

**“OPTIMIZATION OF WAQF THROUGH ISLAMIC BOARDING SCHOOLS IN  
THE MADURA REGION IN OVERCOMING CLIMATE CHANGE AND  
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF THE PLANTATION SECTOR”**

**Putri Pramita, Mir'atun Nisa', Asep Maulana**

**Islamic Economic Departement, Universitas Airlangga**

putri.pramita-2018@feb.unair.ac.id

**ABSTRACT**

This Paper tries to elaborate the Potential and Role of Waqf as one of Islamic Social Fund in helping to deal with climate change problems that occur on earth. This research is conceptual with a qualitative approach, referring to the previous literature related to related topics. The results of this study are the concept or model of optimizing waqf, especially waqf through money and land waqf in dealing with the phenomenon of climate change and supporting a pesantren-based economy in the Madura area. Land waqf by wakif will become the object of model development, while waqf through money will be managed to buy assets in the form of plant seeds that are proven to be able to overcome climate change. The theoretical contribution of this research is expected to be able to add and complete literacy and research related to waqf management models in supporting the SDGs and social aspects of society. Meanwhile, practically, the waqf management model for climate management can be a policy recommendation for the Madurese community and local government to be carried out in the future.

**Keywords :** Waqf, Islamic Boarding School, Climate Change

**INTRODUCTION**

Issues related to climate change have received a lot of attention from various stakeholders. according to the world economic forum if the world temperature rises by 3.2°C it will wipe out up to 18% of the world's economic GDP by 2050. The Swiss Re Institute's Climate Economic Index examines how global warming will affect 48 countries – representing 90% of

the world economy – and rank their climate resilience. based on the Swiss Re Institute's Climate Economic Index test, there are 4 scenarios that will occur between climate change and GDP.

- 1) 4% if Paris Agreement targets are met (an increase well below 2°C)
- 2) 11% if further mitigation measures are taken (2°C increase)
- 3) 14% if some mitigation measures are taken (2.6°C increase)
- 4) 18% if no mitigation action is taken (3.2°C increase).

Climate change impacts are expected to be the hardest hit for Asian economies, with 5.5% hitting GDP in the best-case scenario, and 26.5% hitting in the worst-case scenario. In realizing a world that is ready to face climate change on November 10, 2021, ministers and representatives of countries participated in the 26th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. at this meeting it was agreed that member countries must achieve zero emissions by 2050. In realizing this, an instrument that can answer the challenges of COP 26 and also global climate change is needed. Therefore, Waqf provides an alternative solution to answer these challenges.

Waqf is an Islamic social financial instrument to provide socio-economic benefits to society, including climate change. in this time of covid 19, funds in government are limited because the economy is not moving so normally due to covid 19. waqf offers fresh funds that are not from the government that can be used to bridge the problem of limited funds, especially in overcoming climate change.

In the concept of dealing with climate change, it is more emphasized that this earth is protected so that the next generation can feel it. This is in line with the spirit of Islam, therefore it is necessary to integrate waqf with climate change. However, to the best of the author's knowledge, there are still few papers discussing how waqf can be the best alternative in dealing with climate change. Therefore, this study aims to explore the role of waqf in preparedness, resilience in the face of climate change. In this paper the author will also try to explore Islamic Boarding Schools and Plantation Sector Economic Empowerment which is integrated with climate change. The rest of this paper is structured as follows, the second part discusses Islamic Boarding School and Waqf, Climate Change Empowerment and Plantation, the proposed framework on how waqf can deal with climate change is described in part four and conclusions are presented in part five.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Waqf and Islamic Boarding School

Indonesia is a country with the largest number of Muslims in the world. The total Muslim community in Indonesia in 2021 will reach 86.88% of the total population or as many as 236.53 million people (BPS: 2021). This has implications, one of which is the potential for collecting Islamic social financial instruments including waqf which is very large. Waqf is growing with various support from government policies and other supports from academics, practitioners, and some members of the community. However, there are still several things that hinder the realisation of the potential of waqf in Indonesia. One of them is the level of waqf literacy in the community.

Many people still think that Waqf is synonymous with 3M, namely mosques, tombs, and madrasas. This assumption makes the community's stigma against waqf must be an asset with a large value such as land. Whereas. The development of waqf also contributes to various waqf development innovations including the waqf crowdfunding program through money that can be done anywhere, anytime, and with any nominal. The designation of waqf has also now shifted to a much broader sector, not only in the economic and social sectors, waqf also supports the development of the education, health, and public facilities for the welfare of the community.

On the other hand, Indonesia is also known as a country with a high level of formal education based on Islam. Almost every region in Indonesia has Islamic boarding schools with diverse backgrounds. One of the areas with many Islamic boarding schools is the island of Madura. Madura is one of the islands in East Java Province which has a total of 861 Islamic boarding schools with a total of more than 142 thousand students. This large number certainly has an impact on the level of access to education of the local community and shows a fairly high level of Islam in Madura.

Although most pesantren open acceptance for students from outside their area, the local students are still dominant. This shows that the people on Madura Island, especially the younger generation, have access to education and a good level of Islam. Access to Madura Island which is facilitated by the Suramadu Bridge also makes Madura an island that has rapid development because it is close to the city centre of East Java, namely Surabaya.

With an inclusive level of Islamic education, and high level of employment on the island of Madura, it is hoped that education and socialisation about Waqf can be more accepted so that people are interested in joining the various existing Waqf movements. So that the level of community waqf participation increases and the level of annual waqf collection on Madura Island can run optimally.

### **Climate Change Issues**

Climate change is an issue of global conversation because it is closely related to natural conditions that are felt to continue to decline. These changes are related to long-term shifts in Earth's climate, be it temperature, rainfall, to wind. Various countries including developed countries in the world have committed to jointly address the problem of climate change on earth, including with financial assistance.

In dealing with and adapting to climate change, the State needs to allocate a fairly large amount of funds. Some developing countries and underdeveloped countries will experience difficulties in funding this so that several developed countries take the initiative to help finance climate change adaptation and mitigation in underdeveloped countries for the common good.

There are several things that the government can do in dealing with and dealing with climate change. Among them are reforestation of the environment, saving energy use, inviting the public to use environmentally friendly products, and so on. In general, climate change management programs in Indonesia within the framework of sustainable development include three pillars, namely: the environmental pillar, the economic pillar, and the social pillar. (ditjen ppi: 2021)

### **Community Empowerment and Plantation Sector**

Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, describing that community empowerment is defined as an effort to develop community independence and welfare by increasing knowledge, attitudes, skills, behaviour, abilities, awareness, and utilising resources through the establishment of policies, programs, activities, and assistance. in accordance with the essence of the problem and the priority needs of the village community.

Community empowerment is carried out in three ways. First, make recreation that allows the potential of the community to develop. Second, manage the potential or strength provided by the community. Third, protect the community. (Kartasasmita: 1995) Therefore, it can be concluded that community empowerment activities focus on self-development and community protection by the government through various empowerment programs.

Community Empowerment is one of the obligations of a regional or state government to ensure that all communities have the ability to survive by being equipped with various related skills. Community empowerment is usually carried out mainly in the economic and production sectors by inviting the community to carry out production activities in the fields of manufacturing, agriculture, animal husbandry, processed food and beverages, handicrafts, and so on. The community empowerment process will be more effective if it is carried out from the smallest scope, namely the local community/smallest community (Adamson. D, Bromiley. R: 2013).

One of the community empowerment programs that are often found in Indonesia is in the agrarian sector considering that Indonesia has a tropical climate and has the potential to develop the sector. The government provides a lot of community support, especially among farmers, in increasing domestic food stocks. Likewise with other food needs such as fruit and vegetables, meat, milk, and so on.

In this case, community empowerment in environmental conservation can obtain two predicates, namely being able to provide space for stakeholders if done transparently or, otherwise, being thought as hiding something if not done transparently. (Didi, L : 2021)

## **METHODOLOGY**

This research is an exploratory study that aims to explore the potential of waqf in dealing with climate change. To achieve this goal, this study follows Abduh (2019) who links Islamic Social Finance (ISF) with SDGs number 2 related to agricultural development and food security issues.

## **DISCUSSION**

Apart from the COVID-19 pandemic, the whole world is now facing a real challenge, namely climate change. Climate change has become an international issue because it has a very

broad impact on people's lives. The increase in earth's temperature can affect changes in nature and human life, such as the quality and quantity of water, habitats, forests, health, agricultural land and coastal ecosystems (Directorate General of PPI, Menlhk 2021). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stated that humans and their lives are very influential on the challenge of controlling climate change. Various countries have made efforts to deal with these problems, including Indonesia. One of the efforts is through the signing of the Paris Agreement.

Indonesia is determined to reduce the contribution of carbon dioxide by 29%. Steps to implement Indonesia's commitment to reducing carbon emissions are manifested in the 2020-2024 National Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMN) program and are also manifested in various regulations, including in the budget and taxation sectors. Another step can be taken by developing the plantation sector. With more trees planted it will reduce climate change. Madura is a fertile area so that it can be used for the development and empowerment of the plantation economy. With more trees planted it will reduce climate change. Madura is a fertile area so that it can be used for the development and empowerment of the plantation economy. With more trees planted it will reduce climate change. Madura is a fertile area so that it can be used for the development and empowerment of the plantation economy.

Based on these problems, it can be seen that large investments and funding are needed in the procurement, management and development of the plantation sector in order to overcome climate change in Indonesia, especially the Madura region. Minister of Finance, Sri Mulyani Indrawati said, Indonesia's need to address climate change or reduce CO<sub>2</sub> by 2030 is estimated to increase from IDR 3,461 trillion to IDR 3,779 trillion. Of course, these costs will continue to increase along with changes in economic stability, inflation and others. Therefore, a potential financing or investment instrument is needed to assist the construction of these facilities in the future. One instrument that can help achieve this goal is the Islamic social finance instrument. Islamic social financial instruments or commonly referred to as Islamic philanthropy consists of zakat, infaq, shadaqah and waqf.

Islamic social finance has great potential to be utilized in the form of development assistance, so that it can channel assets from the upper classes to the lower (poor) communities. Of all the Islamic social financial instruments that are suitable to be used for the procurement and development of the plantation sector, waqf. Data from DinarStandard considers waqf assets of USD 410 billion in 2016 (DinarStandard, 2019) and Finterra estimates USD 3 trillion, with an estimated return of 5% or USD 150 billion per year, which could be used for social purposes. -

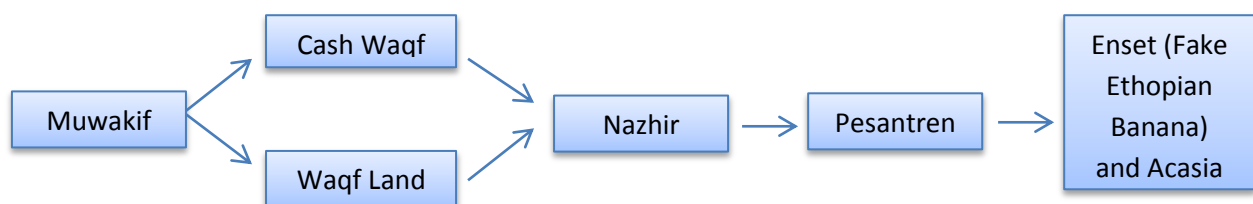
economic goals (Finterra, 2020). This value has enormous financial potential. If it can be collected optimally, it will certainly be able to help in the construction of facilities and reduce climate change in Indonesia.

According to data from the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) in the 2021 World Giving Index annual report, Indonesia is the most generous country in the world. This is a great potential for the development of waqf in Indonesia. The form of waqf that is suitable for dealing with the problem of climate change is waqf through money and land waqf. Waqf through the money given by the muwakif can be bought for property in the plantation sector. Meanwhile, for land acquisition, you can also use land waqf that already exists in the Madura area.

Indonesia, with the majority of the population being Muslim, has a large number of Islamic boarding schools spread throughout the region. One area that has a large number of Islamic boarding schools is Madura. According to data from the Ministry of Religion, on the island of Madura, there are 861 Islamic boarding schools spread over 4 districts.

Trees have a very important function to reduce the increase in greenhouse gases which are the main causes of global warming and climate change. Existing waqf land can be used to plant trees to reduce climate change. In this case the trees that can be used are Enset (Fake Ethiopian banana) and acacia. According to scientists Enset can be useful for climate change. Dr Wendawek Abebe of Hawassa University in Awasa, Ethiopia said Enset or fake Ethiopian bananas play an important role in overcoming food security and sustainable development. Fruit ensetinedible. However, starchy stems and roots are commonly consumed and can be made into porridge or bread. As for the Acasia Tree, it also has many benefits. Not only the leaves, acacia wood is also beneficial for health, the environment, and other human needs. Some of the benefits are that it can be used as perfume, beauty products, preventing landslides, making furniture and paper-based materials.

The following is a conceptual framework for optimizing waqf and pesantren in Madura in addressing climate change.



**Figure 1.** Conceptual Framework for Optimizing Waqf and Islamic Boarding Schools in Madura in Overcoming Climate Change (Writer, 2021)

1. Muwakif will provide waqf funds in the form of waqf through money and land waqf to be distributed.
2. Nazhir will record, manage and distribute the funds collected from wakif
3. Nazhir in collaboration with Islamic boarding schools is tasked with managing the waqf assets that have been received
4. Waqf assets can vary, can be in the form of fixed assets in the form of goods, land, buildings or also cash assets. In this case, the waqf through money will be used to procure enset trees (Fake Ethiopian Banana) and acacia.

The existence of this scheme is expected to provide a concept of solving the problem of climate change that occurs in Indonesia and help improve the welfare of Islamic boarding schools in Madura.

## **CONCLUSSION**

Madura Island, which has many Islamic boarding schools and good access to Islamic education, is expected to be a potential area in developing various aspects of Islamic philanthropy that support various development goals including SDGs. The potential for large waqf collections in various regions in Indonesia can still be optimized with the help and support of various parties, including the community itself. The concept of waqf, which is increasingly developing in this era, provides various answers to problems in society, including in overcoming and adapting in handling climate change. The commitment of Indonesia and the rest of the world in dealing with climate change problems can be supported by waqf with the right management scheme. In addition, this scheme that involves the community and the environment can also be pursued as a means of empowering the community through the environmental and plantation sectors.

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