

# Community based indigenous people's human settlement preservation in Indonesia: a conceptual framework

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# Community based indigenous people's human settlement preservation in Indonesia: a conceptual framework

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Recently, community-based approaches are widely applied in development activities especially in developing countries. Indonesia is no exception, there are efforts to take advantage of this approach in addressing issues related to the conservation of indigenous human settlements. To apply it in Indonesia with more than 1128 ethnic groups, of course this is not simple, each region has its own uniqueness, so this approach needs to be developed to better fit the context in which it will be applied. This article attempts to present a research result related to the development of indigenous people's human settlement in 17 regions of Indonesia. The research conducted by using qualitative approach aims to formulate the concepts of preservation of architecture and built environment of indigenous peoples and the concept of indigenous people empowerment. This article suggests 6 preservation concepts based on 3 categories of socio-cultural development of the indigenous peoples: first, the concept of preservation and conservation for indigenous peoples living in remote areas with original customs; second, the concept of rehabilitation and reconstruction for indigenous peoples living in transitional areas; and the third, the concept of revitalization and adaptation for indigenous peoples who have been living in urban areas.

**Keywords:** Community Based Development, Indigenous Peoples, Architecture and Built Environment, Preservation.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

As an archipelagic country, Indonesia has a diverse cultural richness, one of which is reflected in the uniqueness of the building architecture and the traditional settlement environment of each region. It can be one and play an important role as the identity of the Indonesian nation. Therefore, its existence needs to be conserved though not necessarily with a static conservation approach. Along with the ongoing developments that occur in the community, a more dynamic approach is needed as a conservation foundation to be implemented. The conservation framework requires careful assessment where there are parts to be maintained and which parts can be considered to be renovated, rehabilitated, reconstructed

even if it is necessary to be demolished.

In the practical world, conservation activities for both buildings and traditional settlement environments must be seen comprehensively. Partial solutions will not bring optimal results and often just delay the issue that will bring new problems in the future. Economic considerations, especially in terms of financial aspects is a quite complicated part. On the one hand, the municipal government has a sustainable socio-economic mission to ensure that its citizens can still engage in their traditional settlement environment, but on the other hand, the financing for settlement activities necessarily requires relatively large funds.

Therefore, the area development approach and the

optimization of various potentials are expected to balance between social mission and commercial interests which can be described as cross-subsidy between the two. To balance all the interests of these various aspects, it should be noted that the involvement of local communities is very important where the conservation activities will be implemented. Because they are the ones who better understand the values, character and history of their traditional settlements.

Based on previous experience, the problem of preservation of the Traditional Settlement Area arises due to the multidimensional interests. Each relevant stakeholder maintains the role and function of the region in accordance with their respective point of view.

Various aspects and stakeholders who have different interests and point of views can generally be grouped as follows:

- a) Technical Aspects of Operations: This aspect relates to the needs of a traditional settlement, such as the existence of cultural, supporting facilities and infrastructure.
- b) Regulatory Aspect: This aspect relates to the existing regulation or legal basis in Indonesia concerning housing and settlement areas and preservation of heritage buildings. Whether the regulation is sufficient or the need for new regulations for the handling of community-based settlements.
- c) Institutional Aspects: Institutions in the implementation of handling of the traditional settlements involved consist of central, provincial, district / village and village institutions.
- d) Aspects of Benefit / Economics / Finance: Economic implementation of handling requires the existence of data disclosure. This is because the funds come from APBN, APBD I and II, where all stakeholders need to know the funds are used for any activity.
- e) Aspect of Community Involvement: This aspect relates to the ownership of land and social communities in traditional settlement areas.

## 2. INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S HUMAN

### SETTLEMENT

Traditional settlements are often represented as a place of life of a community that still holds custom and cultural values associated with religious or religious values that are peculiar or unique to a particular society rooted in a particular place beyond the determination of history<sup>1</sup>. Traditional settlements are also often known as vernacular architectures, in which the word vernacular actually refers more to the concept of the social and economic structure of a traditional society<sup>2</sup>.

In line with that view<sup>3</sup>, states that the traditional settlement environment as a community product, the form of settlement environment is the result of social agreement, not a product of person per person. This means that different communities must have different characteristics of settlements. It is this difference that gives its own uniqueness to the traditional building, which can be seen

from the orientation, the form, and the building materials and the religious concept behind it. <sup>4</sup>added that traditional settlements are assets of the region that can provide characteristics or environmental identity. The identity of the area is formed from the environment pattern, the built environment, the character of socio-cultural activities and the typical economic activities.

One interesting example can be seen in Sasak architecture, its traditional building also has its own uniqueness. According to<sup>5</sup> the factors that are considered very important in the planning and construction of traditional architecture Sasak is the scale and size of the building is calculated very thoroughly. In addition to the scale, the accuracy of the count of the size of each unit of the house is also a major concern, because it is believed to have an effect on the life of its inhabitants concerning safety, happiness, luck, fortune and so forth. The uniqueness is at once become one of the attractions for tourists. Therefore<sup>6</sup> explains that the objects of human works is a form of physical culture, including in it are traditional settlements and buildings.

Viewed from its physical form, <sup>7</sup>states that traditional settlements have characteristics or characteristics of the patterns of dispersion of settlements that can be categorized into several groups, namely the pattern of elongated form of settlement consists of elongated rivers, roads and lines beach; circular pattern of settlement; pattern of rectangular form of settlement; and the pattern of cube form settlements. The pattern of traditional settlements based on the pattern of its distribution is also divided into two, namely the pattern of spread and the pattern of grouping. According to<sup>8</sup> spatial pattern of settlements as follows:

- Settlement patterns are spread far from each other, especially in newly opened areas. This is due to the absence of a large road, whereas people have a plot of land which for a given period must be cultivated continuously;
- The pattern of settlements by gathering in a village / village, extending to follow the road traffic (road / river), while the arable land behind it;
- The pattern of settlements collected in a village / village, while the land is located outside the village.

In addition to traditional settlements, other physical cultures can be seen from traditional buildings that are usually applied through traditional houses. According to<sup>9</sup> explained that the house building is part of a settlement. Another term for a traditional house is a traditional house or a people's home. Criteria for assessing the authenticity of traditional houses include habits that become an unwritten rule when a house is established or is being used. There are certain rituals such as the first pole erection ceremony, selamatan / kenduri and proper timing, the direction of the house, the shape, the color, the decorative motifs, the building material used, the offerings, the prayers or the incantations to be read and so very closely related to traditional house.



### 3. COMMUNITY BASED DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Lately participatory or community-based approaches are widely discussed and even applied in development activities especially in developing countries. Indonesia is no exception, there are efforts to take advantage of this approach in addressing issues related to the conservation of indigenous human settlements. To apply it in Indonesia with more than 1128 ethnic groups, of course this is not simple, each region has its own uniqueness, so this approach needs to be developed to better fit the context in which it will be applied.

The issue of participatory approaches to development has gained much attention<sup>10</sup>, as well as to the paradigm of development policy in Indonesia including the indigenous people's human settlement preservation in Indonesia.<sup>11</sup> argues that one of the key features of a participatory approach is to grant greater authority to the community as an end user to manage the autonomous available resources of development. As for measuring the participation or authorization to manage the development resources, many researchers still use<sup>12</sup> participation ladder as a framework for analysis. According to Arnstein, participation is related to the concept of power relations between one actor and the other in the decision-making process.

In the process of participation, it is not enough to explain why the decision was made (without involving them in decision-making itself) or to inform the decision only to the beneficiaries. The power in decision-making among these actors shall be based on the agreement from everyone involved. Thus, generally he divides the three levels of participation: first, the highest level in which the full power is on the hands of the people (degree of citizen power); second, symbolic participation (degree of tokenism), and third, the stage of manipulation of participation or no degree of participation (degree of manipulation or non-participation).

This article attempts to present a research result related to the development of the social and cultural life of indigenous peoples and their physical environment in 17 regions of Indonesia.

### 4. METHODS

To achieve the objective of the research, this study applies qualitative research approach with case study research method. This case study research method is chosen because it is appropriate with the objectives of research which is to explore a phenomenon through a case<sup>13</sup>. The object of this research is the development of the social and cultural life of indigenous peoples and their physical environment in 17 regions in Indonesia: Aceh, Maluku Tengah, North Sulawesi, Kalimantan Selatan, Banten, Bali, Papua Barat, Kalimantan Tengah, Papua, Lampung, Sumatera Barat, Bengkulu, DI Yogyakarta, Riau, and Kepulauan Riau.

This research belongs to the "intrinsic case study"<sup>14</sup> and

it was undertaken in 2014 using qualitative method (case study) by collecting data through direct observation, in-depth interviews with key informants, and analyzing secondary documents. In accordance with the case study research rule, the researcher is open to all data which are considered relevant and are able to explain the case under investigation. Data will be combined and be triangulated tested. The respondents are selected by applying purposive sample approach on several respondents who are directly or indirectly involved in the implementation of the activities in the study areas.

### 5. RESULTS: A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

#### 5.1 Concepts and Typology of Traditional Settlements

In order to preserve traditional settlements, a general conceptual framework is needed that can be a guide for all relevant stakeholders and able to accommodate the diversity of different characteristics of traditional settlements in different parts of Indonesia.

Based on the results of studies in 17 locations of traditional settlements in Indonesia which are the subject of this research (Aceh, Middle Maluku, North Sulawesi, South Kalimantan, Banten, Bali, West Papua, Middle Kalimantan, Papua, Lampung, West Sumatra, Bengkulu, DI Yogyakarta, Riau, and Riau Islands), it can be identified that not all traditional settlements in Indonesia still have strong characteristics as traditional settlements.

There are several characteristics that differ from region to region. These differences reflect the characteristics of the uniqueness of each traditional settlement. Therefore, it can be formulated 3 (three) groups of typology based on traditional settlement characteristic that is traditional, transition, and modern.

From these 3 typologies can be proposed a formula that can be used to classify the object of settlement environment of an area under study is by assessing some criteria with specific weights or scores. Traditional settlements that have high scores indicate that the settlements are still traditional or have strong character while the small scores indicate that the traditional settlements have undergone a transition and modern. The criteria consists of 9 Aspects: Community Characteristics; Livelihood; Religion and trust; Cultural Tradition; Religious Rituals; Customs (norms, sanctions, rules); Buildings & environments; Institutional Adat; Level of Openness to the Outer World.

The following are the criteria and weights used to determine the typology of traditional settlements.

Table.1. Criteria and Weights of Traditional Settlement Typology Determination

Aspects	Indicators	Weight
Characteristics of society	- Homogeneous communities with high levels of kinship and dependence on indigenous communities	3
	- A homogeneous society with relationships and dependence on indigenous communities that	2

Aspects	Indicators	Weight
	begin to decrease	
Livelihoods	- Heterogeneous societies that have started to be independent of local indigenous communities	1
	- Livelihoods are traditional and even primitive (hunting, gathering and clearing forests)	3
	- Livelihoods are still traditionally subsistence-based agriculture (farmers, fishermen or craftsmen who only meet their own needs)	2
	- Modern urban / urban livelihoods (farmers, fishermen or craftsmen who are self-sufficient and outside, traders, entrepreneurs, industry, employers, civil servants / ABRI and services)	1
Religion and belief	- Own and still hold firm religion or belief of local native ancestor	3
	- possess but no longer hold true religion or beliefs of local origin	2
	- Do not have or local trust has begun to be abandoned	1
Cultural traditions	- Have tradition from local and still run with high intensity	3
	- Has a local tradition but is influenced by outside tradition and is still often run	2
	- Has a local tradition but has been affected from the outside and is rarely executed	1
Religious rituals	- Have local rituals and still run with high intensity	3
	- Has local ritual but is influenced by outside ritual and still often run	2
	- Have local ritual but have been influenced from outside and rarely run	1
Customs (norms, sanctions, rules)	- Own and still hold firm local customs and still strong run	3
	- Own but no longer hold firm local customs and customs began to be abandoned	2
	- Do not have or local customs have been abandoned	1
Buildings & environments	- Has local architectural buildings that are still maintained and still accommodate local traditions	3
	- Has a local architectural building that is beginning to change and traditional activities begin to decrease	2
	- Has a local architectural building that began to change and its activity began to modern	1
Indigenous Institutions	- Still have local indigenous institutions with strong authorities	3
	- Still have local indigenous institutions with decreasing authority	2
Level of Openness to the Outer World	- Do not have local indigenous institutions	1
	- Closed to the outside world	3
	- Open but there are limits to outside influences	2
	- Open to the outside world	1

Remarks:

Total Score > 29 = Traditional Tipology  
 Total Score 21-29 = Transitional Tipology  
 Total Score <21 = Modern Tipology

From the results of a survey of 17 traditional settlements in Indonesia, it can be known the typology of each traditional settlement is as follows.

Table. 2. Typology of 17 Traditional Settlements in Indonesia

Village	Score	Tipology
Sepa Village, Kec. Amahai, Kabupaten Mashohi, Maluku Tengah	39	Traditional
Haruyan Dayak Village, Hantakan Sub-district, Hulu Sungai Tengah Regency, South Kalimantan	37	Traditional
Baduy Tribe, Kanekes Village, District Leuwidamar, Lebak Regency, Banten	37	Traditional
Sasak Tribe, Desa Perigi, Kabupaten Lombok Timur Gianyar Regency	35	Traditional
Kampung Hungku, Anggi District, Arfak Mountains District, West Papua	35	Traditional
Kampung Naga, Neglasari Village, Kec. Selawu, Kab. Tasikmalaya, West Java	34	Traditional
Petulu Village, Ubud District, Gianyar Regency, Bali	34	Traditional
Buntui Village, Kahayan Hilir Sub-district, Kab Pisau Island, Central Kalimantan	33	Traditional
District of Ilaga, Kab. Peak, Papua	29	Transitions
Pampangan Village, Gedong Tataan Sub-district, Pesawaran District, Lampung	24	Transitions
Nagari Sungayang, Tanah Datar District, West Sumatra	22	Transitions
Lubuk Kembang Village, North Curup Subdistrict, Rejang Lebong Regency, Bengkulu	22	Transitions
Gampong Lubok Sukon, Ingin Jaya Sub-district, Aceh Besar District	19	Modern
Donoharjo Village, Ngaglik Sub-district, Sleman Regency, DI Yogyakarta	19	Modern
Tanggari Village, Air Madidi Sub-district, Manado City, North Sulawesi	19	Modern
Kampung Bandar, Pekanbaru City, Riau Province	18	Modern
Penyengat Island, Tanjungpinang City, Kepulauan Riau	16	Modern

### 5.2 The Concept of Conserving Traditional Settlements by Typology

Traditional settlements in Indonesia have different types of typology according to the character of each region. As has been explained previously, the 17 locations of traditional settlements studied can be grouped into three typologies: traditional, transitional, and modern settlement typology. All three have different characters so that in handling it will have different handling direction as well.

In general, the concept of preservation of buildings or neighborhoods can be grouped into several types including preservation, conservation, rehabilitation, reconstruction, revitalization, adaptation, restoration, and so on. Such preservation measures can be applied as directives in selecting suitable concepts on traditional settlement handling of each typology. Based on the research results conducted through direct observation and interviews with indigenous peoples as describe in the following table.

**Table.3.** The Concept of Conserving Traditional Settlements

Typology of Traditional Settlements	Concept of Conservation	Level of Physical Change
Traditional	Preservation Conservation	Very small Small
Transition	Rehabilitation Reconstruction	Medium Medium – Large
Modern	Revitalization Adaptation	Medium – Large Large

Here are the details of the concept of preservation according to traditional settlement typology:

- a) Preservation: It is the maintenance and maintenance of traditional settlements by maintaining the present condition and slowing the building and environment changes from the destructive process (keeping the reliability and functionality well maintained).
- b) Conservation: It is an effort to protect the building directly by cleaning, maintaining, repairing, physically and nonphysically directly from the influence of various damaging environmental factors.
- c) Rehabilitation: It is an effort to restore the condition of buildings that have been degraded / damaged / descended, so that it works again as before. With note changes can be made to certain limits, so that the building can adapt to the environment or current or future conditions.
- d) Reconstruction: It is an effort to restore the original appearance of a damaged / damaged area / building in accordance with the previous condition by using the remaining or salvaged materials with the addition of new building materials and making the building feasible to function and meet the technical requirements.
- e) Revitalization: It is a restoration activity aimed at obtaining optimal economic, social and cultural added value in the utilization of buildings and the environment in order to prevent the loss of city assets of historical value because the area is a decline in productivity.
- f) Adaptation: It is an activity to rebuild old buildings for new functions to save buildings and generally a big change especially changes to the organization of the space inside.

### 5.3 The Concept of Community Empowerment Traditional Settlements

As explained earlier, traditional settlements to be handled can be grouped into 3 (three) typologies, namely traditional, transitional and modern. Referring to these three typologies, the empowerment approach or community-based settlement concept should also be divided into 3 (three) approaches, namely the territorial-based community approach, the combined approach of the

territorial-based community and the interest-based community and the interest-based community approach.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the research results conducted through direct observation and interviews with indigenous peoples in the study areas, this article suggests 6 conservation concepts based on 3 categories of socio-cultural development of indigenous peoples: first, the concept of conservation and conservation for indigenous peoples living in remote areas with original customs; second, the concept of rehabilitation and reconstruction for indigenous peoples living in transitional areas; and the third, the concept of revitalization and adaptation for indigenous peoples who have been living in urban areas.

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