

# EIA in developing countries: How does environmental impact assessment (EIA) / (AMDAL) support neoliberal mining? (a case study in Indonesia)

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## Introduce

The effectiveness of Amdal in protecting the environment has been questioned and has been debated (Sadler [1]; Lawrence[2]; Cashmore et al.[3]; Morgan [4]; Elling [5]; Rozema and Bond [6]). the fact that effectiveness is a plural concept and can be framed in a variety of ways makes the debate even more complicated. (Bond and Morrison-Saunders [7]; Pope et al. [8]). Alan Bond et al. [9] 2020 examined the effectiveness of EIA at the meta-level. Examining using a Neo-Gramscian perspective, they find 6 narratives of 'passive revolution': that are used as a strategy to maintain conceptual uncertainty, thereby reinforcing the political nature of the AMDAL system, the effect of which is in favor of neoliberal hegemony. One of the narratives is land privatization at the meta-level. Compensation for land in Amdal is more important than protecting biodiversity or agricultural land. This study examines at the micro-level land privatization in the practice of compensation during the preconstruction of the coal mining Amdal. The case of Mulawarman village Tenggara Seberang subdistric Kutai Kartanegara district was chosen to explain the practice of compensation by two coal mining companies, PT Kayan Putra Utama Coal (KPUC) and PT Jembayan

## Methods

This study uses a qualitative method that focuses on investigating the subjective desires, motivations, and experiences of people in dealing with land compensation



The sources of primary data for qualitative research are words and actions through key informants with purposive sampling, the rest is secondary data including documents and others



The analysis process will be carried out using an interactive analysis model



## Result and Discussion

Based on the mitigation hierarchy developed by CEQ [10], biodiversity protection for a project is carried out through the following stages:

1. Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or part of an action;
2. Minimizing impact by limiting the degree or magnitude of actions and their implementation;
3. Improving the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment;
4. Reduce or eliminate impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations over the life of the action; and
5. Compensate for impacts by replacing or substituting resources or the environment.



Picture 1 Bird view Coal mining on Mulawarman village  
Source: prokal.co Rabu, 19 April 2017

The hierarchy places compensation as a last resort and as an effort to counter development that results in loss of biodiversity. However, in the case of coal mining in Mulawarman, compensation is the main option for the loss of biodiversity or agricultural land. This study found some of the main conditions for the privatization of agricultural land in the village

### 1. Weak legal protection of agricultural land

According to Budiman et al. [11] The local government does not perform this function optimally. According to Subekti et al. [12] The increase in land-use change from year to year is due to the disapproval of the regional spatial plan (RTRW) and zoning of the Kutai Kartanegara Regency Government

### 2. Unbalanced negotiations without government oversight.

The position of the two parties is not the same in terms of economic and political capabilities. The use of cash money, third parties/community organizations, and local elites from the village government supported the successful negotiation of the privatization of agricultural land in Mulawarman village

## Conclusion

This study confirms that there is a paradox of EIA/Amdal. This case shows the neoliberal narrative of coal mining through the privatization of agricultural land. In the case of Mulawarman, the Amdal actually became a way of privatizing agricultural land and eliminating agrarian villages. The practice of land compensation in the pre-construction Amdal is more important than providing alternative solutions to protect agrarian villages.

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