related to the method of collecting library data by reading, studying, studying and analyzing literature related to the role of the sasi tradition in supporting environmental conservation and cultivating the character of loving the environment.

This research using literature studies has the same preparation as research in general, but the sources and methods for collecting data are by taking data from the library, reading, taking notes, analyzing and processing research materials from research articles about the variables in this research. This literature study analyzes it carefully and in depth in order to obtain objective results regarding the role of traditional sasi in supporting environmental conservation and fostering the character of loving the environment. The data that has been collected and analyzed is secondary data in the form of research results such as books, journals, articles and others that are relevant as well as the year of research.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### ***The Role of the Sasi Tradition in Supporting Environmental Conversation***

The sasi tradition is a prohibition on society not to continue taking natural resources at any time, but at certain times. The sasi that applies in society is useful for maintaining the quality and biological resources. Sasi can also be interpreted as a tradition carried out with the main aim of maintaining the sustainability of natural resources. If sasi has been implemented by the community, the impact will be that the community will not dare to violate these regulations, so this tradition is very appropriate to use to manage natural resources both on land and at sea (Nurfani Indah Putri, 2021).

The deadline for sasi is usually 3-6 months, sometimes even up to 1 year. After the sasi time, the community can then return to collect the results according to their reasonable needs. If someone violates the sasi, they will be subject to a fine (Suprpto, 2020). The sasi tradition is one of the cultural values of indigenous peoples that is generally accepted in Maluku, spread across all the islands in Maluku, including Halmahera, Ternate, Buru, Seram, Ambon, Lease Islands, Watubela, Banda, Aru Islands, the southwest and southeastern islands. southwest Maluku (Yunus Rahawarin, 2019). Some of the roles of the sasi tradition in supporting environmental conservation include:

### **1. Sustainable management of natural resources**

Sasi is a method that has long been used by the Maluku indigenous people to utilize natural resources sustainably. The sasi custom, inherited by the people of Maluku from their ancestors, is very important for preserving the environment. This sasi culture, which has been embedded in the lives of indigenous peoples, is respected and recognized by the community and traditional and religious leaders.

The implementation of sasi shows that people in Maluku are very aware that environmental health is very important for their survival. So maintaining and preserving sasi is very important and must be passed down from generation to generation. This policy not only ensures the sustainable use of natural resources, but also maintains ecological balance and balance between humans and nature. Sasi is a manifestation of deep local wisdom and respect for nature.

## **2. Conservation of biodiversity**

The sasi tradition applies time rules for taking natural resources. People are prohibited from picking certain fruits on land and taking certain sea products during the time determined by the village government when sasi is implemented. So, natural resources can continue to grow and develop because of sasi. In other words, to achieve satisfactory results, vegetable and natural resources must be conserved for a certain period of time so that growth and development can be restored. so that with these regulations the results of natural resources are given the opportunity to reproduce, so that they can help maintain the sustainability of the local ecosystem.

## **3. Enforcement of sasi customary rules and social obedience**

The sasi tradition has rules and procedures for implementation, utilization, maintenance and supervision in maintaining the balance of natural resources. In the conservation of natural resources, Sasi customary law pays special attention to the management of natural resources in various places such as the sea, land rivers and also beaches. Each sasi location has special rules that regulate the use and extraction of natural resources within it. For example, marine sasi prohibits the use of bombs or poisonous materials in fishing. Apart from that, the sasi tradition regulates the collection of seaweed for food or trade purposes. Meanwhile, forest sasi regulates the use of wild trees, harvesting sagun leaves and reforestation to preserve forests and natural resources on land (Subroto, 2024)

## **4. Ecosystem restoration**

The sasi tradition is a carrier and guardian of biodiversity which has local wisdom and unique customs that are invaluable for sustainable nature conservation (Lestarini, 2023). In the implementation of the sasi tradition, there are two terms known, namely closing the sasi and opening the sasi. Shut sasi is a prohibition that applies to everyone in taking and utilizing natural resources intentionally or unintentionally. Meanwhile, buka sasi is a situation where all natural resources can be taken and enjoyed by the community freely. One example of a real case that is relevant is the implementation of sea cucumber sasi, which was carried out in Lelingluan village, North Tanimbar subdistrict, which was carried out to protect and maintain sea cucumbers so that they remained safe within a mutually determined period of time, namely between two years to five years, and in During this period, people are not allowed to take sea cucumbers. So that sea cucumbers have the opportunity to grow and develop.

This sasi tradition plays a very important role in maintaining the existence of sea cucumbers in the Lelingluan village community, because it has quite a big influence on the community. The sasi tradition that is carried out has a positive

impact, where sasi encourages local communities to participate in protecting and preserving the life of creatures in the sea (Kormasela Dince Avia, 2023).

### ***The Role of the Sasi Tradition in Developing a Character that Loves the Environment.***

The sasi tradition is a customary rule which is an important guideline for every member of the Maluku community in environmental conservation, including guidelines for the use of natural resources. Apart from being an environmental conservation tool, the sasi tradition also plays an important role in forming the character of loving the environment.

According to Azet, the character of loving the environment is a character that shows that humans care about the environment around them, which can be shown by attitudes and actions to always try to prevent damage to the natural surroundings (Azet and Muhaimin, 2013). For example, trying to repair environmental damage that has occurred, so that the character of loving the environment will ensure the sustainability of nature is maintained. The following are some of the roles of the sasi tradition in cultivating the character of loving the environment, including the following: 1) Environmental education. In implementing the sasi tradition, the local community often involves the local community in the decision-making process and implementing sasi regulations. So this provides an opportunity for the community and young generations to learn about the importance of conservation and environmental management. 2) Collective concern: In carrying out this sasi tradition, the community is encouraged to have a sense of shared responsibility for the environment, so that this can strengthen social ties and also a sense of collective concern for nature conservation. 3) Application of noble values. This sasi tradition can teach values such as wisdom, patience, and obedience to rules that have been mutually agreed upon with the aim of the common good. These values can form individual characters who are more caring and responsible for the environment.

### **CONCLUSION**

The sasi tradition is a real example of local wisdom which plays a role in environmental conservation and fosters the character of loving the environment among the community. Through prohibitions on taking natural resources at certain times with the aim of utilizing and restoring natural resources. This sasi tradition is not only to maintain the balance of the ecosystem but also teaches the values of environmental care and responsibility to the community and subsequent generations.

Apart from playing a role in supporting environmental conservation, this tradition can also foster the character of loving the environment, through the application of sasi the community is taught to respect and look after the environment well. This informal education is deeply rooted in culture and daily life, forming a character of love for the environment that is passed down from generation to generation.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Concerning the research, authorship, and publication of this paper, the author(s) reported no potential conflicts of interest.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thank you to all personnel who have assisted in this research as well as to the editorial board of the IJEIT journal who have accepted to publish this manuscript.

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